



STANISLAUS COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION



STANISLAUS COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN

Submitted to:

Merry Mayhew
Stanislaus County
3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite C
Modesto, CA 95358
(209) 525-6783

Submitted by:

O'Dell Engineering
1165 Scenic Drive, Suite A
Modesto, CA 95350
(209) 571-1765

DRAFT

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This document was completed with the support of the citizens, staff, and community groups of Stanislaus County. The consultant team at O'Dell Engineering thanks the County for committing a true community effort to achieve the best possible documentation of its vision for Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation.

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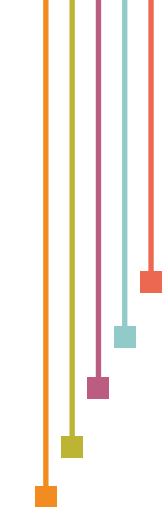
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

VISION AND GOALS

The Stanislaus County Parks Master plan was last updated in 1999. This document is written as an update to the 1999 Stanislaus County Parks Master Plan. The Master Plan update will assess existing facilities and resources and recommend future implementation tactics so that Stanislaus County may continue its commitment to the community's quality of life.

The plan provides a comprehensive review of Stanislaus County's parks and recreation resources and provides inventory, assessment, and recommendations as to the County's current and future parks and recreation needs. The plan also strives to grow the County's efforts toward increasing economic viability of its park facilities. Where appropriate, actionable timelines and budgets have been assigned to future planning efforts which focus on specific associated elements of this plan in order to develop targeted amenities to their best potential.

Investment in parks is increasingly seen as an investment in "green infrastructure," contributing to the quality of life for local residents. The implementation of improvements at County parks may therefore be seen as an investment in County residents. Overall health, safety and well-being of the County's population can be supported by the introduction of phased improvements at both new and existing facilities.

The Stanislaus County 2015 General Plan places responsibility for execution of the following goals on County Parks and Recreation:

- Provide for diverse land use needs by designating patterns which are responsive to the physical characteristics of the land as well as to environmental, economic, and social concerns of the residents of Stanislaus County.
- Foster stable economic growth through appropriate land use policies.
- Ensure that an effective level of public service is provided in unincorporated areas.
- Encourage the protection and preservation of natural and scenic areas throughout the County.
- Provide for the open-space recreational needs of the residents of the County.
- Preserve areas of national, State, regional, and local historical importance.
- Prevent loss of life and reduce property damage as a result of natural disasters.

These goals provide an overview of the opportunities available for the County as it continues to develop its parks and recreation facilities and programming.



Woodward Reservoir



John Murphy Park

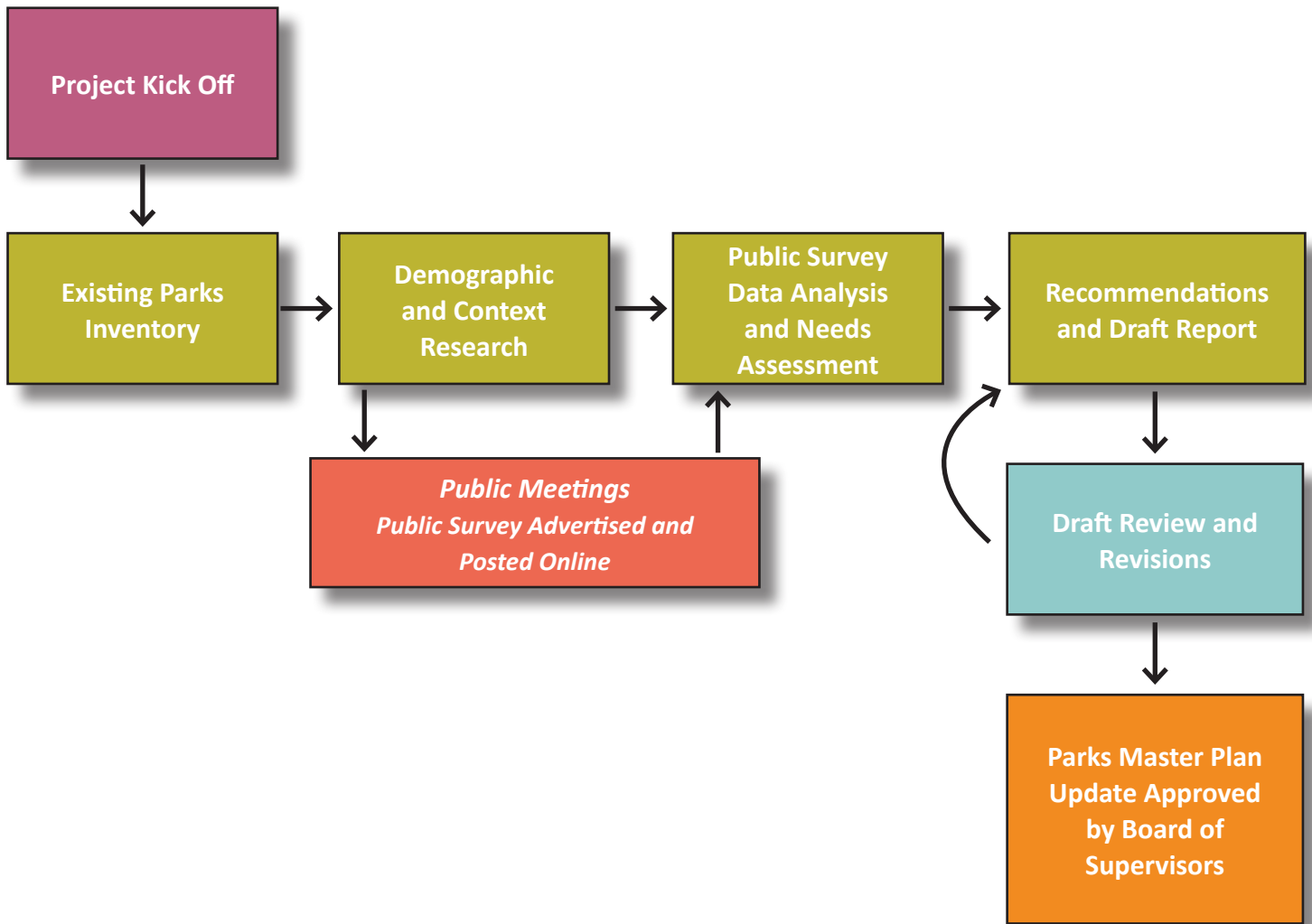


Laird Regional Park

PLANNING PROCESS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

This document was heavily informed by primary research including site visits, presentations and public feedback at district meetings, and a public survey. The community input portion of this study began with a series of meetings with County staff beginning in April 2017 to identify areas of particular strength within the parks system as well as areas where staff identified need for improvement. Materials were developed for outreach to the general public, including an internet-based public survey, interactive real-time activities to gather public opinion at outreach meetings, and County outreach regarding the planning process which spanned traditional, online, and social media publication.

Five initial public meetings were held during June and July 2017 to gather public input to shape the first draft of the Master Plan update. The public survey remained online and advertised to the public through June and July. Over the course of the survey's two months online, 597 respondents (including public meeting attendees) completed the English version of the survey and 17 respondents completed the Spanish version. Complete results from the community outreach survey are included in Appendix B.



The total of 614 responses to the survey represents 0.11% of the 527,367 population. Given the response rate per population, the results indicate with 95% confidence the answers typical of the wider population, with a margin for error of $\pm 5\%$.¹ Therefore, while surveys by nature tend to draw extreme opinions (e.g., those who strongly like or strongly dislike some aspect of County park facilities), the rate of response on the public survey performed for this plan indicates that the trends represented in the surveys obtained represents the larger population of the County's opinions, plus or minus 5%.

With over 600 respondents providing feedback about what they like/dislike most about County parks, clear trends began to emerge in community sentiments and needs. The greatest number of responses as to what people like most about the County's parks and recreation facilities fell into the following three categories:

1. Overall water access/swimming options
2. Walking/hiking/biking trails
3. Picnic areas/BBQs

Other well-liked qualities included camping options, access to use reservoirs, and good park distribution across the County. Respondents value having County parks accessible nearby which provide outdoor play options for children and places for family gatherings. Access to natural spaces and the variety of County facilities were also listed as positive features.

On the other hand, the greatest number of responses as to what people dislike most about the County's recreation facilities (Table 4.3) fell into the following categories:

1. Overall cleanliness/maintenance in parks
2. Homelessness and crime in parks
3. Lack of restrooms in parks

Respondents also named overcrowding and noise complaints at campgrounds as a major concern, and pointed to insufficient on-site park staff and law enforcement patrols as contributing factors to these complaints. The general trend within the "dislike" answers was a need for greater supervision and code enforcement at all parks, particularly at the regional parks.

Comments regarding the need to increase staffing and security in order to enforce posted codes and regulations dominated much of the free-response portions of the survey. Respondents indicated concerns ranging from inconvenience (being required to clean rubbish from one's own campsite upon arrival) to safety (witnessing drug and alcohol abuse by other park users) and health (concerns about human waste contaminating park space and waters). There was a pervasive sentiment of longtime park users becoming increasingly frustrated with the state of maintenance and lack of regulation upon criminal acts and vagrancy in parks.

An overall desire for modernization and more dynamic park features was a secondary theme in the survey responses. Respondents want to see WiFi and better cellular reception in the parks. Patrons cited concerns about lack of cellular coverage in parks in case of an emergency or in the event someone needed to report criminal activity. Responses also noted a desire to see more forward-thinking, resilient technology in County parks, such as solar panels to power park amenities and electric vehicle charging stations to cater to the growing number of electric vehicle owners in the region.

Related to specific amenities, respondents noted they want to see updated playground equipment with safety surfacing installed at all parks. Respondents also want to see dog parks at County park facilities. There is particularly strong support for a dog park at Laird Regional Park.

1 Survey Monkey Sample Size Calculator. www.surveymonkey.com/mp/sample-size-calculator

INVENTORY OF EXISTING COUNTY PARKS

County park assets including Regional Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Special Interest Parks, and Miscellaneous Parks and Open Space Assets were catalogued digitally, visited in person, photographed, and inventoried in their present state as of the writing of this plan update.

Park boundaries included on inventory maps have been approximated using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and County plan documents. County platting and parcel data must be consulted for questions regarding exact park size and boundaries. Inventory statistics for each public access park space can be found in Appendix C.

Current Parks and Recreation asset inventory includes:

- 5 Regional Parks
- 22 Neighborhood Parks
- 8 Special Interest Parks
- 7 Miscellaneous Parks and Open Space Assets
- 28 Non-Park Facilities*

*Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation staff is not only responsible for maintaining the County’s public parks, but also for maintaining numerous streetscape, right-of-way, and stormwater basin areas. While areas that are not currently operated as public assets are outside the scope of this document, it is important to catalogue these extraneous demands upon the County in order to present an accurate snapshot of the extent of responsibilities of the Stanislaus County Parks Department as of this document’s writing.

BEST PRACTICES AND LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Tulare, San Joaquin, and Kern counties each consist of similar population size and demographic to Stanislaus County. Each of these counties is comparable in terms of geographic location, parks and open space amenities, and economic/social factors. These counties will provide benchmark data throughout this document.

Benchmark County	Tulare	San Joaquin	Kern	Stanislaus
2015 Total Population	454,033	708,544	865,736	527,367
Hispanic/Latino Population	62.4%	40.1%	51.0%	43.6%
Median Income	\$42,031	\$53,274	\$33,912	\$50,125

Table 1: 2015 Demographic Statistics, Benchmark Counties²

Benchmarks are useful as they provide a snapshot in time of measurable statistics and show how Stanislaus County compares to its nearest comparable counties on a point-by-point basis. At the same time, it is important to look outside the immediate geographic region to identify larger trends in parks and recreation. The larger Central California area offers several excellent models for City, County, and Special Park Districts that have successfully utilized leading edge best practices in planning and operational aspects. Examples include the East Bay Regional Parks District, the Santa Clara County Parks Department, the Napa County Regional Parks and Open Space District, and Marin County Parks. These “model districts” will be referenced to provide a basis on which the County may continue to improve and expand its own offerings.

2 United States Census Bureau: www.census.gov

Regional Parks**Frank Raines Regional Park**

» 3,150.34 Acres

La Grange Regional Park

» 231.12 Acres

Laird Regional Park

» 98.96 Acres

Modesto Reservoir Regional Park

» 765.61 Acres

Woodward Reservoir Regional Park

» 1,068.83 Acres

Total = 5,314.86 acres**82% Total Parks Acreage****Regional Park Partnership****Tuolumne River Regional Park**

» 510 Acres

Total = 510 acres**7.8% Total Parks Acreage****Neighborhood Parks****Bellenita Park**

» 20.86 Acres

Bonita Park

» 1.02 Acre

Bonita Ranch Park

» 11.99 Acres

Burbank-Paradise Park

» 0.73 Acre

Center 1 Courthouse Lawn Park

» 0.7 Acres

Countrystone Park

» 7.82 Acres

Empire Park

» 6.15 Acres

Empire Tot Lot

» 0.16 Acre

Fairview Park

» 4.66 Acres

Grayson United Park

» 4.93 Acres

Hatch Park/Keyes Center

» 5 Acres

Hunter's Pointe Park

» 2.51 Acres

John Murphy Park

» 4.24 Acres

Fitzsimmons Memorial Park

» 0.52 Acre

Mono Park

» 2.25 Acre

Oregon Drive Park

» 1.6 Acres

Parklawn Park

» 3.99 Acres

Riverdale Park, River & Fishing Access

» 2.23 Acres

Salida Park

» 2.09 Acres

Segesta Park

» 9.34 Acres

Sterling Ranch Park

» 4.2 Acres

Wincanton Park

» 9.22 Acres

Total = 106.21 acres**1.6% Total Parks Acreage****Special Interest Parks****Basso Bridge River & Fishing Access**

» 10.59 Acres

Fox Grove River & Fishing Access

» 64 Acres

Joe Domecq Wildlife Area

» 265.5 Acres

Kiwanis Camp

» 48.04 Acres

Las Palmas River & Fishing Access

» 4.59 Acres

J-59 Fishing Access

» 133.09 Acres

Shiloh River & Fishing Access

» 1.4 Acres

Turlock Lake Fishing Access

» 27 Acres

Total = 554.21 acres**8.5% Total Parks Acreage****Miscellaneous****Atlas Park**

» 0.12 Acres

Hideaway Terrace Flood Control Basin

» 0.6 Acres

Stanislaus Recovery Center Park

» 15.28 Acres

Roberts Ferry Cemetery

» 2.75 Acres

Pauper's Field Citizens Cemetery

» 0.34 Acres

Old School North Flood Control Basin

» 0.41 Acres

Suncrest Estates Flood Control Basin

» 0.47 Acres

Total = 19.97 acres**.3% Total Parks Acreage**

Parks Level of Service	Tulare	San Joaquin	Kern	Stanislaus
Level of Service Standard for Parks Acres per Population	3-5 Acres/1,000 (<i>Quimby Act Cited in General Plan Requirement</i>)	10 Acres/1,000 (<i>Regional Parks</i>) 3 Acres/1,000 (<i>Local Parks</i>)	2.5 Acres/1,000	3 Acres/1,000 (<i>"3 net acres of developed neighborhood parks in unincorporated areas"</i>)

Table 2: Parks Level of Service Requirement per Benchmark Counties' General Plan Documents

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommends provision of at least 10 acres per 1,000 population. This number is typically used by cities rather than counties and to refer to total public parks and open space, regardless of park size/typology. While a number of park districts and municipalities have moved to the 10 acres per 1,000 metric, others, such as the East Bay Regional Park District, aim for equitable distribution of park space across the district. Regional standards and numbers established by the Quimby Act indicate a baseline best practice of four acres per 1,000 residents. Stanislaus County's current total park acreage including County-owned Parks of all sizes provides just over 11 acres per 1,000 residents given current population numbers.

It is important to recognize, however, that the County General Plan references "three net acres of developed *neighborhood parks*" per 1,000 residents within unincorporated Stanislaus County. This requirement specifically refers to developed neighborhood parks, implying those parks which provide direct services to neighborhoods, thereby excluding Regional Parks from this calculation. The County provides just over 106 acres of parks categorized as Neighborhood Parks. With a total population in unincorporated areas of 100,860, the County currently provides one acre of developed Neighborhood Parks per 1,000 residents in unincorporated areas.

While total County park space exceeds the requirement for park acreage per population, the Neighborhood Park acreage currently provided by the County is below the minimum number set forward in the General Plan. This fact is also noted within the General Plan, which states that the unincorporated communities of Keyes and Denair are currently underserved by local parks.

Comparable park districts have set minimum sizes for development of new Neighborhood Parks. Contra Costa County requires new Neighborhood Parks be at least 3 acres in size, while the City of Tracy sets the minimum at 4 acres, and the City of Dublin sets the minimum at 5 acres.

County Parks Acreage and General Plan Level of Service Standard Assessment

Parks Level of Service Standard per Stanislaus County General Plan:

- *Three net acres of developed neighborhood parks per 1,000 residents in unincorporated Stanislaus County.*

Current Acres of Developed
Neighborhood Parks Within
Unincorporated County
» 106 Acres

Current Population Within
Unincorporated County:
» 100,860

Current Parks Acreage
per 1,000 Residents
of Unincorporated
County:
» 1 Acre per 1,000
Residents

Acreage Required to Meet Parks Level of
Service Standard:

» 200 Acres

Neighborhood Park Typical Size:

» 5-10 Acres

Estimated Neighborhood Parks Required
to Meet Parks Level of Service Standard:

» 20-40 Neighborhood Parks

DESIGN STANDARDS

The design standards portion of the Master Plan update synthesizes best practices in parks and recreation planning with needs unique to Stanislaus County parks and operations. The Best Practices and Design Guidelines chapters within the update review standards and trends in parks and recreation usage, design guidelines, and sustainable practices. This review establishes a framework which will inform the master plan's recommendations.

Design Guidelines provided in this Master Plan update pertain to the following categories:

- ADA Compliance
- Universal Access, Social Inclusion, and Sensory Integration
- Provision for Shade
- Security and Policing
- Presence of Homeless Population
- Park Entries and Parking Areas
- Signage and Wayfinding
- Fences/Walls
- Landscape Materials
- Trees
- Lighting
- Irrigation
- Solar and Wind Power
- Electric Vehicle Infrastructure
- Low-Impact Development (LID) Stormwater Infrastructure
- Site Furniture
- Playground Equipment
- Sports Equipment
- Dog Parks
- Cemeteries

RECOMMENDATIONS

Each park and recreation facility run or maintained by Stanislaus County has its own unique needs. This document seeks to provide recommendations for individual parks and facilities in order to enable an itemized account by park of needs typical of that park. Improvements typically take place gradually, and may be phased pending budgetary or other restrictions.

Recommendations for each park type (Regional, Neighborhood, Special Interest, Miscellaneous) include blanket recommendations appropriate to each park type, such as suitability of restrooms, walking paths, bicycling trails, playgrounds, and other elements. Tables in the recommendations chapter of the Master Plan update include specific recommendations generated through conversation with County Parks and Recreation administrative and operation and maintenance staff. The itemized recommendations include issues unique to each park asset.

The Master Plan update recommendations should be considered a snapshot of identified park needs as of the writing of the Parks Master Plan update. Changes to the number and extent of recommended improvements may be required as of the time any such project enters into the County's CIP pipeline. All recommended park and recreation projects included in this Master Plan update must be assigned budget estimates and estimated timelines in order to develop a long-term implementation program and identify appropriate funding mechanisms. The projects are shown with the following proposed timeline windows for project implementation: Short term (0-5 years), mid-range (5-15 years), and long-range (15-20 years).

Master Plan Priority Projects: Schedules, and Estimated Project Costs			
	Project Name	Project Schedule (Years)	Estimated Project Cost
1	Small amphitheaters at all 5 Regional Parks	5-15	\$750,000 ea/\$3,000,000 total
2	Basso Bridge River & Fishing Access Environmental and Site Improvements	15-20	\$1,500,000
3	Bonita Pool Renovations and Splash Play Addition	0-5	\$950,000
4	Dog Parks Developed at Priority Neighborhood Park Locations (4)	5-15	\$187,500 ea/\$750,000 total
5	Fencing Upgrades at all Cemeteries	0-5	\$500,000
6	J-59 Fishing Access Parking Lot and Path	0-5	\$1,000,000
7	La Grange Historic District Master Plan	5-15	\$200,000
8	Laird Regional Park Destination Dog Park	0-5	\$250,000
9	Modesto Reservoir Footrace/Bike Race Circuit	0-5	\$250,000
10	Modesto Reservoir Paving Project	5-15	\$1,000,000
11	Re-brand RC Airfields to Support Use by Drone Pilots	0-5	\$50,000 ea/\$100,000 total
12	Salida Proposed Park (Currently Undeveloped)	15-20	\$1,500,000
13	Signage and Entry Design Installed with Consistent Aesthetic across all County Facilities	5-15	\$850,000
14	WiFi Expansion to all 5 County Regional Parks	5-15	\$25,000,000
15	Woodward Reservoir Regional Park Special Events Amphitheater	5-15	\$25,000,000

Table 3: Master Plan Recommended Projects and Budget Estimates

Programming Recommendations

- Develop and implement an official parks partner program.
- Increase partnerships with regional specialty hobbyists and promote group use of facilities.
- Increase revenue from RC airfields by promoting use (for a set fee) of airfields for enthusiast meet-ups and competitions.
- Increase regular revenue by hosting “movies in the park,” food truck festivals, or other activities with local vendors.

Marketing and Advertising Recommendations

- Utilize online presence to effectively “hook” a target audience of park users and advertise the County’s parks and open space assets.
- Publicize availability of small amphitheaters at Regional Parks to draw user groups.
- Promote existing County-sponsored recreation programming across all social media and web-based media platforms.
- Initiate a donation marketing campaign.

Operations and Maintenance Recommendations

- Develop maintenance standards and specifications.

Woodward Reservoir Special Events Amphitheater

In order to attract a wider range of events and compete with other venue locations in the area, the concept of building an amphitheater on the north side of Woodward Reservoir with built in stage and sound barriers to facilitate musical events and performances is a consideration for future Woodward Reservoir planning.

- Economic Development and Marketing Best Practices: Chapter 5, Section 5.14, Page 135
- List of All Master Plan Recommendations for Woodward Reservoir: Chapter 7, Section 7.1, Page 166
- Woodward Reservoir Special Events Amphitheater Specific Plan Recommendation Sheet: Chapter 7, Section 7.6, Page 186
- Woodward Reservoir Special Events Amphitheater Cost Estimate and Timeline for Completion: Chapter 8, Section 8.1, Page 192

FUNDING MECHANISMS

The recommendations included in this Master Plan update total \$65,850,000 in overall new projects and existing improvements, proposed over a 20 year implementation period.

Developer-Related Financing

This Master Plan update recommends County management consider increasing mitigation fees to reflect a new standard of 4 acres per 1,000 population standard. Increasing the recommended standard from 3 acres as it currently exists to 4 acres is in line with allowances made by the Quimby Act. This increase in developer financing will support new construction of parks and open space in unincorporated communities.

Updating User Fees

Standards for updating user fees within the Stanislaus County parks system include:

1. Establish Board of Supervisors-approved cost recovery policy for parks fees.
2. Complete a fee study.
3. Move to “in-County fees” for County residents and “out-of-County fees” for all users from outside the County.
4. Establish fees for park uses that generate commercial income for the event organizers (currently exists only relating to Dog Field Trial Training within County fee structure).
5. Introduce phased policy for fee updates in order to spread fee increases over several years.
6. Allow for yearly cost of living increases to fees.

Funding Mechanisms

Funding mechanisms appropriate to the needs of the Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation Department have been summarized and notes added to address the specific utility of each toward funding different items. Potential funding mechanisms to be used for parks and recreation improvements include:

- Development-Related Financing
- Development Agreements
- Special Financing Districts (SFD)
- Bonds and Tax Measures
- Programming and Fees

- Community Partnerships
- Grants
- Crowdfunding
- Public-Private Partnerships (P3)
- “Friends of Parks” Programs
- Parks and Recreation Foundation
- Statewide Bond Acts
- Transit/Road Funds
- Joint Marketing and Promotion
- Fundraising Efforts
- Sale or Lease of Surplus Lands
- Local Joint Use Partnership
- Naming Rights
- Open Space and Conservation Easements/Mitigation Banking
- Donations and Transfer of Ownership

Operations and Maintenance

Implementation of this Master Plan update will incur increased requirements to the operations and maintenance staff and strategy currently in place. Additional park amenities and acreage will require additional personnel, equipment, and materials. Increasing maintenance and security at existing parks in order to respond to the public needs expressed will require an assessment of budgetary constraints and realistic approach to addressing concerns. County maintenance divisions must be adequately funded in order to ensure the long-range success of this Master Plan.

Increasing operation and maintenance services to meet the proposed elements of this Master Plan will require consistent internal reporting by maintenance divisions and area managers to assess suitability of deferred cost programs, re-division of maintenance personnel responsibilities, and/or the usefulness of partnerships with community and volunteer organizations to assist with regular park upkeep.

Implementation

A successful plan for the implementation of these new recommendations as well as the realization of Parks and Recreation projects which exist in the current CIP pipeline is to:

1. Identify dynamic funding sources for each project, and a combination of funding mechanisms where practical.
2. Develop partnerships which will contribute to the realization of increased revenue and cost offsets for parks and programming.
3. Increase development-related parks funding requirements (Quimby Act) to at least 4 acres per 1,000 residents as a baseline requirement.

The implementation goals set forward in this document support the Board of Supervisors priority area, which reads:

“Parks and Recreation supports the Board Priority area of A Well Planned Infrastructure System and Effective Partnerships by aligning department accomplishments and objectives with the following Board goals: Explore, identify and evaluate opportunities for effective partnerships; and Recognize and promote the value of partnerships to the community to increase awareness of the richness and diversity of our parks and utilization of the parks system.”

Action Steps

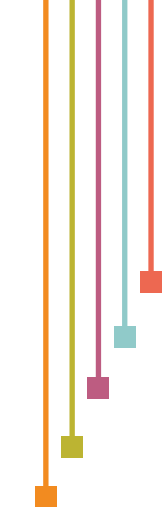
1. Initiate amendments to the 2015 Stanislaus County General Plan

- a. Amendments to the 2015 County General Plan are recommended in order to incorporate the objectives and policies adopted herein.
- b. Include an update regarding provision of park development fees from new residential development to reflect the recommendations of this Master Plan.

2. Create Stanislaus County Parks Trust

- a. Establishment of a formal associated parks partner program will enable smooth flow of donation monies and allow County Parks and Recreation to work more closely with the community.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF PARKS MASTER PLAN

Parks and recreation facilities are invaluable parts of a vibrant community. Studies continue to demonstrate the benefits of urban parks for both individual and community health. Trends toward obesity and associated health risks among American adults and youth emphasize the need for parks and recreation services not only to improve the well-being of today's citizens but also to ensure the long-term health of both individuals and the community.

"The Parks and Recreation Department acquires, develops, and maintains recreation areas serving every segment of our society, including the disabled and the economically disadvantaged, in ways that will provide the best possible experience for people to enjoy the outdoors at the most reasonable cost."

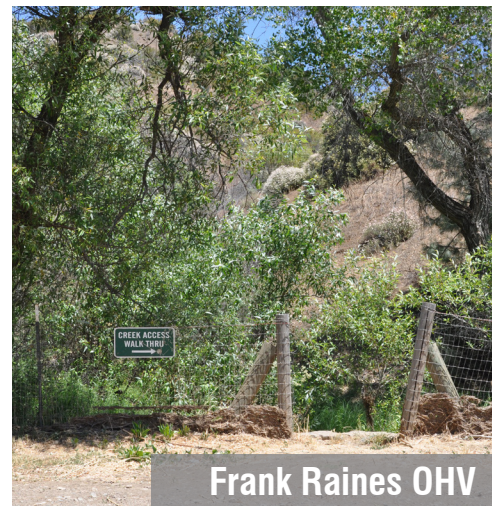
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors statement on the Parks and Recreation Department

Stanislaus County's population has increased significantly over the past fifteen years. The following Parks Master Plan will provide a comprehensive review of Stanislaus County's parks and recreation resources and provides inventory, assess current public need, and provide recommendations and implementation strategies for the future. By using this document as a tool to assist with future parks and open space development, Stanislaus County continues its commitment to residents' quality of life.

The plan also strives to grow the County's efforts toward increasing economic viability of its park facilities. The information enclosed may be used to update other County planning efforts, thereby providing consistency in overall parks and recreation planning.



Woodward Reservoir



Frank Raines OHV



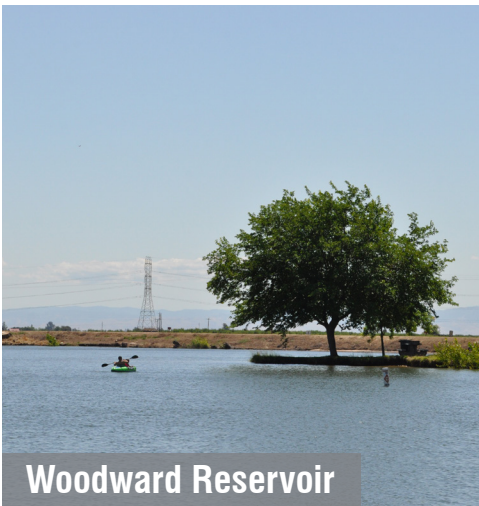
Modesto Reservoir



Bellenita Park

The Stanislaus County 2015 General Plan places responsibility for execution of the following goals on County Parks and Recreation:

- Provide for diverse land use needs by designating patterns which are responsive to the physical characteristics of the land as well as to environmental, economic, and social concerns of the residents of Stanislaus County.
- Foster stable economic growth through appropriate land use policies.
- Ensure that an effective level of public service is provided in unincorporated areas.
- Encourage the protection and preservation of natural and scenic areas throughout the County.
- Provide for the open-space recreational needs of the residents of the County.
- Preserve areas of national, state, regional, and local historical importance.
- Prevent loss of life and reduce property damage as a result of natural disasters.



Woodward Reservoir

These goals provide an overview of the opportunities available for the County as it continues to develop its parks and recreation facilities and programming. Ongoing improvements to the County's Regional Parks will provide expanded interface with the natural ecosystem and native landscape typology. Investment in parks is increasingly seen as an investment in "green infrastructure," contributing to the quality of life for local residents.

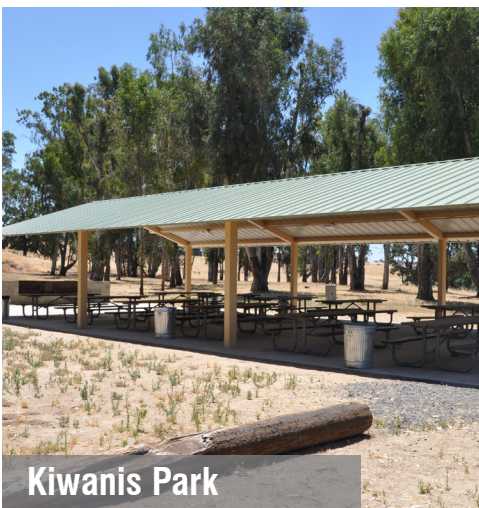
The implementation of improvements at County parks may therefore be seen as an investment in County residents. Overall health, safety and well-being of the County's population can be supported by the introduction of phased improvements at both new and existing facilities.

1.2 PREPARATION OF THE MASTER PLAN

Development of the Parks Master Plan began with a review of relevant County planning documents. An inventory of existing County parks and facilities was developed, and planning and design documentation for each was reviewed. Individual park visits were performed to each facility in order to record site amenities and gather photographic record of each location.

Each park was mapped, both graphically using aerial imagery and technically using Geographic Information Systems (GIS). GIS was further used to overlay information relating to population, transportation, and other factors onto the parks and open space in order to analyze relationships between various infrastructure elements.

Five public meetings were held between June and July 2017. These meetings took place in geographically distinct portions of the County and represented all supervisorial districts.



Kiwanis Park

Public surveys designed through a dynamic process including County staff and the consultant team were distributed at each public meeting. The survey was printed in both English and Spanish. Additionally, both the English and Spanish language versions of the public survey was made available online. The survey was advertised in local newspapers, as well as online.

The feedback obtained through public meetings, as well as the survey, was analyzed and included into the needs assessment and recommendations of the Parks Master Plan. In particular, questions relating to importance of park amenities as opposed to satisfaction with those same amenities were evaluated on a weighted chart to arrive at findings as to which amenities were highly important yet lacking, in contrast to others which are not important and sufficient, for users of County parks facilities.

The draft Parks Master Plan was reviewed by County staff at 50% and 90% phases, prior to submittal of the 100% draft Master Plan.

1.3 RELATIONSHIP TO THE GENERAL PLAN

The Stanislaus County General Plan presents guiding principles for development of County lands and resources for the benefit of the citizens of the County. This guidance and in-depth visioning for the County are invaluable resources in the creation of the Parks Master Plan. The current General Plan, approved in 2015, includes seven elements. Seven goals across four of the elements pertain to items for which County Parks and Recreation are directly responsible. The relevant elements, goals, policies, and implementation measures have been excerpted for the purposes of the Parks Master Plan and included in Appendix A.

1.4 PARKS MASTER PLAN OVERVIEW

Chapter 1: Introduction

This chapter introduces the purpose of the Master Plan, and reviews the process of preparation of the Parks Master Plan. This chapter also reviews the Parks Master Plan's relationship to the County General Plan, and outlines the proceeding document.

Chapter 2: Planning Context

This chapter examines regional context, including population demographics and regional character.

Chapter 3: Inventory

This chapter includes a survey of existing parkland within Stanislaus County. It closes with a review of programs currently offered and identifies any outstanding program needs.

Chapter 4: Needs Assessment

This chapter reviews community outreach involved in the creation of the Parks Master Plan document. It describes the survey methodology and summarizes initial findings.

Chapter 5: Best Practices

This chapter provides a survey review of best practices associated with design and construction of future parks and recreation facilities. It considers the County's goals as well as current trends and standards for municipal parks and recreation development.

Chapter 6: Design Guidelines

This chapter categorizes built qualities of parks relating to accessibility, aesthetics, technical infrastructure, and site furnishings, and provides an overview of standard design guidelines which are recommended to guide the construction of these amenities at County parks and open space assets.

Chapter 7: Recommendations

This chapter synthesizes identified needs with the County's goals to propose recommendations for the development of Parks and Recreation facilities and programming.

Chapter 8: Capital Improvement and Financial Plan

This chapter discusses the capital improvement plan and funding mechanisms which may be used to implement the recommendations as documented.

Appendix A

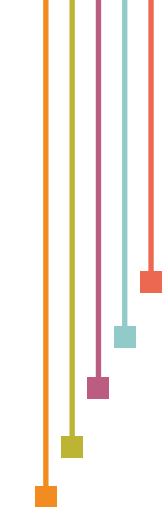
This Appendix contains the 2015 County General Plan excerpts, including the goals, policies, and implementation measures relevant to Parks and Recreation.

Appendix B

This Appendix includes full text of the public survey as well as tabulated survey results.

Appendix C

This Appendix includes an itemized inventory of the City's current parks facilities by park type.



CHAPTER 2

PLANNING CONTEXT

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PLANNING CONTEXT

2.1 PHYSICAL SETTING

Stanislaus County is located in the San Joaquin Valley in Central California. The County covers an area of 1,521 miles and includes nine incorporated municipalities and several census-designated places and unincorporated communities. Its borders stretch West past Interstate 5 to the Coastal Range and East past State Route 99 to the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. The county seat is located in the City of Modesto.

Stanislaus County has a rich agricultural history and its boundaries encompass a number of major agricultural processing facilities. The top 25 employers in the County include 8 wineries, 4 food processing or manufacturing plants, and the Amazon Fulfillment Center in Patterson. The majority of the top employers are located in Modesto and Turlock, including Stanislaus County government and regional utilities and healthcare.¹

Regional Characteristics

Stanislaus County is surrounded to the east and south by counties with similar rural, agricultural character and similar economic drivers and resident demographics. Immediately to the west and north lies the mega-region of San Francisco and San Jose, and some of Central California's most populous and wealthy counties.

The Bay Area supports a diverse population of residents and the famous Silicon Valley tech hub draws skilled professionals and investment from around the globe. Counties to the east, meanwhile, are predominantly rural with negative population growth rates. At the same time, counties to the south of Stanislaus are among the most economically disadvantaged in the State, with high levels of poverty. Stanislaus County is therefore located at the intersection of rural and urban edges in Central California, and must consider the needs of dynamic resident populations into the future.



