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ROCKLIN



Parks and Trails Master Plan

Chapter 1
Executive Summary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this Master Plan is to provide a realistic and visionary guide for the creative, orderly development and management of parks, trails, recreation facilities, open space and programs for the City, now and into the future.

Recreation Facility Assessment

As part of the master plan process, considerable effort was devoted initially to identifying existing recreation resources and then interacting with the community and frequent facility users in an attempt to identify specific interests, needs and satisfaction with City programming and facilities. City staff was able to provide a significant amount of input regarding community participation levels, requests for services and facilities and professional insight into trends and anticipated needs. In addition, a considerable amount of technical analysis was conducted regarding programs and facilities. A significant portion of this process included data gathering in an attempt to assess community expectations, facility requirements, and demand analysis. A summary of these efforts are as follows:

Community-Wide Telephone Survey: A total of 200 interviews were completed through use of a random digit dial sample process. The purpose was to provide a statistically valid basis for determining how residents participate in recreation activities and their areas of interest. The survey was validated by comparing demographic results of the survey to overall City resident demographics.

On-line Survey Questionnaire: Over 500 questionnaires completed via the City's website provided opinions from the community regarding usage patterns, preferences for facility needs and recreation program participation levels.

Community Workshops and Focus Groups: A total of three facilitated community workshops were conducted. The first workshop focused on community perceptions of the City's overall character and its recreation facilities. The second focused on identifying preferred existing facilities and desired additions. The third discussed recreation programming and facility priorities. A number of individuals representing organizations or special interest groups attended more than one of these meetings.

Sports Organization Questionnaires: Sports organizations that operate in the City responded to a questionnaire designed to gather information about participation, needs, and facilities used.

Technical Analysis and Needs Assessment: In addition to the above, significant effort was placed on conducting a range of detailed study including recreation facility demand needs analysis based upon actual participation rates, service area analysis, trends analysis, benchmark analysis, parkland acreage analysis, an assessment of program needs, and the physical condition of City facilities.

Summary of Parkland Acreage Findings

The City currently manages approximately 440 acres of parks and trails, the equivalent of 6.31 acres per 1,000 residents (current population of 60,252). This figure is higher than most communities in California, which helps explain why the survey of Rocklin’s residents reports a very high satisfaction rate for parks and recreation. More than nine in ten residents polled (95%) stated they are Very or Somewhat Satisfied with existing park and recreation facilities and programs in the City of Rocklin. The above figure includes all park land in the City; currently the developed park acreage totals 380.6 acres.

Existing Facility Inventory Summary

- 26 Neighborhood Parks totaling approximately 116 acres
- Five developed Community Parks totaling approximately 236 acres
- Special Use Facilities and Trails totaling approximately 28 acres, including eight major multi-use recreation trails that cover over 8 miles of terrain

Overall General Findings - Recreation Assessment

As an outcome of the assessment process, it is apparent that the City has done a very good job of providing and maintaining parks and recreation facilities and programs that are well accepted by City residents and that successfully meet the City’s existing recreation needs in almost all areas. More than nine in ten residents polled (95%) stated they are Very or Somewhat Satisfied with existing park and recreation facilities and programs in the City of Rocklin. However, overall changes in recreational expectations generate a demand for modified services and facilities in the future. The intent of this plan is to provide an effective tool for meeting these challenges.

Recreation Programming Recommendations

The City provides a full range of programs for all age groups that are well utilized and well received by the community. While 61% of questionnaire respondents reported seeking physical fitness, health and well-being benefits from their recreational choices in Rocklin, over 16% of the community reports utilizing programs for senior citizens. The City annually receives over 100,000 visitors to the sports facilities.

A variety of needs assessment tools were utilized to determine the type and amount of new or enhanced programs and services that would be beneficial now and in the future. Further, for the purpose of evaluating current and future recreation program needs, a number of local, state and national trends were analyzed, including demographic shifts, changing lifestyles particularly between “Gen X” (persons born between approximately the years 1960 to 1980) and “Gen Y” (also known as millennials; persons born between the years 1980 to the middle of the 1990s) demographics, sustainability, and changes related to the workplace. Overall, based on the data collected, there are no significant gaps in programming service. Some of the most notable opportunities for programming enhancements, as identified by the assessment tools, are as follows:

Physical Fitness, Health, and Well Being

- Explore methods to close gaps in trail systems and provide more connections into neighborhoods
- Continue and expand efforts to promote exercise and good health
- Develop healthy lifestyle programs

Strengthen Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

- Develop a “Park/Trail Steward” Volunteer Program for environmental enhancements, education, safety and maintenance
- Continue to collaborate with other agencies to strengthen and expand outdoor education opportunities

Support Services

In addition to reviewing recreation programming opportunities, the assessment of recreation programming includes a subsection outlining recommendations regarding enhanced support services which could benefit recreation programming overall. This subsection focuses on coordinated fiscal and overall planning within the City, assuring a well-trained and stable work force, enhanced opportunities for volunteerism, and continued growth in the marketing of City services. Some of the most notable recommendations include:

- Pursue additional public-private partnerships to provide recreational programs
- Review potential for additional rentable group picnic sites
- Continue City branding and marketing plan
- Expand social media marketing

Strategies, Policies and Actions

This plan provides the suggested Strategies, Policies and Actions for parks, facilities and recreation programs. This Chapter provides a comprehensive multi-year projection of achievable and measurable action items for staff and the Parks, Recreation, and Arts Commission and Council to consider in the prioritization and allocation of resources to meet the recreation, parks and trails needs of the community.

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Parks and Trails Master Plan

Chapter 2
Introduction

Chapter 2.0 Introduction

2.1 Purpose of the Parks and Trails Master Plan

The purpose for developing a Parks and Trails Master Plan is based on the guiding principle that parks, recreation facilities, programs, trails, and open space are important resources that create a sense of place and community within the City of Rocklin. Across the nation, organizations such as the California Park and Recreation Society describe the many important ways recreation facilities and programming can help in creating healthy lifestyles and livable communities, including:

- *Strengthen community identity and sense of place*
- *Foster human development and education*
- *Support economic activity*
- *Promote health and wellness through physical activity*
- *Provide civic and social meeting places*
- *Strengthen families*
- *Increase vitality and quality of individual neighborhoods*

A park or a recreation facility means different things to different people. To some residents, parks are active sports fields; others have images of passive open spaces where one can walk, rest, and enjoy nature. Still others may envision recreation as community gatherings and events. Indeed, parks and recreation facilities are used for all of these purposes and more. A diverse, vital recreation system is therefore necessary in sustaining Rocklin's visionary course.

The purpose of this Parks and Trails Master Plan is to provide a realistic and visionary guide for the creative, orderly development and management of parks, recreation facilities, trails and programs for the City, now and into the future. The Master Plan is an implementation tool of the General Plan, providing strategies for addressing the General Plan's vision, as well as goals and policies based on current analysis and community input.

Over the years, the City of Rocklin has actively undertaken a variety of planning efforts pertaining to recreation facilities and programs, individual park or facility Master Plans, Land Use studies, and Specific Plans. The Master Plan builds on many of these previous planning efforts and obtains new community input that has resulted in providing an up-to-date understanding of current and future recreation needs and opportunities specific to Rocklin. This document provides a snapshot of current facilities, programs, park sites and trail routes, and generates specific policies and action items that support Rocklin's General Plan.

This report is intended to be a flexible document, presenting findings and recommendations that will be evaluated, validated, and/or modified periodically as the City responds to evolving opportunities and constraints as well as changes in residents' needs and demands. It is anticipated that present and future Master Plan recommendations will be considered on a bi-annual basis in the context of other City priorities, through incorporation into the City budget to facilitate the process of implementing project delivery.

2.3 Context

The City's General Plan, adopted in 2012, established a vision for the City that is well on its way to fulfillment. The visionary General Plan envisioned a future in harmony with the environment with an emphasis on the sustainability of economic opportunity, community health and welfare and builds upon the values of preserving and managing resources for the equitable enjoyment of all residents of the City.

Physical Setting

Rocklin is a picturesque community of approximately 60,252¹ persons located in central Placer County at the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range in Northern California.

Within Rocklin, several significant natural and man-made features help shape neighborhoods and provide both opportunities and constraints with respect to parks, recreation, circulation, and community life. These include:

- Secret Ravine, Antelope Creek, and the Union Pacific Railroad form the east edge
- Orchard Creek forming the northernmost boundary
- Highway 65 forming a portion of the western boundary
- Interstate Freeway 80 bisecting the City on the south side
- Historic Downtown area in the core of the south side of town
- Mineral quarry sites that formed the historic origin of the town and its namesake
- The growing campuses of William Jessup University in the northwest portion of town and Sierra College in the southeast portion of town

Varied topography and open space provide many walking, hiking, cycling and viewing opportunities and contribute strongly to community identity and serve as a reminder of the granite bedrock history of the ridges and valleys.

2.4 Demographic Analysis

Understanding the demographic context of the City can create a valuable perspective for understanding current parks and recreation facility and program requirements and, moreover, for anticipating parks and recreation facility and program needs in the future. Demographic characteristics such as age, presence of children, and income have been demonstrated in past research to have a relationship to recreating patterns and needs. For those reasons, historical change and emerging directions of the resident population and demography of the City are important considerations as the City plans for and moves forward into its preferred future.

