

## 3.10 Recreation

This section describes the regulatory and environmental settings for recreation in the Plan Area. Impacts that would result from implementing the proposed action and alternatives are described in Chapter 4, *Environmental Consequences*, along with mitigation measures to reduce impacts, where appropriate.

### 3.10.1 Regulatory Setting

#### Federal

There are no federal laws or regulations pertaining to recreation that are relevant to the proposed action or alternatives.

#### State

There are two state recreation areas (SRAs) in the Plan Area, the Auburn SRA and the Folsom Lake SRA. California State Parks is currently collaborating with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to prepare a joint general plan/resource management plan for the Auburn SRA, and the public scoping meetings occurred in late 2017. The Draft EIS/EIR is expected to be out for public review in spring 2019, and Plan approval is tentatively scheduled for fall 2019 before the State Park and Recreation Commission. There is no planning document for the Folsom Lake SRA. No other state laws or regulations apply to recreation in the Plan Area.

#### Local

##### Placer County General Plan

Excerpted below are the relevant goals and policies from the *Placer County General Plan* that pertain to recreation (Placer County 2013).

##### Goal

**5.1.** To develop and maintain a system of conveniently located, properly-designed parks and recreational facilities to serve the needs of present and future residents, employees, and visitors.

##### Policies

**5.A.1.** The County shall strive to achieve and maintain a standard of 10 acres of improved parkland per 1,000 population. The standard shall be comprised of the following:

- 5 acres of improved active parkland per 1,000 population
- 5 acres of passive recreation area or open space per 1,000 population

**5.A.2.** The County shall strive to achieve the following park facility standards:

- a. 1 tot lot per 1,000 residents
- b. 1 playground per 3,000 residents
- c. 1 tennis court per 6,000 residents

- d. 1 basketball court per 6,000 residents
- e. 1 hardball diamond per 3,000 residents
- f. 1 softball/little league diamond per 3,000 residents
- g. 1 mile of recreation trail per 1,000 residents
- h. 1 youth soccer field per 2,000 residents
- i. 1 adult field per 2,000 residents
- j. 1 golf course per 50,000 residents

**5.A.3.** The County shall require new development to provide a minimum of 5 acres of improved parkland and 5 acres of passive recreation area or open space for every 1,000 new residents of the area covered by the development. The park classification system shown in Table 5-1 [of the General Plan Recreation and Cultural Resources Element] should be used as a guide to the type of the facilities to be developed in achieving these standards.

**5.A.4.** The County shall consider the use of the following open space areas as passive parks to be applied to the requirement for 5 acres of passive park area for every 1,000 residents.

- a. Floodways
- b. Protected riparian corridors and stream environment zones
- c. Protected wildlife corridors
- d. Greenways with the potential for trail development
- e. Open water (e.g., ponds, lakes, and reservoirs)
- f. Protected woodland areas.
- g. Protected sensitive habitat areas providing that interpretive displays are provided (e.g., wetlands and habitat for rare, threatened or endangered species.)

Buffer areas are not considered as passive park areas if such areas are delineated by setbacks within private property. Where such areas are delineated by public easements or are held as common areas with homeowner/property owner access or public access, they will be considered as passive park areas provided that there are opportunities for passive recreational use.

**5.A.5.** The County shall require the dedication of land and/or payment of fees, in accordance with state law (Quimby Act and the Mitigation Fee Act) to ensure funding for the acquisition and development of public recreation facilities. The fees are to be set and adjusted as necessary to provide for a level of funding that meets the actual cost to provide for all of the public parkland and park development needs generated by new development.

**5.A.6.** The County shall coordinate funding and programs administered by the County and other agencies, where appropriate, to obtain optimum recreation facilities development.

**5.A.7.** The County shall consider the creation of assessment districts, County service areas, community facilities districts, or other types of districts to generate funds for the acquisition and development, maintenance and administration of parkland and/or historical properties as development occurs in the County.

**5.A.8.** The County shall strive to maintain a well-balanced distribution of local parks, considering the character and intensity of present and planned development and future recreation needs.

**5.A.9.** The County shall give priority to early acquisition of park sites in newly-developing areas through many means including the use of public financing or land dedication.

**5.A.10.** The County shall ensure that park design is appropriate to the recreational needs and, where feasible, access capabilities of all residents, employees, and visitors of Placer County.