Stanislaus County Highlighted within State of California

Map by David Benbennick - The maps use data from nationalatlas.gov, specifically countyp020.tar.gz. The map also uses state outline data from statesp020.tar.gz.

Regional County Statistics Comparison					
County	Population Estimate, 2016	Population per Square Mile, 2010	Population Change 2010-2016	Median Home Value, 2011-2015	Median Household Income, 2011-2015
Stanislaus	541,560	344.2	5.3%	\$190,800	\$50,125
San Joaquin	733,709	492.6	7.1%	\$223,000	\$53,274
Calaveras	45,171	44.7	-0.9%	\$243,800	\$53,233
Tuolumne	53,804	24.9	-2.8%	\$259,300	\$50,306
Mariposa	17,410	12.6	-4.6%	\$235,900	\$47,681
Merced	268,672	132.2	5.0%	\$161,200	\$42,462
Santa Clara	1,919,402	1,381.0	7.7%	\$698,600	\$96,310
Alameda	1,647,704	2,043.6	9.1%	\$543,100	\$75,619

Table 2.1: Regional Population Trends, US Census Data

¹ State of California Employment Development Department: www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/

Bay area residents seeking affordable, family-focused communities are moving further and further east into Stanislaus and neighboring counties. The County seat of Modesto is just 90 miles from downtown San Francisco and slightly less from central San Jose. The US Census Bureau recorded the 2011-2015 median value of owner-occupied housing units in Stanislaus County was \$190,800, compared to neighboring Santa Clara County's median value of \$698,600 during the same period.

2.2 DEMOGRAPHICS

Population growth has a direct impact on increasing demands for parks and recreational opportunities. Demographic qualities like age, ethnicity, and income levels can impact recreational interests and participation.

Existing Population and Population Growth

The population of Stanislaus County was estimated by the US Census Bureau at 541,560 as of July 1, 2016. This marks a 5.3% increase over the 2010 population and is consistent with the State of California's overall population increase during the same period.² This increase is significantly below that predicted in the County's 1999 Parks Master Plan. That document, quoting projections by the California Department of Finance, anticipated a County population of 709,100 by 2015. This projected number exceeds the actual population in 2015 by over 170,000 persons.

Population density per square mile of land area within the County in the 2000 census recorded 299.2 persons per square mile and 101.0 housing units. By the next 10-year update in 2010, these numbers had increased to 344.2 persons per square mile and 120.1 housing units.

Stanislaus County Population Distribution by Municipality - 2000 to 2015 Comparison				
City/County	Total in 2000	% in 2000	Total in 2015	% in 2015
Ceres	34,609	8.0%	47,963	9.0%
Hughson	3,980	1.0%	7,384	1.0%
Modesto	188,856	42.0%	211,266	40.0%
Newman	7,093	2.0%	10,899	2.0%
Oakdale	15,503	3.0%	22,259	4.0%
Patterson	11,606	3.0%	21,498	4.0%
Riverbank	15,826	3.0%	24,122	5.0%
Turlock	55,810	12.0%	72,292	14.0%
Waterford	6,924	2.0%	8,824	2.0%
Total Cities	340,207	76.0%	426,507	81.0%
Unincorporated	106,790	24.0%	100,860	19.0%
Total County	446,997	100%	527,367	100%

Table 2.2: Stanislaus County Population Distribution, 2000 and 2015 Census

Age

Age will often determine the types of activities in which people choose to participate. For example, youth are generally interested in traditional competitive sports such as baseball, soccer, and basketball, or extreme sports such as skateboarding, BMX, and rock climbing. As people age, their participation in competitive sports generally decreases, although many older adults and seniors continue to participate in activities that promote healthy living, socialization, and learning. As of Census estimates in 2015, the median age in Stanislaus County was 33.5, demonstrating an increase from the 2010 median age of 31.7 years. Table 2.3 shows the County's recorded age distribution from both the 2000 and 2015 US Census.³

² United States Census Bureau: www.census.gov

³ United States Census Bureau: www.census.gov

Stanislaus County Age Distribution - 2000 to 2015 Comparison				
Age Group	Total in 2000	% in 2000	Total in 2015	% in 2015
Under 5 years	35,582	8.0%	39,139	7.4%
5-9	40,203	9.0%	39,762	7.5%
10-14	40,289	9.0%	41,472	7.9%
15-19	37,025	8.3%	40,540	7.7%
20-24	30,029	6.7%	38,883	7.4%
25-34	60,880	13.6%	73,339	13.9%
35-44	68,921	15.4%	66,814	12.7%
45-54	54,248	12.1%	68,281	12.9%
55-59	18,528	4.1%	30,989	5.9%
60-64	14,595	3.3%	26,042	4.9%
65-74	24,405	5.5%	35,167	26.7%
75-84	16,473	3.7%	18,522	3.5%
85+	5,819	1.3%	8,357	1.6%
Total County	446,997	100%	527,367	100%

Table 2.3: Stanislaus County Age Distribution, 2000 and 2015 Census

Race and Ethnicity

Race and Ethnicity also affect people's recreation preferences and participation. Stanislaus County has shifted from a predominantly non-Hispanic community to one that has become more ethnically diverse and more heavily Hispanic. Table 2.4 shows the races identified by respondents to the 2000 and 2015 Census. Note that the US Census provides separate categories for race and ethnic origin. Per the Census website:

*"Origin can be view as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States. People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race. Thus, the percent Hispanic should not be added to percentages for racial categories."*⁴

Stanislaus County Racial Distribution - 2000 to 2015 Comparison				
Race	Total in 2000	% in 2000	Total in 2015	% in 2015
White	309,901	69.3%	397,080	75.3%
Black or African American	11,521	2.6%	14,335	2.7%
American Indian and Alaska Native	5,676	1.3%	4,183	0.8%
Asian	18,848	4.2%	28,560	5.4%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1,529	0.3%	4,003	0.8%
Other	75,187	16.8%	56,212	10.7%
Two or more races	24,335	5.4%	22,994	4.4%

Table 2.4: Stanislaus County Racial Distribution, 2015 Census

The number of Stanislaus County residents reporting Hispanic or Latino as their ethnicity grew from 31.7% in the 2000 US Census to 43.6% in 2015. This 11.9% jump placed the Hispanic and Latino population in the majority of the County's demographic. Table 2.5 shows the increase of the Hispanic population as the dominant ethnic minority group between 2000 and 2015.

4 www.census.gov/quickfacts

Stanislaus County Ethnically Hispanic or Latino Population - 2000 to 2015 Comparison				
Hispanic Origin	Total in 2000	% in 2000	Total in 2015	% in 2015
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	141,871	31.7%	230,087	43.6%
Not Hispanic or Latino	305,126	68.3%	297,280	56.4%

Table 2.5: Stanislaus County Hispanic Population, 2000 and 2015 Census

Income and Household Type

Income has a major impact upon participation in recreational opportunities. Those with higher incomes and more disposable income tend to be more active and participate in more expensive types of recreation, whereas those with lower incomes tend to take advantage of low cost recreational opportunities. In Stanislaus County, the median household income is \$50,125, 19% lower than the California average income of \$61,818.

The 2015 Census shows a rate of 19.5% of the population which falls below poverty level, exceeding the State average of 15.3%. A more detailed breakdown of poverty level by demographics indicates that all ethnic groups in the County experience poverty levels greater than the State average, except for the "White" and "Not Hispanic or Latino" groups. Persons of American Indian and Alaska Native ethnicity report the highest level of poverty, at 27% of that group's total population of 4,183. 23.7%, nearly one in four persons, of those reporting as Hispanic or Latino of any race fall below the poverty line.

"Historically, Stanislaus County has consistently fared worse than other California counties in most economic metrics (e.g. unemployment, household income, educational attainment). The recent 'great recession' had a disproportionate impact on the San Joaquin Valley."

"2015 Stanislaus County Public Health Report," Presented to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, 2015

Stanislaus County population living below federal poverty level - by Racial Distribution		
Race/Ethnicity	Total in 2015	% in 2015
White	97,453	14.6%
Black or African American	3,210	23.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native	899	27.0%
Asian	6,462	15.6%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	743	17.8%
Other	12,239	25.6%
Two or more races	3,730	16.1%

Table 2.6: Poverty by Race, 2015 Census

Stanislaus County population living below federal poverty level - Hispanic or Latino		
Hispanic Origin	Total in 2015	% in 2015
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	47,771	23.7%
Not Hispanic or Latino	63,713	10.0%

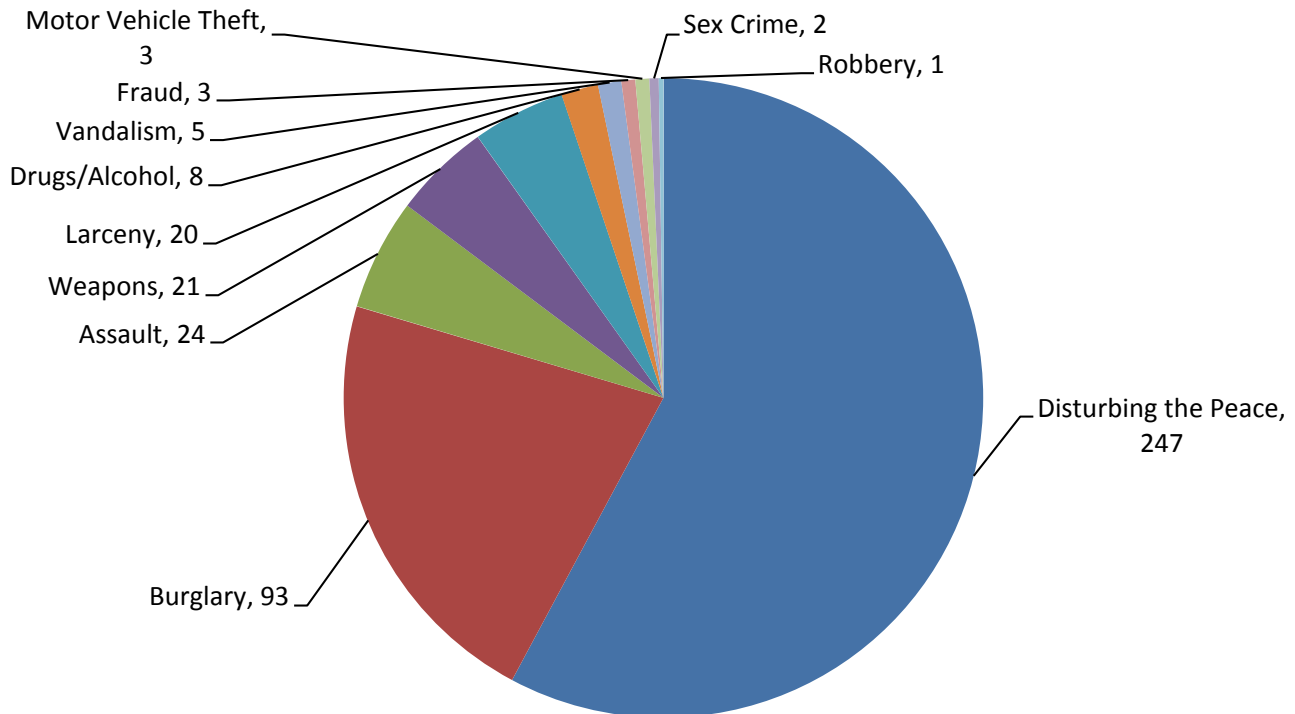
Table 2.7: Poverty by Hispanic/Non-Hispanic Population, 2015 Census

Furthermore, as of 2015, the population of persons over 16 years of age in the County was 398,487. The County's unemployment rate within the civilian workforce was 15.2%. 78.9% of the employed population of the County was employed as private wage or salary workers, 14.2% were employed as government workers, and 6.8% were self-employed. 62% of households with children under the age of 18 reported all parents were in the workforce.

Households of three persons or larger make up 50.1% of the County's households, and 41.1% of households have children under the age of 18. As of 2015, the average household size was 3.08 persons. The number of persons in 2015 who reported living at the same house for one year was 83.7%, slightly less than the State population reported at 85.2%. Owner-occupied housing units account for 56.7% of housing units in the County, while renter-occupied housing units account for 43.3%.

Community Safety

The Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement and administrative services throughout the County. Four communities within the County contract with the Sheriff's Department to provide law enforcement services. These communities are: Hughson, Patterson, Riverbank, and Waterford. The contracts for each community stipulate different levels of service to be provided, but all are based upon a philosophy of community-oriented policing.



Crime Incidents Reported by Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department during May 2017

The Sheriff's Department provides crime incident data for the unincorporated regions of the County, as well as the four contract communities via the website Crimemapping.com. Crime report data reported by the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department from the month of May, 2017, showed 427 crime incident records. The majority of the reports, 58%, pertained to disturbing the peace incidents. The second most reported incident was burglary, at 22% of the month's reported incidents. Assault and weapons incidents were the next most reported, at 6% and 5% of the incidents, respectively.

The Stanislaus County Police Activities League (PAL) partners with the County Parks and Recreation Department to provide recreation services at various park locations throughout the County. Per the PAL website, the goal of this collaboration “was to allow children and families to utilize County park facilities in a good and positive way.”⁵ The website goes on to state that criminal and antisocial activities in some County parks discouraged children and families from taking full advantage of County recreation facilities. Following the collaborative programming of PAL and County Parks and Recreation, the rate of criminal activities at these locations decreased dramatically, which resulted in more children and families using the recreation facilities.

In addition to the positive presence of PAL, there are actions that may be taken which relate to the design and infrastructure of parks which may further reduce the perception of danger in parks and increase user participation. Continued partnership with law enforcement to ensure security standards are being satisfied at parks is an important contributing factor. Furthermore, changes that may be made in the design and layout of parks to enhance real and perceived safety will be addressed further in this document in a discussion of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) tactics.



Commuting

The amount of time people spend traveling to and from work impacts their recreational participation. Although commute times for employed persons in Stanislaus County vary, the mean commute time reported in 2015 was 27 minutes. Commute times under thirty minutes typically indicate the employee works locally. There is also a significant number of persons with long commute times; 11.5% spend sixty minutes or more traveling to work. Considering the average 8-9 hour workday, these extra 2+ hours per day spent commuting mean that these residents are away from their homes for at least ten to eleven hours per day. Particularly in the winter season, this schedule limits participation at recreation facilities during daylight hours. It also limits the ability of commuting parents to drive their children to early-evening activities on weeknights.

Commuting statistics can provide an indication of how feasible it is for citizens to utilize recreational facilities. They also help demonstrate, as mentioned above, the number of youth who would benefit from nearby after-school activities, programs, or summer camps that do not require private transportation to and from the facility.⁶ A 2006 study by the UCLA Anderson School of Management indicated that available leisure time has more impact on participation in recreational pursuits than does variation in income.⁷

5 Stanislaus County Police Activities League, <http://stancopal.org>

6 City of Modesto Office of Economic Development

7 UCLA Anderson School of Management “The Hispanic Community and Outdoor Recreation.” 2006.

Health Trends

In its “Healthy Parks Healthy People” guide, the National Park Service specifically mentions that connection to natural resources, as well as to local parks, helps children “lead healthier, happier, more fulfilled lives.” Efforts by the National Park Service and others by State and local entities have made the dialogue surrounding health and parks mainstream. It is now widely acknowledged that increasing exposure to nature and exercise encourages physical and mental health for users of all ages.

California State Health Officer Dr. Karen Smith cites the problems for many Californians being poor diet, lack of physical activity, and the use of tobacco.⁸ Per the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s “State of Obesity” database, the State of California’s adult obesity rate as of 2016 was 25.0%. This places the State 47th out of 51, the fifth-lowest adult obesity rate in the nation.⁹ The Statewide obesity rate for two to four year old children was 16.6% (2014 data), while 10-17 year olds were at 15.1% (2011 data). While the State’s adult obesity rate is the fifth-lowest in the country, the rate for two to four year old children was ranked sixth out of fifty-one states (US states + D.C.) surveyed.

“71% of male and 64% of female Hispanics report that they do not participate in outdoor activities due to lack of time... Broken down by income levels, 52% of those stating more time was a factor were from the \$75K plus income group and 49% of those stating more time was a factor were from the <\$15K income groups. This shows that regardless of income level, those with the highest and lowest levels of income believe leisure time is a constraint.”

“The Hispanic Community and Outdoor Recreation,” UCLA Anderson School of Management, 2006

The Centers for Disease Control reports that minorities and groups with lower levels of education are at the highest risk for obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. When one looks at the breakdown for the 25% of adults suffering from obesity, 22.7% are white (Non-Hispanic), 31.0% are African American, and 32.3% are Hispanic or Latino.

Stanislaus County is ranked 41 out of California’s 58 total counties in terms of health by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s County Health Rankings and Roadmaps project.¹⁰ While the County ranks 35th in terms of Clinical Care provisions, it drops to 53rd in the Health Behaviors category. This category pertains to behavioral rather than environmental factors. Items included under Health Behaviors are smoking, obesity, excessive drinking, physical activity, and access to exercise opportunities. The US Census estimated in 2015 that as much as 9.4% of the population of the County suffered from a disability. This exceeds the State of California’s rate of 6.8%. 4.4% of Stanislaus County children under 18 years of age live with a disability.

In Stanislaus County, preschool obesity rates are 17.1%, slightly below the State rate of 17.9%.¹¹ Furthermore, the 2015-2016 California Physical Fitness Report for students from 5th to 9th grade in Stanislaus County indicated unhealthy trends in local children’s health. This report classified 45.4% of 5th graders tested in the County as “Needs Improvement” or “Needs Improvement - High Risk” in terms of body composition. 44.9% of 5th graders tested as “Needs Improvement” or “Needs Improvement - High Risk” in terms of aerobic capacity.¹² These indicators reinforce the importance of creating safe, usable areas for outdoor recreation within the County. Investment in public recreation opportunities should be prioritized in order to encourage heightened activity levels amongst local residents of all ages.

Linguistics

The 2015 Census reveals that 59.1% of County residents speak English only, while 40.9% are estimated to speak a language other than English. The majority of these, 31.8% of the total population, speak Spanish. This is consistent with trends showing a rise in the Hispanic and Latino population.

8 Stafford, Sabra. “County Residents’ Health Falls Below State Average.” Ceres Courier, 15 April 2015.

9 State of Obesity. <https://stateofobesity.org/states/ca/>

10 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps: <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/california/2017/>

11 City Data: www.city-data.com/

12 California Department of Education: 2015-16 California Physical Fitness Report, Stanislaus County. <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/pf/pftresults.asp>

2.3 PREVIOUS PARKS MASTER PLAN REVIEW

Stanislaus County Parks Master Plan: 1999

The existing County Parks Master Plan was approved August 24th, 1999. This document provides both a benchmark and a model for the current Parks Master Plan. The previous plan catalogues existing conditions at 25 County parks and presents a set of recommendations to shape future parks acquisition and development.

In addition to general park and facilities standards recommendations, such as ADA compliance and recommendations for park architecture and signage, the 1999 plan included specific park plans. These listed specific improvements to be considered at both existing and proposed County parks and established goals for one to five year projects, five to fifteen year projects, and fifteen to twenty year projects.

Neighborhood Parks Recommendations: 1999 Parks Master Plan
New furniture (picnic tables, barbecue grills, trash receptacles, benches) at the eleven existing Neighborhood Parks.
Additional trees at existing Neighborhood Parks.
Sports courts/fields recommended at specific Neighborhood Parks.

Regional Parks Recommendations: 1999 Parks Master Plan
Frank Raines to develop Minniear Area and provide trails for horses, hiking, and biking, two new trailheads and picnic facilities.
Frank Raines OHV to expand into County-owned adjacent parcels, and additional swimming and camping facilities to be developed. Earth moving equipment to be maintained on site at all times for maintenance.
La Grange to explore expansion to include day-use recreation easements for Dawson Lake. Expanded trails around the Old La Grange Bridge to include improved access to fishing and day-use opportunities.
La Grange historical structures and cultural programming to be improved and expanded. Day-use facilities to be developed at historic gold dredge pond.
Nature trail loop to be added linking Basso Bridge to the town of La Grange.
Gold dredge camp at Kiwanis Camp to be developed into historic interpretive resource. Campsites to be developed in Joe Domecq Wilderness Area.
La Grange OHV to include 80cc track and improvements to day-use facilities and special events infrastructure. Earth moving equipment to be maintained on site at all times for maintenance.
The plan proposes studying the possibility of expanding Laird Regional Park across the river to include camping, trails, and outdoor education opportunities.
Laird Regional Park also includes expansion of day-use facilities such as a public archery range, boat launch with fishing pier/cleaning station, picnic facilities, playground, and play fields, with a riverfront nature trail.
Modesto Reservoir is to include major renovations to water ski and day-use areas, addition of an off-road vehicle area, and an archery course.
The plan proposes a new park headquarters and sheriff's office near the existing entry to Modesto Reservoir Regional Park.
Woodward Reservoir Regional Park's recommended improvements include addition of a concession facility at the entry station, renovation of the park's store and improvements to accommodate decreased lake levels.
Programming at Woodward Reservoir is to focus on the southern and western shores of the reservoir, separating day-use and camping areas. Day-use facilities include sand beaches, improved boat ramps, play areas and picnic facilities.
Woodward Reservoir's camping facilities are to be improved with shade trees in the eastern area and improved infrastructure to draw campers.

Fishing Access Recommendations: 1999 Parks Master Plan

Continued maintenance of access roads, parking lots, and minor amenities at all fishing accesses.

Boat ramp proposed for Shiloh fishing access.

Riverdale river put-in is to be for non-motorized boats, with native vegetation restoration throughout the park. Riverdale should also include a fishing access trail, amenities for informal play, play equipment, and restroom facilities.

Fox Grove fishing access to be investigated for construction of a swimming hole. Other recommendations for Fox Grove include an informal play area, picnic tables, and nature trail.

Las Palmas fishing access is to proceed with plans to add day-use and play amenities to the park.

Enhancement of native vegetation is recommended at Basso Bridge, Las Palmas, and Fox Grove fishing accesses.

Future Parks Planning Recommendations: 1999 Parks Master Plan

New Regional Park: the 1999 Master Plan notes a gap in service area provided by regional parks and suggests establishing a park of at least 250 acres in the southwestern portion of the County. The plan recommends locating the park along the San Joaquin River but does not recommend a specific site.

New River Accesses: the 1999 Master Plan also points to a shortage in river accesses that would facilitate short day trips on the river. Additional small regional facilities (3-10 acres) are proposed to create a “string of pearls” along the Tuolumne River through Stanislaus County. Two potential sites are identified; South Appling Way in Waterford, and the Turlock Lake Campground area.

New Neighborhood Parks: the 1999 Master Plan identified a significant shortfall of Neighborhood Park lands in order to meet the National Recreation and Park Association’s level of service best practices as of 1999 (35 acres existing, 279 acres needed). The plan recommended developing at least one park per unincorporated community and those communities where no other agency manages park lands. The plan provides two prototypes for future Neighborhood Park development.

Development of Geer Road Landfill: the 1999 Master Plan had the specific goal of exploring development possibilities for recreational uses, particularly a golf course, at Geer Road landfill. The master plan found no major flaws that would prevent recreational use of the site, and identified requirements that would need to be satisfied in order to make the landfill a usable recreational amenity. The master plan arrived at the conclusion that these costs would total \$8 to \$11 million, making the option to purchase new land for a golf course more economically viable than seeking to remediate and build on the existing landfill site. The plan stated further that other recreational uses, such as trails and other activities that do not require significant construction and which can direct use away from particularly sensitive areas, may be advisable.

In addition to providing both general and specific recommendations for existing and proposed County parks, the 1999 Parks Master Plan also outlined appropriate time frames and budget estimates per time frame for recommended projects. The projects are listed by time frame with notes regarding the level of completion of each project as of 2017.

1999 Parks Master Plan: One to Five Year Projects	2017 Completion Level
Upgrade restrooms and play equipment at existing Neighborhood Parks.	Partial
Grayson Park, Grayson	Complete
Lighting upgrades at existing parks	Partial
Upgrade restrooms and play equipment at existing regional facilities	Partial
Upgrade existing OHV areas	Partial
Modesto Reservoir Regional Park improvements	Partial
Woodward Reservoir Regional Park improvements	Partial
Fox Grove Fishing Access	Incomplete

1999 Parks Master Plan: One to Five Year Projects	2017 Completion Level
Las Palmas Fishing Access	Incomplete
Shiloh Fishing Access	Incomplete
Turlock Reservoir Access	Complete
New Empire Neighborhood Park (New Park)	Complete
New Salida Sports Park (New Park)	Incomplete
New Tuolumne River Access points (New Park)	Incomplete

1999 Parks Master Plan: Five to Fifteen Year Projects	2017 Completion Level
Bonita Pool, Crow's Landing	Incomplete
Burbank-Paradise Park, Modesto	Partial
Hatch Park, Keyes	Partial
Salida Park, Salida	Partial
Frank Raines Regional Park	Partial
La Grange Regional Park	Partial
Riverdale Fishing Access	Partial
Hickman Neighborhood Park (New Park)	Incomplete

1999 Parks Master Plan: Fifteen to Twenty Year Projects	2017 Completion Level
Mono Park, Modesto	Incomplete
Oregon Drive Park, Modesto	Partial
Parklawn Park, Modesto	Complete
Fairview Park, Modesto	Complete
Laird Regional Park	Partial
Della Mendota Canal Access	N/A
Niels Hansen Fishing Access	N/A
Orestimba Fishing Access	N/A
South County Regional Park (New Park)	Incomplete

1999 Parks Master Plan: Summary of 1-20 Year Project Costs				
	Existing Neighborhood Parks	New Neighborhood Parks	Existing Regional Parks	New Regional Facilities
1-5 Years	\$889,000	\$2,480,000	\$4,534,111	\$266,921
5-10 Years	\$583,000	\$4,017,500	\$5,421,441	\$0
10-20 Years	\$874,800	\$4,017,500	\$954,829	\$3,051,434

Progress on the recommendations from the 1999 Parks Master Plan will be discussed further in both Chapter 7: Recommendations, as well as Chapter 8: Capital Improvement and Funding Plan.

2.4 PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

Regional Non-Motorized Transportation Master Plan: 2013

The Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG) produced their Non-Motorized Transportation Master Plan for the County in 2013. This comprehensive document includes a countywide overview of land-use patterns and transportation-related items, then outlines countywide priorities for non-motorized transportation. The plan also includes a standalone chapter for each of the nine local jurisdictions within Stanislaus County, and a chapter for unincorporated Stanislaus County. These chapters reflect each jurisdiction's demographic and non-vehicular transportation planning.

The Plan defines four types of bicycle routes proposed for improvements to the County's bicycle infrastructure. Each typology is illustrated graphically in Image 1.1. The four types include:

- Class 1: A paved right-of-way completely separated from any street or highway.
- Class 2: A striped and stenciled lane for one-way travel on a street or highway.
- Class 3: A typical roadway identified as a preferred bicycle route with signage. They may also include shared use lane markings, "SHARE THE ROAD" signage, or wide shoulders.
- Class 3.5: Same as Class 3, but with wide shoulders over four feet in width.

The planning process for StanCOG's Non-Motorized Transportation Master Plan included a public outreach component. Feedback from this portion of the project identified four items that were most important to surveyed members of the public. These were:

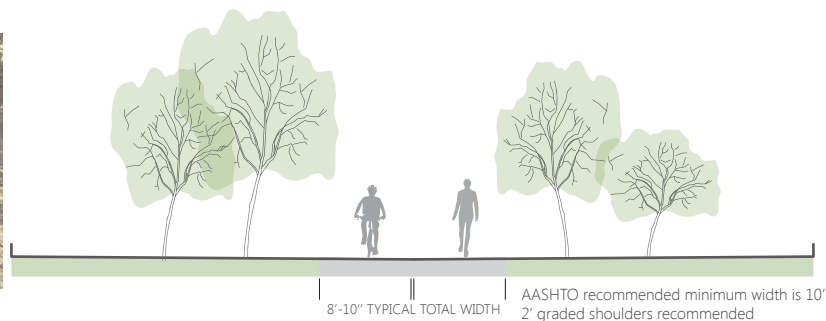
- Need for a countywide bicycle route network with widened roadway shoulders.
- Design guidance on bicycle route signage.
- Pedestrian improvements near schools and shopping areas.
- Pedestrian connections across highways.

Following this assessment, the plan proposed three goals:

1. Increase bicycle and pedestrian access and safety.
2. Increase bicycle and pedestrian trips.
3. Improve regional and local connections.

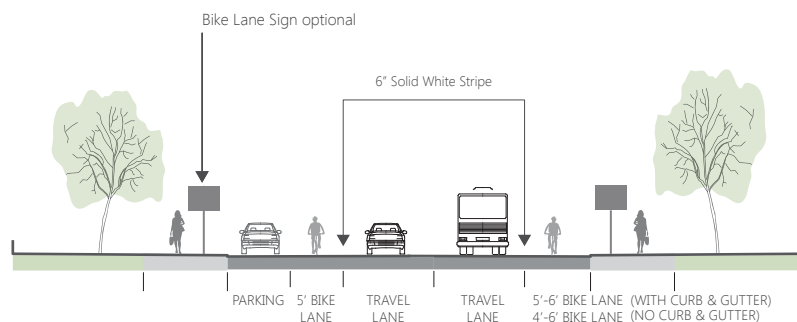
In order to address the needs above and achieve the goals outlined within the Non-Motorized Transportation Master Plan, ten high-priority bikeways were identified:

- Patterson Road - SR 108 - F Street
- Broadway Avenue - Kiernan Avenue - Claribel Road
- Hatch Road
- Yosemite Boulevard/SR 132
- Las Palmas Avenue - Main Street
- Oakdale-Waterford Highway
- Geer Road - Albers Road
- Golden State Boulevard
- Crows Landing Road
- Oakdale Road - Mitchell Road - Moore Road



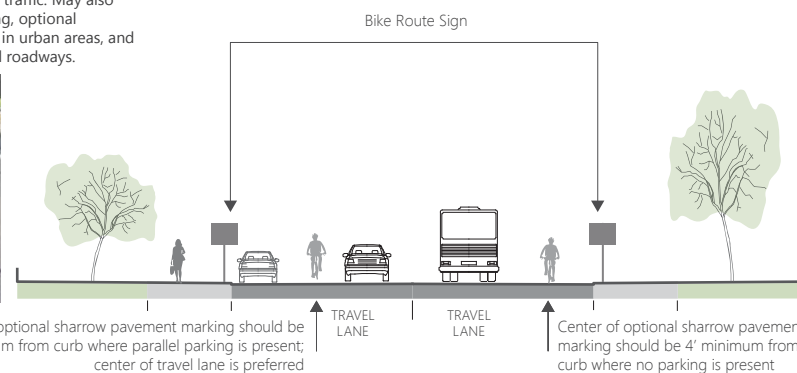
CLASS 2 BIKEWAY (Bike Lane)

Provides a striped lane for one-way bike travel on a street or highway.



CLASS 3 BIKEWAY (Signed Bike Route)

Provides for shared use with motor vehicle traffic. May also include optional sharrow pavement marking, optional "BIKES MAY USE FULL LANE" signs (R4-11) in urban areas, and optional "SHARE THE ROAD" signs on rural roadways.



CLASS 3.5 BIKEWAY (Signed Bike Route with Wide Shoulders)

With Optional Sharrow Pavement Marking

Provides wide paved shoulders, removing bicyclists from the travel lane and provides pedestrian space in rural areas.

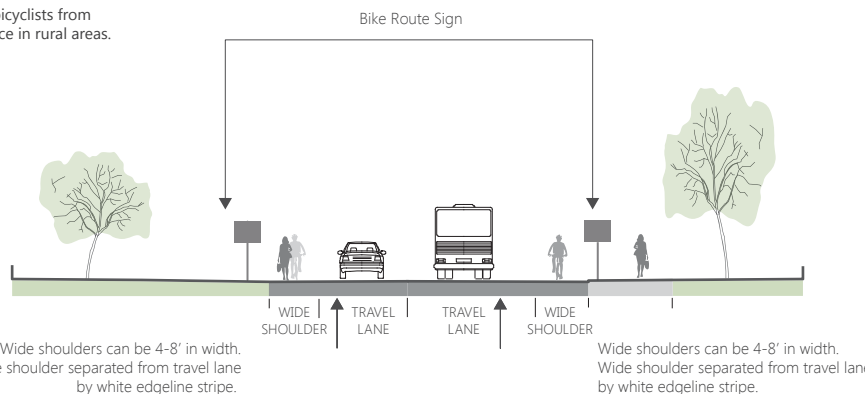


Image 1.1: Bikeway Classifications, per Stanislaus Council of Governments Non-Motorized Transportation Master Plan, 2013

The Master Plan also includes discussions of pedestrian facilities. The Plan uses this term to refer to three basic categories of pedestrian routes and includes design guidelines for each. The three types of pedestrian facilities included are:

- Walkways: A sidewalk, paved, or unpaved shoulder used by pedestrians.
- Crosswalks: Per California Vehicle Code Section 275, a crosswalk is either, “that portion of a roadway included within the prolongation or connection of the boundary lines of sidewalks at intersections,” or, “any portion of a roadway distinctly indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines or other markings.”
- Crosswalk Enhancements: These may include crosswalk markings/stripping, signage, control devices such as signals and pedestrian hybrid beacons, and yield devices such as in-pavement or sign-mounted flashing yellow beacons.

Prior to 2013, the State of California Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) funding (\$7.2M as of 2012) was available to fund bicycle plans which met the criteria of California Streets and Highways Code Sec 891.2 and be updated at least every five years. This document meets prior BTA standards and complies with code. As of 2013, the BTA was combined with Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) under the Active Transportation Program (ATP) within the State Department of Transportation. The ATP is administered by the Division of Local Assistance, Office of Active Transportation and Special Programs.

Other available funding sources for the projects identified in the Regional Non-Motorized Transportation Plan include the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) grants, administered by StanCOG. Caltrans administers funding through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and Highway Rural Roads Program (HR3). The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District also offers grant and incentive programs to help reduce pollutants within the eight county San Joaquin Valley.

Stanislaus County Regional Parks System Marketing and Strategy Plan: 2015

The County has also engaged in focused visioning and analysis of its marketing practices. The Stanislaus County Regional Parks System adopted a new marketing and implementation strategy plan in January 2015 to establish guidelines for increasing the economic viability of the five existing Regional Parks. This plan outlines specific branding and marketing goals such as establishing consistent graphic logos to brand the Regional Parks and updating the campsite reservations system have been completed.

Airport Neighborhood Urban Greening Plan: 2017

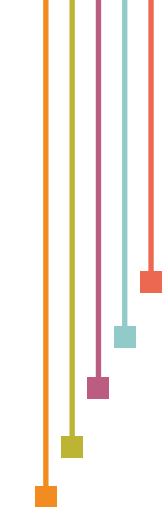
Furthermore, in the first half of 2017, the County executed an Urban Greening Plan for the unincorporated Airport Neighborhood adjacent to the Modesto airport. This visioning document looked at how one particularly underserved unincorporated area of the County might be redeveloped as a sustainable, forward-thinking network of green spaces linked together by a robust non-motorized transportation system. The study was awarded funding from the State of California’s Strategic Growth Council Urban Greening Planning Grant Program. County parks including Mono Park, Oregon Park, and the Tuolumne River Regional Park are located within the area included in the Urban Greening Plan.

Regional Planning Context

In light of the detrimental effects of the last major economic downturn upon municipal park facilities, a number of current parks master plans emphasize the role of parks as economically self-supporting entities and seek to bolster county facilities economically against the effects of a fluctuating economy. Central California communities benefit from the proximity of a strong tourism market from the greater San Francisco Bay Area. The furthest east of Stanislaus County’s Regional Parks, Woodward Reservoir, is approximately 100 miles from downtown San Francisco, or about a two hour drive. The distance is similar from San Jose, at the heart of Silicon Valley, to Woodward Reservoir.

The proximity of major metropolitan areas as sources of tourism is an asset to the Stanislaus County parks system, particularly its five Regional Parks. Municipalities, counties, and special districts in Central California have leveraged natural resources tourism and proximity to strong tourism bases to great advantage. The East Bay Regional Park District, Marin County, and, further South, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties, have all built robust modern park systems to maximize the economic potential of the parks.

