RECREATION ELEMENT

III. RECREATION ELEMENT

A. PURPOSE

The Horseshoe Bar/Penryn Community Plan area is very fortunate to have quality recreation while preserving natural resources. Planning for future parks and trails should be sensitive to this type of recreational setting.

Recreation services in the Plan area are provided by the Placer County Parks Division and by local schools. The County provides park facilities for public use within the plan area, but does not operate any recreation programs. The Auburn Recreation District and the City of Roseville provide recreation programs and facilities which are located close to this Plan area. The facilities are enjoyed by residents in this area, however, due to the tremendous popularity of their programs and the lack of local programs. Both recreation providers have had to implement out-of-district user fees to accommodate the increased demand for participation in these programs.

The existing recreational facilities located in the Horseshoe Bar/Penryn area are a direct result of citizen involvement. Dedicated individuals and service clubs have contributed countless hours and resources toward the construction of recreational facilities throughout the plan area. The area now enjoys parks which provide a relatively undisturbed setting for nature enthusiasts (i.e. Griffith Quarry Park and Museum, and Traylor Ranch Nature Reserve), and park lands which have been developed for more active pursuits such as basketball and little league baseball.

This Recreation Element will identify potential sites in general. Both "active" recreation (i.e. softball and soccer) and "passive" recreation (i.e. outdoor nature appreciation) will be analyzed.

The principal thrust of this Plan's proposals is to provide for a balanced park system whereby both active and passive recreational opportunities are provided which meet the needs of the public.

B. GOALS

1. PROVIDE A VARIETY OF PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES TO ADEQUATELY MEET THE NEEDS OF PRESENT AND FUTURE RESIDENTS OF THE AREA.

2. PROTECT AND CONSERVE THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE AREA, ESPECIALLY WHERE SUCH RESOURCES CAN ADD TO THE VARIETY OF RECREATION ACTIVITIES A V AILABLE IN THE AREA.

3. MAINTAIN SOME FLEXIBILITY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PARK AREAS TO ALLOW FOR CHANGING TRENDS IN RECREATION ACTIVITIES.

4. CREATE A TRAIL NETWORK TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO DEVELOPED AREAS, AS WELL AS PUBLIC ACCESS TO OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION RESOURCES CONSISTENT WITH THE NEED TO PROTECT THESE RESOURCES.

5. DEVELOP AN INTER-CONNECTED SYSTEM OF MULTIPLE USE TRAILS AND BIKEWAYS WHICH INVOLVE A PARTNERSHIP THAT INCLUDES PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, LANDOWNERS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION GROUPS, SCHOOLS, AND SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS.

6. CONSIDER THE FORMATION OF A PUBLIC AGENCY OR DISTRICT TO GENERATE FUNDS FOR THE MAINTENANCE, OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES.

7. PROMOTE THE USE OF OPEN SPACE FOR RECREATION IN CONCERT WITH FLOODPLAINS AND FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS WHERE APPROPRIATE.

8. PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE AREA'S MOST SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL RESOURCES FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS AS MUSEUMS OR HISTORICAL PARKS.

C. POLICIES

1. Provide future park facilities in accordance with park standards and location guidelines as set forth in this Plan and the County General Plan.

2. Continue to work with area schools on the development of joint-use recreation facilities, whenever possible.

3. Ensure that public school facilities are available for community recreation uses and are designed to accommodate and encourage such use during non-school hours.

4. Develop a multiple use (i.e. hiking, equestrian, bicycle) trail system to:

   a. Provide safe, pleasant, and convenient travel by foot, horse, or bicycle within the planning area;

   b. Provide recreational opportunities to residents and visitors of the Community Plan area;

   c. Connect local trails to regional trail systems;

   d. Link together school facilities, parks, community buildings, and other community-oriented public services, waterways and major vista locations with residential developments;

   e. Incorporate trails into public and utility corridors, such as power transmission line easements, railroad rights-of-way and irrigation district easements.

5. Promote the maximum provision of private active and passive recreational amenities within future residential development projects, to help meet the demands created by growth. Private recreation facilities are required within planned unit developments (PUDs), to offset the demand for public facilities. Where small scale PUDs (i.e. less than 20 units) are proposed in rural areas, the payment of fees in lieu of on-site active facilities may be considered to preserve the natural environment and maintain compatibility with the surrounding area. Other acceptable alternatives may include construction of recreation facilities on public properties in the Plan area.