- 5.A.11.** Regional and local recreation facilities should reflect the character of the area and the existing and anticipated demand for such facilities.
- 5.A.12.** The County shall encourage recreational development that complements the natural features of the area, including the topography, waterways, vegetation, and soil characteristics.
- 5.A.13.** The County shall ensure that recreational activity is distributed and managed according to an area's carrying capacity, with special emphasis on controlling adverse environmental impacts, conflict between uses, and trespass. At the same time, the regional importance of each area's recreation resources shall be recognized.
- 5.A.14.** The County shall encourage federal, state, and local agencies currently providing recreation facilities to maintain, at a minimum, and improve, if possible, their current levels of service.
- 5.A.15.** The County shall promote the provision of non-membership-restricted hunting areas on public and private land in the western part of the County.
- 5.A.16.** Except as otherwise provided in an approved Specific Plan, the County should not become involved in the operation of organized, activity-oriented recreation programs, especially where a local park or recreation district has been established.
- 5.A.17.** The County should be directly involved in the development and operation of community and neighborhood park facilities. These include outdoor recreation facilities to support traditional pursuits such as baseball, soccer, basketball, hiking, walking, riding and picnicking. Where appropriate, the County should consider cooperative agreements with a local park or recreation district to operate County facilities where this would enhance the efficient delivery of parks and recreation services to County residents.
- 5.A.18.** The County shall encourage local special purpose agencies in areas not served by a recreation district which is not currently supplying recreation services to examine the feasibility of supplying such services.
- 5.A.19.** The County shall encourage the development of parks near public facilities such as schools, community halls, libraries, museums, prehistoric or historic sites, and open space areas and shall encourage joint-use agreements whenever possible.
- 5.A.20.** The County shall promote cooperation between agencies to ensure flexibility in the development of park areas and recreational services to respond to changing trends in recreation activities.
- 5.A.21.** The County shall encourage the development of public and private campgrounds and recreational vehicle parks where environmentally appropriate. The intensity of such development should not exceed the environmental carrying capacity of the site and its surroundings.
- 5.A.22.** The County shall encourage compatible recreational use of riparian areas along streams and creeks where public access can be balanced with environmental values and private property rights such as the proposed Dry Creek Greenway.
- 5.A.23.** The County shall require that park and recreation facilities required in conjunction with new development be developed in a timely manner so that such facilities are available concurrently with new development.
- 5.A.24.** The County shall encourage public and private park and recreation agencies to acknowledge the natural resource values present at park sites during the design of a new facility.
- 5.A.25.** The County shall encourage the establishment of activity-oriented recreation programs for all urban/suburban areas of the County. Except as otherwise provided in an approved Specific Plan, such programs shall be provided by jurisdictions other than Placer County including special districts, recreation districts or public utility districts.

**Goal**

**5.B.** To encourage development of private recreational facilities.

**Policy**

**5.B.1.** The County shall encourage development of private recreation facilities to reduce demands on public agencies.

**Goal**

**5.C.** To develop a system of interconnected hiking, riding, and bicycling trails and paths suitable for active recreation and transportation and circulation.

**Policies**

**5.C.1.** The County shall support development of a countywide trail system designed to achieve the following objectives:

- a. Provide safe, pleasant, and convenient travel by foot, horse, or bicycle;
- b. Link residential areas, schools, community buildings, parks, and other community facilities within residential developments. Whenever possible, trails should connect to the countywide trail system, regional trails, and the trail or bikeways plans of cities;
- c. Provide access to recreation areas, major waterways, and vista points;
- d. Provide for multiple uses (i.e., pedestrian, equestrian, bicycle);
- e. Use public utility corridors such as power transmission line easements, railroad rights-of-way, irrigation district easements, and roadways;
- f. Whenever feasible, be designed to separate equestrian trails from cycling paths, and to separate trails from the roadway by the use of curbs, fences, landscape buffering, and/or spatial distance;
- g. Connect commercial areas, major employment centers, institutional uses, public facilities, and recreational areas with residential areas; and
- h. Protect sensitive open space and natural resources.

**5.C.2.** The County shall support the integration of public trail facilities into the design of flood control facilities and other public works projects whenever possible.