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CHAPTER 3
INVENTORY

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COUNTY PARKS AND FACILITIES INVENTORY

The contents of this chapter inventory existing County parks, community facilities, special use facilities, and County maintenance responsibilities as of 2017. Inventoried County parks are categorized by the County standard naming typology and fall into one of the following categories:

- Regional Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Special Interest Parks
- Miscellaneous Parks and Open Space

Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation staff is not only responsible for maintaining the County's public parks, but also for maintaining numerous streetscape, right-of-way, and stormwater basin areas. While areas that are not currently operated as public parks and assets are outside the scope of this document, it is important to catalogue these extraneous demands upon the Parks and Recreation Department. This goal is to present an accurate snapshot of the extent of responsibilities of the Stanislaus County Parks Department as of this document's writing.

The County also owns and manages portions of the Tuolumne River Regional Park (TRRP), a joint-partnership park. The other managing parties include the City of Modesto and the City of Ceres. This regional asset totals approximately 510 acres and runs east to west across the County along the Tuolumne River. A separate Master Plan was developed in 2001 for the growth and management of the TRRP.

This chapter does not include information regarding park space within Stanislaus County which is neither owned nor managed by the County. This includes parks such as City, State, and national parks, or privately owned parks and open space facilities. For more information on parks space owned and maintained by independent municipal providers or by private entities within the County, please refer to individual municipalities or contact the County Parks Department for referrals regarding relevant contact information.

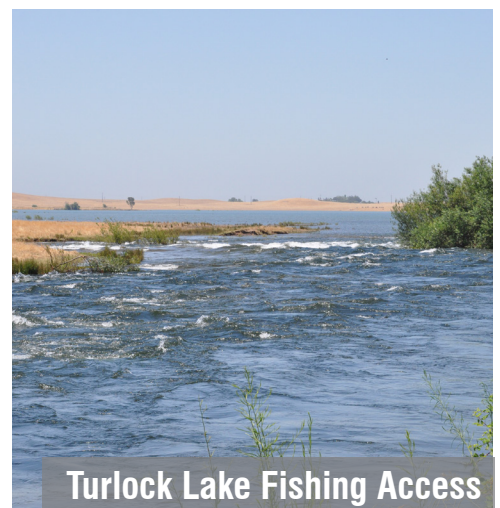
Park boundaries indicated on maps have been approximated using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and County plans, but are not technically exact. County platting and parcel data must be consulted for questions regarding exact park size and boundaries. Detailed inventory for each public access park space included in this chapter can be found in Appendix C.



La Grange OHV Park



Bonita Ranch Park



Turlock Lake Fishing Access

3.1 COMPREHENSIVE EXISTING COUNTY PARKS AND RESOURCES INVENTORY

	2017 Inventory: Regional Parks	Location
1	Frank Raines Regional Park (OHV and Day-Use)	Patterson
2	La Grange Regional Park (OHV and Historic Sites)	La Grange
3	Laird Regional Park	Grayson
4	Modesto Reservoir Regional Park	Waterford
5	Woodward Reservoir Regional Park	Oakdale

	2017 Inventory: Neighborhood Parks	Location
1	Bellenita Park	Modesto
2	Bonita Ranch Park	Denair
3	Bonita Park & Pool	Crows Landing
4	Burbank-Paradise Park/Hall	Modesto
5	County Center 1: Courthouse Lawn Park	Modesto
6	Countrystone Park	Salida
7	Empire Community Park & Regional Water Safety Training Center	Empire
8	Empire Tot Lot	Empire
9	Fairview Park	Modesto
10	Grayson United Community Park	Grayson
11	Hatch Park & Keyes Community Center	Keyes
12	Hunter's Pointe Park	Denair
13	John Murphy Park	Salida
14	Leroy F. Fitzsimmons Memorial Park	Grayson
15	Mono Park	Modesto
16	Oregon Drive Park	Modesto
17	Parklawn Park	Modesto
18	Riverdale Park & River Access	Modesto
19	Salida Park	Salida
20	Segesta Park	Salida
21	Sterling Ranch Park	Denair
22	Wincanton Park	Salida

	2017 Inventory: Special Interest	Location
1	Della Mendota Canal Fishing Access	Patterson
2	Fox Grove River & Fishing Access	Hughson
3	Joe Domecq Wilderness Area	La Grange
4	Kiwanis Camp	La Grange
5	J-59 Fishing Access	La Grange
6	Las Palmas River & Fishing Access	Patterson
7	Shiloh River & Fishing Access	Modesto
8	Tuolumne River Regional Park	Modesto and Surrounding County

	2017 Inventory: Miscellaneous Public Open Space	Location
1	Atlas Park Cul-de-Sac	Oakdale
2	Hideaway Terrace Basin	Denair
3	Old School North Flood Control Basin	Denair
4	Pauper's Field Citizen Cemetery	Modesto
5	Roberts Ferry Cemetery	Waterford
6	Stanislaus Recovery Center (SRC) Park	Ceres
7	Suncrest Estates Flood Control Basin	Denair

	2017 Inventory: Non-Park Property Maintained by Stanislaus County Parks Department	Location
1	Del Rio Heights Streetscape	Modesto
2	Hideaway Terrace Streetscape	Denair
3	Olive Ranch Streetscape	Oakdale
4	Salida Streetscapes (various)	Salida
5	Suncrest Estates Streetscapes	Denair
6	Victoria Park Streetscapes	Keyes
7	Knights Ferry Community Garden	Knights Ferry
8	Broadway Avenue Median	Salida
9	12th street Building & Parking Structure (Contracted Grounds Maintenance)	Modesto
10	Clerk Records Office (General Funded Grounds Maint.)	Modesto
11	Coroner's Office (G. F. Grounds Maint.)	Modesto
12	County Center 2: Scenic Hospital (G. F. Grounds Maint.)	Modesto
13	County Center 3: Learning Institute (G. F. Grounds Maint.)	Modesto
14	County Center 5: Juvenile Hall, Health (G. F. Grounds Maint.)	Modesto
15	Denair Amtrak Station (G. F. Grounds Maint.)	Denair
16	Ceres Library (Contracted Grounds Maint.)	Ceres
17	Denair Library (Contracted Grounds Maint.)	Denair
18	Empire Library (Contracted Grounds Maint.)	Empire
19	Keyes Library (Contracted Grounds Maint.)	Keyes
20	Modesto Main Library (Contracted Grounds Maint.)	Modesto
21	Oakdale Library (Contracted Grounds Maint.)	Oakdale
22	Patterson Library (Contracted Grounds Maint.)	Patterson
23	Riverbank Library (Contracted Grounds Maint.)	Riverbank
24	Salida Library (Contracted Grounds Maint.)	Salida
25	Turlock Library (Contracted Grounds Maint.)	Turlock
26	Mancini Hall (G. F. Grounds Maint.)	Modesto
27	Medical Arts Building (G. F. Grounds Maint.)	Modesto
28	Old Modesto City Hall (G. F. Grounds Maint.)	Modesto

3.2 EXISTING REGIONAL PARKS

Stanislaus County currently provides residents with five Regional Parks which total over 5,000 acres. Both Woodward and Modesto Reservoir Regional Parks provide fishing, boating, and other amenities centered around reservoirs which also serve as potable water sources for the region. Frank Raines Regional Park offers mountainous terrain for hikers, bicyclists, and Off-Highway Vehicle users, as well as seasonal mammal hunting programs. La Grange Regional Park includes diverse historic and cultural sites as well as a dedicated Off-Highway Vehicle area, while Laird Regional Park is loosely programmed and offers natural river access opportunities.

The following pages inventory each existing park facility. A context map, character images, and summary of acreage, amenities, and utilities is provided for each park.

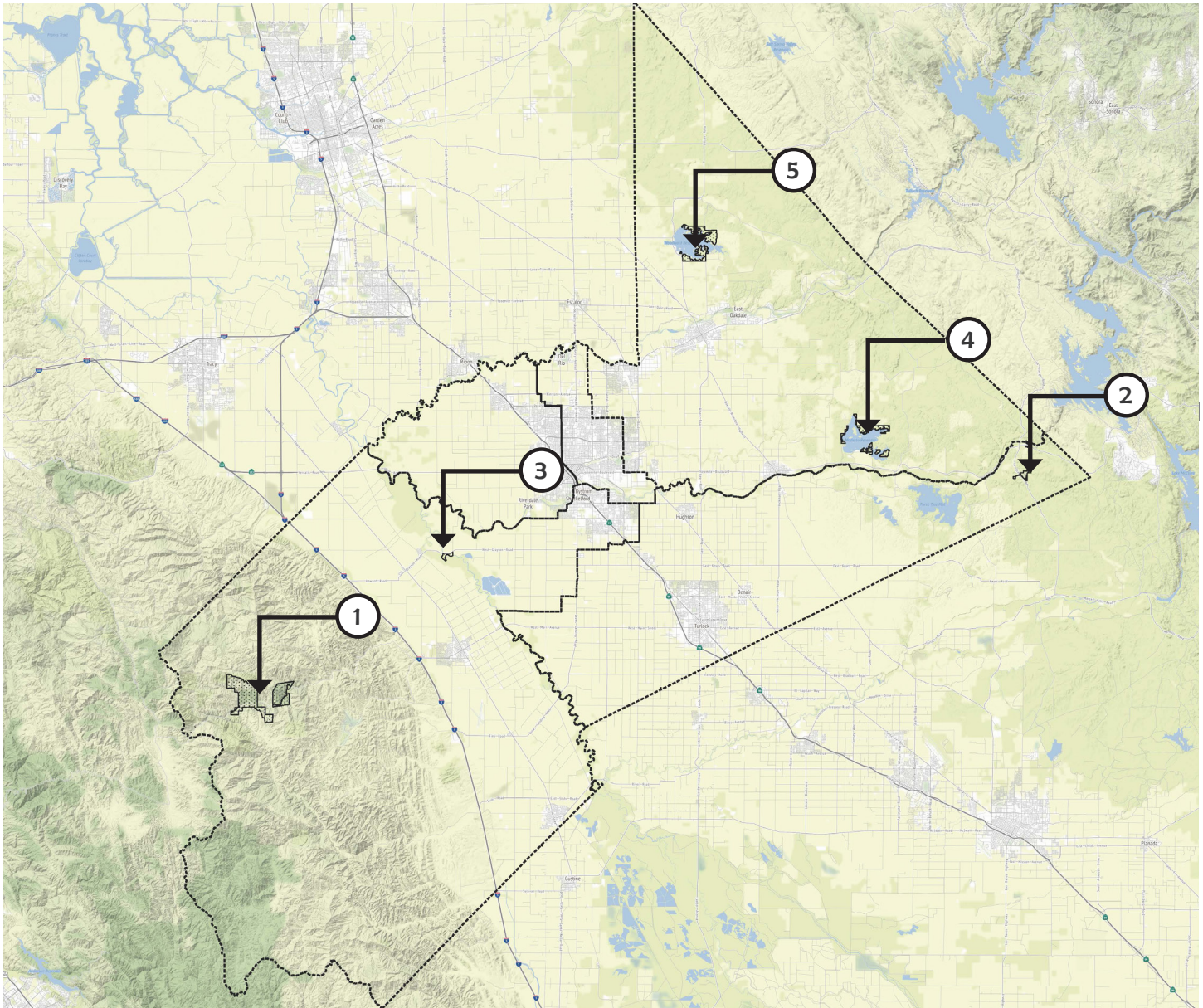


Exhibit 3.1: Existing Regional Parks

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Frank Raines Regional Park | 4. Modesto Reservoir Regional Park |
| 2. La Grange Regional Park | 5. Woodward Reservoir Regional Park |
| 3. Laird Regional Park | |

Regional Parks Asset Inventory

Each Regional Park contains unique and varied ecological, historical, and programmatic functions. Of the five Regional Parks, only Laird Regional Park currently features one programmatic area (day-use designation). Alternately, Modesto Reservoir includes a number of independently monitored areas pertaining to specialized user needs and development potential. The following lists contain currently developed independently identified management areas within each Regional Park.

	Frank Raines Regional Park, Patterson	Description
1	Day-Use & Undeveloped Camping	Day-Use/Camping
2	Deer Creek Campgrounds (Developed)	Day-Use/Camping
3	Minnear Day-Use Area	Day-Use/Nature/Hunting
4	Off-Highway Vehicle Area	Special Interest

	La Grange Regional Park, La Grange	Description
1	225 Acres along Tuolumne River	Day-Use/Nature
2	Barn/Blacksmith Shop	Cultural/Historic
3	Dredge	Cultural/Historic
4	Gold Dredge Remnants	Cultural/Historic
5	Historic Barn	Cultural/Historic
6	Historic French Bar Cemetery	Cemetery
7	Jail & Museum	Cultural/Historic
8	La Grange Cemetery	Cemetery
9	Off-Highway Vehicle Area	Special Interest
10	Old La Grange Bridge	Cultural/Historic
11	School House & Park	Cultural/Historic
12	Workers Homes	Cultural/Historic

	Laird Regional Park, Grayson	Description
1	Laird Regional Park	Day-Use

	Modesto Reservoir Regional Park, Waterford	Description
1	Archery Range (Yahi Bowmen Archery Club)	Special Interest
2	Berenda Beach	Day-Use/Fishing
3	Berenda Beach	Water Play
4	Coulter Terrace	Day-Use/Fishing
5	Coulter Terrace	Water Play
6	Shady Point Developed Campgrounds	Camping
7	Diamond Point	Day-Use/Fishing
8	Diamond Point	Water Play
9	Blonde Island Full Hook-Up Campgrounds	Camping
10	Sierra View Full Hook-Up Campgrounds	Camping
11	Lakeview	Day-Use/Fishing
12	Model Gliders/RC Planes Area (Modesto Radio Control Club)	Special Interest
13	Rocky Point	Day-Use/Fishing
14	Rocky Point	Water Play
15	San Jose Island	Day-Use/Fishing
16	Sandy Beach	Water Play
17	South/Marina	Boat Ramp
18	South/Marina	Day-Use/Fishing
19	South/Marina	Water Play
20	Baptista Point Undeveloped Campgrounds	Camping
21	Coyote Point Undeveloped Campgrounds	Camping
22	Vivian Cove Undeveloped Campgrounds	Camping
23	West Boat Ramp	Day-Use/Fishing
24	Yates Point Undeveloped Campgrounds	Camping
25	Historic Water Tower	Cultural/Historic
26	West Boat Ramp	Boat Ramp

	Woodward Reservoir Regional Park, Oakdale	Description
1	Bay View Point	Boat Ramp
2	Bay View Point	Day-Use/Water Play
3	Cocklebur Beach	Day-Use/Fishing
4	Charles Point Developed Campgrounds	Camping
5	Fischer Point Developed Campgrounds	Camping
6	Mountain View Point Developed Campgrounds	Camping
7	Muir Point Developed Full Hook-Up Campground	Camping
8	T Island Developed Full Hook-Up Campground	Camping
9	Duck Cove	Water Play
10	Hackberry Flat Full Hook-Up Campgrounds	Camping
11	Go Kart Track	Special Interest
12	Heron Point	Day-Use/Fishing/Boat Launch
13	Main Boat Ramp	Boat Ramp
14	Model Airplanes	Special Interest
15	Office Point	Day-Use/Fishing
16	Pelican Cove	Water Play
17	Picnic Cove	Day-Use/Fishing
18	Picnic Point	Day-Use/Fishing
19	Sailboat Cove	Water Play
20	Undeveloped Campgrounds (AA-EE & A-Z)	Camping

Frank Raines Regional Park

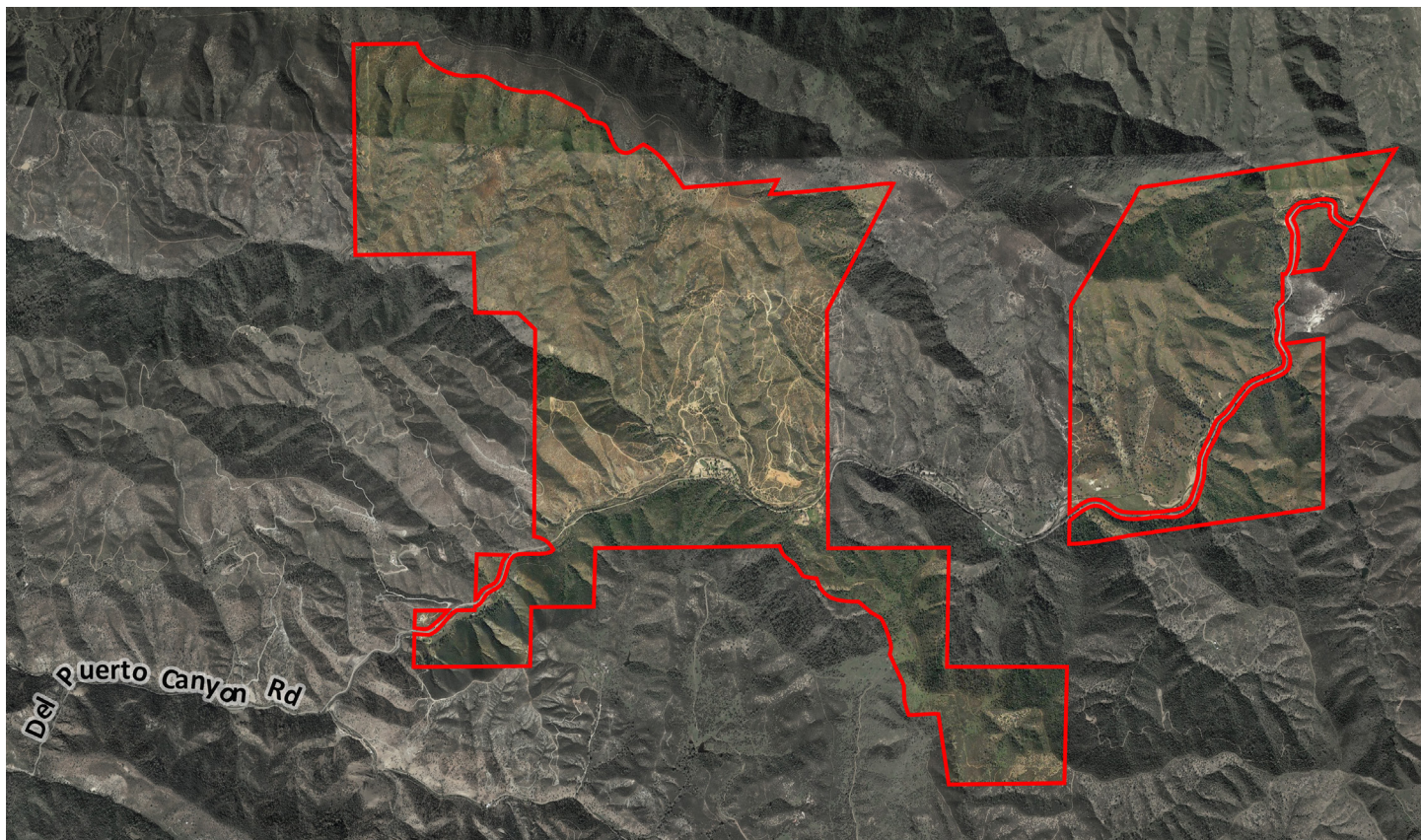
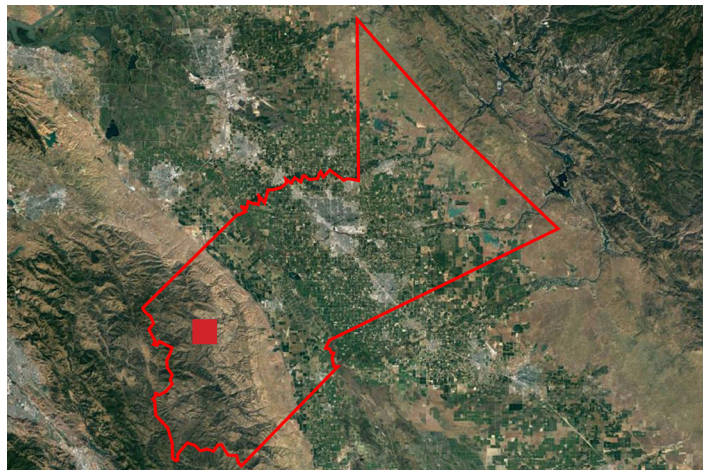
3,150 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: Yes, for OHV portion of park only
 Access to Water Body: No
 Sports Fields: No
 Sports Courts: Horseshoe pits located at OHV park
 Play Equipment: Yes; 2-5 & 5-12 play, custom features, swings
 Aquatics/Spray Features: No
 Shade Structures: Yes, at OHV park
 Barbecues: Yes
 Drinking Fountains: No
 Trail System: Yes, pedestrian, equine, and vehicular in OHV park
 Basin: No
 Restrooms: Yes, with additional shower facilities at OHV park
 Parking: Unpaved parking onsite
 Other: Historical markers and plaques in picnic/playground area; dogs are allowed, as is camping

COMMENTS

This park is functionally divided into a free picnic and playground area, a day-use fee area for trails, and an area for camping and off-highway vehicular use. There is one (1) recreation center facility located at the OHV fee access area which is available for use by rental.



La Grange Regional Park

147 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: Yes, for day-use, camping, and dogs

Access to Water Body: Yes, the Tuolumne River.

Sports Fields: No

Sports Courts: No

Play Equipment: No

Aquatics/Spray Features: No

Shade Structures: No

Barbecues: Yes

Drinking Fountains: No

Trail System: Yes; pedestrian and vehicular.

Basin: Yes, drainage basin/mud pits area in OHV portion

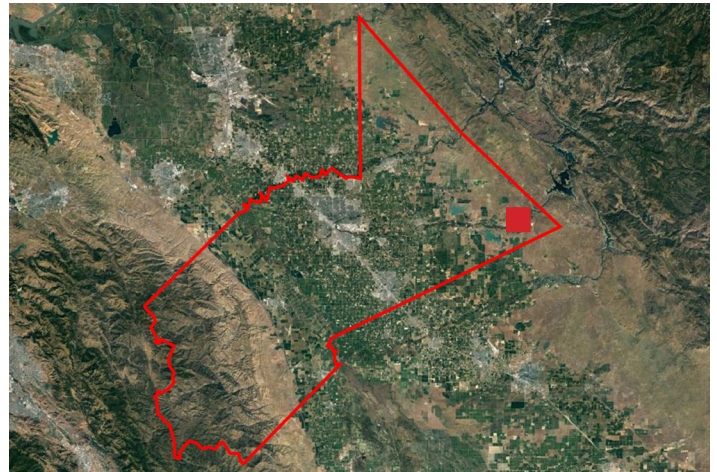
Restrooms: Yes

Parking: Unpaved parking onsite

Other: Camping onsite; annual day pass available.

COMMENTS

The area of La Grange Regional Park includes an OHV area as well as several historic and environmental assets. The OHV has opportunities for motorcycles, All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), dune buggies, and 4x4 vehicles. There is a designated beginners' area as well as natural areas marked with "no motor vehicles" signs.



Laird Regional Park

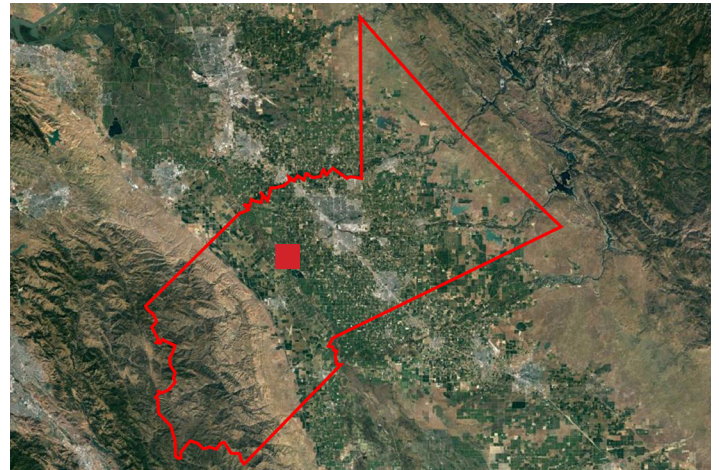
97 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No
 Access to Water Body: Yes; San Joaquin River
 Sports Fields: (1) Soccer Field, (1) Softball Backstop
 Sports Courts: Horseshoe pits
 Play Equipment: No
 Aquatics/Spray Features: None
 Shade Structures: Yes
 Barbecues: Yes
 Drinking Fountains: No
 Trail System: Yes, informal
 Basin: No
 Restrooms: Portable facilities only
 Parking: Unpaved parking onsite
 Other: Shaded picnic area available for rental reservations;
 30+ acre area previously developed to firing range

COMMENTS

This park is located at a bend in the San Joaquin River, immediately south of the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge. Over half of the park is natural, riparian habitat, accessible by walking trails.



Modesto Reservoir Regional Park

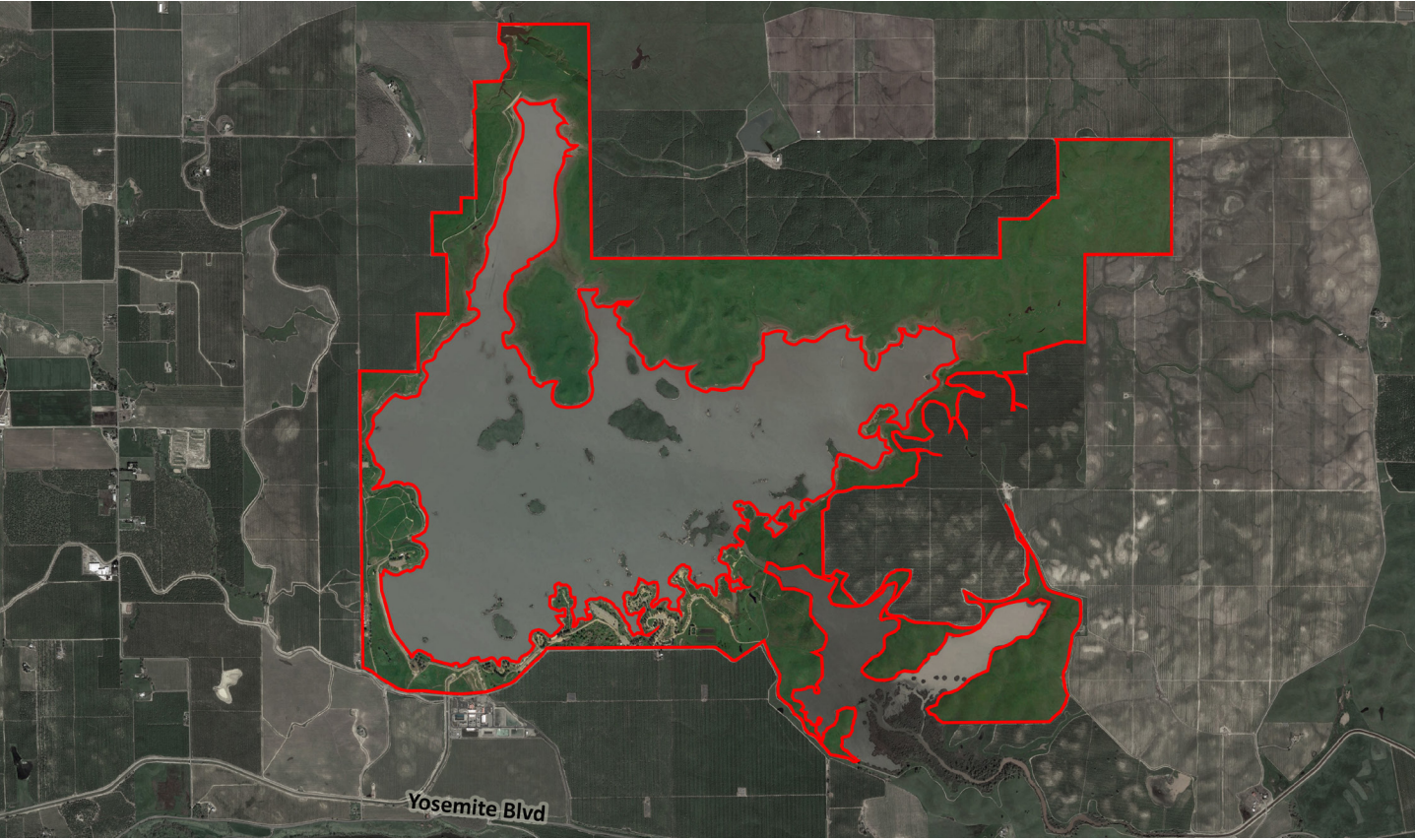
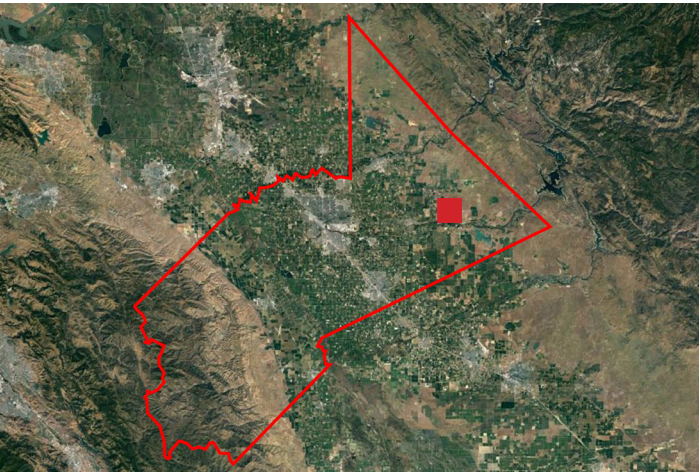
3,200 Acres Land, 2,800 Acres Water

SITE INVENTORY

- Access Fees Required: Yes
- Access to Water Body: Yes, Modesto Reservoir
- Sports Fields: No
- Sports Courts: No
- Play Equipment: No
- Aquatics/Spray Features: None aside from Reservoir access
- Shade Structures: Yes
- Barbecues: Yes
- Drinking Fountains: No
- Trail System: No
- Basin: No
- Restrooms: Yes, with shower/changing facilities
- Parking: Paved and unpaved parking onsite
- Other: Archery range, water ski course, dump station, RC flyer airfield

COMMENTS

This park extends around the shoreline of Modesto Reservoir. There are boat launch facilities and hobby sport areas for pursuits including archery and water skiing. There is one (1) concessions building onsite.



Woodward Reservoir Regional Park

3,700 Acres Land, 2,700 Acres Water

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: Yes

Access to Water Body: Yes, Woodward Reservoir

Sports Fields: No

Sports Courts: Horseshoe pits

Play Equipment: No

Aquatics/Spray Features: None aside from Reservoir access

Shade Structures: Yes

Barbecues: Yes

Drinking Fountains: No

Trail System: Informal; open to equestrian use

Basin: No

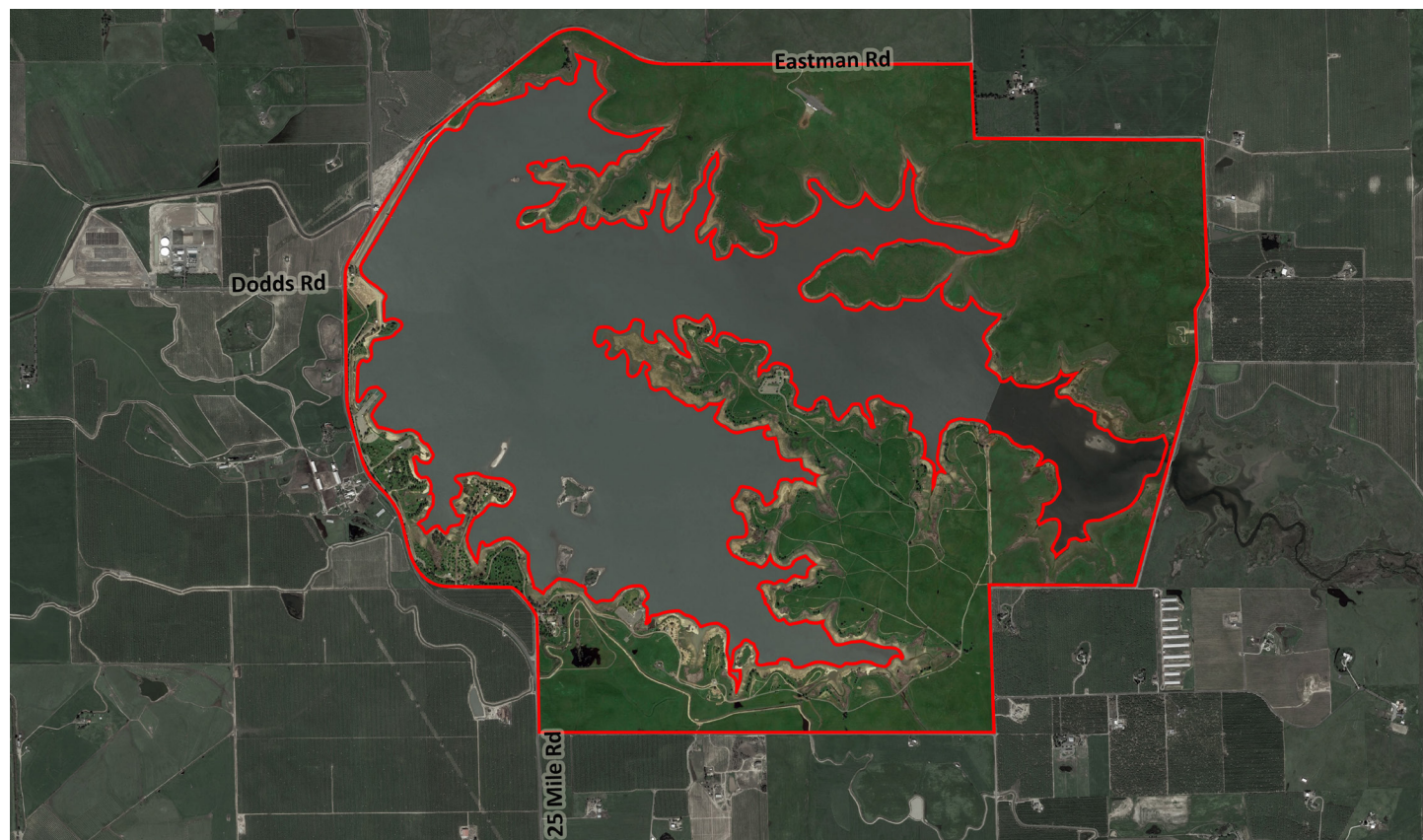
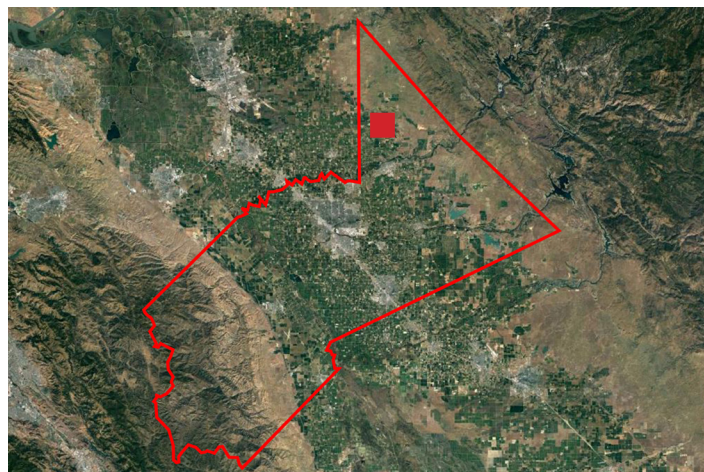
Restrooms: Yes; permanent and portable facilities;
shower facilities located at some restrooms

Parking: Paved and unpaved parking onsite

Other: Go kart area, dump station, reservation
and first come, first served camping options

COMMENTS

This park extends around the shoreline of Woodward Reservoir. Swimming access is limited annually due to water control restrictions. There are boat launch facilities and hobby sport areas for pursuits such as flying radio-controlled aircraft (field currently managed by a private membership club).



3.3 EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood Parks

Stanislaus County operates 22 parks officially categorized as Neighborhood Parks. These parks range from less than one quarter acre to over 50 acres each. Neighborhood Parks total 106.21 acres, which is less than 2% the total parks acreage owned and operated by the County. These are some of the most visible park assets in the County, however, and provide local recreational opportunities for many unincorporated communities within the County which do not otherwise have community parks facilities.

The following pages inventory each existing Neighborhood Park facility. The context maps preceding the itemized inventory show the location of each Neighborhood Park within the County at large. These maps have been broken down by supervisorial districts to add clarity.