6. Require the inclusion of new subdivision lands in a County Service Area to generate funds to operate and maintain new public park facilities to be provided in this area.

7. Require the dedication of land and/or payment of fees, in accordance with state law (i.e. Quimby Act) in order to acquire and develop public recreation facilities. Fees should be set and maintained in an amount necessary to completely fund the recreational needs for park land and park facilities generated by the new development.

8. Coordinate the development of trails and other recreation facilities with other public agencies, including the adjoining cities of Rocklin and Loomis.

9. Support and cooperate with volunteer groups and organizations that can assist with providing recreation.

10. Parks and recreational areas shall be planned, developed, and used in a manner which is respectful of their rural setting and compatible with uses on adjacent lands.

11. Encourage compatible recreational use of riparian areas along streams and creeks in the area wherever feasible.

12. Natural open space recreation land within the planning area should be carefully managed and its uses controlled to ensure that vegetation, soil, wildlife, and visual qualities are protected and, where necessary, enhanced. The concepts and principles of the Placer County Conservation Element should be observed in park use and management.

13. When possible include prehistoric and/or historic elements into open space requirements or when appropriate into park design.

14. Encourage the private acquisition and preservation of historical properties .' through the availability of incentive programs such as those outlined by the Mills Act and the Historic Preservation Easement program.

D. STANDARDS

Placer County has adopted park facility standards that can be used to determine the demand for specific types of park facilities. Placer County Park Standards require five (5) acres of active park land and five (5) acres of passive park land for every 1,000 persons, for a total of ten (10) acres of park land for every 1,000 persons (based upon adoption of pending update of Placer County General Plan). In accordance with state law (Quimby Act), the County may also require the dedication of land and/or payment of fees to ensure funding for the acquisition and development of public recreation facilities. The fees are set and adjusted as necessary, to provide for a level of funding that meets the actual cost to provide for all the public park land and park development needs generated by new development. The following are the Parks and Recreation Standards in Placer County:

TABLE 11

PLACER COUNTY PARK STANDARDS*

TYPE OF FACILITY	AMOUNT RECOMMENDED
Passive Park Land Active (Improved) Park Land	5 acres per 1000 persons 5 acres per 1000 persons
Play Lots - play equipment for younger children	1 tot lot per 1000 residents
Playground - includes facilities to accommodate organized sports at the elementary school level	1 playground per 3000 residents
Playfields - includes facilities to accommodate organized sports for secondary school level and adults	1 youth soccer field per 2000 residents 1 adult field per 2000 residents
Court sports such as basketball or tennis (outdoor courts)	1 court per 6000 persons
Baseball	1 hardball field per 3000 persons and 1 softball field per 3000 persons
Trails - including hiking horseback riding or bicycling	1 mile per 1000 persons
Golf course	1 course per 50,000 residents

*From Placer County General Plan 1994 Recreational and Cultural Resources

E. PARK AND TRAIL NEEDS

1. Existing Parks. Schools, Trails

In the unincorporated area of the Horseshoe Bar/Penryn Plan, there are three public parks: Traylor Ranch Nature Reserve, Loomis Basin Community Park and the Griffith Quarry Park and Museum. In addition, the public is permitted to use the recreational facilities at the two elementary schools in the community. The school sites serve many of the active recreational needs of the public by providing for the combined neighborhood park/school facilities. The only existing trails are fragmented. These trails are shown on Exhibit D. The following is a brief description of these recreational sites.

a. Traylor Ranch Nature Reserve

The Traylor Ranch Nature Reserve is an 88-acre passive recreation site that contains 3.5 miles of trails. The Reserve also provides the opportunity for visitors to view the region's native plants, wildlife, and birds. The approved trail uses are non-motorized and multiple-purpose which includes pedestrians, equestrians, and bicycles.

b. Loomis Basin Community Park

Loomis Basin Community Park consists of 33 acres which includes a North Park and a South Park. North Park has two softball fields, one soccer field, one tot lot playground, picnic area, snack bar, and portable restrooms. South Park has two softball fields, two soccer fields, one tot lot playground, a covered group picnic area, basket ball court, horseshoe pits, 1.5 miles of trails, an equestrian arena, maintenance building and portable restrooms. Additional land is also available for future development.

c. Griffith Quarry Park and Museum

Griffith Quarry Park and Museum consist of 24.4 acres which includes the quarry museum, 3 miles of hiking trails and several family picnic areas. The trails have been designed for pedestrian traffic only. Horseback riding and off-road vehicle use are prohibited in the park.

d. Penryn Elementary School

Some recreation facilities at this site have been jointly developed by the school and the County. There are about 3 acres of undeveloped land still available for additional development. The school will be" expanded over 1.5 acres and the other 1.5 will be developed into recreational fields.

e. Placer Elementary School

A new softball/baseball field was completed in 1992 utilizing various sources of financing, including County funding.

f. Trails

In addition to the above mentioned trails which are within the Traylor Ranch Nature Reserve, the Loomis Basin Community Park, and the Griffith Quarry Park and Museum, there are two portions of trails which are located along Hector Road and along Kingmont Road. Many other trails are to be constructed and will be discussed later in this Plan.