Four demographic analyses have been prepared as a foundation for understanding City residents' recreation needs and preferences now and in the future.

¹ State of California, Department of Finance estimates.

- ◆ A review of historical *population growth*.
- ◆ A review of historical *household (occupied housing unit) growth*.
- ◆ A review of historical *demographic trends* for residents.
- ◆ A *forecast of population and household growth* to 2030.

HISTORICAL POPULATION GROWTH

Exhibit 2.1, Demographic Trends in the City of Rocklin presents a fifteen-year history of population growth within the City and County. As Exhibit 2.1 illustrates, population growth in the City during the 2000 to 2010 time frame occurred by 56.8% , with over 2,000 new City residents documented each year on average.

The City population growth of 56.8% between 2000 and 2010 compares with a 40.3% rate of growth for the County as a whole. Thus, the City population growth during this time frame was faster than the County overall.

HISTORICAL HOUSEHOLD GROWTH

Exhibit 2.1 also presents a fifteen-year history of household growth within the City. As Exhibit 2.1 illustrates, household growth in the City during the 2000 to 2010 time frame occurred at a 56.9% rate, with approximately 750 new City households documented each year on average. The City household growth rate of 56.9% between 2000 and 2010 compares with a 41.8% rate of growth for the County as a whole. Thus, the City household growth during this time frame was well above the rate in the County overall.

HISTORICAL DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

To enhance the analysis of population and household growth previously provided, a collection of demographic characteristics for the resident population was compiled for 2000 and, for comparison, 2010 and 2013. This collection of characteristics has been prepared for the City and is presented in Exhibit 2.1. Exhibit 2.1 highlights the following demographic trends.

- ◆ Average household size in the City remained virtually unchanged in the decade from 2000 to 2010; from 2.74 persons per household in 2000 to 2.71 persons per household in 2010, mirroring the trend observed in the County (from 2.63 in 2000 to 2.60 in 2010). Estimates for 2013 and 2014 suggest a possible uptick in population per household for the City.
- ◆ The median household income in the City was 8% above the median figure for the County in 2010. However, the median income figure in the City grew slower during the 2000 to 2010 period (20% vs. 25% in the County.)
- ◆ As Exhibit 2.2 reveals, during the 2000 to 2010 time frame, the greatest growth in population by age group was evidenced among City residents 55 to 64 years of age (125%), among those 20 to 24 years of age (117%), and among those 65 years and older (99%). The growth trend among older adults is similar to that evidenced in many communities, a reflection of the aging of a group known as the Baby Boomers, a trend evidenced nationally. Growth in this age group in the City suggests consideration be given to assuring that facilities and services tailored to the special interests of seniors or mature adults are adequate to serve this burgeoning population group.

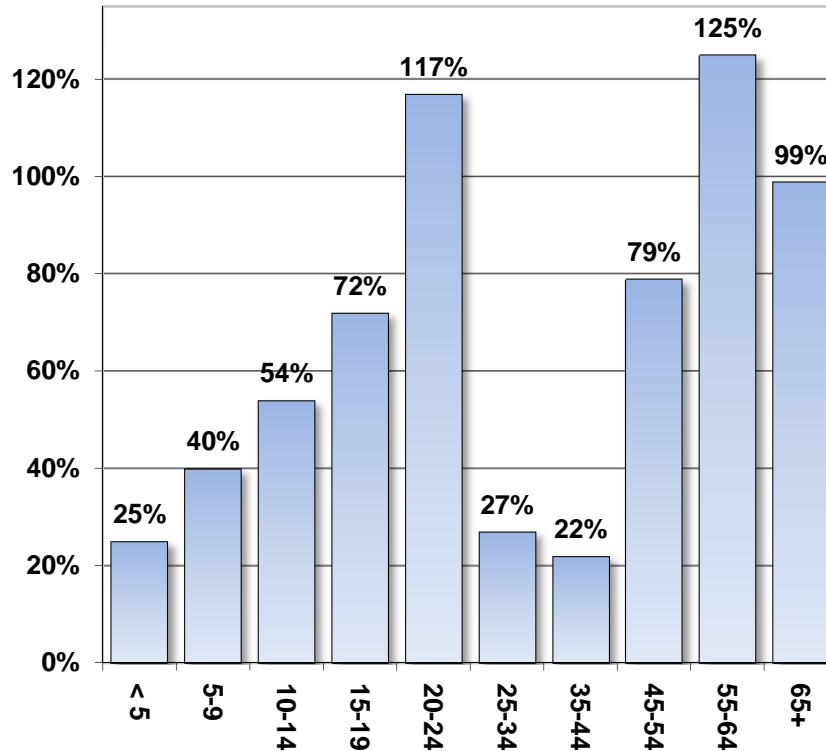
Exhibit 2.1

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN THE CITY OF ROCKLIN

Item	2000*	City of Rocklin			2015****	% change 2000- 2010
		2010**	2014***	2014 % of Total		
Total Population	36,330	56,974	59,002		60,252	60.3
Occupied Housing Units	13,258	20,800	N.A.		21,374	56.9
Persons Per Household	2.74	2.71			2.76	-1.1
Median Household Income	\$64,737	\$77,821	\$72,253			20.2
Percent of Population by Age:						
Under 5 years	2,873	3,598	3,520	6.0%		25.2
5 to 9 years	3,145	4,415	4,851	8.2%		40.4
10 to 14 years	3,121	4,814	4,696	8.0%		54.2
15 to 19 years	2,682	4,611	4,619	7.8%		71.9
20 to 24 years	1,601	3,481	3,422	5.8%		117.4
25 to 34 years	5,035	6,398	7,269	12.3%		27.1
35 to 44 years	7,193	8,761	8,665	14.7%		21.8
45 to 54 years	5,014	8,979	9,082	15.4%		79.1
55 to 64 years	2,530	5,689	6,492	11.0%		124.9
65 years and over	3,136	6,228	6,386	10.8%		98.6
Median Age	34.5	36.7	36.1			6.4
Population by Race/Ethnicity:						
White	30,315	43,008	47,369	80.3%		41.9
Hispanic	2,874	6,555	7,194	12.2%		128.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	2,097	4,162	5,243	8.9%		98.5
Black	466	809	1,197	2.0%		73.6
Households That Are:						
Households with Children <18	5,942	8,424	8,908	41.8%		41.8
Households without Children <18	7,316	12,376	12,399	58.2%		69.2
One Person/Household	2,478	4,403	4,327	20.3%		77.7
Percent of Households That Are:						
Owners	9,638	13,797	13,633	65.7%		43.2
Renters	3,620	7,003	7,674	34.3%		93.5
Median Housing Value	\$213,100	\$359,200	\$336,900			68.6
Median Rent	\$900	\$1,265	\$1,360			40.6
* 2000 Census						
** 2010 Census						
*** 2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate						
**** Calif. Dept of Finance (2015 E-5 Estimates)						

Source: RJM Design Group, Inc.

Exhibit 2.2
Population Change by Age Group
City of Rocklin: 2000 to 2010



The pattern of growth in the City’s population by age group was comparable to the pattern among County residents where the highest rates of population growth were documented among residents 55 to 64 years of age (up 91%), among those 65 years or older (up 65%) and residents 20 to 24 years (up 61%).

- ◆ Examining the population of the City by age further, the share of all residents who were 5 to 14 years of age (the primary youth sports population group) fell from 17% in 2000 to 16% in 2010. Adult recreation consumers aged 20 to 54 years constituted 52% of City residents in 2000, declining to 49% in 2010. Seniors 55 and over comprised nearly 16% of City residents in 2000 and grew to nearly 21% in 2010.
- ◆ As a result of the changes in the distribution by age, the median age in the City grew from 34.5 years in 2000 to 36.7 years in 2010.
- ◆ The City’s proportion of renters has grown at a faster rate than homeowners over the ten-year period between Censuses (94% vs. 43%, respectively), similar to the County trend. However, a majority of 2010 households are homeowners in the City (64%) and the County (70%).
- ◆ The median housing value of \$359,200 in the City in 2010 was 4% below the median value of \$375,400 in the County as a whole.

FORECAST POPULATION GROWTH

Exhibit 2.4 presents a forecast of population growth within the City extending to 2030 based on the City of Rocklin General Plan Land Use Element Mid-Range Projection. As Exhibit 2.4 illustrates, population growth in the City between 2015 and 2030 is expected to occur at a rate that ranges from 1% to 1.5% per year, with a range of approximately 558 to 1,040 new City residents anticipated each year on average, roughly half the volume documented between 2000 and 2010.

FORECAST HOUSING UNIT GROWTH

Exhibit 2.4 also presents a forecast of household growth within the City. As Exhibit 2.4 illustrates, household growth in the City during the 2015 to 2030 period is expected to occur at 527 units per year, on average, roughly half the volume documented between 2000 and 2010.

Exhibit 2.4

CITY OF ROCKLIN POPULATION ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS

Year	Annual Change		Households	Population/ Household
	Population	Number Percent		
<u>Census (4/1)*</u>				
2000	36,330		13,258	2.74
		2,064 5.7%		
2010	56,974		20,800	2.71
		558 1.0%		
2015**	60,252		21,374	2.82
<u>Projections (1/1)</u>				
				-
2020****	67,174		25,836	2.60
		1,040 1.5%		
2025***	72,374		27,836	2.60
		1,040 1.5%		
2030***	76,136		29,283	2.60
* 2000 and 2010 Census.				
** State of California, Department of Finance estimate.				
*** Projections estimated by consultant based on linear growth.				
**** SACOG				

Source: RJM Design Group, Inc.