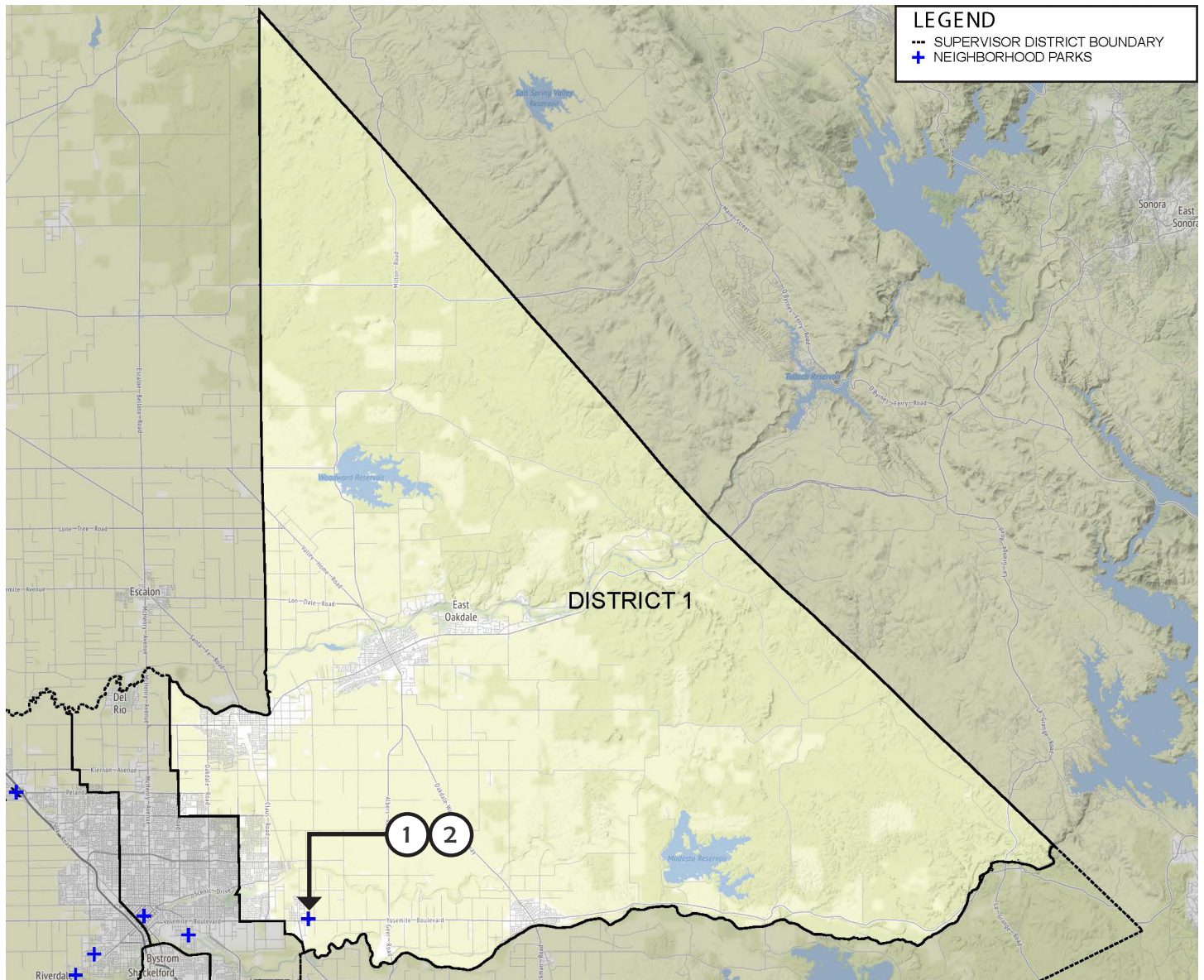


Exhibit 3.2: Existing Neighborhood Parks: District 1

1. Empire Community Park and Regional Water Safety Center
2. Empire Tot Lot

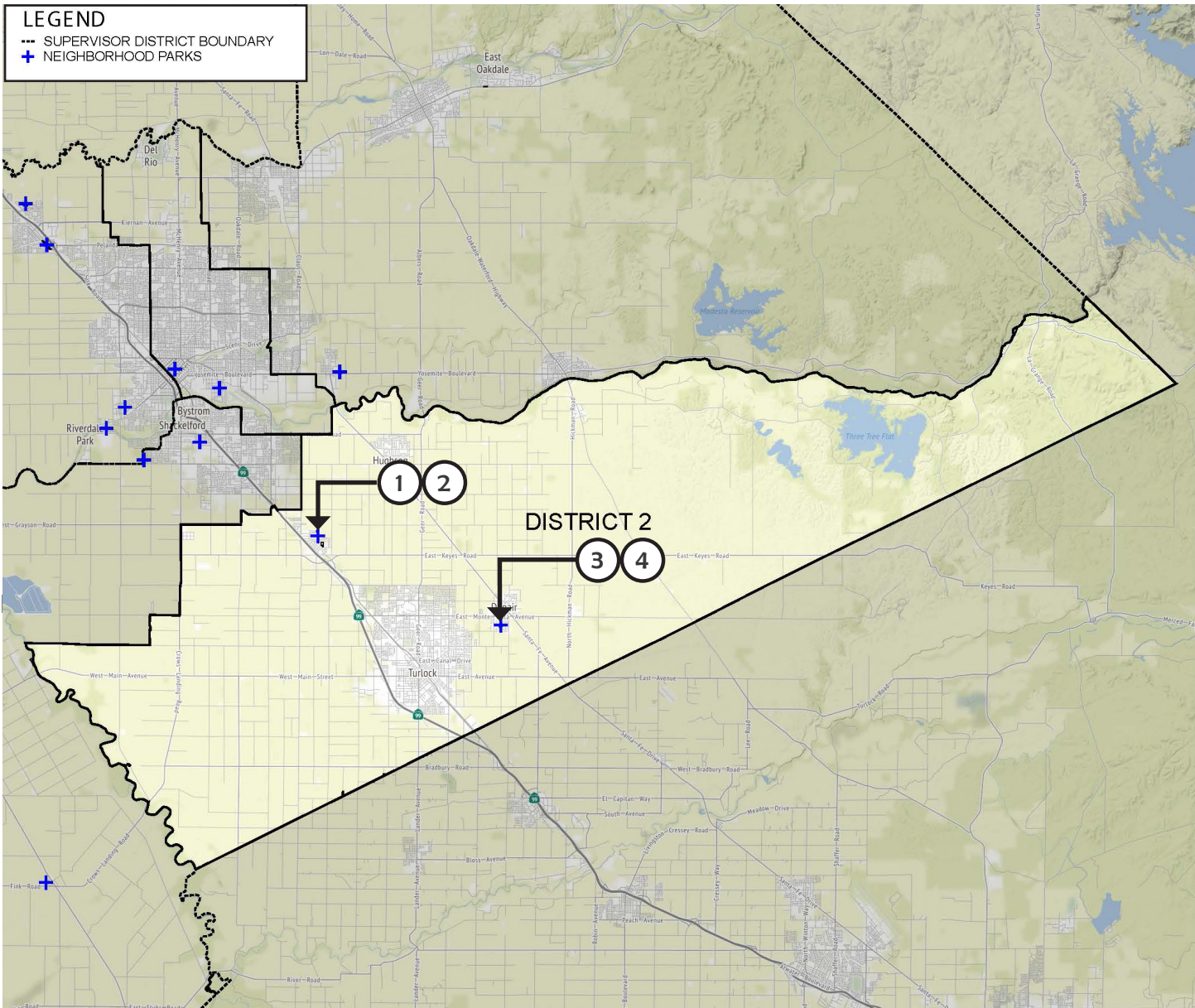


Exhibit 3.3: Existing Neighborhood Parks: District 2

- 1. Bonita Ranch Park
- 2. Hatch Park & Keyes Community Center
- 3. Hunter's Pointe Park
- 4. Sterling Ranch Park

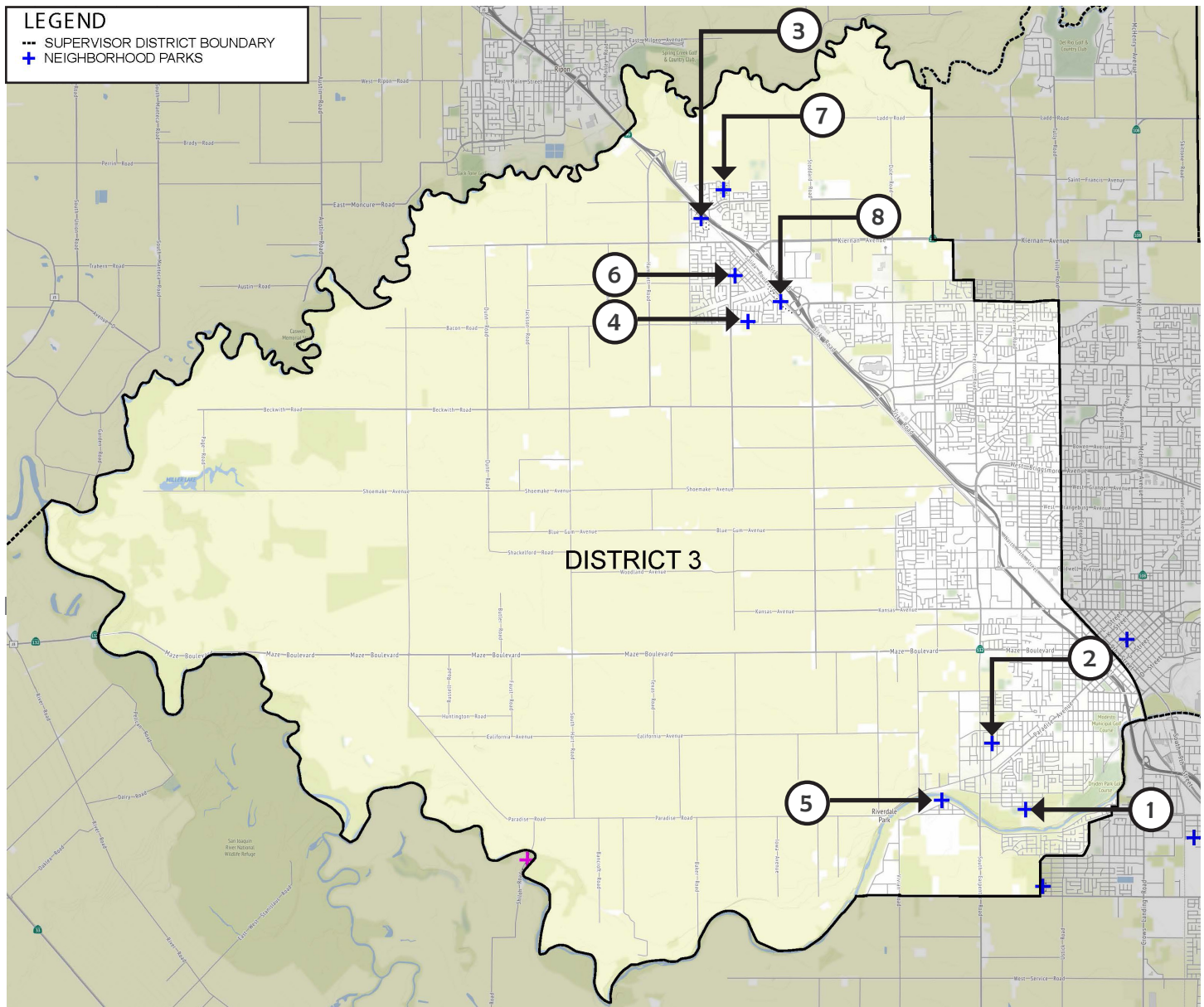


Exhibit 3.4: Existing Neighborhood Parks: District 3

1. Bellenita Park (Part of TRRP)
2. Burbank-Paradise Park (PAL Headquarters)
3. Countrystone Park
4. John Murphy Park
5. Riverdale Park, River & Fishing Access
6. Salida Park
7. Segesta Park
8. Wincanton Park

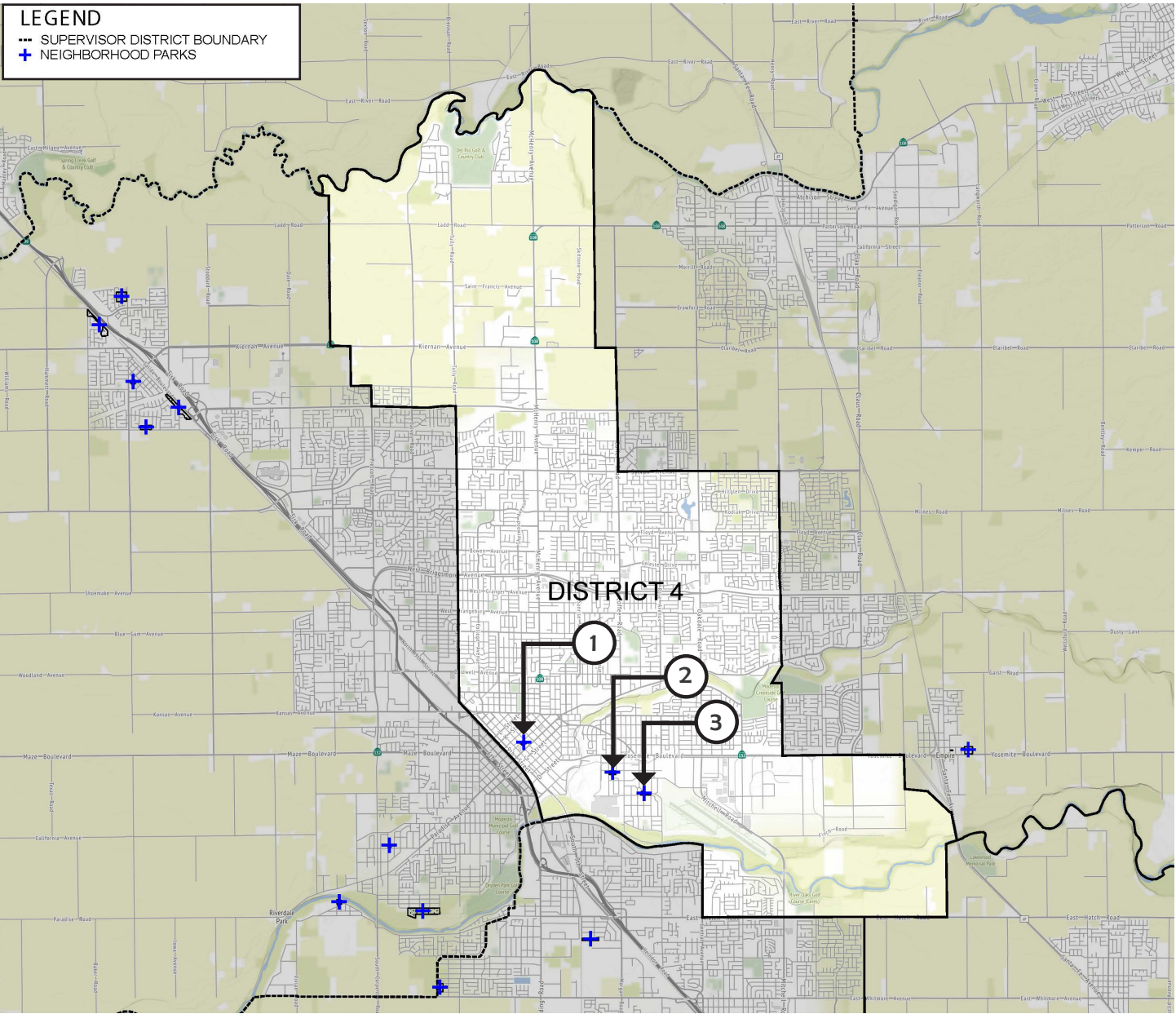


Exhibit 3.5: Existing Neighborhood Parks: District 4

- 1. County Center 1: Courthouse Lawn Park
- 2. Mono Park
- 3. Oregon Drive Park

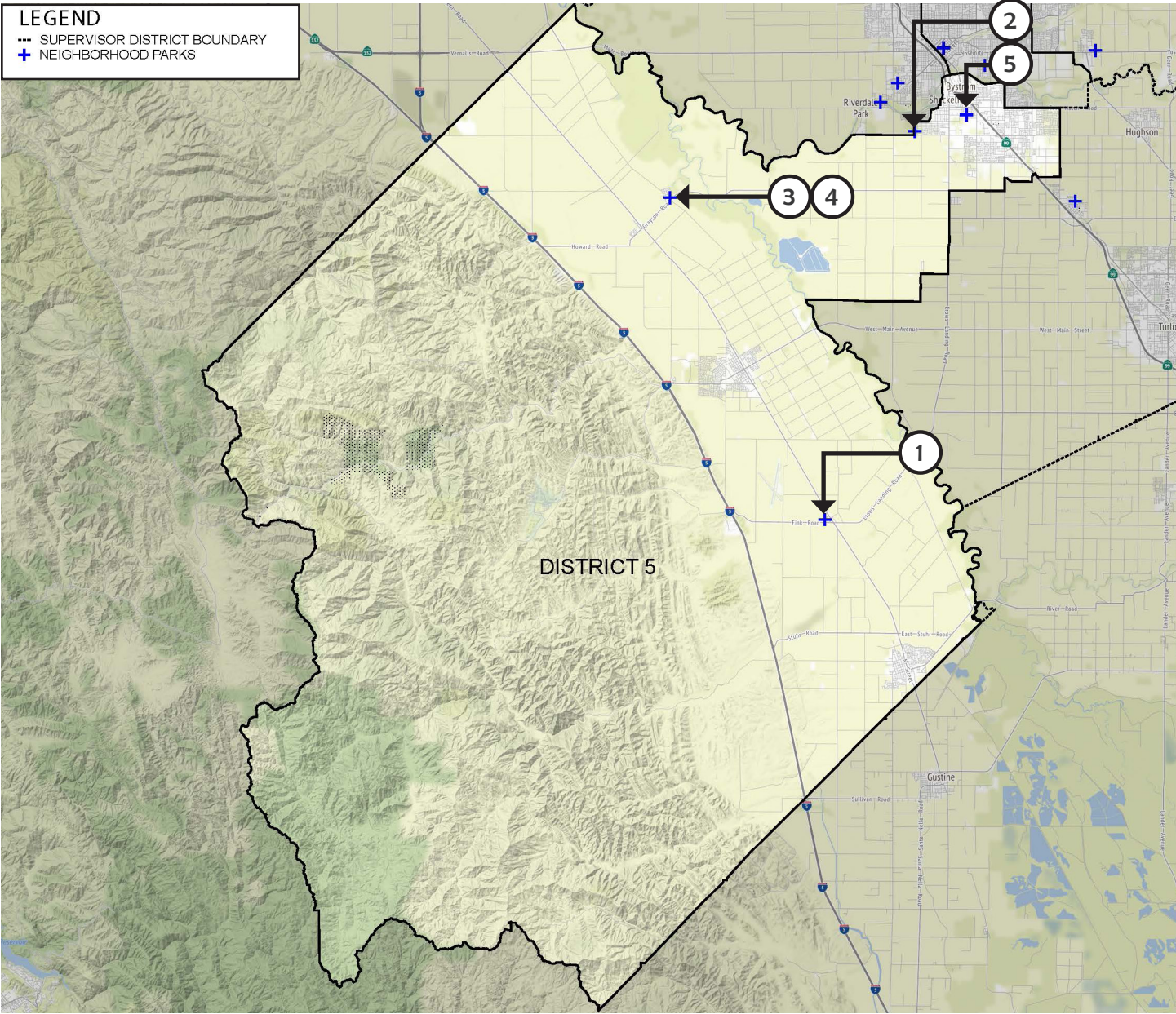


Exhibit 3.6: Existing Neighborhood Parks: District 5

- 1. Bonita Park
- 2. Fairview Park
- 3. Grayson United Community Park
- 4. Leroy Fitzsimmons Memorial Park
- 5. Parklawn Park

Bellenita Park

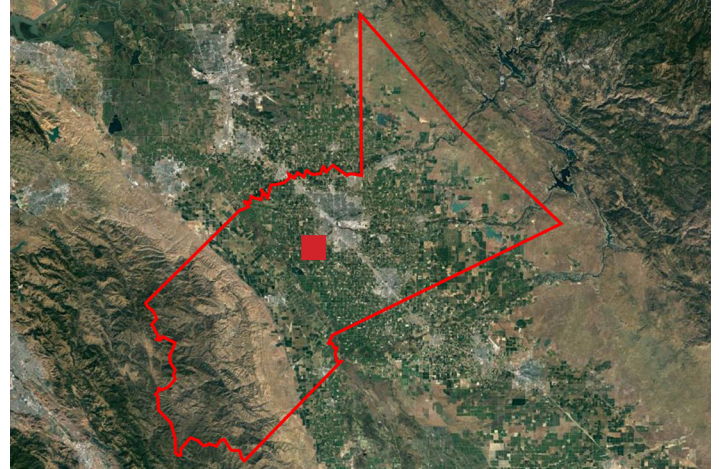
20 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No
 Access to Water Body: No
 Sports Fields: Baseball field, soccer field
 Sports Courts: No
 Play Equipment: No
 Aquatics/Spray Features: No
 Shade Structures: No
 Barbecues: Yes
 Drinking Fountains: Yes
 Trail System: No
 Basin: Yes
 Restrooms: Yes
 Parking: On-street parking
 Other: Tables, benches, and commemorative plaque from 1954

COMMENTS

The park is located west of the City of Modesto, and is bordered to the South by the Tuolumne River. Carpenter Road is adjacent to the west, and the Dryden Park Golf Course lies to the east. The park features open multi-use turf areas and mature trees. This park is also part of the Tuolumne River Regional Park.



Bonita Park

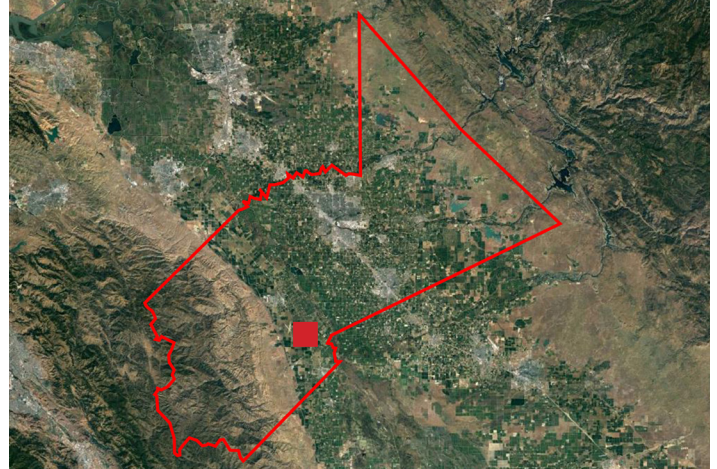
1 Acre

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No
 Access to Water Body: No
 Sports Fields: No
 Sports Courts: No
 Play Equipment: No
 Aquatics/Spray Features: Swimming Pool (closed)
 Shade Structures: Within gated pool area (closed)
 Barbecues: No
 Drinking Fountains: No
 Trail System: No
 Basin: No
 Restrooms: Within gated pool area (closed)
 Parking: Paved lot onsite
 Other: Tables and benches throughout park; mature trees throughout.

COMMENTS

This park is located in downtown Crow's Landing.
 County property includes the community swimming pool and immediately surrounding landscape.
 The pool is closed pending renovation.



Bonita Ranch Park

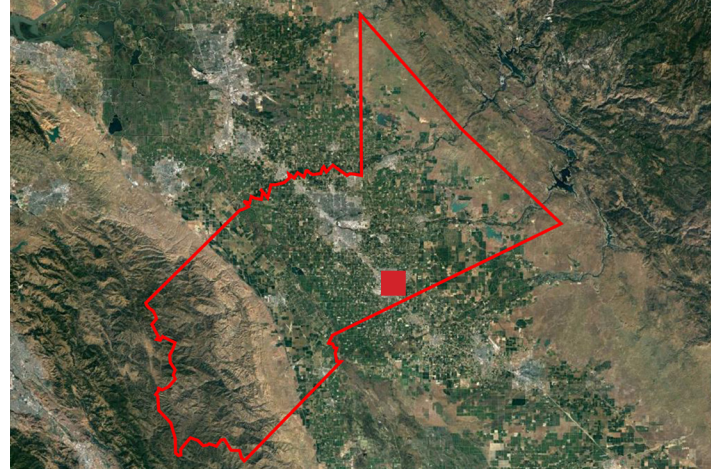
12 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No
 Access to Water Body: No
 Sports Fields: Multi-use turf area
 Sports Courts: Yes, basketball court
 Play Equipment: Yes, 2-5 yr. and 5-12 yr.
 Aquatics/Spray Features: No
 Shade Structures: No
 Barbecues: No
 Drinking Fountains: Yes
 Trail System: No
 Basin: Yes
 Restrooms: No
 Parking: On-street parking
 Other: Fenced utility area adjacent to basketball court

COMMENTS

This park is surrounded by residential neighborhoods and agricultural property in central Keyes, just east of Highway 99.



Burbank-Paradise Park

0.75 Acre

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No

Access to Water Body: No

Sports Fields: Multi-use turf area

Sports Courts: Yes, horseshoe pits

Play Equipment: No

Aquatics/Spray Features: No

Shade Structures: No

Barbecues: No

Drinking Fountains: No

Trail System: No

Basin: No

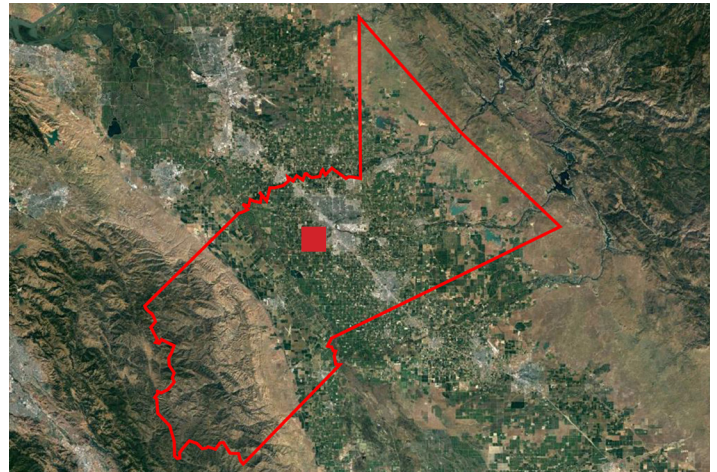
Restrooms: Yes, within facility

Parking: Paved lot for PAL facility use

Other: Mature trees border the site

COMMENTS

This park is located in southwest Modesto in the Paradise Park subdivision. Roughly half the park is dedicated to the County Police Activity League (PAL) facility. The Burbank-Paradise Fire Department is located adjacent to the east.



Center 1: Courthouse Lawn Park

0.7 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No

Access to Water Body: No

Sports Fields: No

Sports Courts: No

Play Equipment: No

Aquatics/Spray Features: Decorative fountain

Shade Structures: No (significant shade from trees)

Barbecues: No

Drinking Fountains: No

Trail System: No

Basin: No

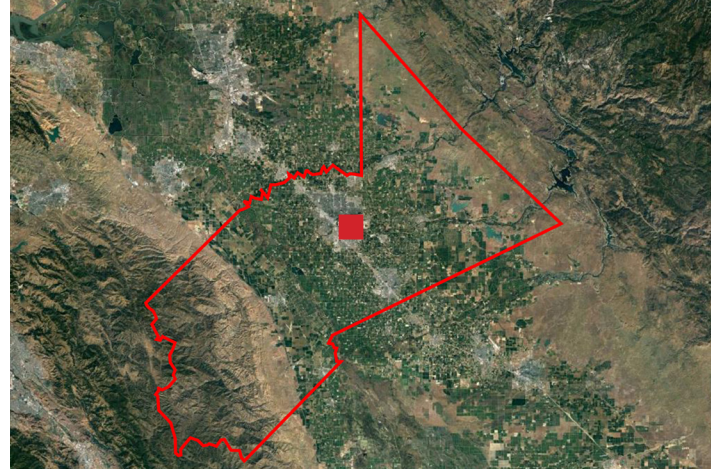
Restrooms: No

Parking: On-street parking

Other: Monuments onsite (Modesto VFW Post No. 3199, World War II Memorial, American Legion "The Guns are Silent" Cannon, Modesto Stanislaus County Seat Plaque)

COMMENTS

This park is adjacent to the Stanislaus County Municipal and Probate Court building and adjacent to the County Jail and Homeless Services office location. The park features several commemorative statues, monuments, and plaques and a number of picnic tables.



Countrystone Park

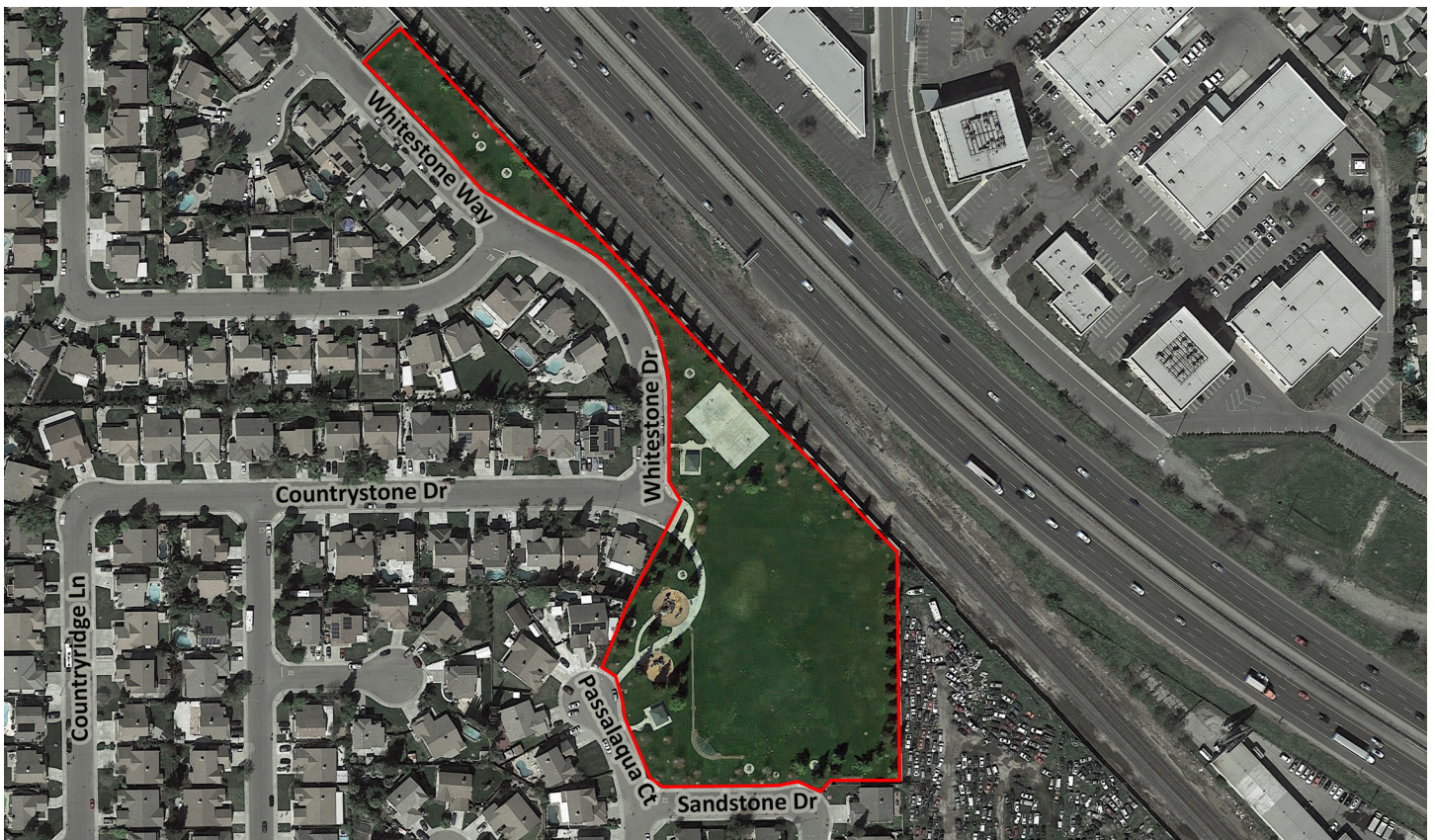
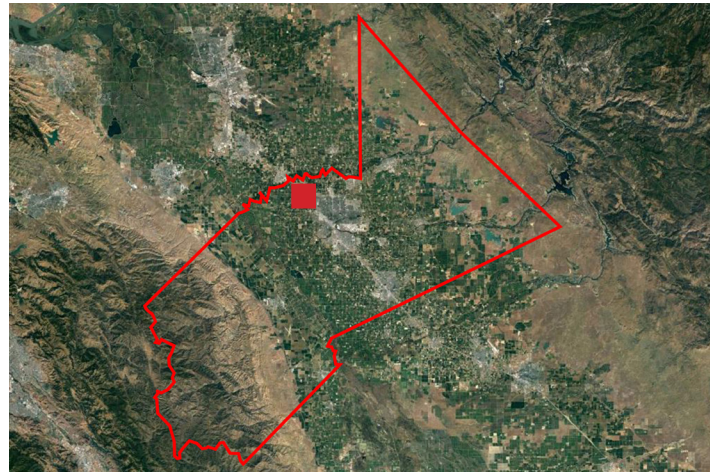
8 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No
 Access to Water Body: No
 Sports Fields: Yes, backstop and ballfield, multi-use turf area
 Sports Courts: Yes, basketball court
 Play Equipment: Yes, 2-5 yr., 5-12 yr.
 Aquatics/Spray Features: No
 Shade Structures: Yes
 Barbecues: No
 Drinking Fountains: Yes
 Trail System: No
 Basin: No
 Restrooms: Yes, portable facilities only
 Parking: Small parking lot onsite
 Other: Tables and benches throughout, night lighting along path

COMMENTS

This park is located immediately west of Highway 99 in Salida. The park features a sound wall and mature trees around its eastern border to buffer the adjacent highway and industrial land use area.



Empire Community Park & Regional Water Safety Training Center

6 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: Yes

Access to Water Body: Yes, public pool

Sports Fields: Baseball field, multi-use turf area

Sports Courts: No

Play Equipment: Yes, 5-12 yr.

Aquatics/Spray Features: Yes, pool and water play area

Shade Structures: Yes

Barbecues: Yes

Drinking Fountains: Yes

Trail System: Yes, paved walking path

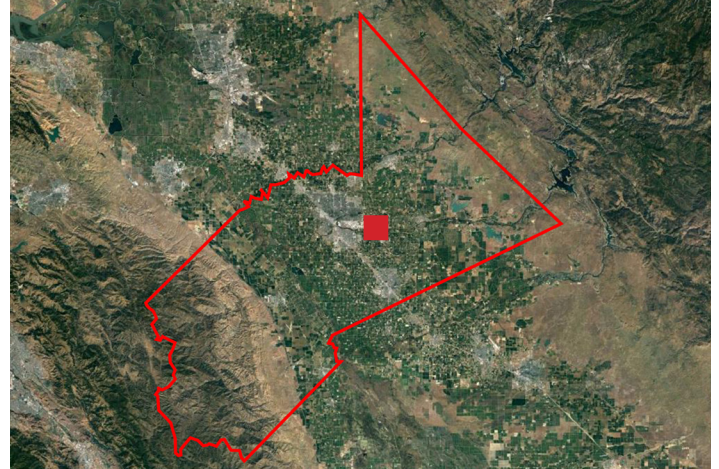
Basin: No

Restrooms: Yes, in pool area

Parking: Paved parking onsite

COMMENTS

This park is located in central Empire and encompasses the public pool and adjacent park facilities. The park features paved walking paths and picnic areas.



Empire Tot Lot

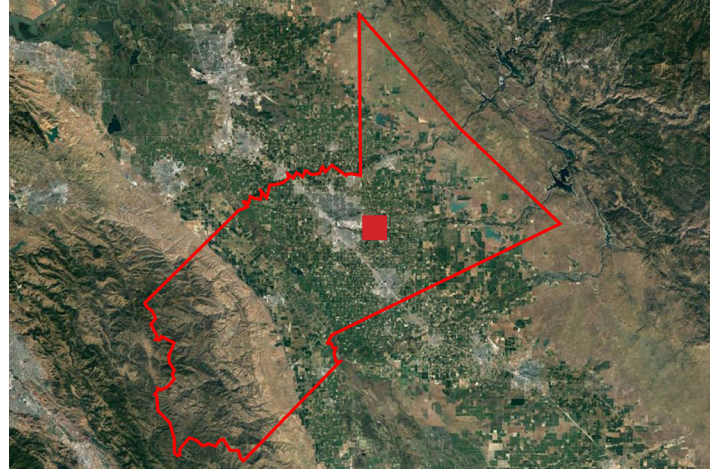
0.16 Acre

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No
 Access to Water Body: No
 Sports Fields: No
 Sports Courts: No
 Play Equipment: Yes, 2-5 yr.
 Aquatics/Spray Features: No
 Shade Structures: No
 Barbecues: No
 Drinking Fountains: Yes
 Trail System: No
 Basin: No
 Restrooms: No
 Parking: On-street parking
 Other: Perimeter of park is fenced with chain link safety fence

COMMENTS

This park is located one block south of Empire Elementary School in central Empire. The park features mature trees, benches and picnic tables, and a perimeter chain link fence for safety.