2. **Needs Analysis**

When comparing the existing parks and trails to the Placer County standards one can see that the Loomis Basin is fortunate to have some excellent park facilities. However, there is still a need for additional facilities. Also, because of the policies of the Auburn Recreation District and the City of Roseville Parks and Recreation Department to limit out of district use, there are many people in the Loomis Basin that have expressed a desire to have a community center constructed in their vicinity. Since a community center is a major commitment and a major expense, there should be consideration given to the formation of a Park Operations Agency which would have the ability to receive dedications or grants of land or funds and buy, develop and maintain the community center, open space, and the riding, hiking, and bicycle trails in the Plan area.

Although the Town of Loomis is located just outside of the Plan boundaries, there should be consideration given to including the Town in any such recreation district. The Town is developing a parks master plan and has the ability to collect park dedication fees from development occurring within the Town boundaries. These fees can be used for the construction of new recreational areas and could be coupled with the funding available to the County so that the limited funding could go further in providing for recreation.

3. **Park Site Acquisition Guidelines**

Factors which should be considered in evaluating sites for acquisition are:

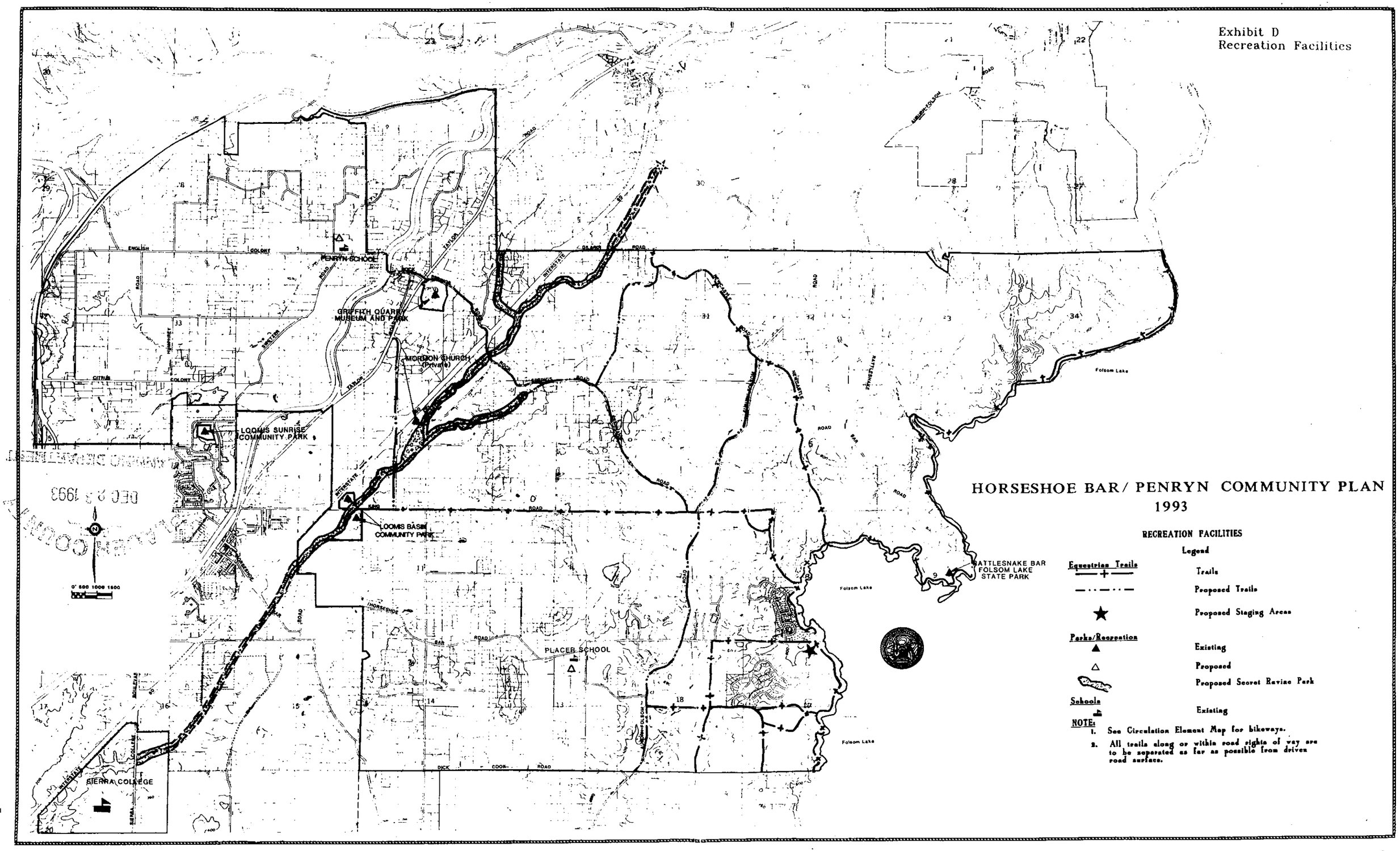
- The site should help preserve valuable natural and historical features, such as oak woodlands, streams and natural areas wherever possible.