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Parks and Trails Master Plan

Chapter 3
Recreation Facility
Assessment

Chapter 3 Recreation Facility Assessment

This portion of the Master Plan provides an overview of existing parks, recreation facilities, trails and opportunity areas in and around Rocklin. An understanding of existing resources is essential prior to beginning the needs evaluation process.

A diverse combination of recreation buildings, community parks, neighborhood parks, special use facilities, trails, joint-use school facilities, and nearby regional parks and open space provide opportunities for a myriad of community and personal activities for recreation, education, health, and cultural enrichment.

3.1 Park Definition

For purposes of this Master Plan report, a multi-purpose definition of “park” is desirable that relates to the needs analysis tools used in this section:

Public Park or Park land

The synonymous terms “public park” and “park land” are defined as outdoor areas owned by a public entity generally available for public passive and/or active recreation usage and containing access or recreation improvements. Parks are usually located in a Recreation Conservation Zone as identified in the City's Zoning Map.

Areas not generally considered as "park land" include: street medians; natural preserved or conserved open space areas without public access; unimproved land zoned for uses other than recreation; and flood zones. This Master Plan report will use the term “park” and “recreation facility” interchangeably and the terms refer to all City park types described in the next section.

Highlights

- The City has added over 33 park sites since incorporation
- This Master Plan recommends the addition of five new park types: Downtown Park, Recreation Area, Natural Area/Greenbelt, Linear Park, and Special Use Facility in addition to existing classifications of Neighborhood and Community Parks
- The City has approximately 361 acres of developed parkland located in 33 park sites
- The City operates over 8 miles of hiking and class I bicycle trails

3.2 City Park Types

Parks can be classified by type based primarily on their size, function and character. The classification of parks is important in understanding city-wide acreage needs and in determining what type of parks are needed in the future. This Master Plan recommends the following categories:

Downtown Park (*acreage varies*)

These are typically smaller developed sites located in Rocklin’s core downtown area. These areas provide a landscaped respite from busy downtown streets and often offer places to sit and space for performers and vendors. Downtown Parks generally serve three categories:

- Downtown destination parks which are signature parks of interest to the broad community
- Downtown parks where neighborhood involvement in activities and programming is most appropriate

- Small public spaces or beauty spots which are small islands within the urban environment and present opportunities to enhance the City’s character and identity

Neighborhood Parks (*up to 10 acres of parkland*)

Neighborhood Parks are intended to serve City residents who live in close proximity; however they also contribute to the overall park system available to the entire community. Ideally, everyone in the City would live within convenient walking distance (typically one-half mile) of a Neighborhood Park. This is defined as the “service radius” or “service area” of a neighborhood park.

Neighborhood Parks should address daily recreation needs of the surrounding neighborhood; features of neighborhood parks might include playgrounds, multi-purpose open turf areas, practice sports fields, picnic tables and/or picnic shelters, walking paths, attractive landscaping, and recreation features such as basketball courts. A size of five (5) acres or more is considered appropriate to serve a neighborhood of approximately 1,000 residents within its service area.



Community Parks (*10 acres or more*)

Community Parks can provide a broad range of both passive and active recreational opportunities, but their primary purpose is to provide active recreational opportunities for use by a larger segment of the population than neighborhood parks. Community Parks are generally considered to serve several neighborhoods within a two-mile radius. If a Community Park is located within a residential area it can also serve a Neighborhood Park function and, therefore, can be included in the service area analysis for Neighborhood Parks. Recreation buildings or centers are important features in some Community Parks. These are building facilities that may contain features such as gymnasiums, multi-purpose rooms, classrooms, and offices for recreation staff. Other facilities often found at Community Parks might include sports fields, sports courts, amphitheaters, group picnic areas, and restroom facilities are required. Large special events such as concerts and festivals might also be held in larger Community Parks.

Recreation Area (*no acreage minimum*)

This park type will supplement Neighborhood and Community Parks, serving broader citywide recreation needs. Recreation Areas contain various assets, often for active recreation, and are programmed accordingly. Many also have designated natural areas. Restroom facilities and off-street parking are generally provided for users. Geographic range of users is citywide.

Natural Area/Greenbelt

Natural Areas/Greenbelts are established for the protection and stewardship of wildlife, habitat, and other natural systems support functions. Some natural areas are accessible for low-impact use. Minimal infrastructure may include access and signage, where it will not adversely impact habitat or natural systems functions. Larger natural areas may have small sections developed to serve a Community Park function.

For the purposes of defining this park type, “natural” refers to vegetation and land forms indigenous to the area; turf, irrigated manufactured slopes, detention basins, weedy disturbed areas, and areas landscaped with ornamental vegetation would be considered part of the developed portion of a Natural Area/Greenbelt.

Natural Area/Greenbelt is a new category of park facility that was previously included under Neighborhood Park or Community Park.

Linear Park

Green streets and trails are linear parks that typically serve as an aesthetically-pleasing transportation corridor. Linear parks often provide safe pedestrian routes as well as recreation opportunities. Desired assets include improved paths, bicycle trails, lighting and landscaping. Optional assets may include benches, play area, viewpoint, public gathering space and flat grassy area for informal activity.

Special Use Facilities

Special Use Facilities generally possess a unique character or function focused on a single type of activity. An equestrian facility, golf course, BMX course, museum, vista points, or community buildings (without an associated park) might be considered Special Use Facilities. These parks may serve a second or third use such as trails, but the primary use is prioritized with regard to design, maintenance and funding decisions. Special Use Facilities aren’t usually included in the service area analysis for Neighborhood Parks. Restroom facilities are usually recommended for Special Use Facility sites.

3.3 Trails Recreation Facility Needs Assessment

Refer to Chapter Four for the needs assessment and recommendations for the Trails system.

3.4 Existing City Recreation Facilities

Unique and diverse recreational opportunities are available throughout Rocklin in City facilities. One can find natural open spaces, trails, community buildings, streams, sports courts, fields, passive areas, playgrounds, and much more. As a City that has grown steadily over the past few decades, newer areas of Rocklin have benefited from planning efforts that reflect relatively current thinking about neighborhood identity and local neighborhood parks. This has led to an effective system of diverse parks, strongly associated with adjacent residential areas and important to overall community identity. This is one of the many strengths of the community, although some Neighborhood Park gaps remain in a few areas. Additional Neighborhood Parks are planned as part of future residential areas. Another strength of the park system is the Natural Area/Greenbelt Parks and Trails that take advantage of Open Space and Natural Areas of the community.



Additional Neighborhood Parks are planned as part of future residential areas. Another strength of the park system is the Natural Area/Greenbelt Parks and Trails that take advantage of Open Space and Natural Areas of the community.

It is worthwhile noting items of special interest:

- Johnson-Springview Community Park is the most used park in the City as reported by the highest number of households (26%) polled in a community-wide telephone survey, and 27% use as polled from the on-line questionnaire
- The vast majority (96%) of residents are very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the recreation facilities and programs in Rocklin
- Nearly three-quarters (73%) of the on-line questionnaire respondents reported engaging in frequent recreation activities (at least three times per month), and 54% reported very frequent participation (more than once per week)
- The most popular active recreation activity among respondents to the telephone survey was walking/jogging/running/bicycling (78% of families participate in this activity)

Exhibit 4.3-1 is a map showing the location of each existing park or recreation facility. Exhibit 4.3-2 is a matrix that spans two pages describe sizes and features of existing public parks and recreation facilities within the City of Rocklin.

Insert Exhibit 3.3-1 here (park map)

Insert Exhibit 3.3-2 here (page one of the inventory matrix)

Insert Exhibit 3.3-2 here (page two of the inventory matrix)

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Parks and Trails Master Plan

Chapter 4
Trails Needs
Assessment and
Recommendations

4.0 Introduction

Trails and trail usage in Rocklin are very important, as expressed by the residents of the City through the public input workshops, the telephone and web-based survey tools. To understand the trails system and the potential community connectivity, this chapter addresses the established General Plan goals, an inventory of the existing system, and visioning for the future system to provide a comprehensive approach for the development and use of the resources for the City.

The City's General Plan identifies a goal for trails and bikeways as:

"To provide a safe, comprehensive and integrated system of trails, bikeways, Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (NEV) links and pedestrian ways that encourage the use of alternative modes for commuting recreation, and other trips."

Specific objectives include:

"Promote pedestrian convenience and recreational opportunities through development conditions requiring sidewalks, walking paths, or hiking trails connecting various land uses including residential areas, commercial areas, schools, parks, employment centers, and open space."

"Consult with adjacent jurisdictions regarding the development of regional bikeway and Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (NEV) links."

"Establish Class I bikeways where feasible along public roadways when roadways are adjacent to open space and parkland."



"Require Class II bike lanes in the design and construction of major new streets and to establish bike lanes on those City streets wide enough to accommodate bicycles safely."

"Integrate, to the extent practical, the City's bike and trails network with trails in adjacent jurisdictions and the region."