Fairview Park

4.5 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No

Access to Water Body: No

Sports Fields: Yes, backstop and ballfield, multi-use turf area

Sports Courts: Yes, basketball court

Play Equipment: Yes, themed 5-12 yr. area with shade structure

Aquatics/Spray Features: No

Shade Structures: Yes

Barbecues: Yes

Drinking Fountains: No

Trail System: No

Basin: No

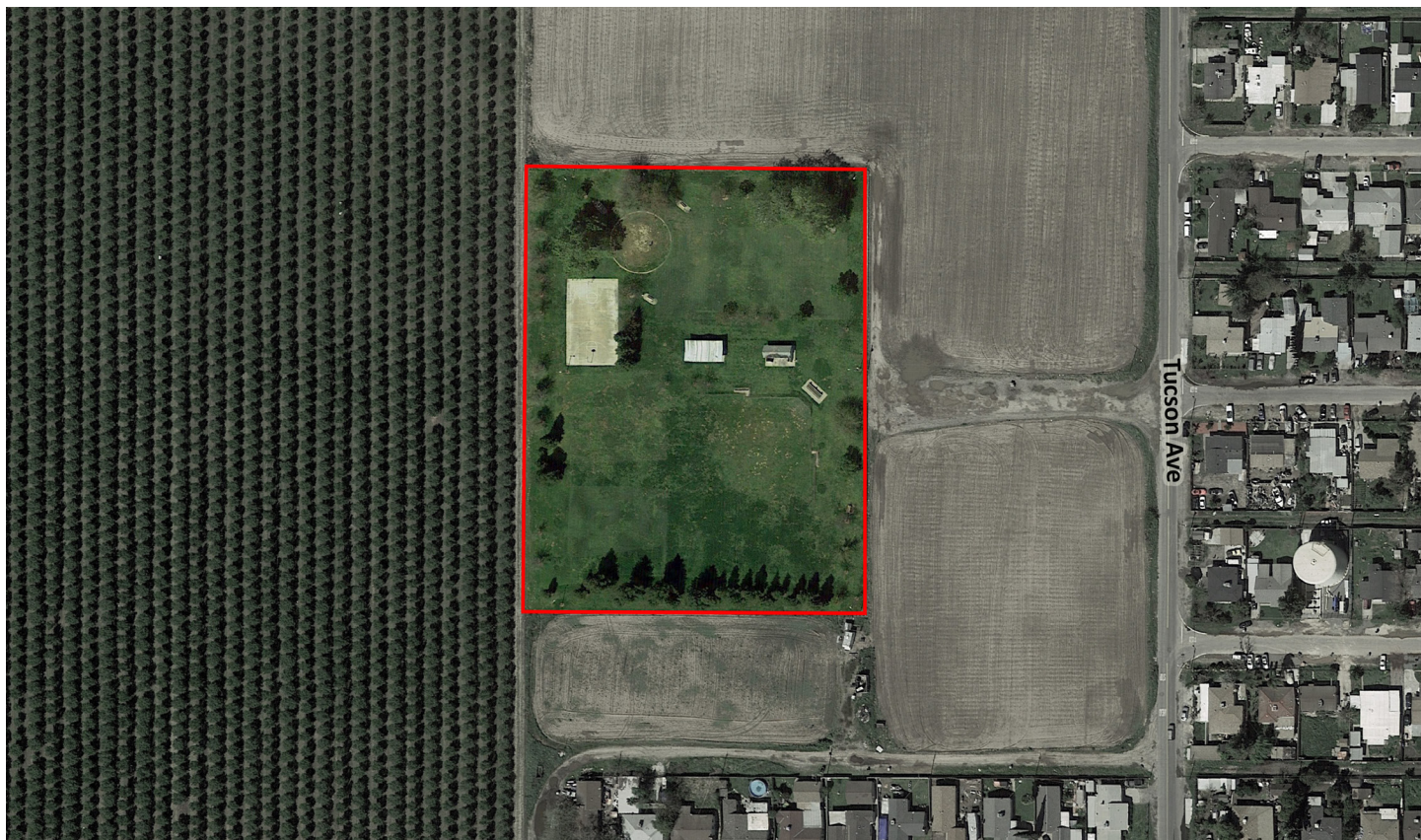
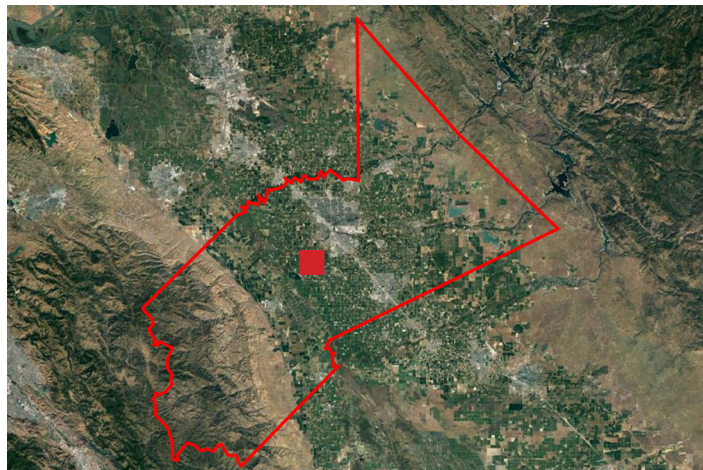
Restrooms: Yes

Parking: On-street parking adjacent

Other: Community art, community garden beds

COMMENTS

This park is located west of downtown Ceres and immediately north of West Whitmore Avenue. Fairview Elementary School is adjacent to the west.



Grayson United Community Park

5 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No

Access to Water Body: No

Sports Fields: Yes, soccer field, multi-use turf area

Sports Courts: Yes, basketball courts

Play Equipment: Yes, 2-5 yr., 5-12 yr..

Aquatics/Spray Features: No

Shade Structures: No

Barbecues: Yes

Drinking Fountains: Yes

Trail System: No

Basin: No

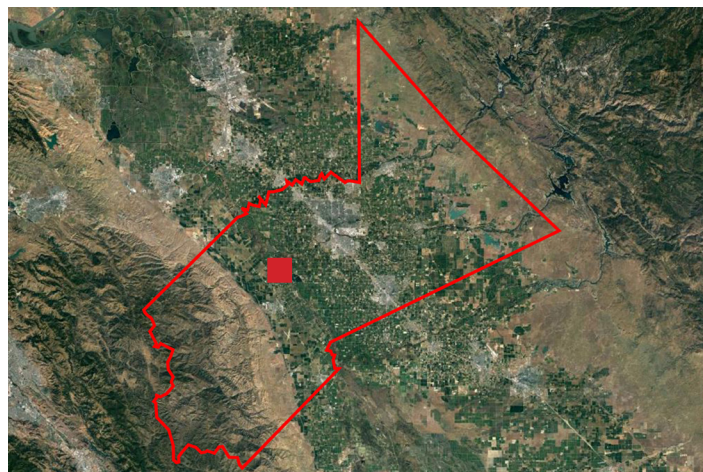
Restrooms: Yes, at Community Center

Parking: Paved lot onsite

Other: Community Center building at center of park

COMMENTS

This park forms the southern gateway to the town of Grayson. It is located north of Grayson Road and includes the Grayson United Community Center at the center of the park. Fenced utilities are present adjacent to playground area.



Hatch Park & Keyes Community Center

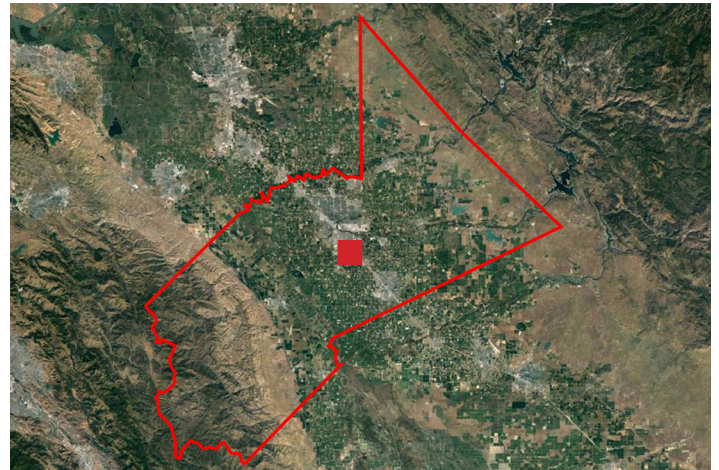
5 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No
 Access to Water Body: No
 Sports Fields: Yes, baseball field, multi-use turf area
 Sports Courts: No
 Play Equipment: No
 Aquatics/Spray Features: No
 Shade Structures: No
 Barbecues: No
 Drinking Fountains: No
 Trail System: No
 Basin: No
 Restrooms: Yes, at Community Center
 Parking: Paved and unpaved lots onsite
 Other: Bleachers at baseball field dugout

COMMENTS

This park is surrounded by residential neighborhoods and agricultural property in central Keyes, just east of Highway 99.



Hunter's Pointe Park

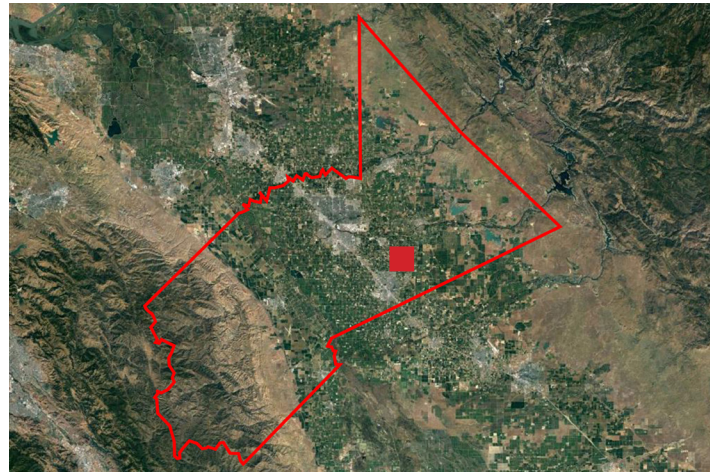
2.5 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No
 Access to Water Body: No
 Sports Fields: Multi-use turf area
 Sports Courts: No
 Play Equipment: Yes, 2-5 yr.. and 5-12 yr..
 Aquatics/Spray Features: No
 Shade Structures: No
 Barbecues: Yes
 Drinking Fountains: Yes
 Trail System: No
 Basin: Yes
 Restrooms: No
 Parking: On-street parking
 Other: Bicycle racks, benches, and tables adjacent to play area

COMMENTS

This park is located in the Riopel neighborhood of eastern Denair. Agricultural land borders three sides of the park. There is a fenced utility located at the northwestern corner of the park.



John Murphy Park

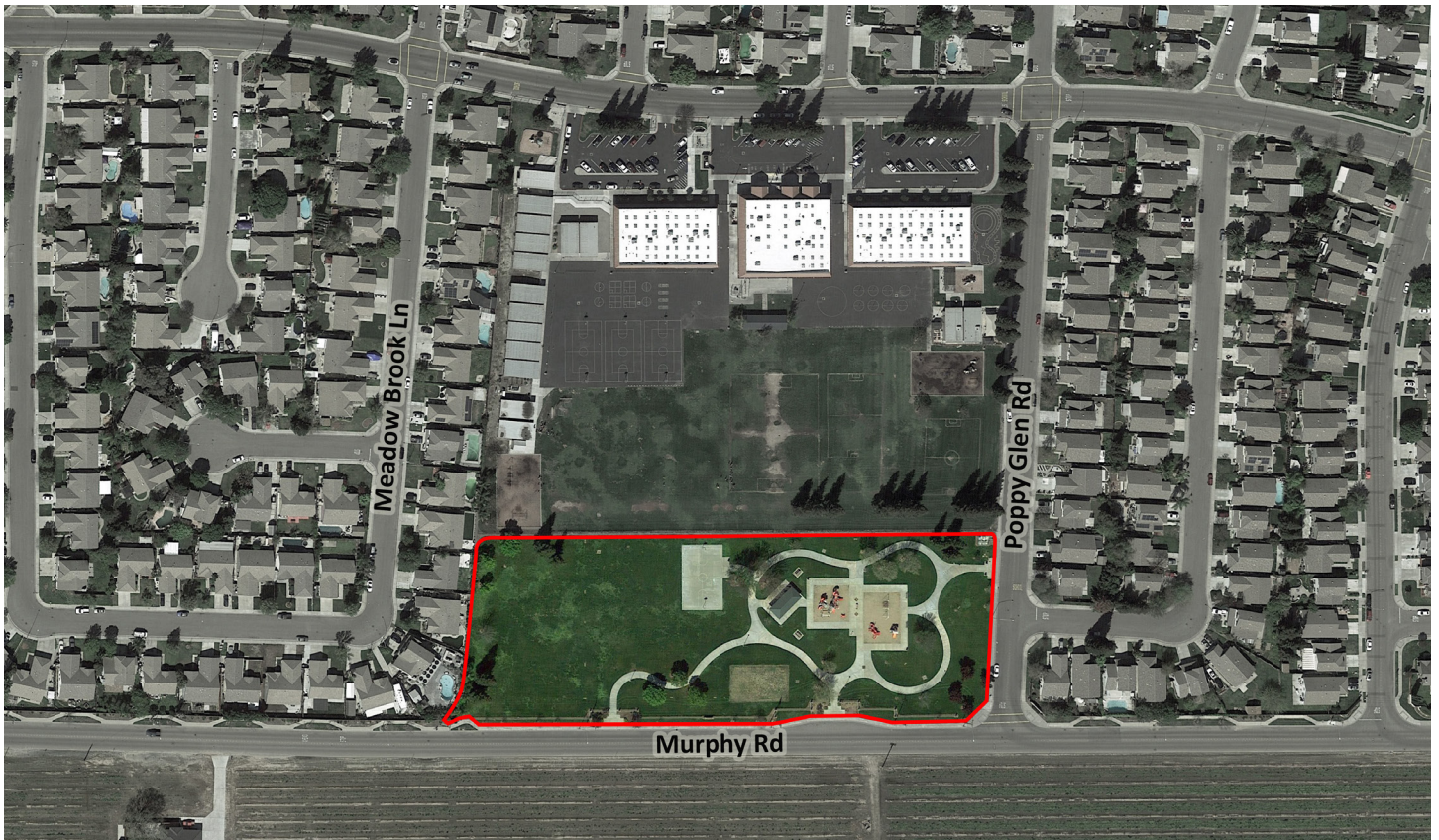
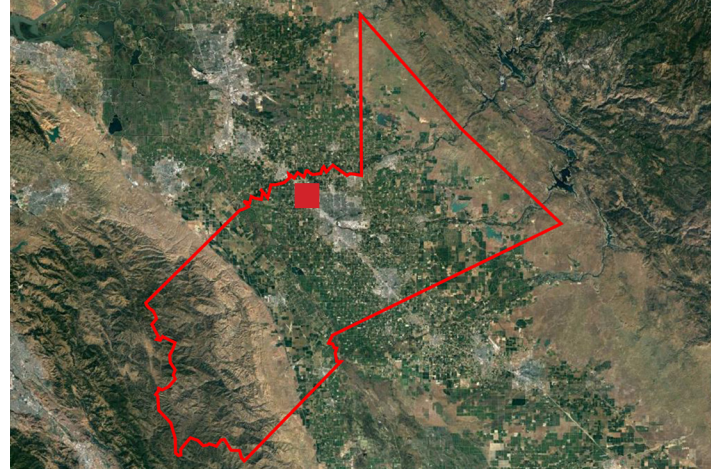
4.25 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No
 Access to Water Body: No
 Sports Fields: Multi-use turf area
 Sports Courts: Basketball, sand volleyball court
 Play Equipment: Yes, 2-5 yr.. and 5-12 yr..
 Aquatics/Spray Features: No
 Shade Structures: Yes
 Barbecues: No
 Drinking Fountains: Yes
 Trail System: Paved walking paths
 Basin: No
 Restrooms: No
 Parking: On-street parking
 Other: Tables and benches located throughout park

COMMENTS

This park is located west of Highway 99 in Salida. Dena Boer School forms its northern border, while Murphy Road runs along its southern edge. The park is fenced with a low decorative fence the length of its frontage with Murphy Road.



Leroy F. Fitzsimmons Memorial Park

0.5 Acre

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No

Access to Water Body: No

Sports Fields: Multi-use turf area

Sports Courts: Yes, basketball court

Play Equipment: Yes, 5-12 yr..

Aquatics/Spray Features: No

Shade Structures: Yes

Barbecues: No

Drinking Fountains: No

Trail System: No

Basin: No

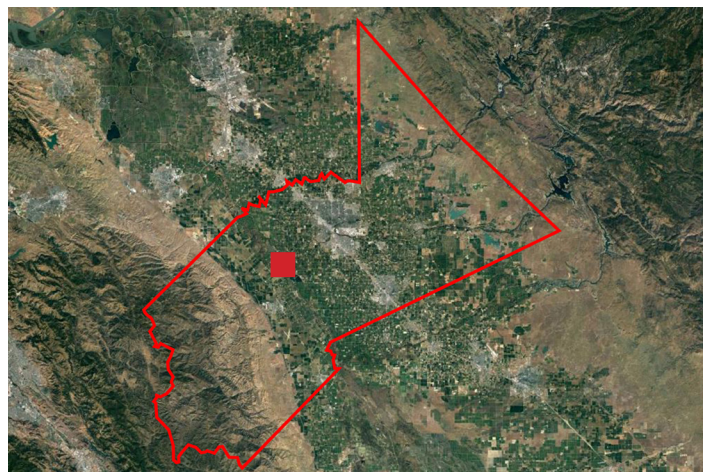
Restrooms: No

Parking: On-street parking

Other: Tables, benches, and commemorative plaque in park

COMMENTS

This park is located in a residential neighborhood in the community of Grayson.



Mono Park

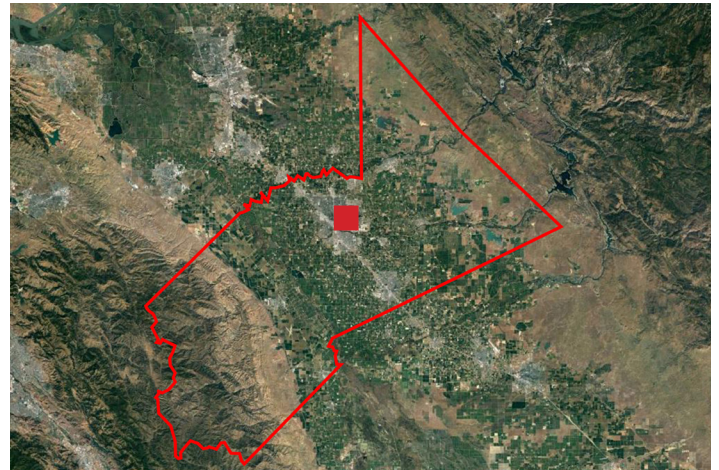
2.25 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No
 Access to Water Body: No
 Sports Fields: Multi-use turf area
 Sports Courts: One disused court, no posts or nets
 Play Equipment: No
 Aquatics/Spray Features: No
 Shade Structures: No
 Barbecues: No
 Drinking Fountains: No
 Trail System: No
 Basin: No
 Restrooms: No
 Parking: Unpaved parking onsite
 Other: Mature trees throughout park provide shade

COMMENTS

This park is located in the Airport Neighborhood in South-Central Modesto. The Gallo glass plant lies immediately to the west, while the Modesto Airport borders the eastern side of the neighborhood.



Oregon Drive Park

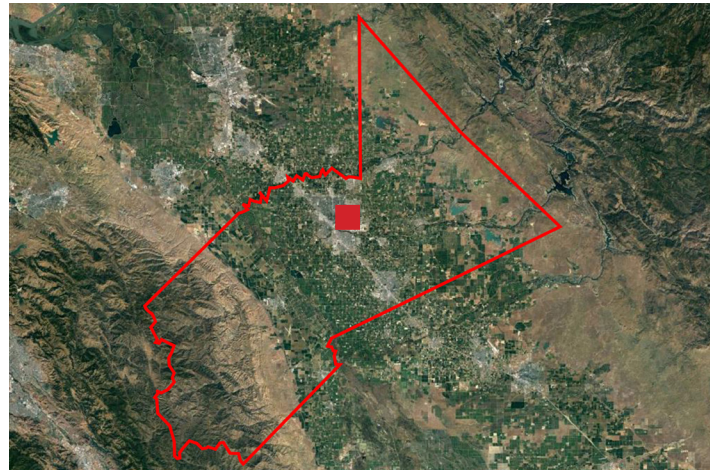
1.6 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No
 Access to Water Body: No
 Sports Fields: Multi-use turf area
 Sports Courts: Yes, basketball
 Play Equipment: Yes, 2-5 yr.. and 5-12 yr..
 Aquatics/Spray Features: No
 Shade Structures: Yes
 Barbecues: No
 Drinking Fountains: Yes
 Trail System: No
 Basin: No
 Restrooms: Yes
 Parking: On-street parking
 Other: Tables and benches located near play areas

COMMENTS

This park is located in the Airport Neighborhood in South-Central Modesto. The Modesto Airport lies immediately to the east of the park site.



Parklawn Park

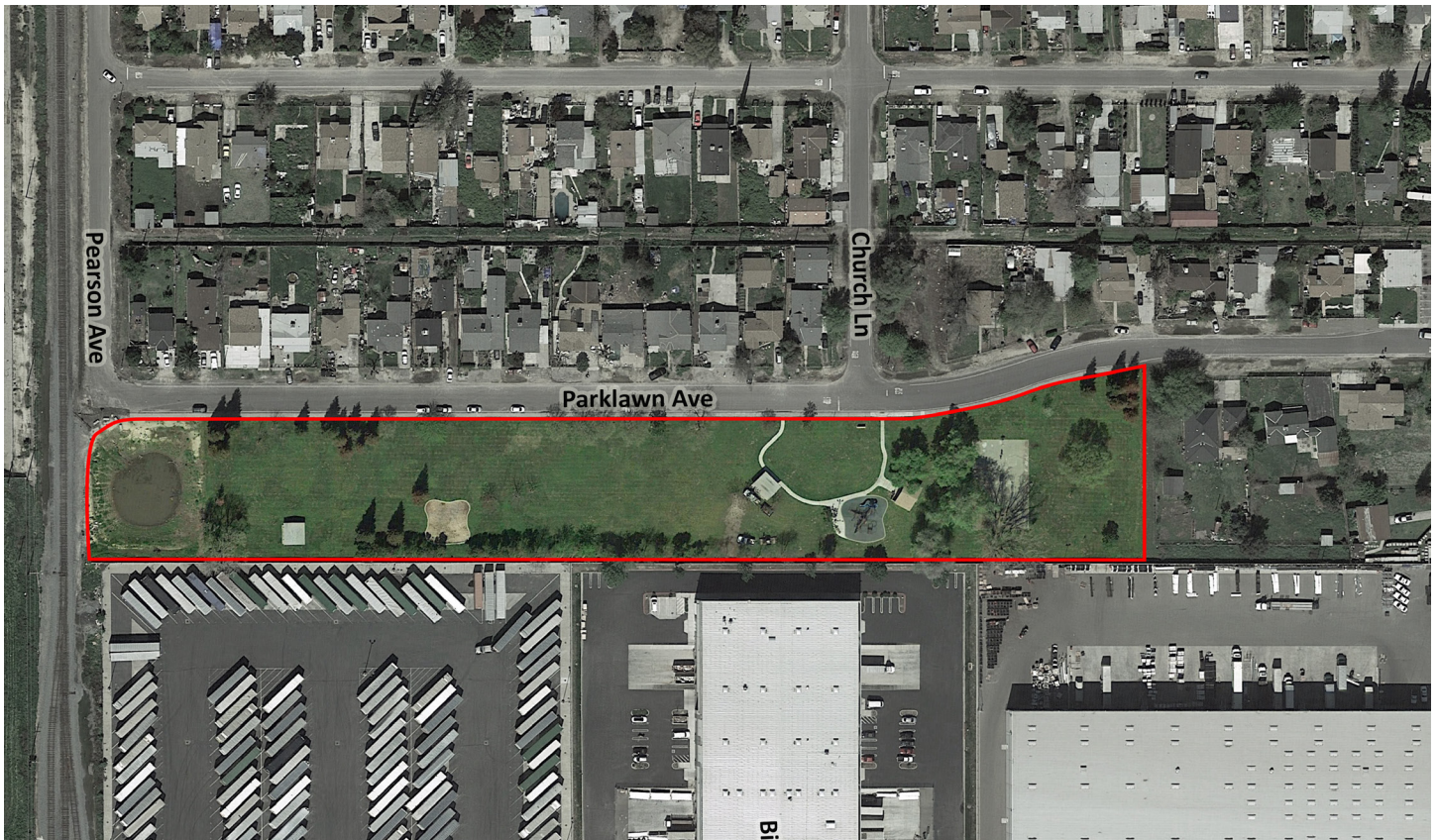
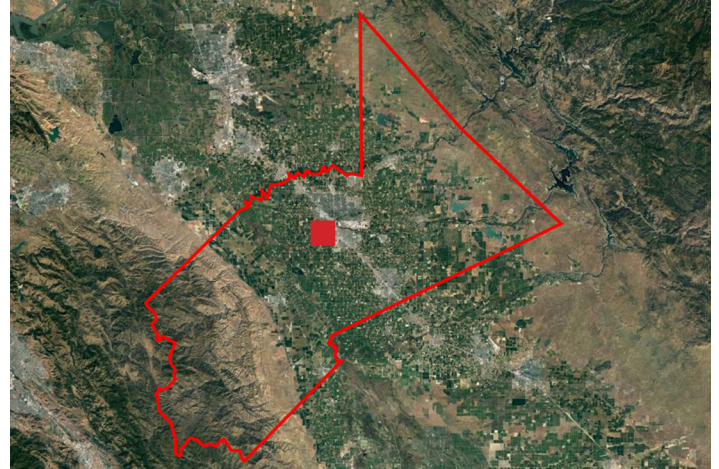
4 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No
 Access to Water Body: No
 Sports Fields: Multi-use turf area
 Sports Courts: Yes, basketball
 Play Equipment: Yes, 5-12 yr..
 Aquatics/Spray Features: No
 Shade Structures: Yes
 Barbecues: No
 Drinking Fountains: Yes
 Trail System: No
 Basin: Yes
 Restrooms: Yes
 Parking: On-street parking
 Other: Mature trees, fenced utility area at center of park

COMMENTS

This park is located at the southern edge of the South Modesto Acres subdivision, northwest of downtown Ceres. Residential neighborhoods lie to the north of the park, while industrial yards border to the south.



Riverdale Park, River & Fishing Access

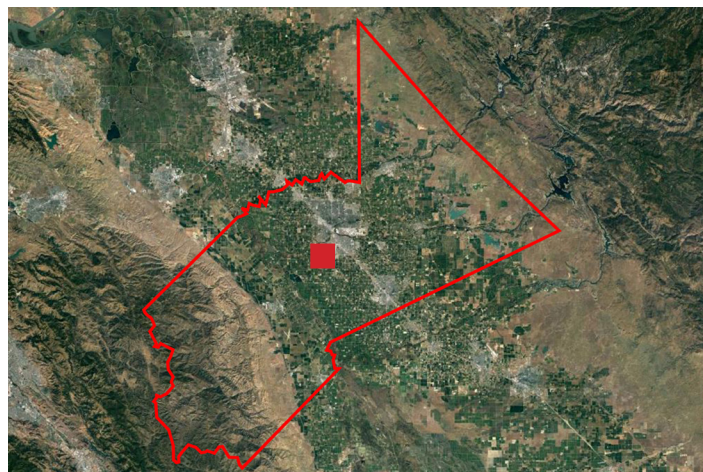
2.25 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No
 Access to Water Body: Yes, the Tuolumne River
 Sports Fields: No
 Sports Courts: No
 Play Equipment: Yes, 5-12 yr..
 Aquatics/Spray Features: No
 Shade Structures: Yes
 Barbecues: Yes
 Drinking Fountains: Yes
 Trail System: No formal trails, but informal trails exist
 Basin: Yes
 Restrooms: No
 Parking: Paved lot onsite
 Other: Large drain inlets in basin area

COMMENTS

This park is located in the Riverdale Park community west of Modesto. The park features significant grade change from Parkdale Drive to the Tuolumne River and functions as a storm and floodwater mitigation basin.



Salida Park

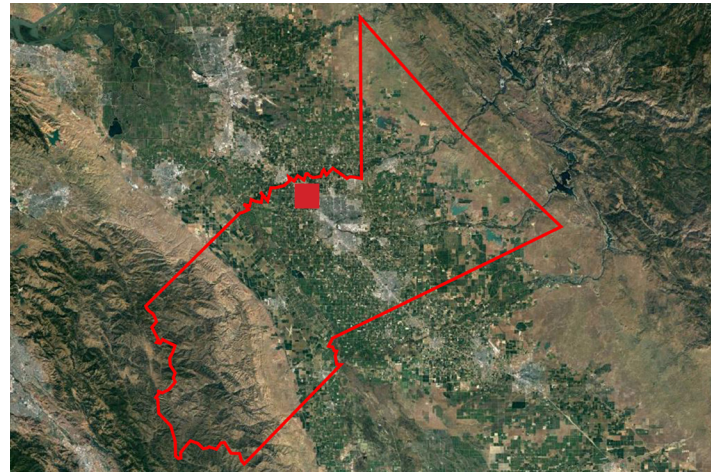
2 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No
 Access to Water Body: No
 Sports Fields: Multi-use turf area onsite, baseball complex adjacent
 Sports Courts: Yes, basketball courts
 Play Equipment: Yes, 2-5 yr., 5-12 yr..
 Aquatics/Spray Features: No
 Shade Structures: Yes
 Barbecues: Yes
 Drinking Fountains: No
 Trail System: No
 Basin: No
 Restrooms: Yes
 Parking: Paved parking onsite at baseball field
 Other: Concessions building adjacent to baseball field

COMMENTS

This park is located in Salida, southwest of the Highway 99 overpass at Kiernan Avenue.



Segesta Park

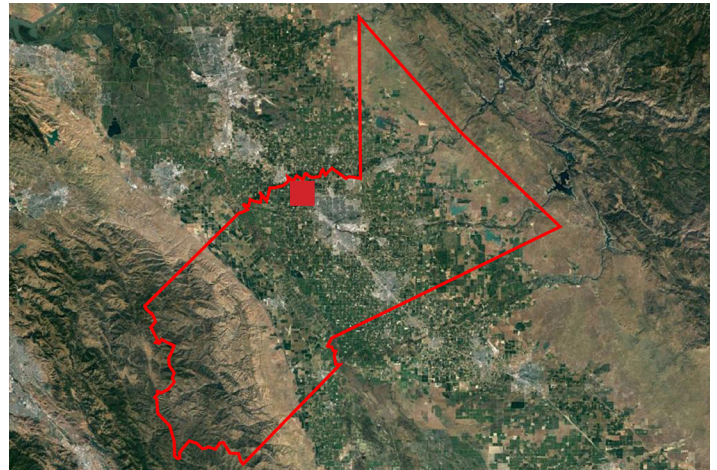
9.3 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No
 Access to Water Body: No
 Sports Fields: Multi-use turf area
 Sports Courts: Yes, basketball court, sand volleyball court
 Play Equipment: Yes, 2-5 yr., 5-12 yr..
 Aquatics/Spray Features: No
 Shade Structures: Yes
 Barbecues: No
 Drinking Fountains: Yes
 Trail System: Paved walking trails
 Basin: No
 Restrooms: Yes
 Parking: Paved parking onsite
 Other: Landscape is turf grass with mature trees

COMMENTS

This park is in northern Salida, east of Highway 99.



Sterling Ranch Park

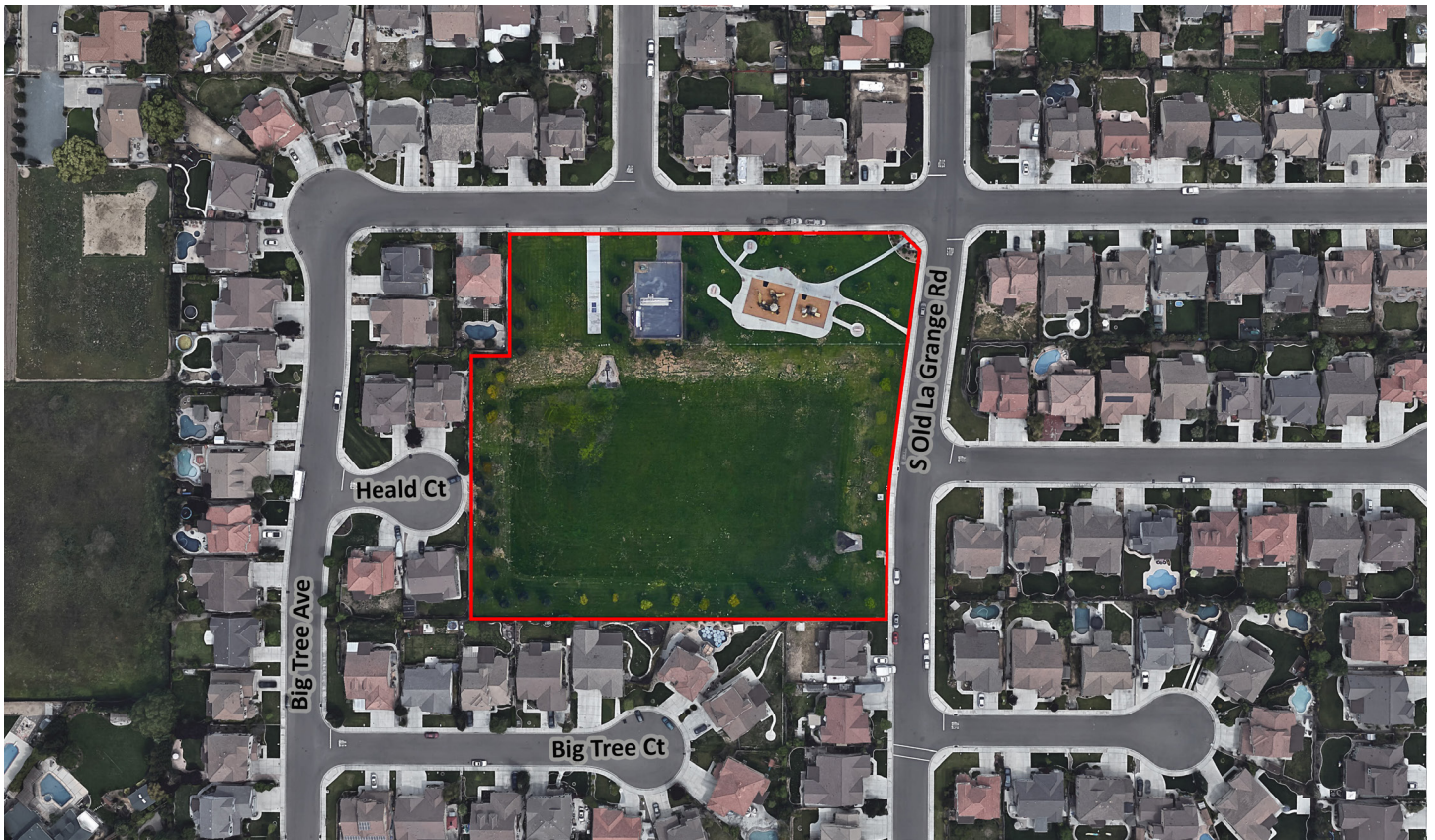
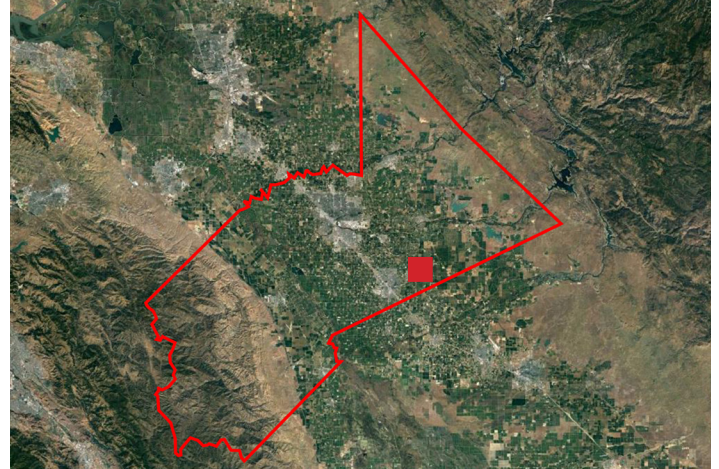
4 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No
 Access to Water Body: No
 Sports Fields: Multi-use turf area
 Sports Courts: No
 Play Equipment: Yes, 2-5 yr.. and 5-12 yr..
 Aquatics/Spray Features: No
 Shade Structures: No
 Barbecues: No
 Drinking Fountains: Yes
 Trail System: No
 Basin: Yes
 Restrooms: No
 Parking: On-street parking
 Other: Fenced-in utility area adjacent to playgrounds

COMMENTS

This park is located in the Sterling Ranch subdivision in Denair. The park features a large unprogrammed turf lawn area at the bottom of a drainage basin as well as playground amenities located outside the basin flood zone and is bordered by mature trees.