- The site should be easily accessible.
- The site should allow multi-purpose use.
- Where possible, parks should be located adjacent to elementary schools, other public open space, or public facilities.
- The topography of the site should be suitable for the intended use.
- Public services necessary to the development of the site should be readily available.
- Aesthetics - the site should be visually interesting or have the capability of becoming so.
- Land Use Compatibility - neighboring uses should be located so as to minimize potential conflicts with park activities.

Additional factors which require consideration include the following:

- Legal feasibility - deed history and recorded survey, liens, easements and rights of way. Property with a lot of liens or easements may not permit development of a park.
- Site feasibility - preparing a surface/subsurface analysis (including soils), a vegetation analysis, a wildlife analysis, a utility analysis (such as water availability), a concept-use analysis, and size and shape of the parcel(s).
- User-Usage feasibility - preparing a population analysis, an activity usage analysis, and a standards analysis.
- Design feasibility - preparing conceptual design scenarios and determining final or alternative plans. (What design will best work at this particular site).
- Financial feasibility - costs of acquisition.
- Environmental feasibility - large trees on the site, wetlands, riparian areas;
- these may make the site more or less desirable depending on the type of use desired.
- Other recreational uses nearby
- Availability of land - willing seller, developer, etc.

Exhibit D
Recreation Facilities



HORSESHOE BAR/ PENRYN COMMUNITY PLAN
1993

RECREATION FACILITIES

Legend

Equestrian Trails

- Trails
- Proposed Trails
- Proposed Staging Areas

Parks/Recreation

- Existing
- Proposed
- Proposed Secret Ravine Park

Schools

- Existing

NOTE:

1. See Circulation Element Map for bikeways.
2. All trails along or within road rights of way are to be separated as far as possible from driven road surface.

TABLE 12
RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY AND DEMAND

YEAR 2010 GROWTH RATE 1.2% 7,856					YEAR 2010 GROWTH RATE 2.0% 9,196					
ITEM	**UNIT**	**STANDARD NEEDED**	**EXISTING UNITS**	**UNMET DEMAND**	**ITEM**	**UNIT**	**STANDARD NEEDED**	**EXISTING UNITS**	**UNMET DEMAND**	**NOTES**
1. PARK ACREAGE: Parkland 1 ac/1,000	Acres	8	24.2	(16)	1. PARK ACREAGE: Parkland 1 ac/1000	Acres	9	24.2	(15)	Free play/rest/walk areas Passive
Playground 5 ac/2,000	Acres	20	10.5	9.1	Playground 5 ac/2000	Acres	23	10.5	12.5	Youth soccer/Little League/Tot Lots
Playfields 15 ac/10,000	Acres	12	6.1	5.7	Playfields 15 ac/10,000	Acres	14	6.1	7.7	Adult softball/regulation soccer/tennis/basketball
TOTAL ACRES		39.28	40.8	(1.5)	**TOTAL ACRES**		45.98	40.8	5.2	Active park acreage is still needed
2. FACILITIES: Play lots 75 sf/child 1 child/house	Acres	5	0.6	4.0	2. FACILITIES: Play lots 75 sf/child 1 child/house	Acres	5	0.6	4.7	Tot lots
Tennis 1 per 6,000	Courts	1	4	(3)	Tennis 1 per 6,000	Courts	2	4	(2)	
Basketball 1 per 6,000	Courts	1	7	(6)	Basketball 1 per 6,000	Courts	2	7	(5)	
Hardball 1 per 3,000	Diamonds	1	0	1	Hardball 1 per 3,000	Diamonds	2	0	2	
Softball 1 per 3,000	Diamonds	3	4	(1)	Softball 1 per 3,000	Diamonds	3	4	(1)	
Trails 1 mile/1,000	Miles	8	5.5	2.4	Trails 1 mile/1,000	Miles	9	5.5	3.7	Hiking, riding &/or bike 3 miles are pedestrian only

RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY 1992

	Park Acres	**Tot Lot**	**Tennis Courts**	**Basketball Courts**	**Trail Miles/ Equestrian/ Pedestrian**	**Trail Miles/ Bicycle**	**Youth Soccer**	**Adult Soccer**	**Little League Softball**
Placer County - Misc					1				
Loomis Basin Comm.	33	2		1	1.5		3	3	2
Griffith Quarry	24.2				3				
Penryn School	3	1	4	6			3	1	1
Placer School	4						2	1	1
Totals	**64.2**	**3**	**4**	**7**	**5.5**	**0**	**8**	**5**	**4**

NOTES

Loomis Basin Community Plan has two "girls only" softball fields (not listed due to limited use). The Park was designed to meet some of the needs of Granite Bay.

Loomis park was designed to meet the recreational needs of Granite Bay as well as the Loomis area.

Griffith Quarry has three miles of pedestrian only trails.

No recreational bike trails are currently in the system.

Cannot do both youth soccer and regulation soccer at the same.

Recreational facilities provided by the City of Roseville, State Department of Parks and Recreation, and by private recreation providers have not been included because they serve such a specific population, and not primarily County citizens.

The above information is based on the previous County standard of a minimum five acres total required per 1000 population.

4. **Future Sites**

Existing and proposed parks and trails are shown on the Plan's Recreation Facilities exhibit (see Exhibit D). The proposed future parks and trails shown on this map are general in nature. There is no intent to specifically designate one piece of property as a recreation site or to prevent another type of development or use in that location. Their exact location will be determined later on a site specific basis, based on the goals and objectives stated above. At times, land may become available which is not in an area shown on the map. These lands should be aggressively pursued if in fact they appear to meet the criteria for quality park land which is detailed in this Plan.

The following is a description of the park amenities and trail sites which have been selected for further study.

- Secret Ravine Riparian Corridor -- Secret Ravine runs from the northeast section of the plan area to the southwest section. The complete riparian corridor should be acquired, where possible. Where the acquisition of the entire riparian corridor is not possible, a meandering pathway with an approximately 50-foot width extending the entire length on both sides of the ravine, should be considered for acquisition. One side of the ravine could be developed as an equestrian/bicycle hiking trail and the other side as a hiking/bicycle trail. This trail system would not be paved. There could be several scenic rest stops along the route. These areas would have picnic tables with no other improvements. Any trash taken into the area would be packed out. Interpretive kiosks could be placed at strategic locations. These would identify the trail route and describe locations of special interest, as well as show locations of the nearest public drinking fountains, restrooms, trash facilities, etc. It would link up to the Penryn Parkway and Loomis Basin Community Park and the nature trail at Sierra College to the south.

- Community Center -- No location has been selected for a Community Center building to date. Sites considered by members of the community (although with no formal analysis) were (1) at the Loomis Basin Community Park and (2) south of the intersection of Interstate 80 and King Road. There should be a scientific needs analysis conducted as well as a thorough feasibility study. The recreation district should be in place to undertake this project before any public dollars go into the community center. Finally, a sound financing plan needs to be outlined and approved by the voters, the County Board of Supervisors and possibly the Town of Loomis.

- Loomis Basin Community Park -- The master plan for this 33-acre park needs to address the potential use of the former dump site. Once the site is legally able to be used for recreation, there will be approximately thirty (30) acres available. The best use at this time appears to be for additional active recreational amenities. The area's residents have not been supportive of active recreation being constructed along the rural roadways in the area. This area would permit ballfields to be constructed in an existing park where there are already four existing ballfields so there would be no impact to the rural community as a result of this construction. Future Planned Unit Developments could be conditioned to provide funding or to provide the actual construction of the ballfields.