**5.C.3.** The County shall work with other public agencies to coordinate the development of equestrian, pedestrian, and bicycle trails.

**5.C.4.** The County shall require the proponents of new development to dedicate rights-of-way and/or the actual construction of segments of the countywide trail system pursuant to trails plans contained in the County's various community plans.

**5.C.5.** The County shall encourage the preservation of linear open space along rail corridors and other public easements for future use as trails.

**Sutter County General Plan**

Excerpted below is the relevant goal from the *Sutter County General Plan* that pertains to recreation (Sutter County 2011).

**Goal**

**PS 6.** Ensure that adequate park, recreation, and open space lands and programs are provided to meet the diverse needs of Sutter County's residents.

## City of Lincoln General Plan

Excerpted below are the relevant goals and policies from the *City of Lincoln General Plan* that pertain to recreation (City of Lincoln 2008).

### Goal

**OSC-1.** To designate, protect, and encourage natural resources, open space, and recreation lands in the city, protect and enhance a significant system of interconnected natural habitat areas, and provide opportunities for recreation activities to meet citizen needs.

### Policies

**OSC-1.1 Protect Natural Resources.** The City shall strive to protect natural resource areas, fish and wildlife habitat areas, scenic areas, open space areas and parks from encroachment or destruction by incompatible development.

**OSC-1.3 Creation of Buffers.** In new development areas, the City shall encourage the use of open space or recreational buffers between incompatible land uses.

**OSC-4.4 Protection and Management of Flood Plains.** The City shall encourage the protection of 100 year floodplains and where appropriate, obtain public easements for purposes of flood protection, public safety, wildlife preservation, groundwater recharge, access and recreation.

**OSC-5.2 Management of Wetlands.** The City shall support the management of wetland and riparian plant communities for passive recreation, groundwater recharge, and wildlife habitats. Such communities shall be restored or expanded, where possible and as appropriate.

### Goal

**OSC-7.** To provide and maintain park facilities that provide recreational opportunities for all residents.

### Policies

**OSC-7.1.** The City shall provide park facilities in accordance with following adopted park standards [see Table 3.10-1]:

**Table 3.10-1. City of Lincoln General Plan Park Facilities Standards**

Parks	Standard
Parks without Development Agreements	5 acres/1,000 residents
Parks with Development Agreements	9 acres/1,000 residents
City-Wide Park	3 acres/1,000 residents
Neighborhood/Community Park	3 acres/1,000 residents
Open Space	3 acres/1,000 residents

Source: City of Lincoln 2008.

**OSC-7.2 Recreational Needs.** The City shall provide recreation facilities and programs that meet the needs of all its citizens. Facilities shall be developed in compliance with all applicable regulations designed to address public safety and environmental impacts that may result through the construction, operation, and maintenance of these facilities.

**OSC-7.4 Maintenance of Recreational Facilities.** The City shall support the continued maintenance and improvement of existing recreational facilities.

**OSC-7.5 Funding for Recreational Areas and Facilities.** The City shall strive to make adequate funding available to improve and maintain existing parks as well as construct new facilities.

**OSC-7.6 Dedication of Park Land.** The City will continue to collect park dedication fees, require the dedication of parkland, or a combination of both as a condition of development approval for the provision of new parks, or the rehabilitation of existing parks and recreational facilities in order to meet the City's parkland standards in Policy 7.1

**OSC-7.7 In-Lieu Fees.** The City shall provide for the payment of an in-lieu fee, in those instances where the City determines that park land dedication is not appropriate. The in-lieu fee shall reflect the cost of fully serviced vacant land.

**OSC-7.8 Adopted Park Standards.** The amount and location of any future parkland to be developed within the city will be determined by adopted park standards and location guidelines.

The City shall strive to provide the following recreational facilities:

- One multipurpose center per 10,000 population with the structural square footage to be determined by the City Council based on the evaluation of community needs.
- One 50 meter swimming pool per 10,000 population based upon a determination of the City Council of community needs.
- One mile of pedestrian/bicycle trails per 2,500 population.

**OSC-7.9 Recreational Needs Surveys.** The City shall conduct surveys on a periodic basis to determine specific recreation needs of all age groups, the physically and mentally challenged, and special interest groups.

**OSC-7.10 Park User Fees.** The City will continue to collect park user fees for the maintenance of existing park and recreation facilities.