Regional and community trails as multipurpose recreational trails are often defined and intended for the use of equestrians, hikers, joggers, non-motorized bikers, as well as the casual walker. Regional trails are defined as connecting parks and providing linkages between residential areas, commercial areas, schools, parks, employment centers, and open space. Comparatively, community trails create linkages similar to regional trails, but are local serving. Overall, the development of regional and community

trails can also support connections to a larger network of hiking and biking trails established in the Circulation Element of the General Plan (including Class I, II, and III bike routes).

4.1 Existing Trail System

The City of Rocklin has attempted to develop a bikeway network during construction of new development. This includes Class I, II, and III bikeways. Bikeways are defined by the State of California Street and Highways Code as:

- Class I Bikeways provide a completely separated right-of-way designated for the exclusive use of bicycles and pedestrians with cross-flows by motorists minimized (also called a bike path or trail).
- Class II Bikeways provide a restricted right-of-way designated for exclusive or semi-exclusive use of bicycles with through travel by motor vehicles or pedestrians prohibited, but with vehicle parking and cross-flows by pedestrians and motorists permitted (also called a bike lane).
- Class III Bikeways provide a right-of-way designated by signs or permanent markings and shared with pedestrians or motorists (also called a bike route).

The Trails Maps included in this section provides a complete inventory of all the existing and proposed trails.

4.1.1 Existing Class I Trails

Class I bikeways currently exist in the open space areas within Sunset West, portions of Whitney Ranch in North West Rocklin, and in the Springview area along Antelope Creek. Additional Class I facilities are identified and proposed within the City of Rocklin's General Plan in Whitney Ranch, Clover Valley and along Secret Ravine Creek in southeast Rocklin.

The current year CIP budget includes funding for the Pacific Street Bike Lane. This project will enhance the City's entryway and provide a path of travel for NEV and bicycles along this portion of Pacific Street to the Loomis Town limit. Total project cost is \$1,480,000, and the project is complete as of January 2016.

4.1.2 Existing Class II Trails

The General Plan also identifies a number of existing and proposed bike lanes and bike routes. Currently, a large distance of Class II on-street bike lanes exist on a number of roadways such as Stanford Ranch Road, Sierra Meadows Drive, Whitney Boulevard, and Sierra College Boulevard from Rocklin Road to the southern city limits. Opportunities may also exist with the South Placer Municipal Utility District (SPMUD) to utilize their easements for trail purposes.

4.1.3 Hiking Trails

Within the Whitney Oaks subdivision there are currently about 3-1/4 miles of trails that have a walking surface of either asphalt or decomposed granite. Some sections of the trails are very steep and subject to severe erosion as was evident during the heavy rains of December, 2014. The trails are maintained by the Homeowners Association with an easement granted for public use. The trails are generally very short in length and include the following routes:

- Black Oak Trail--3,574 feet in length
- Sunset Trail--568 feet in length
- Granite Trail--2,721 feet in length
- Majestic Trail--1,055 feet in length
- Foothills Trail--(paved) 763 feet in length
- Wildlife Trail--(paved) 1,638 feet in length
- Turkey Hill Trail--(paved) 890 feet in length
- Clarke Dominguez Trail--(paved) 5,108 feet in length
- Sierra Nevada Trail--(paved) 900 feet in length



Walkways and sidewalks are extensive throughout Rocklin, and provide excellent local neighborhood connectivity to the park sites, schools, commercial centers and the bicycle routes and hiking trails included in this chapter.

4.2 Recommendations for Trails

Specific trail recommendations for this Parks and Trails Master Plan include:

- 4.2.1 The City should develop a Trail Action Plan that includes design standards and incorporate these into existing City standards and specifications similar to those developed by the National Park Service or American Trails. Staff should ensure that these standards are required of all contractors and include class I, II, and III bikeways at a minimum:
 - 4.2.1.1 Hiking trail surfaces need to be firm, stable and have a good coefficient of friction.
 - 4.2.1.2 Locate SPMUD, PCWA and other utility access roads/easements in open space and determine if they connect to useful areas (using paved, gravel, dirt hierarchy for determining best/least expensive opportunity).
 - 4.2.1.3 Install post and cable fence and open gates to allow access to SPMUD, PCWA and other utility roads/easements that are agreed to be opened to public access.
 - 4.2.1.4 Consider formalizing trails that citizens have created to cut through open space areas if sensitive habitats are not affected (for example, installing post and cable

fencing, surface treatment, etc. to control trespassing and reduce impact and/or trash in nearby sensitive areas).

- 4.2.1.5 Identify opportunity areas in open space that would connect existing trails and would not impact through sensitive habitats. If sensitive habitat areas cannot be avoided, consider providing additional open space acres to mitigate sensitive habitat loss from these trails.
- 4.2.2 If a new trail in an open space area would impact sensitive habitats or wetlands such that a Corp of Engineers permitting process would be required, then the trail would be considered infeasible, and public use would be discouraged.
- 4.2.3 Coordinate and work other public agencies to explore further opportunities for opening of open space areas and waterways/drainage areas for trail use. In many cases, these routes would best be served as a paved surface.
- 4.2.4 Coordinate with the South Placer Municipal Utility District to explore the potential of opening utility easements for public use as dedicated bike and walking trails.
 - 4.2.4.1
- 4.2.5 Establish a Citywide bicycle and hiking trails education program, consisting of the production of a trail map, on-site signage and City webpage for route updates and user information. There are extensive trail routes currently available to the public, and routes that will be completed as developments are implemented in the future. The goal of the trails program is to provide looping routes that connect resident bicyclists and pedestrians to park sites, the two colleges, commercial areas, Rocklin Unified School District campuses, and to open space in and around Rocklin. The new trail loops are described in more detail below:

A. Northern Loop – proposed distance 10.62 miles

This proposed trail route is approximately 10.62 miles and traverses the northern portion of the city, utilizing existing Class II bicycle paths on Sunset Blvd., Park Drive, and the newly completed University Ave. at William Jessup University. Beginning at the intersection of Sunset Blvd. and Park Dr., moving toward the east on Park Drive, the route passes the commercial villages, Twin Oaks Park, and follows the length of Park Dr. east. The route continues past commercial villages at Park Dr. and Stanford Ranch Rd., Granite Oaks Middle School, Whitney Oaks Golf Club, many residential neighborhoods, and then comes across the top of town, curving back toward the west and currently ends at the open space at the corner of Park Dr. and Whitney Oaks Dr. Eventually the loop will connect through the open space, and until then, trail users can take Whitney Oaks Dr. back to the trail on Park Dr. and back toward the University. The new University Ave. construction provides trail users access from Sunset Blvd., adjacent to William Jessup University and the nature and hiking trails around the campus, toward the north, connecting to some Class I paved trails through open space adjacent to Whitney High School, continuing north to Ranch View Dr. and then crossing Wildcat

Blvd. The route currently ends at the open space, where future development will construct the trail 'across the top' to complete the last segment that will make it a complete 10.6-mile loop.

B. Southern Loop – proposed distance 16.10 miles

This 16.10-mile trail utilizes two crossings and a potential future third overcrossing of the freeway to connect bicyclists and pedestrians to the commercial districts of historic downtown Rocklin, the parks and schools of the south part of town, Sierra College, undeveloped land and school sites. Beginning at Sierra College and moving north along Sierra College Blvd., then turning left at Pacific, the route passes by undeveloped land, commercial and restaurants, then turns north at Midas Ave. Continuing across the railroad tracks and into central Rocklin, the route crosses over Antelope Creek, passes by Clover Valley Park, follows the bend to the west on Midas Ave., then turns south onto Whitney Blvd.



The route then makes a small loop in the west central part of town, following Whitney as it goes between Parker Whitney Elementary School and Antelope Creek. The trail crosses Sunset Blvd., passes neighborhoods and Sunset East Park, turning left (south) on Springview Dr., following Springview Dr. as it loops around, comes back across Sunset Blvd., passes by Johnson-Springview Park at Rocklin Rd. and then the trail user can either turn south on Rocklin Rd. or continue on 5th St., past Spring View Middle School and be back on the Midas Ave. If users take the Rocklin Rd. Class II trail or sidewalks, they must be aware that the road narrows as it passes under the freeway, and due to barrier restrictions in the underpass design, bicyclists must dismount and walk bikes on the sidewalk on the west side of Rocklin Rd. for a short distance. Shortly after the underpass, to make a small loop around the south portion of Rocklin the trail turns south onto Aguilar Rd., follows it south and turns right on Greenbrae Rd. where it connects to the existing Secret Ravine Class I Bike Trail, and continues onto dirt trails (future paved trails) through the undeveloped land until connecting with City of Roseville existing bike paths that loop around a neighborhood and end up connecting to the class II trail on Secret Ravine Pkwy. for a short distance, before turning north onto Scarborough Dr. The trail follows Scarborough Dr. all the way to Sierra College Boulevard, continues on Class I trail on the west side of Sierra College Blvd, then transitions to Class II trails before coming back to the beginning point of the route at Sierra College at Rocklin Road.