Wincanton Park

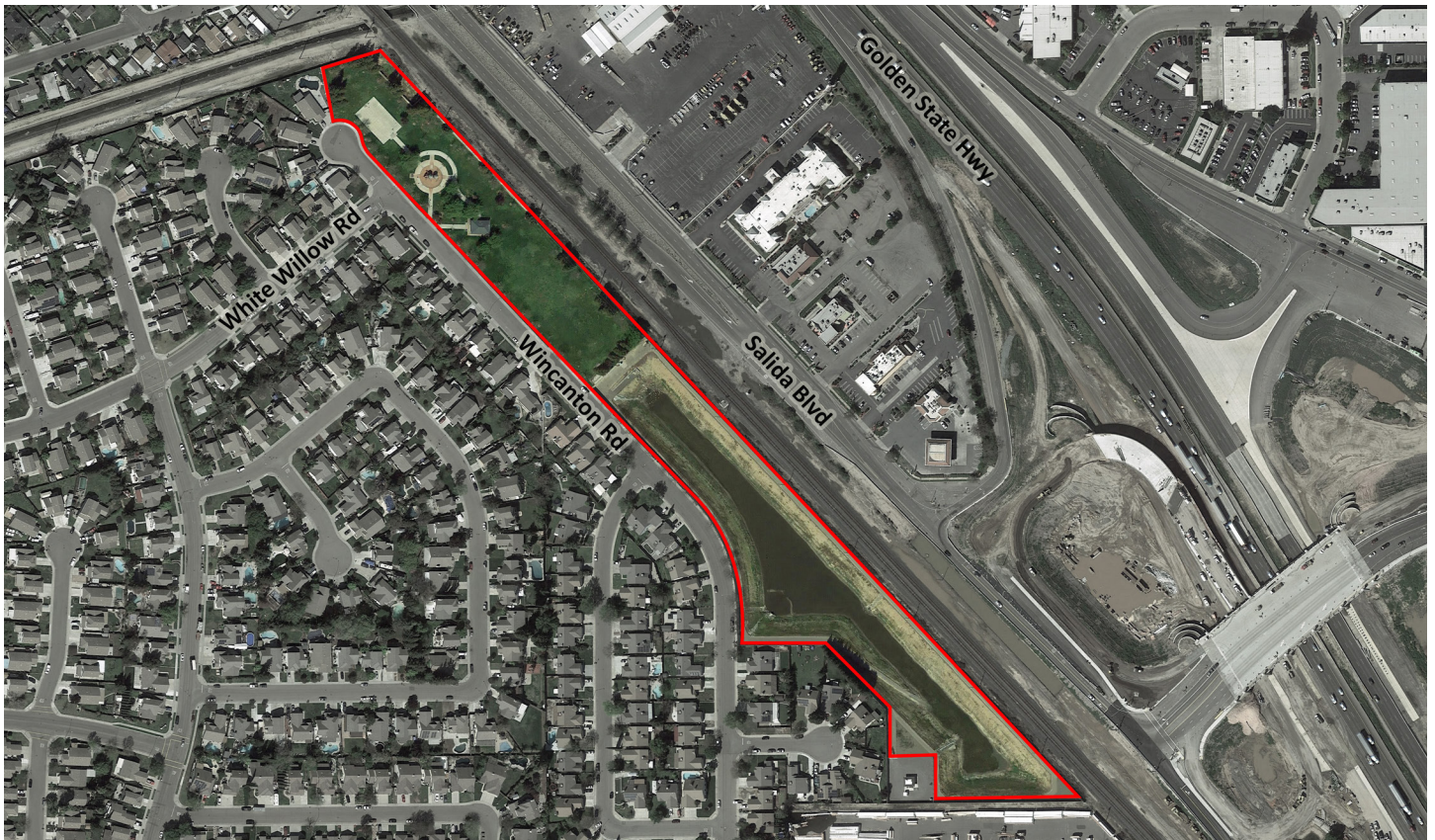
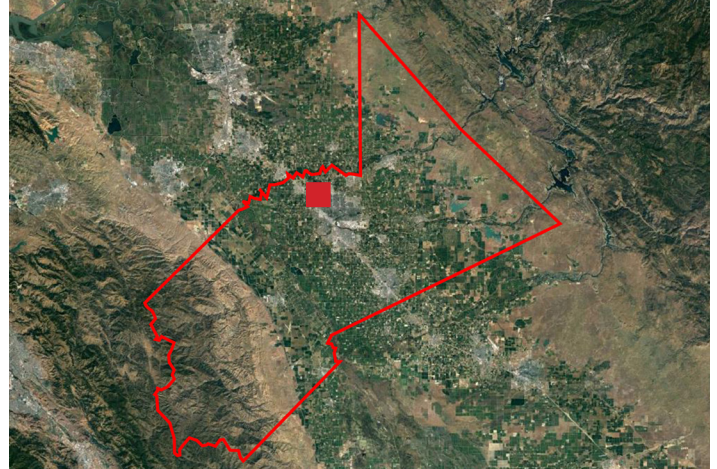
9.25 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No
 Access to Water Body: No
 Sports Fields: Yes, soccer field and multi-use turf area
 Sports Courts: Yes, basketball court
 Play Equipment: Yes, 5-12 yr..
 Aquatics/Spray Features: No
 Shade Structures: Yes
 Barbecues: No
 Drinking Fountains: Yes
 Trail System: No
 Basin: No
 Restrooms: No
 Parking: On-street parking
 Other: Sound wall and mature trees along eastern side of park

COMMENTS

This park is located in Salida, immediately west of Highway 99. There is a rail easement immediately east of the site and a canal easement to the north.



3.4 EXISTING SPECIAL INTEREST PARKS

Special Interest Park Space within Stanislaus County

Stanislaus County's Special Interest park spaces include County operated and maintained recreational areas which, while they are not traditional parks, serve the County's citizens by providing specific recreational uses and purposes. These assets include fishing and river access points, campsites, and wildlife viewing areas throughout the County. They total over 550 acres, 8.5% of the County's total park space. The Tuolumne River Regional Park has also been included in this section. TRRP is 510 acres, 7.8% of the County's total park land.

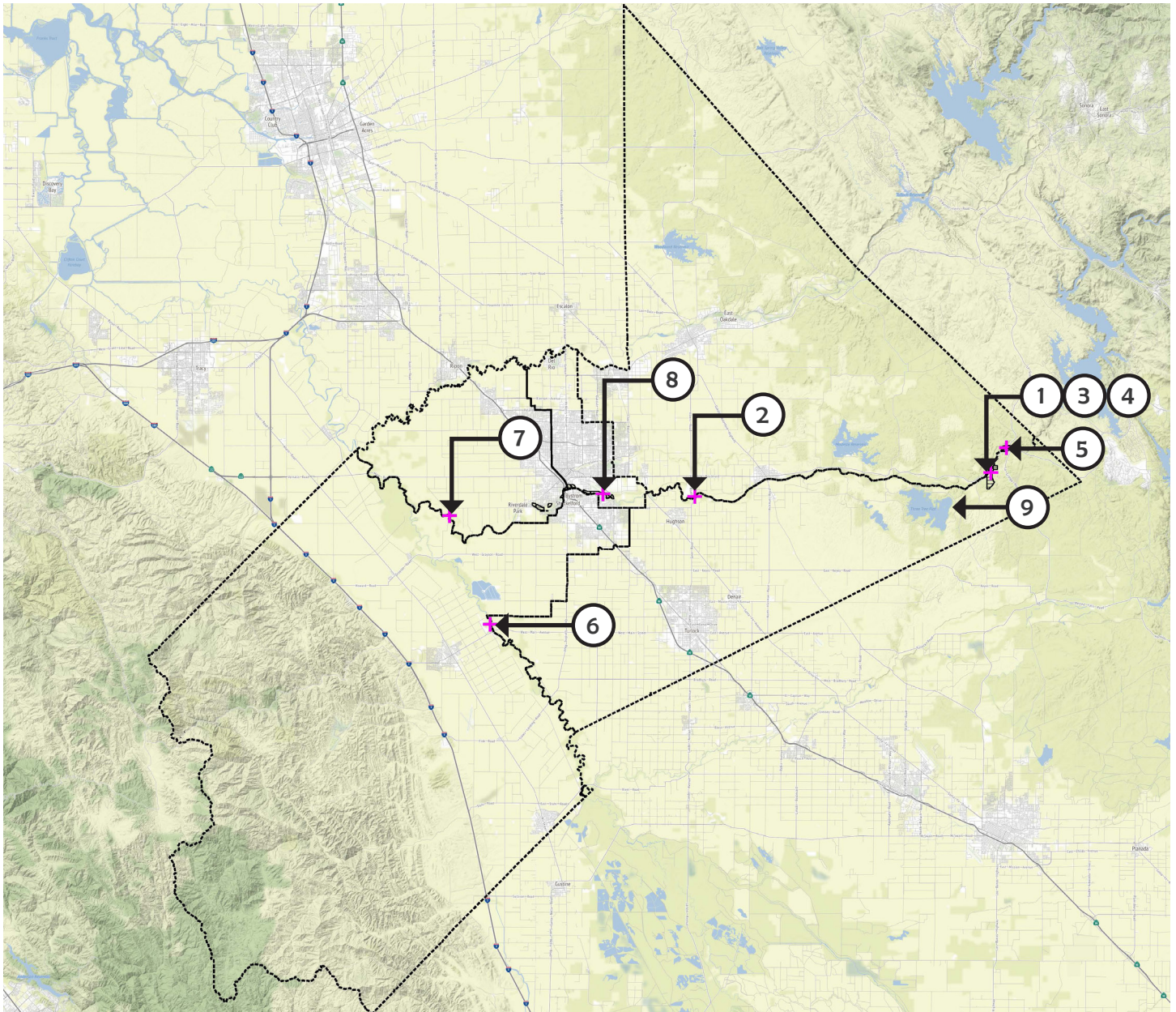


Exhibit 3.7: Existing Special Interest Parks

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Basso Bridge River & Fishing Access | 6. Las Palmas River & Fishing Access |
| 2. Fox Grove River & Fishing Access | 7. Shiloh River & Fishing Access |
| 3. Joe Domecq Wildlife Area | 8. Tuolumne River Regional Park |
| 4. Kiwanis Camp | 9. Turlock Lake Fishing Access |
| 5. J-59 Fishing Access | |

Basso Bridge River & Fishing Access

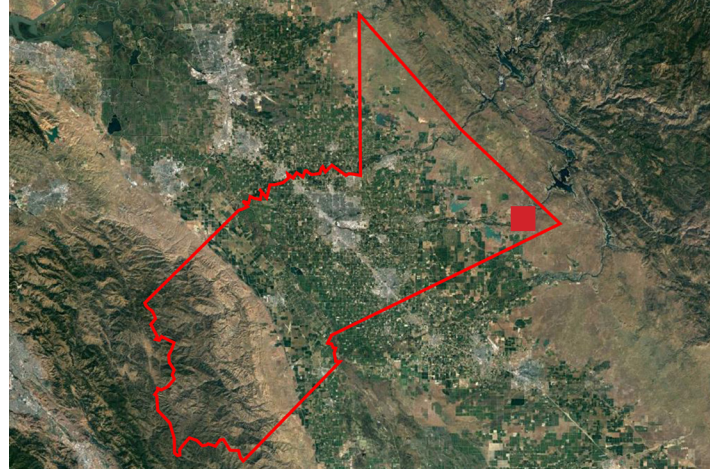
10.62 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No
 Access to Water Body: Yes, Tuolumne River
 Sports Fields: No
 Sports Courts: No
 Play Equipment: No
 Aquatics/Spray Features: No, aside from river access
 Shade Structures: No
 Barbecues: No
 Drinking Fountains: No
 Trail System: No
 Basin: No
 Restrooms: Yes, portable facilities only
 Parking: Parking lot onsite
 Other: Site features a gravel beach and boat launch

COMMENTS

This community park and fishing access is located adjacent to the Tuolumne River at the intersection of Yosemite Boulevard and Lake Road in La Grange. River frontage includes the span between Basso Bridge and the newer Yosemite Boulevard bridge.



Fox Grove River & Fishing Access

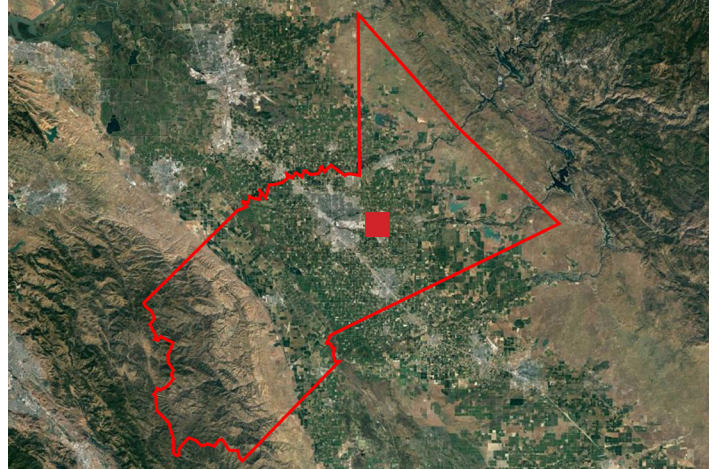
64 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No
 Access to Water Body: Yes, boat launch to Tuolumne River
 Sports Fields: No
 Sports Courts: No
 Play Equipment: No
 Aquatics/Spray Features: No
 Shade Structures: No
 Barbecues: No
 Drinking Fountains: No
 Trail System: No formal trails, but informal trails exist
 Basin: No
 Restrooms: Yes
 Parking: Paved lot onsite
 Other: This recreation asset is owned by the State of California. Stanislaus County has held an agreement for operation and maintenance of the site since the 1960s.

COMMENTS

This park is located in East Modesto, just north of Hughson. The park's landscape is a mix of riparian vegetation, mature trees, and turf lawn. The parking lot is lighted. There is a small amphitheater area with seating located onsite.



Joe Domecq Wildlife Area

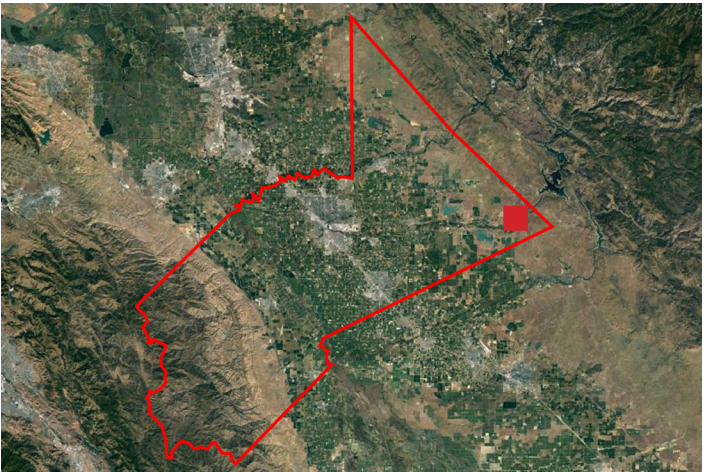
265.5 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

- Access Fees Required: No
- Access to Water Body: Yes, marsh habitat area
- Sports Fields: No
- Sports Courts: No
- Play Equipment: No
- Aquatics/Spray Features: No
- Shade Structures: No
- Barbecues: No
- Drinking Fountains: No
- Trail System: Yes
- Basin: No
- Restrooms: No
- Parking: Parking at adjacent park facilities
- Other: Map and informational signage kiosk at park entry

COMMENTS

This park is located in La Grange, adjacent to Basso Bridge River and Fishing Access and Kiwanis Camp. The landscape is native grassland and riparian/marsh habitat and signage highlights the wildlife viewing opportunities.



Kiwanis Camp

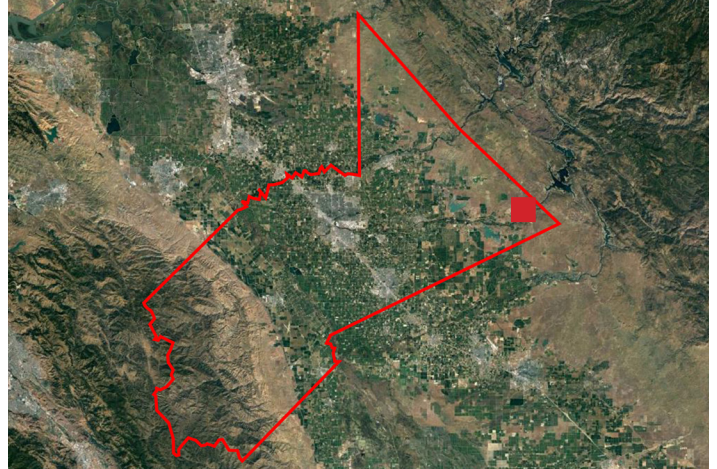
48 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: None (Due to current closure)
 Access to Water Body: No
 Sports Fields: No
 Sports Courts: No
 Play Equipment: No
 Aquatics/Spray Features: No
 Shade Structures: Yes
 Barbecues: Yes
 Drinking Fountains: No
 Trail System: No
 Basin: No
 Restrooms: Yes, permanent and portable facilities present
 Parking: Unpaved parking lot onsite
 Other: Mature trees and native grassland throughout

COMMENTS

This park is located off of Yosemite Boulevard in La Grange. Basso Bridge River and Fishing Access is immediately to the west, and Joe Domecq Wilderness Area is to the south.



J-59 Fishing Access

133.09 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No

Access to Water Body: Tuolumne River

Sports Fields: No

Sports Courts: No

Play Equipment: No

Aquatics/Spray Features: No

Shade Structures: No

Barbecues: No

Drinking Fountains: No

Trail System: No - undeveloped

Basin: No

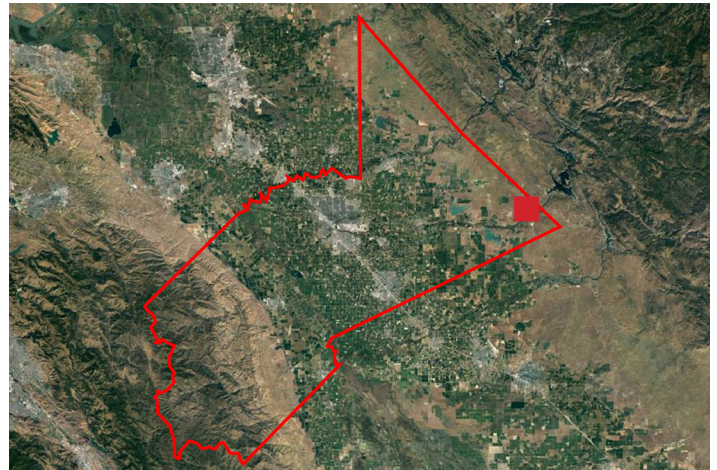
Restrooms: No

Parking: Unpaved parking along shoulder of access road

Other: The park acreage is located at the intersection of Yosemite Boulevard and La Grange Road (J-59). The acreage is between the Tuolumne River and Yosemite Blvd to the east and west of La Grange Road.

COMMENTS

This park consists of mostly undeveloped acreage along the shoreline of the Tuolumne River. River access requires a roughly 10 minute walk from the parking area at the intersection of Highway 132 and La Grange Road. The parking area and access road are unpaved.



Las Palmas River & Fishing Access

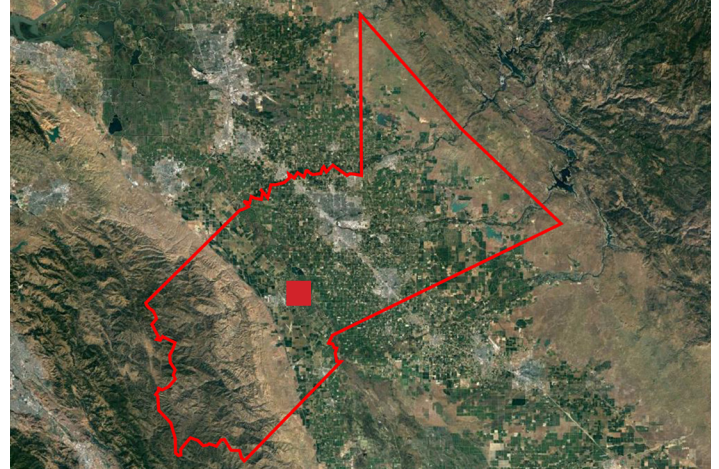
4.5 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No
 Access to Water Body: Yes, boat launch to San Joaquin River
 Sports Fields: No
 Sports Courts: No
 Play Equipment: No
 Aquatics/Spray Features: No
 Shade Structures: No
 Barbecues: Yes
 Drinking Fountains: No
 Trail System: No
 Basin: No
 Restrooms: No
 Parking: Paved lot onsite
 Other: Grass area adjacent to parking lot is fenced off

COMMENTS

This site is located east of Patterson along the San Joaquin River. The parking lot and river access are at the end of Old Las Palmas Avenue, just North of East Las Palmas Avenue/West Main Street. Several fenced utility areas are adjacent to the site.



Shiloh River & Fishing Access

1.4 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No

Access to Water Body: Yes, the Tuolumne River

Sports Fields: No

Sports Courts: No

Play Equipment: No

Aquatics/Spray Features: No

Shade Structures: No

Barbecues: No

Drinking Fountains: No

Trail System: No

Basin: No

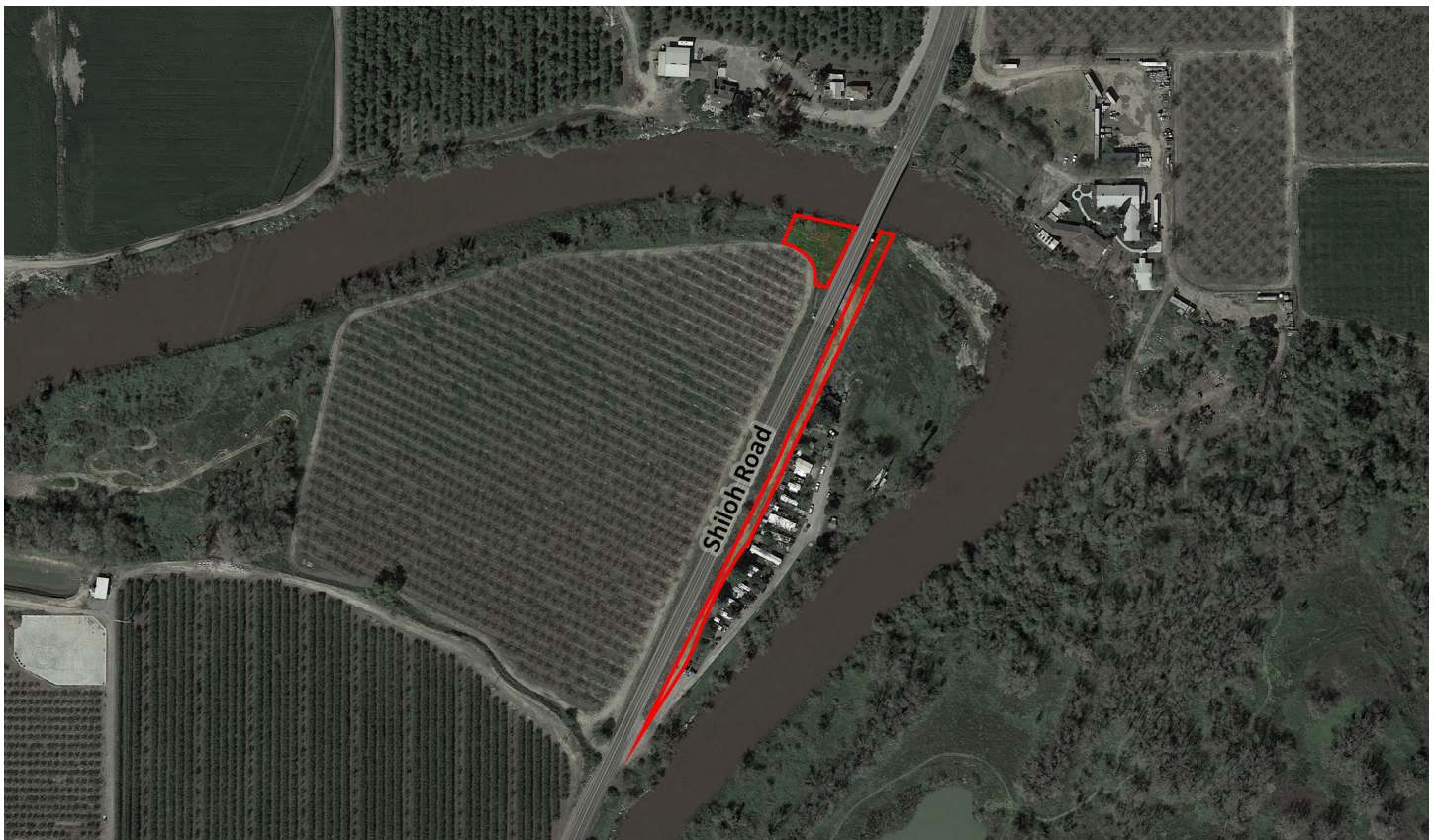
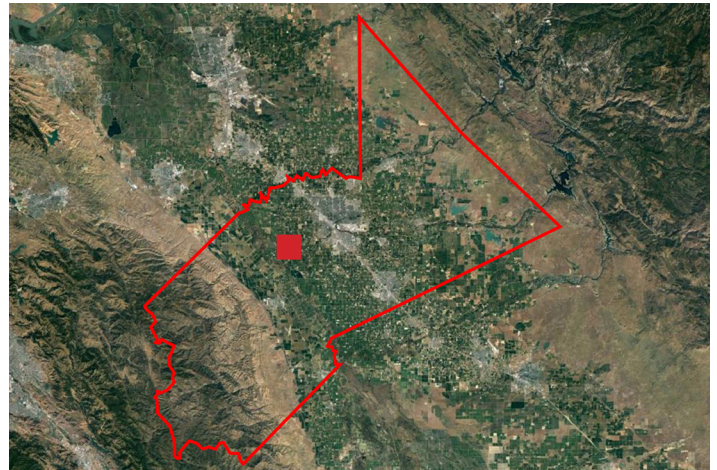
Restrooms: No

Parking: On-street parking

Other: Sand beach, picnic table

COMMENTS

This site is located on Shiloh Road west of the community of Riverdale Park in West Modesto. The site is accessed via unpaved access road which passes under Shiloh road at the bridge over the Tuolumne River.



Tuolumne River Regional Park

510 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required:

Access to Water Body: Yes, Tuolumne River

Sports Fields: Yes, soccer field at Legion Park in Modesto

Sports Courts: No

Play Equipment: Yes, at select park locations

Aquatics/Spray Features: No

Shade Structures: Yes, at select park locations

Barbecues: Yes

Drinking Fountains: Yes

Trail System: Yes

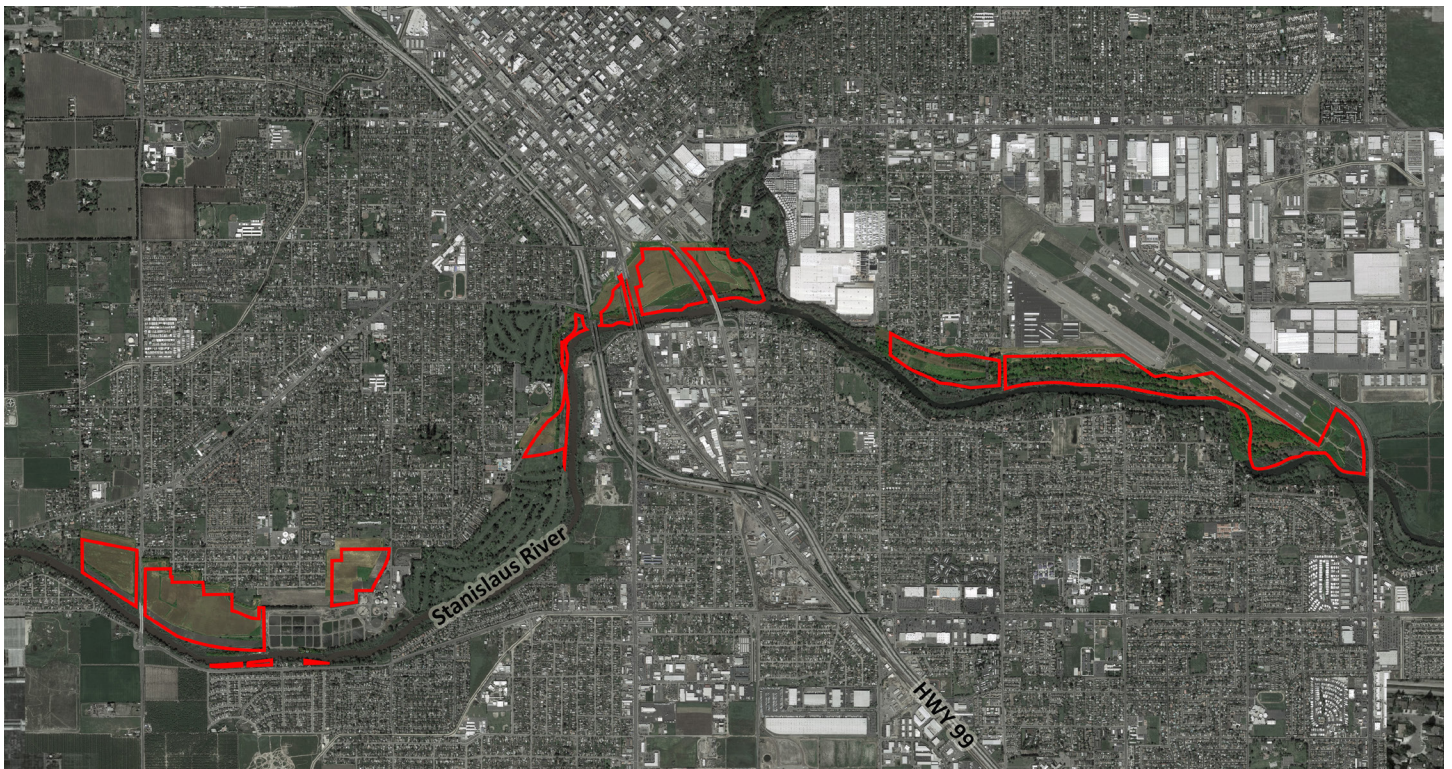
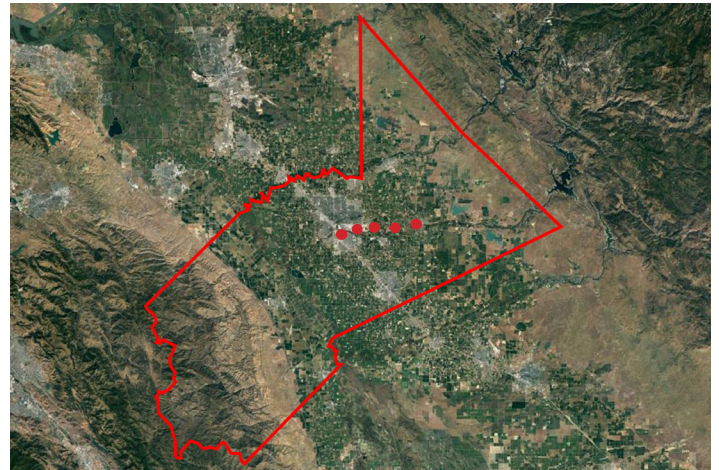
Restrooms: Yes, at select park locations

Parking: Varies

Other: The park is being built through a joint powers agreement with the City of Modesto, the City of Ceres, and Stanislaus County.

COMMENTS

The Tuolumne River Regional Park (TRRP) consists of over five hundred acres of parkland that runs along 7 river miles of the Tuolumne River from the Mitchell Street Bridge east to the Carpenter Road Bridge in Stanislaus County.



Note: Accurate data for the exact parcels and acreage included in TRRP are not currently available. The parcel map and acreage total included was developed using information provided by the City of Modesto, managing partner of TRRP.

Turlock Lake Fishing Access

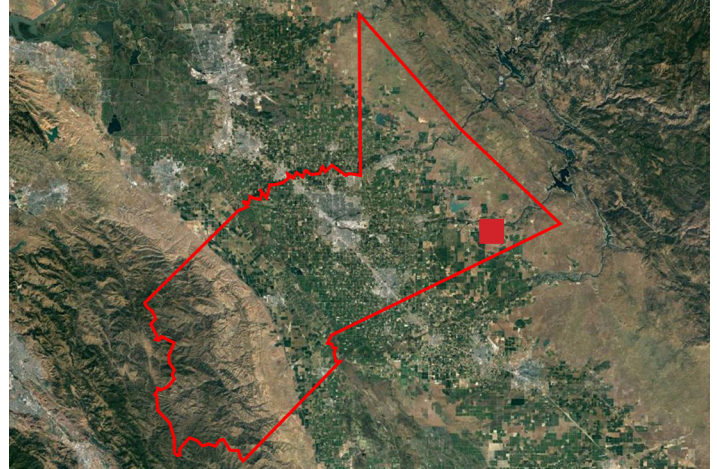
27 Acres

SITE INVENTORY

Access Fees Required: No
 Access to Water Body: Yes, Turlock Lake
 Sports Fields: No
 Sports Courts: No
 Play Equipment: No
 Aquatics/Spray Features: No
 Shade Structures: Yes
 Barbecues: Yes
 Drinking Fountains: No
 Trail System: No
 Basin: No
 Restrooms: Yes
 Parking: Paved parking onsite
 Other: Tables at picnic area

COMMENTS

This site is located at the eastern edge of Turlock Lake, in La Grange. The fishing access features a boat ramp and parking area.



3.5 EXISTING PUBLIC OPEN SPACE: MISCELLANEOUS

County-Maintained Miscellaneous Public Open Space

Miscellaneous public open space includes parks and open space within the County which serve a largely non-recreational purpose but which are still operated and maintained by County Parks and Recreation. These include flood control basins in residential areas, cemeteries, and park spaces within County-run residential facilities. Miscellaneous public open space totals 19.97 acres, less than 1% of the County’s total park space.

