## E. PARKS AND RECREATION

### Purpose

This element of the Dry Creek-West Placer Community Plan will serve as a guide for the incremental development of facilities to meet the recreation needs of existing and future residents of the area. It identifies the needs of the area, and proposals for park locations, as well as Goals and Policies to implement the Plan.

# Goals and Policies

## GOALS

- 1) TO PROVIDE A VARIETY OF PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES ADEQUATE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF PRESENT AND FUTURE RESIDENTS OF THE DRY CREEK AREA.
- 2) TO DESIGNATE, PROTECT, AND CONSERVE THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE AREA ESPECIALLY WHERE SUCH RESOURCES CAN ADD TO THE VARIETY OF RECREATION ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE IN THE AREA.
- 3) TO MAINTAIN SOME FLEXIBILITY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PARK AREAS TO ALLOW FOR CHANGING TRENDS IN RECREATION ACTIVITIES.
- 4) TO ESTABLISH A PUBLIC AGENCY OR DISTRICT (SUCH AS A COUNTY SERVICE AREA) TO GENERATE FUNDS FOR THE MAINTENANCE, OPERATION, PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES.
- 5) TO CREATE A FUNCTIONAL RECREATION AND TRANSPORTATION TRAIL SYSTEM.

### Policies

- To provide future park facilities in accordance with park standards and location guidelines as set forth in this plan.
- 2) To locate parks near public facilities such as schools, community halls, libraries, or open space areas and encourage joint use agreements whenever possible.
- 3) To form a County Service Area which has the ability to receive dedications or grants of land or funds, plus the ability to charge a fee for maintenance, acquisition and

- development of parks, open space, riding, hiking, and bicycle trails:
- 4) To encourage private recreation developments (such as a golf course) to help meet the demands for facilities.
- 5) To encourage private recreation facilities within residential developments (as required in planned unit developments) to off-set the demand for public facilities.
- 6) To require the dedication of land and/or payment of fees, in accordance with state law (Quimby Act) to ensure funding for the acquisition and development of public recreation facilities.
- 7) To create an assessment district, Mello Roos, or other type of district to generate funds for the acquisition of parkland as development occurs in the Plan area.
- 8) To create a separate Recreational Region (Section 19.107 & 19.343 of the County Subdivision Ordinance) for the Dry Creek area for the purpose of collecting and spending Park Dedication Fees.
- 9) To encourage compatible recreational use of riparian areas along streams and creeks in the same area where feasible.
- 10) To coordinate the development of trails (equestrian, pedestrian and bicycle) and other recreational facilities with other public agencies such as the Sacramento County and City of Roseville Parks Departments.
- 11) To ensure that public school facilities are available for community recreation uses and are designed to accommodate and encourage such use during non-school hours.
- 12) To require the development of a regional trail system which provides an alternative mode of transportation. This trail system should be designed to provide access to separated trails without requiring that travel to the trail be done by automobile or by pedestrians traveling adjacent to motor vehicles which may be traveling at speeds in excess of 25 m.p.h.

13) To incorporate the policies of the Placer County Bikeways Master Plan (pages 34 & 35) into project analysis of trail selection and construction.

# Discussion/Implementation

At the present time, due to the lack of local public recreational facilities, the residents of the Dry Creek area rely on recreation services and facilities provided by the City of Roseville and Sacramento County.

As new development takes place and occupies existing open spaces, the choices available for the development of new park facilities are reduced, while the demand for the facilities increases. Therefore, it is important to address recreation needs early in the development phase of an area. The Plan will be used as a guide to require that new development assist in the provision of recreation facilities, both public and private. The Plan will also guide the County or special district, if one is formed, in providing such facilities as funds become available from state or federal grants, gifts, park dedication fees, or the normal budget process.

Placer County has adopted Park Facility Standards that can be used to determine the demand for specific types of park facilities. These standards are summarized in Table 6. Table 7 indicates other, more current standards included herein for reference purposes.