C. Western Loop – proposed distance 4.28 miles

This trail is a combination of Class II on-road bicycle lanes and Class I bicycle trails through undeveloped land in the western side of town. This route connects many neighborhoods as well as the Sierra Whitney Rawhide Loop Trail to the Sunset Park Loop Trail. Beginning with its southern end, at the Sierra Whitney Rawhide Loop Trail at the intersection of Whitney Blvd. and Springview Dr., it goes west on Whitney Blvd. for a block, turns north on Lincoln Ave., then turns north on the Class II bike lane of Fairway Dr. The route passes many neighborhoods on Fairway Dr., then the commercial village at Fairway Dr. and Sunset Blvd., and turns left (north) onto Sunset Blvd. for a quarter mile before turning left (west) onto the Class I bicycle path just north of Pebble Creek Dr. The trail passes through open space, crosses Little Rock Rd., Night Ridge Park, and continues at Park Dr. Trail users may go north or south to the crosswalks at either Quarry Way to the south or Sandy Trail Way to the north, cross Park Dr. and pick up the bicycle path again as it follows undeveloped land for another half mile, passes by Ruhkala Park and connects with Blue Oaks Blvd. The Class II bike lanes and sidewalks of Blue Oaks Blvd. continue north to Sunset Blvd. and at that point connect to the Sunset Park Loop Trail, described above.

Insert trails maps here

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Parks and Trails Master Plan

Chapter 5

Policies and Strategies

Chapter 5 Policies and Strategies

With the development of the Parks and Trails Master plan, considerable work was done to create a comprehensive detailing of Policies and Strategies directing the implementation of this Master Plan. Over the ensuing years, these Policies and Strategies will provide the ability to gauge areas of accomplishment and opportunities for refocused attention. Future modifications to the Policies and Strategies may depend on future changes to demographics, budget, recreation program utilization, facility usage patterns, new partnerships, and additional community input.

The following Policies and Strategies provides a comprehensive twenty-year projection of achievable and measurable action items for staff and the City Council to utilize in the prioritization of resources to meet the park and recreational needs of the community.

Organization of Policies and Strategies

There are seven major categories of the responsibilities of the City, reflected in the organization of this set of Strategies and Policies:

A. Planning	B. Facility Design	C. Conservation	D. Maintenance and Operations
E. Financing and Implementation	F. Management	G. Marketing and Communication	

A. Planning

STRATEGY A.1: Provide or assist with the delivery of a range of recreation opportunities, facilities and programs to meet present and projected community needs for all Rocklin residents regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, economic status or physical capability.

Policy A.1.1: Acquire land, easements, and/or facilities and/or enter into partnerships to meet existing and projected user needs, consistent with City guidelines for development and operation.

Action A.1.1.1: Pursue oak woodland and open space land acquisition through potential methods such as developer agreements, donations, purchase agreements or other available acquisition methods.

Policy A.1.2: Plan and assist with the delivery for a diversity of recreation programs and classes to meet the needs of various age groups, physical abilities, economic status, interests, and skill levels.

Action A.1.2.1: Identify location(s) and/or partnerships to deliver programmatic needs, services and programs to meet the needs and interest of the community.

Action A.1.2.2: Continue to provide classes and programs that are geared towards the schedules of working individuals.

STRATEGY A.2: Take an active role in local agency planning activities and programs to help serve the needs of the community and to ensure consistency with Rocklin Parks and Trails Master Plan goals and policies, and Rocklin standards for new and existing facilities.

Policy A.2.1: Monitor local land use changes for opportunities to facilitate and/or implement City goals, policies and priorities including procuring trail acquisition or easements and park and open space acquisition or easements through new development, donations, partnerships and grants, consistent with Master Plan standards.

Action A.2.1.1: Identify partnership opportunities to combine resources with other agencies to develop Rocklin facilities and programs.

Policy A.2.2: Continue to utilize the evaluation of location and distribution of existing Rocklin facilities within this Master Plan to meet the needs of those areas identified as experiencing gaps or anticipating growth or changing needs.

STRATEGY A.3: Plan and implement a comprehensive system of trails, parks, and open space areas in both the urban environment and outlying open space areas within the City limits.

Policy A.3.1: Work with the Army Corp of Engineers, and other public agencies to explore recreation opportunities, including trails along flood plains, watershed lands, arroyos, existing service roads along arroyos and channels, abandoned right-of-ways and quarried reclamation projects.

Action A.3.1.1: Identify undeveloped segments in the trail system to prioritize completion of these segments to create major multi-use trail corridors and provide connectivity to schools, parks, open spaces and major recreation areas.

- Complete negotiations with SPMUD to provide joint use of easements where needed to make trail connections
- Complete the Sunset Whitney Park Loop Trail through grant opportunities or as funding becomes available.
- Complete the Sierra College Rawhide Loop Trail through grant opportunities or as funding becomes available.
- Complete the Connector Trails through grant opportunities or as funding becomes available.

Policy A.3.2: Continue to monitor and evaluate the need for new neighborhood, community, and special use park facilities as identified and contained within the General Plan which used the Rocklin level of service guideline for the amount of parkland needed per 1,000 population.

Action A.3.2.1: Identify and prioritize potential locations for new park facilities needed to meet Rocklin's General Plan requirements and service level demand as new development plans are generated.

- Dog parks
- Special use parks
- Neighborhood parks

Policy A.3.3: Periodically review and update Rocklin park standards and definitions in the General Plan to ensure adequate provision of park land to meet various recreation needs.

STRATEGY A.4: Maintain updated planning and policy documents to reflect changing needs and to ensure City priorities can be adapted and implemented.

Policy A.4.1: Update the Parks and Trails Master Plan every five years to ensure compliance with state funding requirements, increase competitiveness for outside funding opportunities and to ensure coordination and consistency with other planning agencies.

Action A.4.1.1: For large Open Space areas and Community Parks, develop Facility Master Plans and/or Resource Management Plans for facilities that do not have one, and new facilities as they are added.

Policy A.4.2: Periodically review and update existing facility master plans to ensure compliance with changing laws and conditions, and to maintain a balance between upkeep or modification of existing facilities and provision of new ones.

B. Facility Design

STRATEGY B.1: Design safe, well designed, efficient and cost effective trails, parks, open space and special use areas that meet City standards for size, location, quality, and user experience.

Policy B.1.1: Design high quality neighborhood and community parks providing opportunity for unstructured play, varied or unique themed children's play areas, family picnic areas, native or Mediterranean climate landscaping and natural areas, each with a distinct character.

Policy B.1.2: Design play environments to reduce safety hazards and to comply with safety criteria and regulations.

STRATEGY B.2: Maintain updated design standards and design guidelines for trail and park facilities to reflect existing conditions, address current practices, accessibility requirements, and evolving community needs with regard to facility function, amenities, size, and location.

Policy B.2.1: Create trail design standards.

Action B.2.1.1: Create minimum requirements for trail design, depending on the trail classification.

Policy B.2.2: Upgrade existing facilities to meet State and Federal accessibility requirements, and meet State and Federal accessibility requirements when designing new facilities.

Action B.2.2.1: Continue to update Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) survey/assessment and the Transition Plan that identifies ADA deficiencies and necessary improvements.

Action B.2.2.2: Comply with State and Federal requirements governing handicap parking and ramp requirements for parking lot design, accessibility requirements in building design, and maximum grade and paving requirements for trail design, when planning new facilities.

Policy B.2.3: Comply with Federally mandated requirements (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)) for the treatment of urban stormwater runoff in new facility design.

Action B.2.3.1: Within available resources, utilize the City's low impact development plan to design all parking lots, walkways and other paved surfaces with bioswales or other similar on-site facilities to help environmentally process water runoff.

STRATEGY B.3: Provide attractive, locally native, or Mediterranean drought tolerant and low maintenance landscaping in new and redesigned or renovated facilities as appropriate.

STRATEGY B.4: Encourage the use of green building and energy saving measures in new facilities and building and infrastructure upgrades.

C. Conservation

STRATEGY C.1: Protect, restore, and preserve environmentally sensitive areas with unique resources, including plant communities, wildlife habitats and corridors, special geology or physical features, and wetlands, riparian areas, and flood plains along creeks.

Policy C.1.1: Evaluate additional opportunities to "naturalize" many existing facilities, especially those built near and around creeks and other drainages. This could include the elimination of turf in areas of little public use and expansion of riparian and natural areas.

Policy C.1.2: Identify significant natural open space areas and resources in the City. Prioritize measures to protect, restore, and preserve these sites.

STRATEGY C.2: Protect unique visual resources.

Policy D.2.1: When feasible, implement trail alignments that provide controlled access and educational opportunities in unique environmental areas such as wetlands.

Action D.2.1.1: Coordinate with responsible resource conservation and management agencies such as the Army Corp of Engineers when planning trails through unique environmental areas such as wetlands.

D. Maintenance and Operations

STRATEGY D.1: Provide well maintained and adequately upgraded landscaping, facilities, and park land to allow a safe and enjoyable user experience.

Policy D.1.1: Replace and/or improve existing, aging infrastructure, as needed, to ensure safe and well-maintained facilities.

STRATEGY D.2: Prioritize the maintenance and operations of new and existing facilities.

Policy D.2.1: Estimate the annual maintenance requirements of each park and facility.

Action D.2.1.1: Identify the basic maintenance requirements for each facility based on labor hours, materials and supplies.

Policy D.2.2: Target unspent, unencumbered funds for maintenance and upgrades.