**OSC-7.11 Capital Improvement Program.** The City will continue to include park and recreation improvement and maintenance projects in its capital improvement programming.

**OSC-7.12 Recreational Equipment.** The City will continue to provide equipment, such as picnic tables, benches, trash cans and drinking fountains, in city parks, and will adequately maintain or replace such equipment when necessary.

**OSC-7.13 Revitalization Program.** The City will continue its long term revitalization program to beautify and upgrade all city parks.

**OSC-7.15 Maintain Wildlife Habitat Values.** The City shall maintain wildlife habitat values during design and ongoing maintenance of new park facilities through provision of open space and wildlife corridor areas, protection of native vegetation, and control of use of herbicides and pesticides.

**OSC-7.16 Linear Parks and Trail Systems.** The City shall develop linear parks and trail systems along the City's creeks and wetlands, when such improvements are not prohibited by federal and state regulations.

**OSC-7.17. Capital Improvement Fees.** The City will collect a capital facilities fee on new development to generate funding to construct park and recreation improvements in accordance with the requirements set forth in the City's adopted standards.

**OSC-7.20 Design of Waterway and Trail Corridors.** The City shall design waterway and trail corridors to meet the recreational needs of the community, while maximizing public safety and access concerns. This includes locating trail corridors to ensure visibility along public roadways, where appropriate.

**OSC-7.21 Maintenance of Waterway and Trail Corridors.** The City shall ensure that existing park maintenance activities incorporate applicable trail maintenance activities necessary to address public safety issues along City-owned trail areas. Trail maintenance activities shall be conducted in a manner consistent with all applicable environmental regulations and shall ensure emergency vehicle

access along portions of the trail corridor where appropriate. Trail maintenance measures shall include, but not be limited to, vegetation or brush clearing and signage prohibiting inappropriate uses.

### Community and Other Plans

The following community plans set forth goals, policies, and implementation measures to guide the development of portions of Placer County. Each plan contains goals, policies, and measures that pertain to recreation in the Plan Area.

- *Auburn-Bowman Community Plan* (Placer County 1999).
- *Dry Creek-West Placer Community Plan* (Placer County 1994).
- *Granite Bay Community Plan* (Placer County 2012).
- *Horseshoe Bar-Penryn Community Plan* (Placer County 2005).
- *Ophir General Plan* (Placer County 1983).
- *Sheridan Community Plan* (Placer County 2015).

In addition, the following plans and programs also address parks and recreation in the Plan Area.

- *Dry Creek Greenway Regional Vision* (Placer County 2004).
- *Placer County Regional Bikeway Plan* (Placer County Transportation Planning Agency 2002) and *Placer County Bikeways Master Plan* (Placer County Transportation Commission 1988).
- Placer Legacy Open Space and Agricultural Conservation Program.

## 3.10.2 Environmental Setting

### Federal Property

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management owns a 143-acre property along the Bear River, near Placer Land Trust's Harvego Bear River Preserve and northwest of Auburn. Access to the federal property is limited.

### State Parks/Recreation Areas

The only state parks in the Plan Area are the Folsom Lake and Auburn SRAs. The rest of the County's state parks are located around Lake Tahoe, outside of the Plan Area.

Folsom Lake SRA is located at the base of the Sierra foothills, in the southeast portion of the Plan Area. Recreational activities include hiking, biking, running, camping, picnicking, horseback riding, boating, and water-skiing. The Jedidiah-Smith Memorial Bike Trail, a 32-mile long bicycle path, begins at Folsom Lake and follows the American River to the Sacramento River, ending in the area of Old Sacramento in Sacramento County.

The Auburn SRA stretches from Auburn to Colfax, south of Interstate 80. The westernmost portion of the SRA is located in the Plan Area, but most of the park is located outside of that boundary. The Auburn State SRA covers 40 miles of the north and middle forks of the American River. Recreational uses include hiking, river access, whitewater recreation, boating, fishing, camping, mountain biking, gold panning, limited hunting, trails, and off-highway motorcycle riding. Auburn SRA is made up of

mainly federal lands. California State Parks administers the area under a managing partner with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (California Department of Parks and Recreation 2016).

There are no State Wildlife Areas or Ecological Reserves in Placer County.