Based on the potential holding capacity of the Plan area, there is a need created for the provision of approximately 90 acres of developed park land. The Land Use Plan map designates potential park sites and includes some areas where private recreation uses may be appropriate. The location of these facilities is consistent with the policies of this element of the Plan and will be important to the overall community design. The location of park sites take advantage of the large open space area designated along Dry Creek in order to provide for an alternative use of floodplain areas as well as the natural attrac-

tiveness of these features. In these locations, local access and trail connections are easily accommodated as shown on the Circulation map. Active recreation development, i.e. softball fields, tennis and basketball courts, etc., must be carefully sited and designed to minimize impacts on the riparian vegetation and other important features of the area.

An extensive system of bicycle, pedestrian and equestrian trails is proposed with this plan. The system, as laid out, provides for a number of important connections between schools, parks, major open space areas, and neighboring and regional trail facilities. The goals, policies, and objectives of the Placer County Bikeways Master Plan (1988) in conjunction with the goals, policies, and trails map of this plan, will provide the framework for requiring major trail connections and lesser connections throughout the plan area. The intent of the trail network is to provide a safe and effective means of moving cyclists, pedestrians, horseback riders, runners, etc. for the purposes of recreation and transportation. The trail corridors and their location within riparian areas also have a secondary benefit of identifying and preserving these sensitive areas from incompatible encroachment and by making them accessible as a multifunction open space area (e.g. habitat, drainage, recreation and as a visual scenic resource). It is not presumed that the trail network will relieve traffic congestion significantly, largely due to the amount of out-of-area traffic passing through the However, it is anticipated that residents will find that the benefits gained by utilizing the trail system, at the outset, for recreational purposes, will also lead to the use of this network for alternative transportation as well. As a result, it is a stated Goal of this Plan Element to provide trails for both of these functions.

(Note: A thorough discussion of available funding mechanisms is included in the Granite Bay Community Plan Recreation Element. This document should be referred to for additional information on tools for implementation of a recreation system.)

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{TABLE 6} \\ \text{Placer County Park Standards}^{1} \end{array}$ 

Type of Facility	Amount Received
Parkland and open space recreation	l acre per 500 people
areas - include areas used for free	
play, rest and short walks.	
Play Lots - play equipment for	75 sq. ft. per child
younger children.	•
Playground - includes facilities	5 acres per 2,000 people
to accommodate organized sports	
at the elementary school level.	
Playfields - includes facilities to	15 acres per 10,000
accommodate organized sports for	people
secondary school level and adults.	
Court Sports such as basketball or	1 court per 3,000 people
tennis (outdoor courts).	
Baseball	l hardball field per
	6,000 people and 1 soft-
	ball field per 3,000
-	people
Trails - including hiking, horse-	l mile per 1,000 people

back, or bicycling

<sup>4.</sup> From "Placer County Conservation and Recreation Plan," 1971, an Element of the Placer County General Plan

#### TABLE 7

# PARK STANDARDS<sup>2</sup>

## Mini Park

Use: Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens.

Service Area: Desirable Size:

Acres/1000 Population:

Desirable Site Characteristics:

Less than 1/4 mile radius

1 acre or less
0.25 to 0.5 acres

Within neighborhood and in close proximity to apartment complexes, townhouse development or housing for the elderly.

# Neighborhood Park/Playground

Service Area:

Desirable Size: Acres/Population:

Desirable Site Characteristics:

1/4 to 1/2 mile radius to serve a population up to 5000 (a neighborhood).

15+ acres

1.0 to 2.0 acres

Suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood population geographically centered with safe walking and bike access. May be developed as a schoolpark facility.

# Community Park

Use: Area of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes, large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnicking. May be any combination of the above, depending upon site suitability and community need.

Service Area:

Desirable Size:

Acres/1000 Population:

Desirable Site Characteristics:

Several neighborhoods 1 to 2

mile radius 25+ acres

5.0 to 8.0 acres

May include natural features, such as water bodies, and areas suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood served.

<sup>5.</sup> Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards & Guidelines, 1983, pp. 56-57