Policy D.2.3: Approve development of new facilities only when funding for ongoing maintenance and operations is identified and will not result in a reduction of maintenance levels at current facilities.

Action D.2.3.1: Identify maintenance requirements and potential funding sources for maintenance during the planning process for new projects.

Action D.2.3.2: Plan for new funding for maintenance of new development related facilities through developer approved Lighting and Landscape Maintenance Districts (LLMDs), or Community Facility Districts (CFD's).

STRATEGY D.3: Coordinate maintenance procedures and activities with the School District and SPMUD to increase efficiency and cost savings whenever possible.

Policy D.3.1: Where cost efficient, organizationally helpful, and in the best interest of the community, pursue contract services to supplement or replace in-house services.

E. Financing and Implementation

STRATEGY E.1: Evaluate long-term financial implications before implementing improvements, expanding programs or adding new facilities or programs.

Policy E.1.1: Plan for the development of a ballot measure to extend Park Development and Maintenance Tax due to expire in June 2019. The City should consider proposing an increase to the Park Development and Maintenance Tax sufficient to pay for operation and maintenance costs for those new park and trail facilities identified within this Master Plan.

Policy E.1.2: Evaluate long-term costs and benefits, including ongoing maintenance, replacement, and operational cost of improvements for new facilities, equipment or new or expanded services.

Action E.1.2.1: Provide financial impact information, both capital and potential operational costs, with Capital Investment Plan (CIP) proposals.

Action E.1.2.2: Include financial impact section in staff reports that involve capital or operational costs.

STRATEGY E.2: Encourage all City recreational programs to be revenue generating or self-supporting to the extent possible.

Policy E. 2.1: Identify potential funding sources for priority programs to sustain existing and future needs.

Policy E.2.2 Balance provision of fee sustained programs with non-sustainable programs.

Action E.2.2.1: Develop a fee policy that balances the development and collection of fees with programs individual benefit vs. community benefit.

Action E.2.2.2: Develop and annually review and update Cost of Service/Cost Recovery study.

STRATEGY E.3: Maximize opportunities for funding and pooling of resources to enhance cost efficiency and the provision of services.

Policy E.3.1: Continue the program that identifies a 1% budget for an art program as part of future capital development.

Policy F.3.2: Seek opportunities to use local public transit and/or state road funds for multi-use trails that also provide a transportation function.

F. Management

STRATEGY F.1: Develop public and private partnerships to facilitate implementation of Master Plan goals and policies, to streamline procedures where possible and provide more cost effective services and facilities.

Policy F.1.1: Develop partnerships with a broad range of both private and public entities to maximize joint use and maintenance of facilities and services.

Policy F.1.2: Explore opportunities for joint marketing and communication.

Action F.1.2.1: Develop partnerships with PVT, Chamber of Commerce, and private businesses to market Rocklin facilities, activities, and events.

Action F.1.2.2: Continue existing event and services co-sponsorships and seek new ones.

STRATEGY F.2: Promote professional and organizational development.

Policy F.2.1: Provide ongoing professional training and development for staff and Rocklin Recreation Commission members.

Action F.2.1.1: Provide training opportunities for employees to keep abreast of applicable current State and Federal statutes, such as prevailing wage provisions, contract administration, playground safety rules and California Environmental Quality Act, that can affect work and project delivery procedures and programs.

Policy F.2.2: Encourage leadership development and planning within the organization.

Action F.2.2.1: Establish a leadership development program that includes mentoring, training, and opportunities for sharing expertise throughout the organization.

STRATEGY F.3: Achieve high level of coordination and communication between staff.

Policy F.3.1: Encourage team building and information sharing activities.

Action F.3.1.1: Establish interdepartmental training/information sharing program.

G. Marketing and Communication

STRATEGY G.1: Respond to community needs, and encourage public participation and input in City planning efforts and Rocklin Parks, Recreation, and Arts Commission and/or City Council decisions.

Policy G.1.1: Use publicity and outreach programs to encourage use of Rocklin programs, parks and facilities and to keep the public informed of Rocklin news and special events.

Action G.2.1.1: Use various forms of existing media to promote Rocklin programs and special events, such as the *Inside Rocklin*, website, local radio stations, Downtown kiosks, library bulletin boards, and local papers.

Action G.2.1.2: Continue to provide, and expand timely modifications to the City's social media and digital outreach program, for example Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, WiFi landing page, freeway electronic billboards, etc.

Policy G.1.2: Review outreach methods to ensure that underserved populations are being reached.

Action G.1.2.1: Identify the need for special marketing information.

Policy G.1.3: Solicit public input as part of facility master plan updates and as part of the planning and design of new projects.

Action G.1.3.1: Notify and consider concerns of adjacent landowners and stakeholders when implementing new facilities.

STRATEGY G.2: Provide current internet technology and use Rocklin web site to promote Rocklin facilities, programs and activities.

Policy G.2.1: Keep web site information up-to-date and provide user friendly access and interface.

Action G.2.1.1: Establish ongoing update process and schedule.

STRATEGY G.3: Develop a volunteer park maintenance program.

Policy G.3.1: Strengthen use of volunteers as support to staff and to implement Rocklin goals and policies.

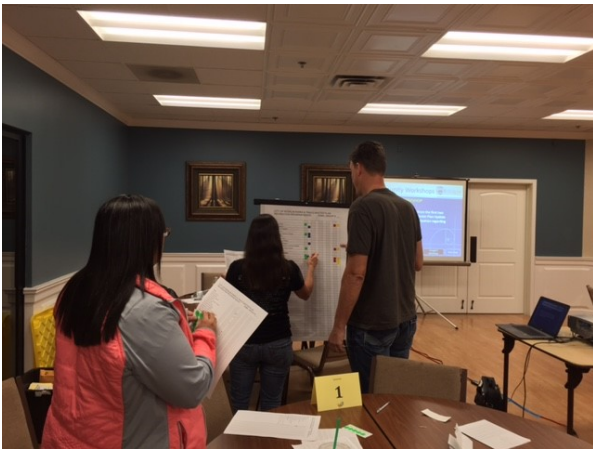
Action G.3.1.1: Develop a Steward program including training for volunteers who will coordinate and lead volunteer maintenance activities at City parks, trail and, open space sites.

Action G.3.1.2: To the extent possible, utilize volunteers for a variety of tasks, such as clerical, instructional, public relations, planning and conducting special events, maintenance, security, fundraising and grant research. Investigate liability and safety issues related to volunteer utilization, and provide training and/or other mitigation techniques as needed to maintain an effective volunteer program.

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Parks and Trails Master Plan

Chapter 6
Recommendations



6.1 Summary of Recommendations at Existing Parks

Exhibit 6.1-1 identifies potential capital renovation projects or maintenance endeavors at existing parks operated by the City of Rocklin.

Exhibit 6.1-1 Recommended Projects for Existing Facilities

RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>Johnson-Springview Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider installation of a water play area recreation element if funding becomes available. • Create a master plan for +/- 20 acre undeveloped portion of the park that responds to the facility needs identified in this needs assessment • Renovate Community Center and consider expansion of facility into turfed footprints adjacent to the current facility • Resurface basketball court • Resurface roller hockey • Add or rake additional bark under swings • Schedule replacement of cracking and lifted concrete panels with similar material • Immediately repair damaged areas by either cold crack fill, hot rubberized crack fill, or cold asphalt patch • Bark/mulch should be regularly placed around the drip line to reduce compaction and water evaporation
<p>Kathy Lund Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create master plan for open field area • Add or rake additional bark under swings • Bark/mulch should be regularly placed around the drip line to reduce compaction and water evaporation
<p>Twin Oaks Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master Plan for small undeveloped area south of tennis courts • Installation of new play equipment • Parking lot repair and slurry • Bark/mulch should be regularly placed around the drip line to reduce compaction and water evaporation • Resurface tennis court • Schedule replacement of cracking and lifted concrete panels with similar material • Reseed or renovate turf as needed • Trees in high-use public areas should be pruned on a regular cycle, no less than once every seven years
<p>Margaret Azevedo Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master Plan for undeveloped area in middle of park • Consider converting 2 soccer fields to multi-use synthetic turf field • Add interpretative signage to perimeter trail • Add or rake additional bark under swings • Bark/mulch should be regularly placed around the drip line to reduce compaction and water evaporation • Reseed or renovate turf as needed

<p>Whitney Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create master plan for undeveloped 20-acre area • Improve wayfinding signage • Add or rake additional bark under swings and landing areas • Bark/mulch should be regularly placed around the drip line to reduce compaction and water evaporation
<p>Bolton Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add or rake additional bark under swings • Bark/mulch should be regularly placed around the drip line to reduce compaction and water evaporation
<p>Boulder Ridge Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turf renovation • Resurface basketball court
<p>Breen Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor turf renovation • Add or rake additional bark under swings • Bark/mulch should be regularly placed around the drip line to reduce compaction and water evaporation
<p>Brigham and Hawes Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore potential trail connection • Add or rake additional bark under swings • Bark/mulch should be regularly placed around the drip line to reduce compaction and water evaporation
<p>Clarke Dominquez Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor turf renovation • Explore drainage issues • Add or rake additional bark under swings • Bark/mulch should be regularly placed around the drip line to reduce compaction and water evaporation • Renovate or reseed turf as necessary and treat for gophers—ensure that vehicles stay on pathways • Explore potential causes of drainage issues and possible means to reroute water flow
<p>Clover Valley Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor turf renovation • Remove turf a minimum of 25' from creek bank/replant with natives
<p>Corral-Alva Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create master plan for Phase II undeveloped area • Bark/mulch should be regularly placed around the drip line to reduce compaction and water evaporation • Repair decomposed granite walkway • Add mulch to playground and/or regularly rake mulch back under swings
<p>Finnish Temperance Hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor shrub bed maintenance
<p>Gayaldo Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create master plan for Phase II area of site • Bark/mulch should be regularly placed around the drip line to reduce compaction and water evaporation