## Regional/County Parks

With the exception of the Hidden Falls Regional Park, most parks in the Plan Area are concentrated near Lincoln, Granite Bway, Loomis, and unincorporated north Auburn. The parks in the unincorporated portion of the Plan Area are listed in Table 3.10-2. Additional information on parks in the area can be found at <https://www.placer.ca.gov/departments/facility/parks>.

**Table 3.10-2. Parks and Recreational Facilities in the Plan Area (Unincorporated County)**

Facility	Acres	Amenities
Folsom Lake State Recreation Area	19,564	Boating, fishing, water activities, camping, multi-use trails, picnic area
Auburn State Recreation Area	38,000	
Treelake Park	8	Picnic area, playground, baseball diamond, soccer field, tennis court
Ronald L. Feist Park	18.8	6 tennis courts, 3 soccer fields, 3 little league fields, 2 playgrounds, picnic/BBQ area
Baldwin Reservoir Trail	NA	2.5-mile (one-way) unpaved trail
Granite Pay Park	16	Picnic/BBQ area, baseball/soccer fields, bicycle/pedestrian trails
Douglas Ranch Park	4.5	Picnic area, playground, soccer field
Franklin Community School Park	-	Multi-use synthetic turf soccer/baseball field
Sterling Point Park	-	Picnic areas, playground, ball field
Loomis Basin Community Park North	8.9	Playground, horseshoe pits, picnic area, 3 baseball diamonds
Loomis Basin Community Park South	52.7	2 playgrounds, horseshoe pits, picnic area, bicycle/pedestrian trails, equestrian area, 3 baseball diamonds, 1 basketball court
Traylor Ranch Trail	NA	3.5-mile unpaved trail
Traylor Ranch Nature Reserve & Bird Sanctuary	90	Hiking and equestrian trails, picnic area
Griffith Quarry Park	25.7	Picnic area, trail
Auburn Garden Theatre	-	Lawn and concrete stage
Hidden Falls Regional Park	1,196.6	30 miles of multiple use trails, observation decks, picnic area, fishing
Auburn Plaza Park	-	Benches and picnic tables
Sheridan Park	4.2	Playground, picnic area, baseball diamond, basketball court

Source: Placer County 2014, 2016.

“-“ indicates where park acreage information is not available.

## City of Lincoln Parks

Within the City of Lincoln's portion of the Plan Area, there are 16 parks, including Foskett Regional Park (42 acres). These parks include small neighborhood parks that contain play structures and picnic areas as well as larger parks that contain playing fields and trail systems. The City's park system is approximately 157 acres (City of Lincoln 2017). For more information on these parks, go to <http://www.lincolnca.gov/city-hall/departments-divisions/parks-recreation/parks>.

**Table 3-10.3. Parks and Recreational Facilities in the Plan Area (City of Lincoln)**

Facility	Acres	Amenities
Aitken Ranch Park	7	Playground
Auburn Ravine Park	10	Multi-use trails, off-leash dog park
Brown Park	0.7	Playground, picnic area
Coyote Pond Park	24.5	Playground, trails, picnic area
Foskett Regional Park	42	Lighted soccer and softball fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, multi-use path
Joiner Park	13	Football/soccer fields, softball diamond, playground, wetland preserve
Machado Park	4.7	Playgrounds, picnic area
Markham Park	4.7	Playground, picnic area, nature interpretive area
McBean Park	24	Swimming pools, baseball and football stadium, Little League field, horseshoe pits, basketball courts, skatepark, playground, picnic areas
Palo Verde Park	3	Playground, picnic area
Pete Demas Park	0.8	Turf area, benches
Peter Singer Park	5	Ballfields, playground, picnic tables
Scheiber Park	4.5	Playgrounds
Sheffield Park	1.5	Playgrounds
Twelve Bridges Park	5	Ballfields, playground
Wilson Park	6.5	Softball field, playground

Source: City of Lincoln 2017.

## Placer County Water Agency Recreation Areas

Placer County Water Agency recreation areas located in Placer County are outside of the Plan Area (Placer County Water Agency N.D.).

### 3.10.3 References Cited

- California Department of Parks and Recreation. 2016. Find a Park (By County). Available: <https://www.parks.ca.gov/ParkIndex>. Accessed: November 14, 2016.
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