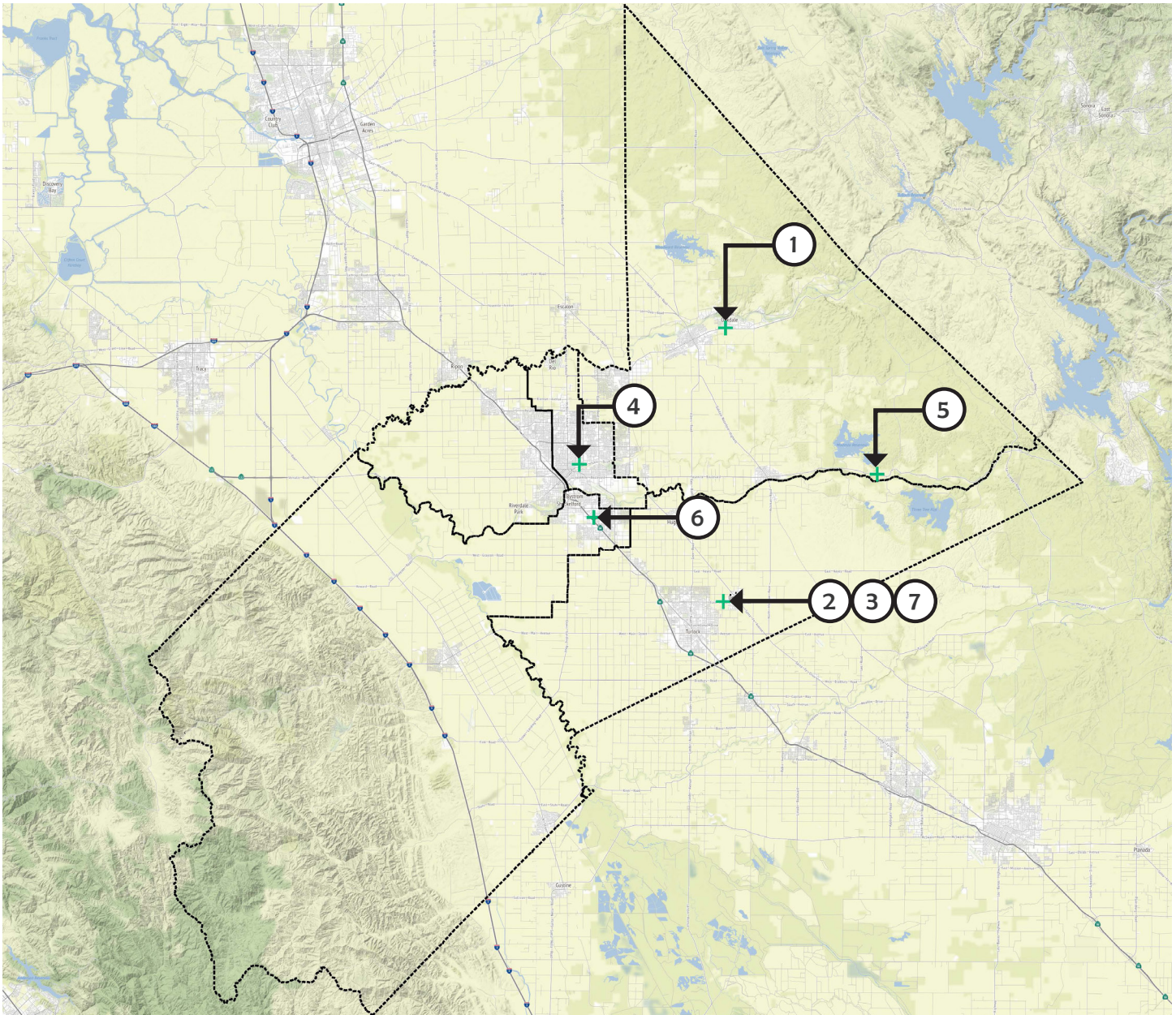


Exhibit 3.8: Miscellaneous Public Open Space Managed by County Parks and Recreation

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Atlas Park | 5. Roberts Ferry Cemetery |
| 2. Hideaway Terrace Flood Control Basin | 6. Stanislaus Recovery Center (SRC) Park |
| 3. Old School North Flood Control Basin | 7. Suncrest Estates Flood Control Basin |
| 4. Pauper’s Field Citizens Cemetery | |

Atlas Park

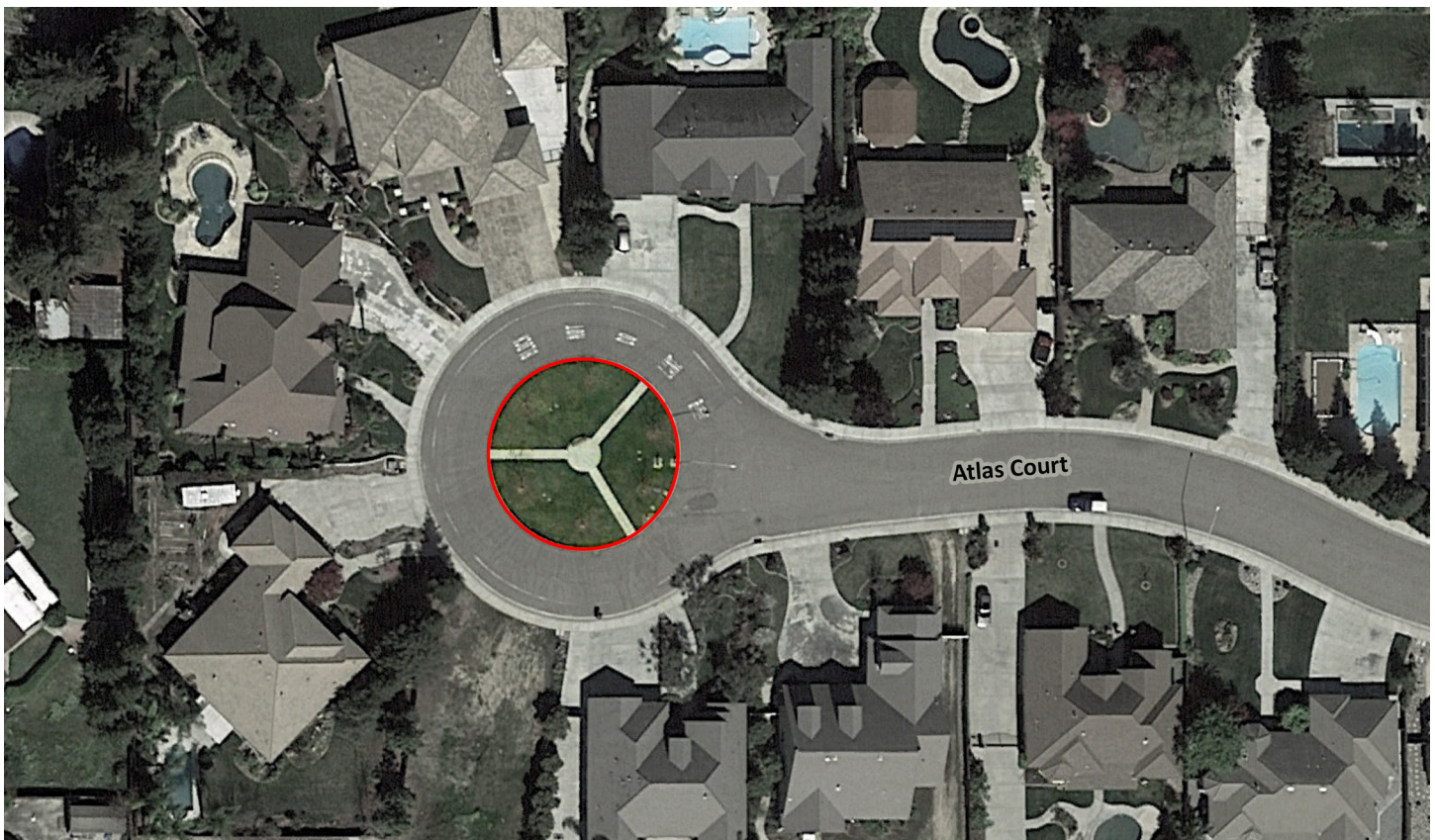
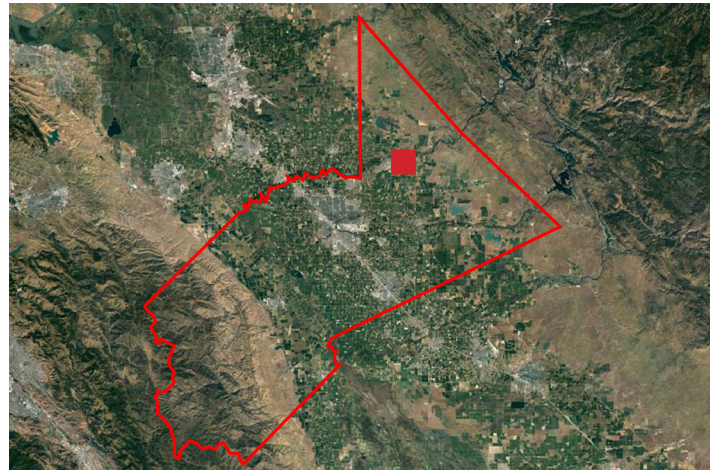
0.12 Acre

SITE PHOTOS



COMMENTS

This open space is located within a roundabout in a residential neighborhood in Oakdale. It is located one block north of California State Highway 108 and is immediately southeast of the Oakdale Golf and Country Club. The area contains a small paved area with one bench.



Hideaway Terrace Flood Control Basin

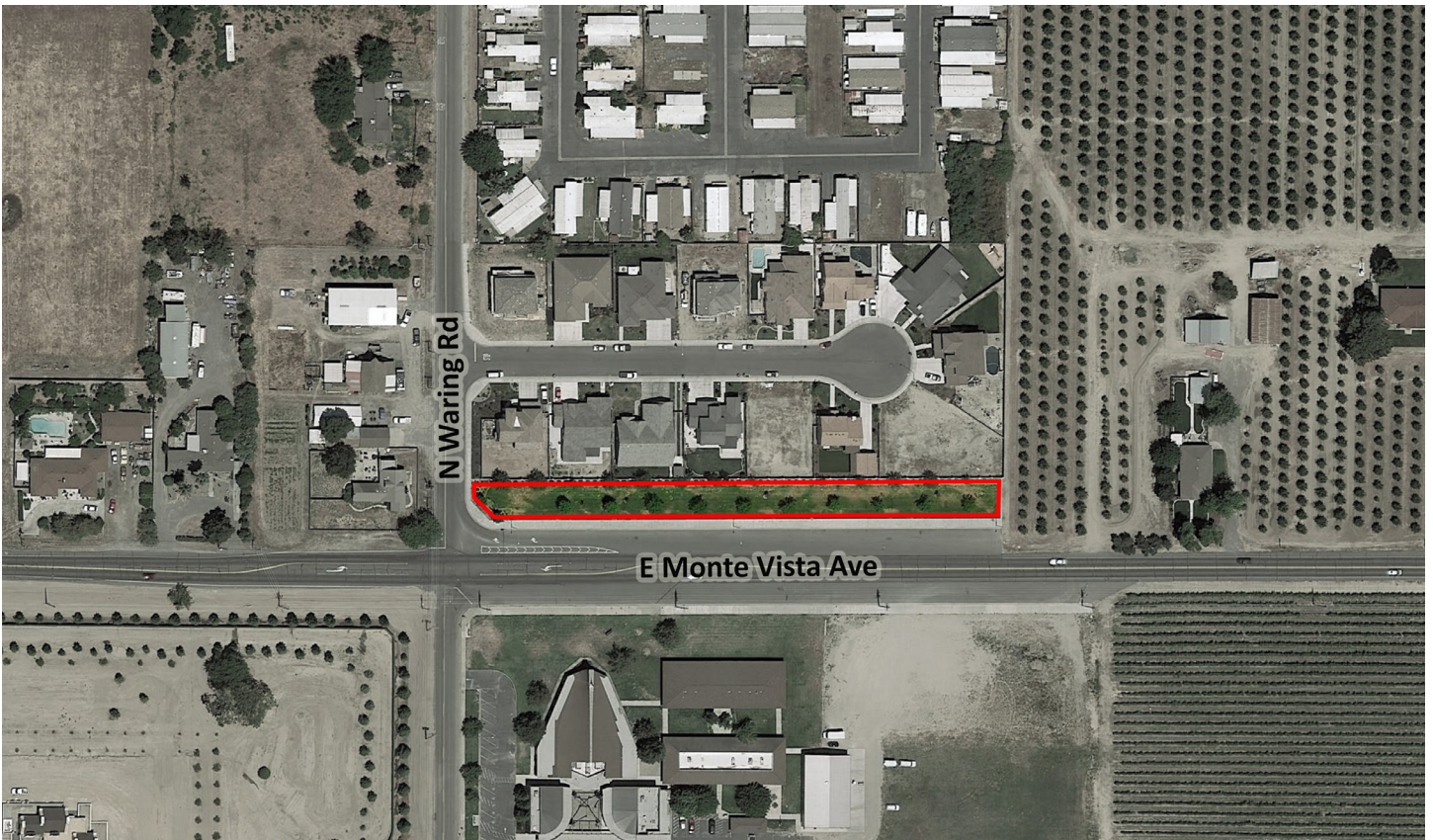
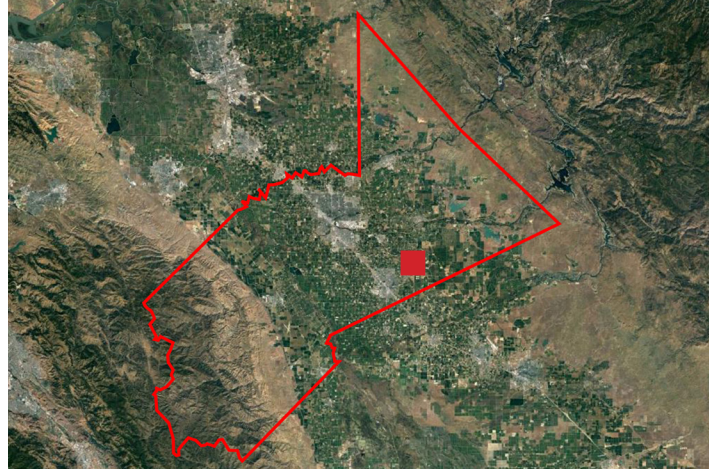
0.6 Acres

SITE PHOTOS



COMMENTS

This space is a linear turf drainage basin with trees planted at the top of the slope. There is a shrub planter along the sound wall that separates the road from the subdivision to the immediate north, and approximately 12' of level turf between the sidewalk and the top of slope.



Old School North Flood Control Basin

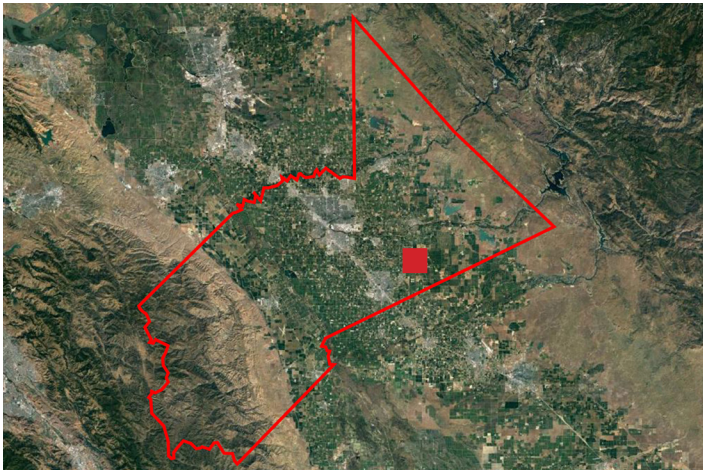
0.41 Acres

SITE PHOTOS



COMMENTS

This park consists of open turf space with trees planted at the top of the slope around the drainage basin. The site is located in a residential subdivision in Denair.



Pauper's Field Citizens Cemetery

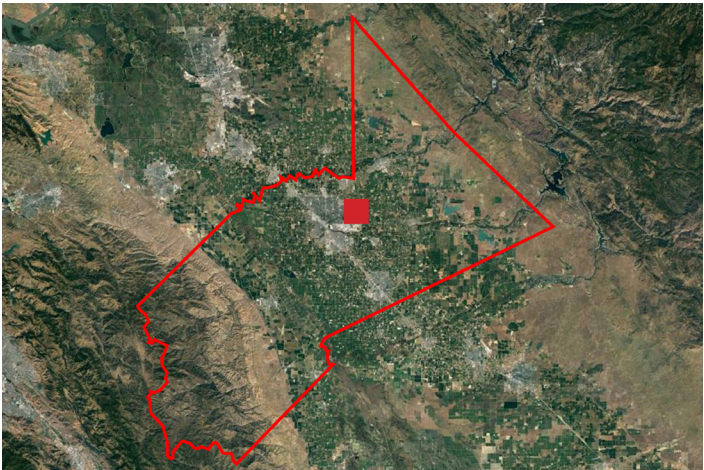
0.34 Acres

SITE PHOTOS



COMMENTS

This cemetery is located north of Scenic Drive in central Modesto. The County-managed portion of the larger cemetery consists of an area of approximately 1/3 acre which contains less than 10 gravesites.



Roberts Ferry Cemetery

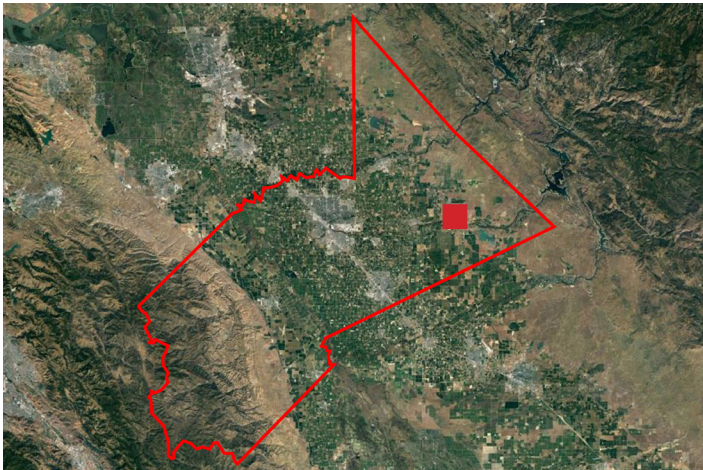
2.75 Acres

SITE PHOTOS



COMMENTS

This cemetery is located in rural eastern Stanislaus County west of the town of La Grange on Highway 132.



Stanislaus Recovery Center (SRC) Park

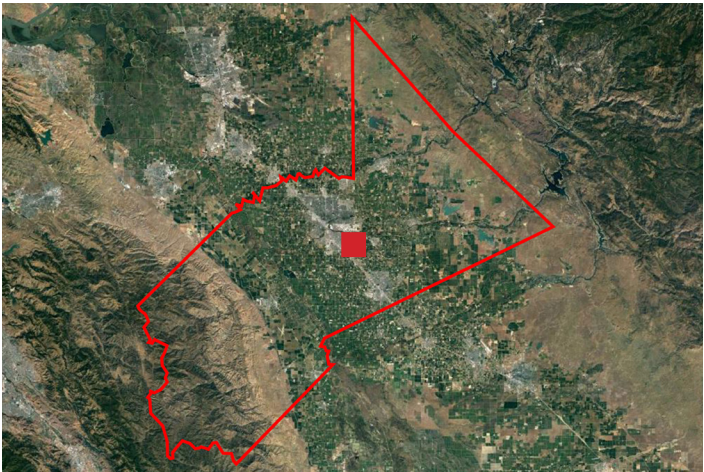
15.28 Acres

SITE PHOTOS



COMMENTS

This park space is located within the gated property of the Stanislaus Recovery Center. The space includes a small playground for 2-5 year old children as well as picnic tables, BBQs, and seating throughout.



Suncrest Estates Flood Control Basin

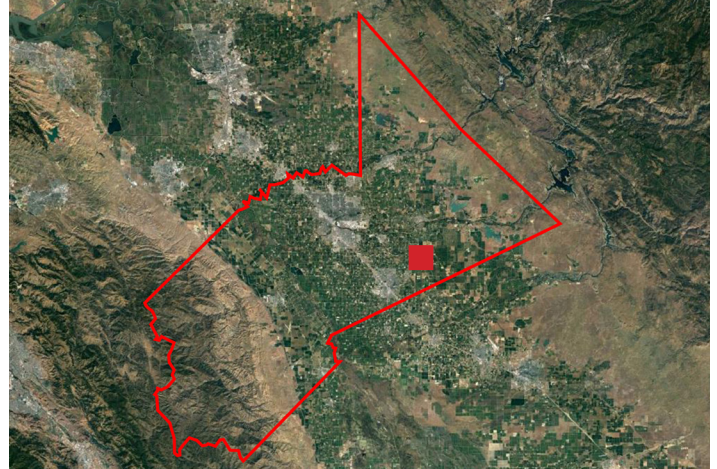
0.47 Acres

SITE PHOTOS



COMMENTS

This basin is located on a cul-de-sac in Denair. The space consists of open turf area with trees planted at the top of the slope surrounding the basin. There is a concrete vehicular access ramp from the street to the bottom of the basin.



3.6 EXISTING NON-PARK PROPERTY MAINTAINED BY COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT

County-Maintained Public Spaces: Streetscapes, Buildings, and Other Assets

The Stanislaus County Department of Parks and Recreation is responsible for grounds maintenance duties at nearly thirty sites across the County which are not classified as public park or open space. Properties included below must be included in any planning for County Parks Operations and Maintenance (O&M) staff budget and schedule requirements into the future, although they are not typically considered usable park space. These assets include:

Streetscapes

- Del Rio Heights Streetscape, Modesto
- Hideaway Terrace Streetscape, Denair
- Olive Ranch Streetscape, Oakdale
- Salida Streetscapes, Salida
- Suncrest Estates Streetscapes, Denair
- Victoria Park Streetscapes, Keyes
- Broadway Avenue Median, Salida

Libraries

- Ceres Library
- Denair Library
- Empire Library
- Keyes Library
- Modesto Main Library
- Oakdale Library
- Patterson Library
- Riverbank Library
- Salida Library
- Turlock Library

County Building Grounds

- 12th St. Building & Parking Structure, Modesto
- Clerk Records Office, Modesto
- Coroner's Office, Modesto
- County Center 2: Scenic Hospital, Modesto
- County Center 3: Learning Institute, Modesto
- County Center 5: Juvenile Hall/Health, Modesto

Miscellaneous Properties

- Knights Ferry Property, Knights Ferry
- Denair Amtrak Station, Denair
- Mancini Hall, Modesto
- Medical Arts Building, Modesto
- Old Modesto City Hall, Modesto

3.7 EXISTING COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT PROGRAMMING & PARTNERSHIPS

Programming and Program Partners Utilizing County Parks

Stanislaus County parks host events and programming for a variety of target user groups year-round. Program partners vary and include specialty hobbyist and sporting groups as well as community building volunteer-based programs. Current programming and associated partnerships are listed below.

Stanislaus County Police Activity League (PAL)

- Headquarters located at Burbank-Paradise Park Hall
- Youth Sports programs: Soccer, Basketball, Flag Football, Martial Arts, Boxing, Aquatics
- Community-based programs: Parks & Pal (various locations)
- School-based programs throughout the County
- Posted regulations regarding use of and schedule for pool use at Empire Community Pool

Yahi Bowmen

- Maintain range at Modesto Reservoir
- Run youth and adult programming as well as special events year-round at Modesto Reservoir range

Radio Control Flyers Unlimited, Inc.

- Maintain airfield at Woodward Reservoir
- Organized regular meetings and events publicized online
- Posted regulations and requirements for use of field

Hiking and Biking Programming

- Collaboration between the West Side Health Care Task Force and Patterson, Newman, and Gustine Parks & Recreation Departments
- Organized monthly hiking and biking meet-ups located in the Minniear Day-Use area at Frank Raines Regional Park
- Maps published online with marked trails for users of different abilities

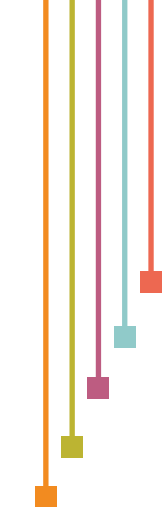
Off-Highway Vehicle Enthusiast Groups

- Friends of Frank Raines is an active group of OHV hobbyists who organize regular meet-ups and volunteer events at Frank Raines Regional Park
- California Off-Road Vehicle Association (C.O.R.V.A) meets at Frank Raines Regional Park for Jamboree events

Seasonal County Programming

- Celebration of Lights holiday event in December: Courthouse Lawn, Modesto
- Easter Egg Hunt: Modesto Reservoir
- Music and Lifestyle Festivals (2018 calendar includes Serenity Gathering, All Day I Dream), Symbiosis: Woodward Reservoir
- Fireworks Celebration in July: Woodward Reservoir
- Fishing Tournaments and Challenges (2018 calendar includes Dobyns Bass Challenge at Woodward Reservoir): Various

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CHAPTER 4

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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NEEDS ASSESSMENT

This document was heavily informed by primary research including site visits, presentations and public feedback at district meetings, and a public survey. This chapter will explain the methodology and results of this primary research. These combined findings will be summarized in section 4.4, Indicated Needs and Deficiencies.

4.1 REVIEW OF CURRENT STATUS OF COUNTY PARKS

The community input portion of this study began with a series of meetings with County staff beginning in April 2017. Discussion highlighted strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges experienced by the Department of Parks and Recreation. The following are some of the questions reviewed:

- What are the strengths of the Stanislaus County parks?
- What areas of Parks and Recreation could use improvement?
- What is the status of new or ongoing Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)?
- How are current improvement programs funded?

County staff identified major assets to the County park system, such as the current popularity of beaches and boat launches at reservoir facilities. In addition to projects that improve and expand the offerings of regional parks, the County's smaller Neighborhood Parks are also receiving ongoing improvements such as restroom facility replacement and improvements to sports fields. Moreover, County staff are actively pursuing grants to continue the improvements at the County's Regional and Neighborhood Parks.

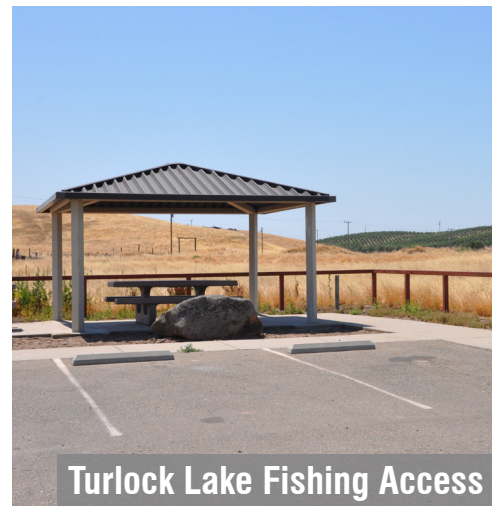
Staff are well-informed and realistic about the need to address shortcomings within County facilities programming, operations, and maintenance, as well as the need to identify an economic strategy that will contribute to the long-term sustainability of County park and facility operations. A recently implemented marketing study influenced re-branding efforts with the County's five Regional Parks and identified future opportunities to increase revenue streams from events and programming within these parks.

4.2 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS AND ONLINE SURVEY

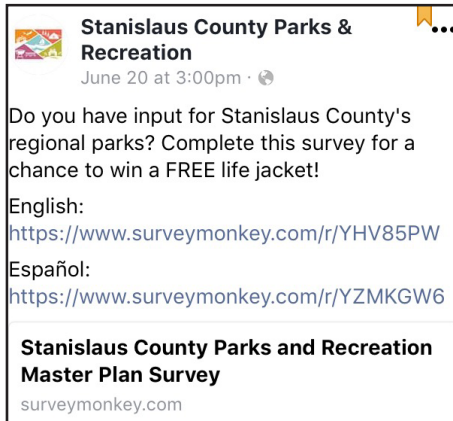
Methodology: Public Survey

A survey was developed consisting of 25 questions. This survey was designed to assess the following qualities of County park user experience:

- Identify current usage of parks and recreation facilities
- Assess importance of and user satisfaction in different qualities of park experience
- Understand barriers to user participation in County parks and recreation resources
- Evaluate successful elements of the existing parks and recreation system

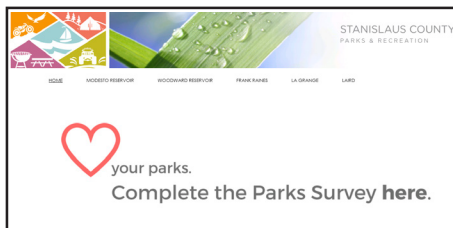


The survey utilized a variety of evaluation measurements to assess community sentiment. Free response options were available, as well as questions requesting the respondent to rank satisfaction in a particular element on a scale. These two questions work in tandem together to generate an opportunity score for park resources. This example will be discussed in more detail later in this chapter.

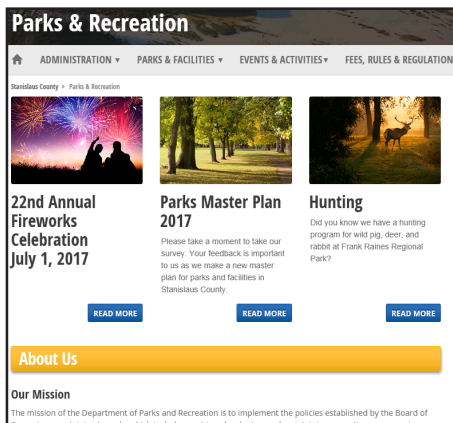


The community outreach survey was translated into Spanish in an effort to extend the planning process to the majority of the community. Both English and Spanish versions of the survey, along with detailed results, are included in Appendix B. The survey was available in hard copy format at each public meeting. Both English and Spanish language versions of the survey were also posted on the survey website Survey Monkey.

The Master Plan update and public survey were advertised on the home page of Stanislaus County Parks' website. Links were provided to both the English and Spanish language versions of the online survey. Background was also provided into the 1999 Parks Master Plan and the types of information included in that document.



Links to both the English and Spanish language versions of the public survey were also advertised on the Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation Facebook page and on each of the five regional parks' Facebook pages. County staff ran Facebook Ad Campaigns to promote the survey links posted on the platform. The Facebook advertisement for the survey incentivized participation by including the chance to win a free life jacket to all survey participants. Announcements were also made via social media platforms Instagram and Twitter.



County staff emailed public meeting and survey information in two e-blasts to over 5,000 email contacts on two separate occasions. All Stanislaus County employees received emails with links to the public surveys prior to its closing date to ensure all staff were included in the public feedback process.

Completed hard copy surveys were entered into the Survey Monkey online option so all results could be tabulated together. The online survey remained active throughout all meetings and afterward in order to allow adequate time for all interested respondents to participate following the advertising period. The final response added to the online survey was dated July 31st, 2017. A few final paper copies of the survey were submitted to the County over the next two months and added to the final assessment.

Methodology: Public Meetings

The consultant team conducted a series of public meetings throughout June and July 2017. One meeting per district was held at already scheduled Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) meetings. Where no MAC meeting was scheduled, County staff held meetings at County buildings on Cornucopia Way in Modesto. Staff personally reached out to invite representatives of community groups such as OHV enthusiasts, Manos Unidas, Keyes Baseball, Salida Baseball, and others. The format was constant across the five meetings, and involved a brief introduction to the project and review of the County parks and facilities within each district. Following the introduction, attendees were invited to share feedback via a web-based, interactive, smartphone-friendly survey using Poll Everywhere software. The Poll Everywhere data updated in real-time during the presentation and was used to open conversations with those in attendance.

The public meetings were advertised in seven local newspapers and publications, with four advertisements in both English and Spanish scheduled through June and July with each publication. Each advertisement directed interested persons to complete the online public survey and to visit the Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation website and social media pages.

A flier summarizing the purpose of the meetings and listing all meeting dates, times, and locations was posted in both English and Spanish to the County Parks and Recreation Facebook page. The County also created a Facebook “event” for each public meeting and announced each event on the Parks and Recreation Facebook page. Facebook posts were promoted in a Facebook ad campaign. The event function created a forum for each meeting where interested parties were able to see date, time, and location for each of the meetings, as well as RSVP or ask any questions of the event managers and other attendees. In addition to the County’s social media avenues, public meeting announcements were shared to private social media accounts, such as those of affiliated groups including the Facebook group “Friends of Frank Raines Park.”



PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR PARKS MASTER PLAN

The Department of Parks and Recreation along with O'Dell Engineering will be hosting Public Meetings for the next 20 year Park's Master Plan. We encourage the public to attend this important meeting that will lay out the future of parks for Stanislaus County.

Pick a meeting to attend...

6.20.17, 6 pm

Bianchi Community Center
110 S. 2nd Avenue
Oakdale, CA 95361

6.27.17, 7 pm

Salida Library Community
Room
4835 Sisk Road
Salida, CA 95368

6.29.17, 6 pm

Stanislaus County Ag Center
3800 Cornucopia Way
Harvest Hall (DE)
Modesto, CA 95358

7.13.17, 6 pm

Stanislaus County Ag Center
3800 Cornucopia Way
Harvest Hall (DE)
Modesto, CA 95358

7.20.17, 7 pm

Keyes Community Service
District Office
3800 Cornucopia Way
Harvest Hall (DE)
Modesto, CA 95358



JUL
20

Public Meeting for Parks Master Plan: Keyes MAC

Public · Event · by Stanislaus County
Parks & Recreation



Interested



Going



Share

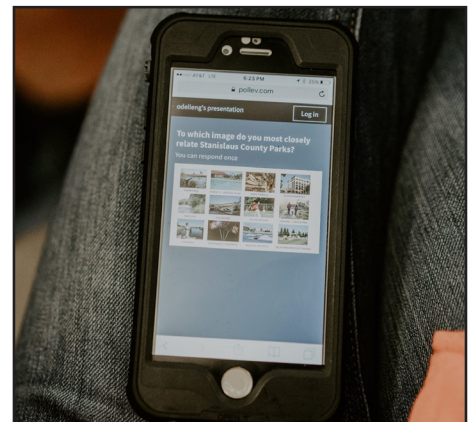


More

Thursday, July 20 at 7 PM - 8 PM PDT

Next Week · 68–102° Sunny

Keyes Community Services District
5601 7th St, Keyes, California 95328



Stanislaus County
Parks and Recreation Master Plan Public Meetings
June 20th, 2017: Bianchi Community Center, Oakdale
June 27th, 2017: Salida Library Community Room, Salida
June 29th, 2017: Stanislaus County Ag Center, Harvest Hall, Modesto
July 13th, 2017: Stanislaus County Ag Center, Harvest Hall, Modesto
July 20th, 2017: Keyes Community Service District Office, Harvest Hall, Modesto

4.3 KEY FINDINGS

Over the course of the survey's two months online, 597 respondents (including public meeting attendees) completed the English version of the survey and 17 respondents completed the Spanish version. Complete results from the community outreach survey are included in Appendix B.

The total of 614 responses to the survey represents 0.11% of the 527,367 population. Given the response rate per population, the results indicate with 95% confidence the answers are typical of the wider population, with a margin for error of $\pm 5\%$.¹ Therefore, while surveys by nature tend to draw extreme opinions (e.g., those who strongly like or strongly dislike some aspect of County park facilities), the rate of response on the public survey performed for this plan indicates that the trends represented in the surveys obtained represents the opinions of the general population of the County, plus or minus 5%.

Overall, public survey responses indicated the following:

- 42% (238) of the total number of public survey respondents indicated they live in Modesto. 19% indicated they live in a location not listed; many of these respondents wrote in places of residence outside Stanislaus County, mostly in San Joaquin County.
- When asked how often they use County parks, 16% of respondents said they use County parks weekly, 19% use them monthly, and 45% stated they use the parks seasonally. 5% indicated they never use County parks, and the remaining 15% selected some other frequency of use.
- 62% of respondents indicated they had used one of the County's water access points in the past year, and 26% of respondents indicated they had used the County's water access points at least four times during the past year.
- 42% of respondents have reserved a park, BBQ, recreation area, or other space from Stanislaus County in the past year. 12% of total respondents indicated they reserved use of a space 3 or more times in the past year.
- Just over half of respondents indicated they had attended a special event at a County park in the past year. 52% of respondents had attended at least 1 event, while 48% had not attended any special events at County parks in the previous year.
- When asked to indicate preferred funding mechanisms for future development and maintenance of County parks and facilities, the top three preferred options were: user fees (residents pay less than out of County visitors), volunteer efforts, and public private partnerships. A tax measure to dedicate funding for parks maintenance costs was the least popular option indicated by survey recipients.

¹ Survey Monkey Sample Size Calculator. www.surveymonkey.com/mp/sample-size-calculator

Importance/Satisfaction Questions

Importance/Satisfaction comparisons are important because they take the public feedback and look at it through the lens of two questions:

- How important are different parks amenities to the public?
- How satisfied are members of the public with the same parks amenities?

The public survey included several questions which asked respondents to rank a list of benefits associated with County parks according to personal importance. Respondents were subsequently asked to rate the same list of benefits according to personal satisfaction with each element. This direct comparison provides a clear window of opportunity for items ranked as high personal importance but low satisfaction. In other words, the combined results of the importance/satisfaction questions show where the County might be over-investing in something that is not important to residents, or where the County should be investing more in order to better fulfill things that are very important to residents.

With one exception, all items polled for importance/satisfaction indicated lower than optimal satisfaction with the County's parks and facilities offerings. Notably, the only exception was the public's satisfaction with the availability and number of County sports fields offered. The opportunity score for that item indicated the public is adequately satisfied with sports fields.