<p>Peter Hill Heritage Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to design park facilities from the Roundhouse to Emerson Street • Continue to design and develop future phases of the B Street Corridor (conversion of road to a pedestrian corridor connection between Front Street and Johnson-Springview Park)
<p>Joe Hernandez Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor irrigation repair
<p>Mansion Oaks Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add or rake additional bark under swings • Bark/mulch should be regularly placed around the drip line to reduce compaction and water evaporation • Improve type and number of park amenities such as benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, recycling containers, and trash cans
<p>Memorial Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign park to match Quarry Park theme • Turf renovation • Correct drainage issue by playground
<p>Monte Verde Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bark/mulch should be regularly placed around the drip line to reduce compaction and water evaporation • Trees in high-use public areas should be pruned on a regular cycle, no less than once every two to seven years
<p>Monument Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalize social trails to reduce erosion
<p>Night Ridge Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add or rake additional bark under swings • Bark/mulch should be regularly placed around the drip line to reduce compaction and water evaporation • Renovate turf
<p>Old Timers Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
<p>Pebble Creek Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add or rake additional bark under swings • Bark/mulch should be regularly placed around the drip line to reduce compaction and water evaporation
<p>Pleasant Valley Creek Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove turf a minimum of 25' from creek bank/replant with natives
<p>Quarry Park (Currently under development)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and develop Phases II, III, and IV
<p>Ruhkala Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bark/mulch should be regularly placed around the drip line to reduce compaction and water evaporation • Evaluate opportunity to naturalize area near drainage reducing turf areas and replanting with natives
<p>Sasaki Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees in high-use public areas should be pruned on a regular cycle, no less than once every two to seven years

<p>Sierra Meadows Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovate turf • Bark/mulch should be regularly placed around the drip line to reduce compaction and water evaporation • Evaluate opportunity to naturalize creek area by reducing turf areas and replanting with natives
<p>Sonora Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bark/mulch should be regularly placed around the drip line to reduce compaction and water evaporation • Add mulch to playground and/or regularly rake mulch back under swings
<p>Sunset East Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bark/mulch should be regularly placed around the drip line to reduce compaction and water evaporation • Evaluate opportunity to naturalize creek area by reducing turf areas and replanting with natives
<p>Vista Grande Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master plan phase II development of the site • Trees in high-use public areas should be pruned on a regular cycle, no less than once every two to seven years • Add mulch to playground and/or regularly rake mulch back under swings
<p>Wesley Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bark/mulch should be regularly placed around the drip line to reduce compaction and water evaporation • Trees in high-use public areas should be pruned on a regular cycle, no less than once every seven years • Add mulch to playground and/or regularly rake mulch back under swings • Renovate or reseed turf as needed • Correct erosion problem by playground
<p>Woodside Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigation and turf renovation. • Remove turf from areas under native oaks • Bark/mulch should be regularly placed around the drip line to reduce compaction and water evaporation
<p>Rocklin Event Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking lot repair and replacement • Repair drainage for site

**Exhibit 6.1-2
Recommended Projects for Future Facilities**

Based upon input gathered during the need assessment phase of the Master Plan, the following list of recommended improvements is suggested to be considered in future park and recreation planning. As funding becomes available and as new development projects are proposed, opportunities should be considered for including these potential new projects.

RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>Sports Park Facility (could be a new site, or could be phase II 20-acre expansion of either Whitney Park or Johnson-Springview Park) that could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Softball Field • Youth Softball Field • Youth Baseball Field x 4 • Youth Soccer Fields x 9 (to meet total future demand for long fields [soccer, football, rugby and lacrosse] one third of these fields should be planned as synthetic turf and two thirds natural sand-based drainage system turf [3 synthetic + 6 natural turf]) • Fitness Exercise Course • Dog Park • Climbing Walls
<p>Zipline / Ropes Course</p>
<p>Walking/Jogging Paths/Trails – Expand existing facilities to provide for additional connectivity.</p>
<p>Bicycle Trails</p>

6.2 Funding and Implementation Recommendations

The cornerstone of the success of the Parks and Trails Master Plan is Rocklin’s ability to secure stable funding for the development and operation of parks, recreation facilities, and programs. Two major cost centers require funding in order to implement the Master Plan. One is capital costs which includes: potential acquisition and development of new required park lands and facilities and renovation of existing park and school City properties. The second major cost center is to develop long-term sustainable resources for operations and maintenance of existing and new facilities.

With difficult financial constraints and diminishing resources, it will be challenging to find the resources needed to build or renovate parks and facilities as well as maintain existing parks and infrastructure. Another vexing task will be sustaining the affordability of recreation fee supported classes to meet needs and demands for residents.

This section of the Master Plan provides information on funding options for park development, maintenance, and operations to assist Rocklin in preparing for plan implementation. It discusses current funding mechanisms and identifies future possibilities and identifies key resources to meet future goals or

strategic directions and guides the city staff in accomplishing the vision and goals of the Master Plan. Meeting these challenges will require equal amounts of vision, resourcefulness, partnership, and hard work.

6.2.1 Funding Sources for Parks and Recreation

The following is a partial listing of funding sources that have been categorized according to the appropriate application of the funding they provide - Capital Funding, Operation and Maintenance or a combination of both. These explanations of funding options are provided to give definition to **alternative funding programs** which the City may elect to employ. These sources will be evaluated and applicable sources will be matched to the specific projects which are recommended in this Park and Trails Master Plan.

Capital Funding Programs

Non-Profit Foundation - such as a 501(c) (3). This would provide a vehicle for a capital fund drive and a means to build community support. There should be well defined facilities and specific costs to be funded. The foundation acts as a conduit for receiving private donations from entities that might otherwise be reluctant to donate to a City. In addition, the donor can receive tax benefits. The City can use the foundation to solicit private foundations, corporations and other businesses, local organizations and individuals (gifts, bequests, trust funds, etc.). The foundation also provides an organization that can partner with other non-profits (such as churches, service clubs, and organizations) as well as private companies to jointly develop park and recreation facilities.

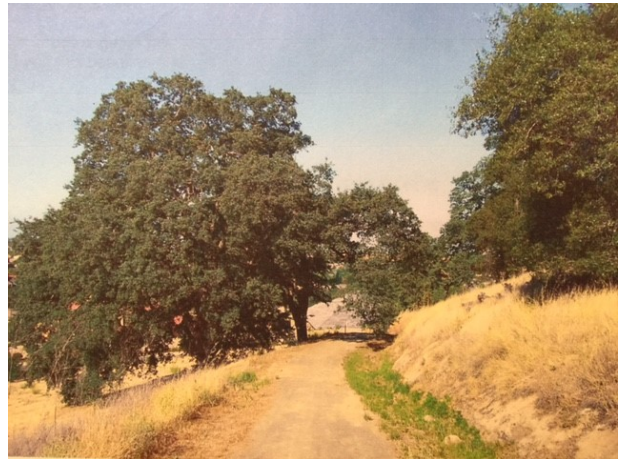
Grants - (County, State, and Federal agencies). While these sources have been declining in recent years, they do provide funding to many projects. Many require matching funds from the City which can be a barrier. Such funds, however, could come from sources such as a Non-Profit Foundation. There is usually strong competition for such grants and the City needs to compete aggressively. Some examples of such funding are:

- The California Department of Parks and Recreation administers grants which have been established by State propositions or are provided for by other State programs such as the Habitat Conservation Fund Grant Program under the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 and/or the Recreational Trails Program.
- Caltrans provides for on- or off-street bike trails and some foot trails through such funding mechanisms as *ISTEA Transportation Enhancement Activities* and *Bicycle Lane Account Funds*.
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding is available for upgrading parks for ADA requirements and other improvements. These funds are also used for some limited program funding.
- The California Department of Resources manages many grant programs, through several departments such as the Department of Conservation, Wildlife Conservation Board, State Coastal Conservancy and others, that can be used for open space acquisition, habitat restoration, trails, etc. Much of the funding comes from State Bond Act Propositions 50 and 84.

- **Foundation Grants** – There are some private foundations and non-profits that support park and recreation developments and programs. These entities can be solicited for donations to support specific projects which meet their criteria.

Quimby Act - The Quimby Act is a widely used source of funding which enables local government to exact dedication of land or in-lieu fees from new residential development to maintain a minimum ratio of park land to population. This applies only to residential subdivisions and does not address additional park demands created through the construction of new units on existing lots or to condominium conversions.

Development Impact Fees: Development Impact Fees (AB 1600 fees) on development is another option for local agencies. The fees or exactions are based on the premise that new development generates new demand for park and recreation facilities. The fees only apply to new development and may only be assessed for new capital cost related to the development. A defined nexus or benefit/beneficiary relationship must be established. The fees are paid by the developer to offset costs for the infrastructure caused by new development. The fees are not limited to the cost of land and can be assessed for improvements. Some cities have used this fee mechanism to assess a capital equipment fee to acquire the equipment needed to maintain the new parks. The fees are often used in combination with development agreements. The advantages of impact fees, sometimes called mitigation fees, are that they can be assessed for non-subdivision land uses. Fees can be assessed under the premise that tourists, employers, and employees all benefit from and use community parks. This allows for assessment of commercial and industrial development. Once the nexus is established that proves the need for additional facilities because of new development, a fee program can be implemented. The fee cannot be assessed to subsidize existing shortfalls or benefit existing residents.



The City collects three park impact fees in various sections of the city.

Bonds - Most bond issues require a two-thirds vote of the electorate and are therefore used with great preparation, research and care to predict voting outcome. Some of the most common forms of these bonds are as follows:

- **General Obligation Bonds** - These bonds are issued subject to a two-thirds majority vote of the electorate and pledge the full faith and support of the borrower. G.O bonds would be paid out of the City's General Fund. Only cities with excess General Fund capacity are able to use G.O. bonds for park facility development today. Another method of implementing park and recreation facility development by use of a type of G.O. bond is by gaining voter approval for an additional property tax assessment to pay for the debt of park bonds. The issuer is authorized by the vote of a two-thirds majority of the electorate to levy an ad valorem tax on all taxable property within its jurisdiction at whatever rate is required to service the debt. Because of the high level of security,

these bonds command the lowest interest rate. This type of financing requires strong community support and involves much time and effort to study community attitudes and promote acceptance in order to be successful.

- **Revenue Bonds** - These bonds are secured by a pledge of revenues from a tax or non-tax source such as assessments or fees. Because the revenue from a particular facility is the only security, these bonds usually carry a higher interest rate than general obligation bonds. The direct issuance of revenue bonds without the formation of a funding City, as described in more detail below, may not be feasible for park and recreation purposes due to limited income streams from these types of activities. However, revenue bonds have been used to partially fund such development as an aquatic facility where a feasibility study verified the revenue generating capability of the development.

Certificates of Participation - This is a form of lease purchase agreement that does not constitute indebtedness under the State constitutional debt limit and does not require voter approval. In a typical case, a local government entity decides to acquire a new or renovated public facility. This facility is purchased or constructed by a vendor corporation and the local government signs a lease agreement with the corporation to use the facility. An underwriting firm then buys the lease obligation from the vendor corporation and divides it into small units called "C.O.P.'s". Each C.O.P. represents a share of the lease payment revenue stream. The underwriter then places the C.O.P. issue with a bank which, in turn, sells the certificates to individual investors. The local government makes the lease payments to the bank which makes payments to the certificate holders. At the end of the lease period, title to the facility passes to the local government entity at nominal cost. Interest paid the certificate holders is tax exempt.

Fund-Raising Events - (concerts, raffles, etc.) While these are not a major source of funds, such events could contribute to an overall effort toward capital funding for a specific facility. Funds raised from such events could be channeled through a non-profit foundation as described above.

Sources of Operation and Maintenance Funds

User Fees - Such fees provide some contribution toward maintenance, but are not sufficient to provide any capital funds. It is strongly recommended that the City examine the current fee structure and make adjustments so that the fees collected are in line with the costs of maintenance and operation of the facilities and/or programs for which the fees are levied. Some of the sources of such fees include:

- Participation fees for classes and special programs.
- Field Rental Fees for the use, maintenance and lighting costs associated with using a sports field.
- Family Rental Fees for meetings, parties and special events.
- Charges for play, such as for tennis court reservations and/or golf green fees.
- Group picnic shelter use charges.
- Charges for the use of park sites for special events such as arts & crafts fairs, tournaments, antique shows, auto shows, weddings, concerts, carnivals, Christmas tree sales, etc.
- Joint-Use with non-profit organizations is also included in this category, where sports teams would renovate fields and/or provide field maintenance (labor or costs) in exchange for guaranteed use of the field during the season.

Corporate Sponsorship of Events - This is most popular for sports teams and other various activities, and should be actively pursued.

Adopt-a-Park Programs - This type of program could generate funds or volunteers to provide maintenance for City parks or facilities.

Volunteer Labor - Useful for certain programming and/or maintenance tasks, however does not constitute a large portion of funding needs.

Sources for Both Capital and Operation and Maintenance Funding

Sales Tax Increase – The cornerstone of the state-local revenue system in virtually every region of the country, the sales tax is the second largest source of income for state and local governments and typically the most popular tax among voters. Sales taxes are either general or specific in form. General sales taxes are levied on the sale of goods or services at the retail level. Specific or selective sales taxes are imposed on specific items such as alcohol, tobacco and gasoline and sometimes earmarked for specific projects. As an example the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space City is funded through ¼ cent sales tax and the City of Pico Rivera passed a 1 percent increase to implement their Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Special City Assessments - These include Benefit Assessment Districts (under state law AB1600), Landscape and Lighting Act Districts, and Mello-Roos Districts. A special assessment or levy is placed on a property to finance improvements and/or maintenance that specifically benefit that property. The legislation requires a vote of the residents in order to form such Districts or in order to change the level of assessment.

In 1996, the City in accordance with the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982, formed Community Facility District No. 5. This District provides funding for the operation, maintenance, and replacement of street and parkway lights (excluding traffic control lights), incorporated into and along landscaped thoroughfares, maintenance of landscaping within the public right of way, and parks.

While the City's boundaries are fixed, newly developed areas of the City are annexed into the CFD. There have been several annexations. There are special tax formulas for each annexation. The maximum tax allowed on any parcel within the District may increase by 2 to 4% per year, depending upon which formation/annexation territory the property is located within. The City collects \$1.625 million annually for maintenance from CFD 5.

Taxes - Some examples of taxes used by other cities to pay for park and recreation include Transient Occupancy Tax, Real Estate Transfer Tax and Admissions Tax. A portion of such tax revenue could be dedicated for specific park and recreation uses, either to provide funding for a bond issue or to cover defined maintenance and operating costs. The City's current Transient Occupancy Tax is 8%.

Concessions - By contracting with a concessionaire to build and/or operate a facility, the City can generate income which could cover the capital costs and maintenance of the facility. Examples of such concession-

operated facilities include: baseball or softball diamonds, equestrian facilities, handball courts, tennis courts, miniature golf, roller hockey facilities and food and beverage concessions. In most cases, the City provides a site for the facility and either the City or the concessionaire funds the construction of the facility. The lease terms are determined accordingly.

User Group Contributions – Sports groups sometimes have an interest in constructing and maintaining fields for their use if the City would provide a nominal lease of land for a reasonable time span so that they can capture the value of the improvements. This relieves the City of the associated costs; however, it precludes the use of the fields by other user groups unless that is made a condition of the lease.

Joint-Use Agreements with School Districts – Joint-Use Agreements with local School Districts can provide for reciprocal use of facilities by both parties. They define responsibilities for capital improvements and maintenance of the facilities. Problems sometimes arise when expanding school sports programs create inequalities in the amount of time the City has access to the facilities. Agreements need to be definitive and specific as to allowed usage.

Sale or Lease of Surplus Lands - The sale or lease of land or other capital facilities for which the City has no further use can sometimes be a major source of revenue. One-time receipts from the sale of land can be used for the acquisition of new park lands, recreation facilities, or the development of new community service facilities. Revenues from long-term leases can be used to provide maintenance or underwrite programs. Surplus parcels also may provide opportunities for trading land elsewhere in the City with other agencies that own land more suitable for park purposes.

Future Operation and Maintenance Costs

The City currently receives park funding from the Park Development and Maintenance Tax which brings in approximately \$523,900 annually. This tax is dedicated for development, installation, servicing, maintenance, repair, and operation of parks and related recreation and accompanying facilities which are operated, serviced, and maintained by the City of Rocklin.

In 1998 City residents passed the Rocklin Park Maintenance and Development Act of 1998 which levied an annual special tax on all residential parcels within the City in the amount of \$30 per year for each single-family dwelling. The assessment for each multi-family dwelling (condominiums, duplexes, triplexes, and apartments), mobile home units, and vacant residential lots ranges from \$10 to \$30 per year. The tax had a 10 year sunset provision and expired in June of 2009.

In February 2008, a ballot measure to continue the tax for an additional 15 years, increase the tax to \$45 per residence per year and add an inflationary provision (equal to the California Consumer Price Index) failed to receive the required two-thirds majority.

In 2009 another measure was brought forward to reenact the annual special tax for Park Maintenance and Development and continue this existing special tax in the same amounts previously established. The tax was unchanged from the previous levels. This measure was passed by the voters and remains in effect until it sunsets on June 30, 2019.

The National Recreation and Park Administration (NRPA) *2015 Field Report* identified the operating expenditures per acre of park land for agencies with 251-1000 acres, ranges from \$3,487 to \$17,597 per acre. This data represented expenditures for 2013 and 2014 and did not include an evaluation of the level of park maintenance. For the City of Rocklin a number of factors and costs could be utilized to determine the operating expenditure per acre of park land. Depending on the factors selected the costs range from \$2,200 to \$5,000 per acre.