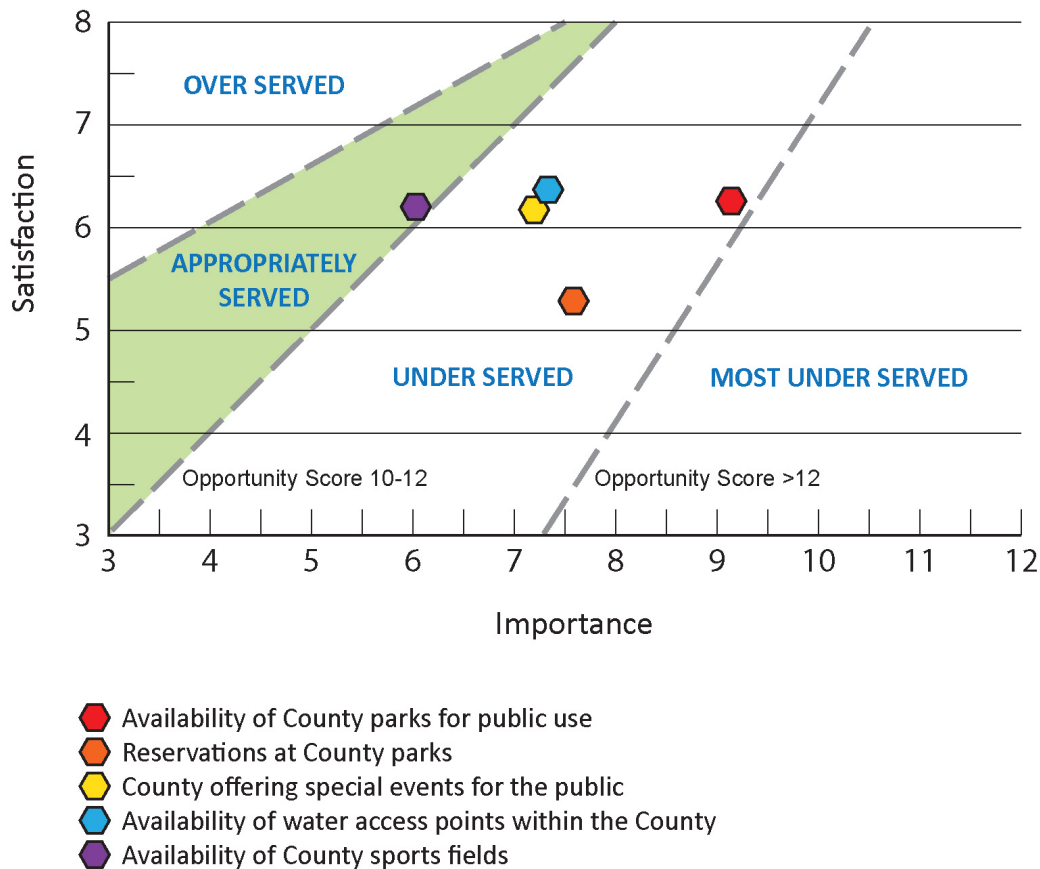
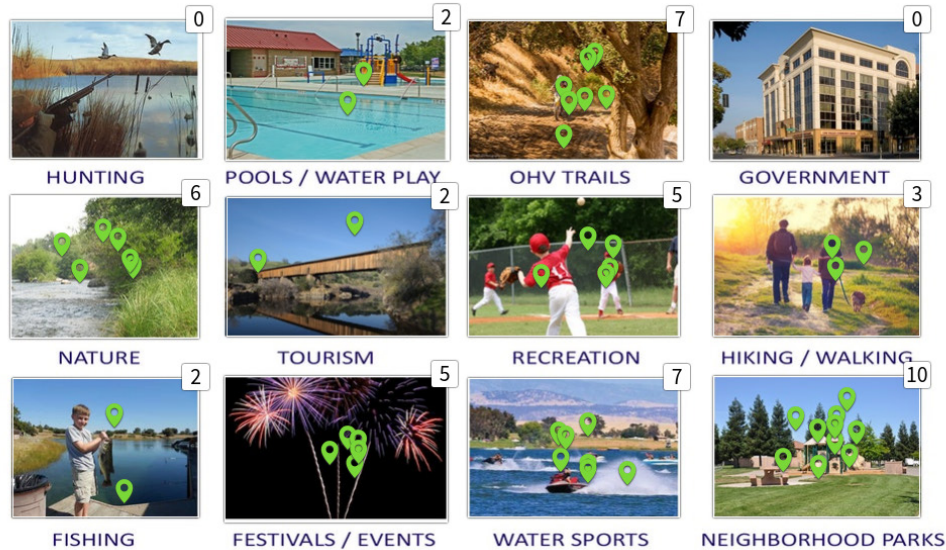


Table 4.1: Importance/Satisfaction scatter chart, public survey questions 3&4, 6&7, 8&9, 15&16, 19&20

To which image do you most closely relate Stanislaus County Parks?

When poll is active, respond at [PollEv.com/odelleng](https://www.poll Everywhere.com/odelleng)



Poll Everywhere Screenshot

Results from the Poll Everywhere polls completed during each public meeting helped attendees consider the many issues that are important to park maintenance and future development. The Poll Everywhere data also helps show general public sentiment using photo prompts to obtain feedback on public perception of Stanislaus County's overall character as well as parks facilities. For example, participants were asked to indicate the image which they associated most closely with Stanislaus County parks. Out of 49 total participants over the course of the public meetings, the results varied widely. The leading response was Neighborhood Parks, followed by OHV trails and water sports (tied).

Environmental Assessment Questions

The June 20th public meeting included an overview of the environmental planning portion of the Stanislaus County Parks Master Plan update. Through the online public survey as well as the Poll Everywhere survey administered at the public meetings included questions specifically tailored to gather public input regarding environmental issues. The Poll Everywhere results indicated the three most important environmental subjects for respondents were: water quality, air quality, and traffic.

Respondents were divided when asked about environmental issues as part of the public survey. 528 survey respondents answered the question, "Are there environmental concerns that you feel that the County should take into consideration in the development and improvement of County parks?" Of these, 54% indicated they did not feel there were any environmental concerns that should be considered, while 46% felt there were environmental concerns to be addressed.

When provided with the option to provide comments on their answers, over 140 respondents added comments indicating the environmental concerns they felt were most important to consider as part of this parks master plan update. The top response from the public was that they would like to see increased enforcement of littering laws and all posted regulations at County parks. The second most cited environmental concern was with the number of waste receptacles and restroom facilities in order to further cut down on the human-generated waste left at County parks.

4.4 CURRENT NEEDS AND DEFICIENCIES

Community outreach sampling identified several opportunities for improvement. With over 600 respondents providing feedback about what they like/dislike most about County parks, clear trends began to emerge in community sentiments and needs. The greatest number of responses as to what people **like** most about the County's parks and recreation facilities (Table 4.2) fell into the following three categories:

1. Overall water access/swimming options
2. Walking/hiking/biking trails
3. Picnic areas/BBQs

Other well-liked qualities included camping options, access to use reservoirs, and good park distribution across the County. Respondents value having County parks accessible nearby which provide outdoor play options for children and places for family gatherings. Access to natural spaces and the variety of County facilities were also listed as positive features.

On the other hand, the greatest number of responses as to what people **dislike** most about the City's recreation facilities (Table 4.3) fell into the following categories:

1. Overall cleanliness/maintenance in parks
2. Homelessness and crime in parks
3. Lack of restrooms in parks

Respondents also named overcrowding and noise complaints at campgrounds as a major concern, and pointed to insufficient on-site park staff and law enforcement patrols as contributing factors to these complaints. The general trend within the "dislike" answers was a need for greater supervision and code enforcement at all parks, particularly at the regional parks.

Staffing and Code Enforcement

Comments regarding the need to increase staffing and security in order to enforce posted codes and regulations dominated much of the free-response portions of the survey. Respondents indicated concerns ranging from inconvenience (being required to clean rubbish from one's own campsite upon arrival) to safety (witnessing drug and alcohol abuse by other park users) and health (concerns about human waste contaminating park space and waters). Several respondents listed concerns with park patrons selling food to other campers and park users. There was a pervasive sentiment of longtime park users becoming increasingly frustrated with the state of maintenance and lack of regulation upon criminal acts and vagrancy in parks.

Campground Reservation System

The public sentiment indicating frustration with perceived lack of investment in County parks also contributes to an interesting trend in the feedback regarding the new reservation system. The County recently changed its campsite reservation system to an online system which may be accessed from a computer or smartphone. This system is consistent with what other City, State and municipal campgrounds currently use. Further, it encourages use by visitors who do not wish to run a risk of not having a campsite, such as may happen with a "first come, first served" system, such as those who must pack up children, who live far from the campsite, or for whom camping is otherwise a major investment in time.

The new reservation system was listed by multiple respondents as one of the things they like most about County facilities. This new system is met with some resistance by longtime park users. For many, the sudden increase in campground charges do not make sense when campers experience significant litter and maintenance concerns at the park. Finally, respondents indicated the camping fees on the website do not allow equal access for County residents of reduced means.

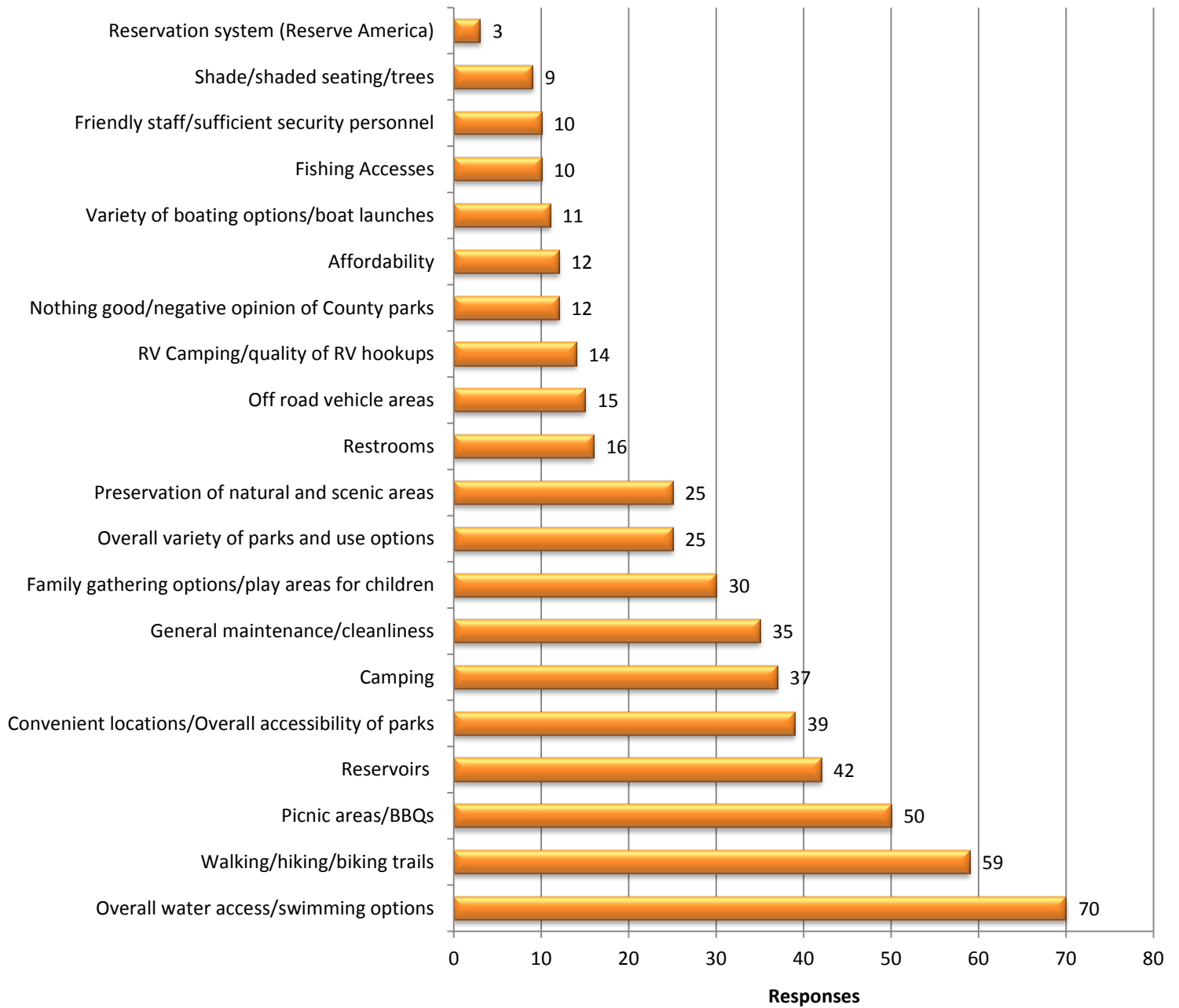


Table 4.2: What do you like most about the County’s recreation facilities?

Modernization of Park Features

An overall desire for modernization and more dynamic park features was a secondary theme in the survey responses. Respondents want to see WiFi and better cellular reception in the parks. Patrons cited concerns about lack of cellular coverage in parks in case of an emergency or in the event someone needed to report criminal activity. WiFi in the parks would likely provide increased online presence for the parks as well, as many active people use apps to track fitness and post to trails and other exercise websites. WiFi would also facilitate transactions for special events taking place in parks, from allowing ticket sellers and vendors to use mobile payment devices to allowing patrons to access event websites or apps to learn more about events or performers.

Other technological upgrades listed included increased use of solar and wind power to power amenities within the parks, such as the lights for restrooms/showers or cell phone charging stations. A few respondents specifically listed a desire for electric vehicle charging locations within the parks. Camping with electric vehicles has become a popular practice throughout California, and electric vehicle owners often plan scenic drives specifically around locations where they can charge their vehicles. Providing that opportunity for vehicle charging, particularly at the County's regional parks, would create an attractive option for individuals or families traveling in electric vehicles.

Aside from technological modernization, survey respondents felt strongly about renovating outdated playground surfacing and equipment, integrating more shade into parks of all sizes, and introducing popular recreation opportunities such as outdoor fitness equipment into the County's park system. Respondents urged the County to "think outside the box" and extend expanded environmental education options to the public. Several responses listed signature parks facilities managed by regional districts and how those signature parks become tourism and monetary drivers.

Dog parks were another popular topic amongst respondents, as well as a regular subject of feedback from County parks staff and Parks Commissioners. There is longstanding support for construction of a dog park at Laird Regional Park. Other dog parks should be placed in locations convenient to dense residential development such that residents would be able to walk their dogs to a nearby dog park for socialization and off-leash exercise.

Marketing and Advertising

A number of respondents indicated they were unaware that the County managed so many recreation opportunities prior to either attending the public meetings or to seeing the full list of County parks and recreation facilities at the beginning of the survey. Advertising concise lists of the County's parks along with special use facilities, such as hunting, fishing, equestrian options, drone/RC airplane fields, and more would contribute to a greater public appreciation for the County's assets.

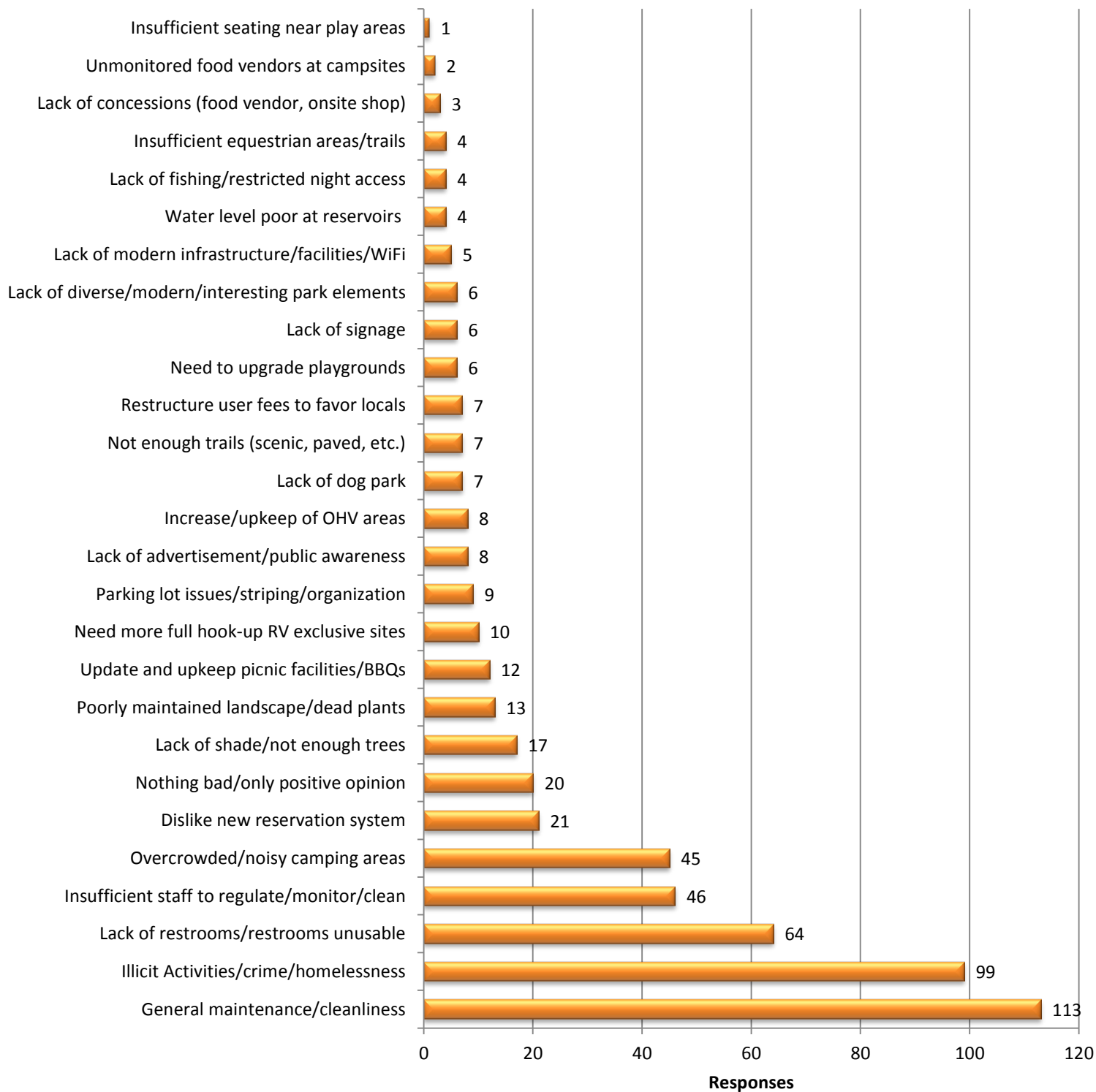
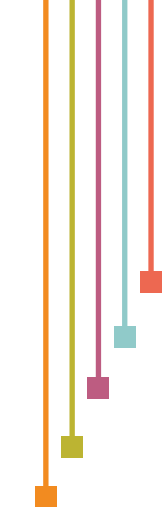


Table 4.3: What do you dislike most about the County's recreation facilities?



CHAPTER 5
BEST PRACTICES

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BEST PRACTICES

The following chapter provides a review of current best practices in parks and recreation planning. The following sections review standards and trends in parks and recreation usage, design guidelines, and sustainable practices. This chapter presents a framework which will guide the master plan's recommendations.

5.1 TRENDS IN PARKS AND RECREATION

Health Trends

In its "Healthy Parks Healthy People" guide, the National Park Service specifically mentions that connection to local parks will help children "lead healthier, happier, more fulfilled lives," in addition to connecting them to natural resources. Efforts such as these by the National Park Service and others by State and local entities have made the dialogue surrounding health and parks mainstream. It is now widely acknowledged that increasing exposure to nature and exercise encourages physical and mental health for users of all ages.

Best practices for parks and recreation development include maximizing opportunities to engage users in creative forms of exercise. An increase in community activity levels is not only an immediate benefit to city parks by increasing users, but also a long-term benefit to the health of the community at large. The focus must be on engaging the entire community to participate more actively in parks and recreation opportunities. Parents and grandparents engaged in active pursuits will be likely to encourage the same values in children and youth.

County residents of widely varying demographics must feel comfortable using their public parks and recreation system. Existing cultural and hobby-related community groups prove the desire to participate in a number of activities, from bird watching or nature walks to yoga or Zumba classes. Moreover, increasing programming within the County's parks and recreation outlets may increase community connectedness by bringing people together.

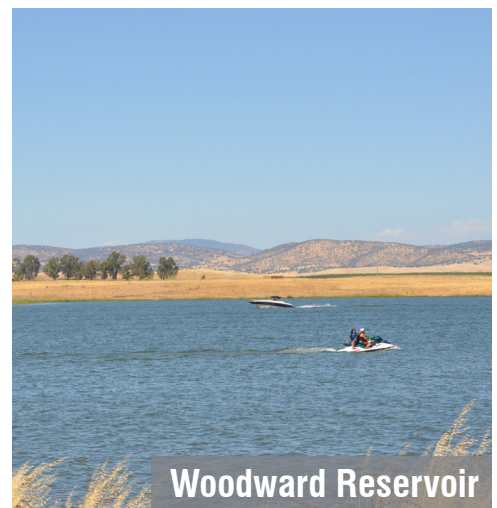
Current trends in municipal parks and open space planning also increasingly include opportunities for community gardens. The positive impact of gardening is far-reaching. All members of a community benefit from community gardens, as hobbyist gardeners without garden space at home are allowed an opportunity to meet other community members with similar interests. For example, seniors who have downsized and lost connection to a previous hobby may benefit, and may serve as mentors to other gardeners. Moreover, families struggling to make ends meet often grow their own vegetables in an attempt to save money for other important food items. This provides a source of fresh produce to adults and children who may otherwise go without. Community gardens also offer an opportunity for many immigrants and their families to build upon cultural connections to farming and agriculture.



Empire Community Park



Modesto Reservoir



Woodward Reservoir



Opportunities for community gardens may support a sense of community pride and build connections amongst neighbors, and, importantly, bring a constant stream of people to a park space throughout the day, which increases community ownership of a park. This presence is also a first step toward keeping more eyes on the park to deter and report deviant activity, and a constructive presence that will improve the sense of safety for other park patrons. Stanislaus County currently provides maintenance services for the Knights Ferry Community Garden in the rural community of Knights Ferry. Focusing community gardens in more densely populated, suburban or downtown areas and within existing parks is desirable to foster community and neighborly interactions.

An overall increase in physical activity levels not only improves health, but has also been positively correlated with a number of social factors including reduction in crime rates, reduction in juvenile delinquency, increased rates of volunteerism and overall sense of community. Moreover, the presence of safe and accessible trails, recreation facilities, and attractive outdoor environments is linked to increased physical activity levels.¹



Demographic trends influence future parks and recreation needs.

Demographic trends, including ethnicity, linguistics, and age, all influence the user needs and desires for parks and recreational usage. As documented in the Context chapter, Stanislaus County's Hispanic/Latino population has increased from 31.7% of the total County population in 2000 to 43.6% by 2015. This statistic must be acknowledged as a driver for future County parks and recreation planning and programming efforts.

As with any other demographic group, the Hispanic/Latino population should not be considered a homogeneous group. There are, however, fundamental cultural considerations that should be taken into account that will affect the use of recreation facilities.



The UCLA Anderson School of Management's 2006 study titled, "The Hispanic Community and Outdoor Recreation" should be looked to as a resource for a general overview of cultural and consumer market trends. In this report, the authors emphasize the importance of understanding the Hispanic/Latino population as fundamentally family and community focused. The study quotes data that Hispanic/Latino parents spend significantly more of their total household budget on their children than do non-Hispanic white parents. Hispanic/Latino children are also more likely to grow up in multi-generational homes.²

Bearing these statistics in mind, the County's parks, especially neighborhood parks, should be made welcoming and usable amenities for citizens of all ages. Various exercise apparatus may be installed adjacent to play equipment so that multiple family members may enjoy the park together.

1 California State Parks. "The Health and Social Benefits of Recreation." 2005.

2 UCLA Anderson School of Management. "The Hispanic Community and Outdoor Recreation." 2006.

Playgrounds should be integrated into community facilities and social gathering places. Investments in amenities such as shade structures and restroom facilities are important to support community presence at County parks.

The provision of Spanish language materials is perhaps the greatest take-away for increasing presence specifically within the Hispanic/Latino community. 40.9% of the County's population speaks a language other than English at home, with the majority of these households speaking Spanish. Provisions must be made in the form of bilingual parks signage, handouts, and other exhibits promoting Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation offerings and initiatives.

The age demographic in Stanislaus County is changing very slightly, mostly in line with State and national trends. One age group, children under the age of 18, makes up a slightly higher percentage of the total population of Stanislaus County than at State or national levels. Particularly in light of troubling trends toward childhood obesity addressed in Chapter 2 of this document, the prominence of this age group within the County reaffirms the need to creatively engage families in public parks and recreation opportunities. Partnerships with youth-focused groups, such as Stanislaus County PAL, continue to be beneficial to providing organized recreation opportunities to the County's youth.

A topic of increasing importance is the integration of an aging population into public amenities, such as parks. Ongoing work by researchers at UCLA, for example, points to expanding "parallel" opportunities for seniors adjacent to activity areas at existing parks in order to be as inclusive as possible.³ Overall, it is important to note overall population trends toward longer life expectancy and an active and engaged senior population. County estimates show adults over 60 years of age make up 18% of the County's population as of 2016. County Parks and Recreation currently contributes funding to programming by the County's Department of Aging and Veterans Services' Area Agency on Aging and partners with the production of Healthy Aging Association programs for older adults. It is important to consider passive recreation options, such as bird watching, outdoor areas for art or seminars, and safe, convenient boating and fishing opportunities. At the same time, the County could begin looking for ways to engage an aging population in "lifetime sports" such as walking or hiking, yoga, tai chi, swimming, and court games such as tennis, pickleball, horseshoes, bocce, and petanque.

Benchmarks

Tulare, San Joaquin, and Kern counties each consist of similar population size and demographic to Stanislaus County. Each of these counties is comparable in terms of geographic location, parks and open space amenities, and economic/social factors. These counties will provide benchmark data for the purpose of direct comparison with Stanislaus County.

Benchmark County	Tulare	San Joaquin	Kern	Stanislaus
2015 Total Population	454,033	708,544	865,736	527,367
Hispanic/Latino Population	62.4%	40.1%	51.0%	43.6%
Median Household Income	\$42,031	\$53,274	\$33,912	\$50,125

Table 5.1: 2015 Demographic Statistics, Benchmark Counties⁴

Benchmarks are useful as they provide a snapshot in time of measurable statistics and show how Stanislaus County compares to its nearest comparable counties on a point-by-point basis. At the same time, it is important to look outside the immediate geographic region to identify trends in parks and recreation. The larger Central California area offers several excellent models for City, County, and Special Park Districts that have successfully utilized leading edge best practices in planning and operational aspects. Examples include the East Bay Regional Parks District, the Santa Clara County Parks Department, the San Francisco Recreation and Park District, Santa Barbara County Parks, and Marin County Parks, among others. These "model districts" and others will be referenced to provide a basis on which the County may continue to improve and expand its own offerings.

³ Hong, Sharon. "Their Goal: Creating Public Parks for an Aging Population." *Luskin Forum*, August 2014.

⁴ United States Census Bureau: www.census.gov

“Model” Parks and Recreation Districts Referenced Within This Master Plan

“Model” Parks and Recreation Districts have been referenced throughout this Master Plan to provide examples of best practices and trends among forward-thinking Park Districts. Using these examples as a model, Stanislaus County will move toward the leading edge of current public parks and recreation district best practices. Selected referenced Districts and the page numbers on which they are referenced are listed below.

San Francisco Recreation & Park District: » 134, 137, 138	Santa Barbara County Parks: » 138	Santa Clara County Parks: » 120, 128, 137, 143, 154	East Bay Regional Park District: » 33, 115, 120, 126, 127, 128, 137, 143, 154
San Jose Parks, Recreation, & Neighborhood Services » 134, 137	Marin County Parks: » 33, 120	Napa County Regional Park & Open Space District » 143	San Luis Obispo County Parks: » 33, 129

Acreage per Population Level of Service Standards

The goal of meeting a “level of service” in parks acreage per population is to equitably spread the economic and health benefits of parks throughout a given parks district. National Parks and Recreation organizations, including the National Recreation and Park Association, began to shy away from issuing national standards for facilities level of service per population about twenty years ago. Rather, it was deemed appropriate that these level of service standards should be determined by individual municipalities and tailored to the unique needs of each. The Stanislaus County General Plan Land Use Element (Goal 4) states,

“At least three net acres of developed neighborhood parks, or the maximum number of acres allowed by law, should be provided for every 1,000 residents, through land dedication and development, payment of in-lieu-of fees, public facility fees, or other methods acceptable to the Parks Department.”

Since the 1975 Quimby Act (California Government Code §66477) was passed, cities and counties in the state of California have had the power to establish land dedication ordinances and require that developers contribute in one of several ways to dedicating land for park improvements. Quimby Act standards include dedication of 3-5 acres per 1,000 residents in a given jurisdiction to ensure adequate park land is developed along with housing construction.⁵ While five acres does not constitute a maximum allowable park acreage, it does represent in the Quimby Act the maximum park acreage per 1,000 residents that may be required of developers.

5 Westrup, Laura. “Quimby Act 101: An Abbreviated Overview.” May 2002. www.parks.ca.gov/pages/795/files/quimby101.pdf

Parks Level of Service	Tulare	San Joaquin	Kern	Stanislaus
Level of Service Standard for Parks Acres per Population	3-5 Acres/1,000 (<i>Quimby Act Cited in General Plan Requirement</i>)	10 Acres/1,000 (<i>Regional Parks</i>) 3 Acres/1,000 (<i>Local Parks</i>)	2.5 Acres/1,000	3 Acres/1,000 (<i>"3 net acres of developed neighborhood parks in unincorporated areas"</i>)

Table 5.2: Parks Level of Service Requirement per Benchmark Counties' General Plan Documents.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommends provision of at least 10 acres per 1,000 population. This number is typically used by cities rather than counties and to refer to total public parks and open space, regardless of park size/typology. While a number of park districts and municipalities have moved to the 10 acres per 1,000 metric, others, such as the East Bay Regional Park District, aim for equitable distribution of park space across the district. Regional standards and numbers established by the Quimby Act indicate a baseline best practice of four acres per 1,000 residents. Stanislaus County's current total park acreage including County-owned Parks of all sizes provides just over 11 acres per 1,000 residents given current population numbers.

It is important to recognize, however, that the County General Plan references "three net acres of developed *neighborhood parks*" per 1,000 residents within unincorporated Stanislaus County. This requirement specifically refers to developed neighborhood parks, implying those parks which provide direct services to neighborhoods, thereby excluding Regional Parks from this calculation. The County provides just over 106 acres of parks categorized as Neighborhood Parks. With a total population in unincorporated areas of 100,860, the County currently provides one acre of developed Neighborhood Parks per 1,000 residents in unincorporated areas.

While total County park space exceeds the requirement for park acreage per population, the Neighborhood Park acreage currently provided by the County is below the minimum number set forward in the General Plan. This fact is also noted within the General Plan, which states that the unincorporated communities of Keyes and Denair are currently underserved by local parks.

Finally, it should be noted that there are additional private and public parks which are unaffiliated with the County which may serve unincorporated populations. While the acreage per population goal set forward in the General Plan for developed neighborhood parkland per unincorporated population within the County is not currently met by County-provided parks, citizens are often able to utilize private recreation facilities, municipal parks, and state and national open space areas proximate to their communities.



Regional Parks

Frank Raines Regional Park

» 3,150.34 Acres

La Grange Regional Park

» 231.12 Acres

Laird Regional Park

» 98.96 Acres

Modesto Reservoir Regional Park

» 765.61 Acres

Woodward Reservoir

Regional Park

» 1,068.83 Acres

Total = 5,314.86 acres

82% Total Parks Acreage

Regional Park Partnership

Tuolumne River Regional Park

» 510 Acres

Total = 510 acres

7.8% Total Parks Acreage

Neighborhood Parks

Bellenita Park

» 20.86 Acres

Bonita Park

» 1.02 Acre

Bonita Ranch Park

» 11.99 Acres

Burbank-Paradise Park

» 0.73 Acre

Center 1 Courthouse Lawn Park

» 0.7 Acres

Countrystone Park

» 7.82 Acres

Empire Park

» 6.15 Acres

Empire Tot Lot

» 0.16 Acre

Fairview Park

» 4.66 Acres

Grayson United Park

» 4.93 Acres

Hatch Park/Keyes Center

» 5 Acres

Hunter's Pointe Park

» 2.51 Acres

John Murphy Park

» 4.24 Acres

Fitzsimmons Memorial Park

» 0.52 Acre

Mono Park

» 2.25 Acre

Oregon Drive Park

» 1.6 Acres

Parklawn Park

» 3.99 Acres

Riverdale Park, River & Fishing Access

» 2.23 Acres

Salida Park

» 2.09 Acres

Segesta Park

» 9.34 Acres

Sterling Ranch Park

» 4.2 Acres

Wincanton Park

» 9.22 Acres

Total = 106.21 acres

1.6% Total Parks Acreage

Special Interest Parks

Basso Bridge River & Fishing Access

» 10.59 Acres

Fox Grove River & Fishing Access

» 64 Acres

Joe Domecq Wildlife Area

» 265.5 Acres

Kiwanis Camp

» 48.04 Acres

Las Palmas River & Fishing Access

» 4.59 Acres

J-59 Fishing Access

» 133.09 Acres

Shiloh River & Fishing Access

» 1.4 Acres

Turlock Lake Fishing Access

» 27 Acres

Total = 554.21 acres

8.5% Total Parks Acreage

Miscellaneous

Atlas Park

» 0.12 Acres

Hideaway Terrace Flood Control Basin

» 0.6 Acres

Stanislaus Recovery Center Park

» 15.28 Acres

Roberts Ferry Cemetery

» 2.75 Acres

Pauper's Field Citizens Cemetery

» 0.34 Acres

Old School North Flood Control Basin

» 0.41 Acres

Suncrest Estates Flood Control Basin

» 0.47 Acres

Total = 19.97 acres

.3% Total Parks Acreage

5.2 PARK DESIGN GUIDELINES BY PARK TYPE

Stanislaus County parks range widely in size, programming, and a number of other factors. Frank Raines Regional Park, for example, is several thousand acres in size, while Bonita Park is just one acre. Modesto and Woodward Reservoirs draw tourists and hobbyists traveling from other counties and states, while amenities like Fairview and Parklawn Parks are neighborhood amenities that support recreational options for those who live within walking distance of the parks.

Each park, regardless of size, provides unique services to target user groups and will naturally vary from others. A good example of this is the distinct difference between Regional Parks such as Frank Raines and Laird; one may offer camping and off-roading opportunities for active recreation, while the other may cater to fishing, picnicking, and other passive recreational pursuits.

Therefore, the following section categorizes parks by size and summarizes the types of amenities typical of each park typology. For clarity and in order to retain consistency with language from the 1999 Parks Master Plan, these typologies have been classified as Regional Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Special Interest Parks, and Miscellaneous Parks and Open Space. The following park typology sections provide an overview of each type of park within the Stanislaus County parks system and include typical features which may be appropriate for the different types of parks.

Regional Parks

Regional Parks are the largest park assets within the Stanislaus County parks system. Stanislaus County's five Regional Parks are the jewels of the County's park system and function uniquely as drivers for regional tourism. Each of the "Big Five" are branded for maximum viewer recognition and support a range of economic opportunities. These parks are also the largest and most programmatically diverse of the County's offerings.



The Big Five Regional Parks total over 5,000 acres of land area, 82% of County-provided parks and open space. The Tuolumne River Regional Park, managed jointly by the City of Ceres, City of Modesto, and Stanislaus County, contributes another 510 acres of parks and natural space open areas along the Tuolumne River.



Regional Parks serve an important role in the County, providing opportunities for large events and community activities as well as specialty areas for groups of hobbyists. Regional Parks may provide facilities and programming such as:

- ADA accessible paths and amenities
- Group barbecues and picnic tables
- Concessions/vending; utility hook-ups for vendors
- Party/Wedding Venue
- Amphitheater
- Information kiosk
- Camping sites for hike-in or car camping
- Camping sites for RV camping
- Restrooms
- ADA accessible trails through natural areas
- Natural area educational signage
- Opportunities for alternative creative play, physical challenges, and nature play
- Exercise equipment and/or circuit training with signage for adult exercise
- Lighted sports fields and courts with a minimum of (2) of each type to support tournament programming
- Dog parks
- Dog waste stations
- Recreational opportunities for off-highway vehicles
- Recreational areas set aside for hobbyists (archery, model airplanes, model boats, drone racing, etc.)
- WiFi access to support on-site financial transactions associated with campsite rental, special events, and more

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks currently make up 1.6% of the total parks acreage provided by the County, but they serve an important purpose in connecting the community. Neighborhood parks serve as an extended back yard for local residents and provide both passive and active recreation opportunities. An ideal Neighborhood Park connects residents to outdoor recreation options and increases residents' sense of ownership of their own community. Most of the County's Neighborhood Parks serve unincorporated communities and the rural agricultural areas of the County, and as such are the only municipally-provided public parks and open space available to those communities.

Comparable park districts have set minimum sizes for development of new Neighborhood Parks in order to ensure that facilities offer adequate space for recreational use. Contra Costa County requires new Neighborhood Parks be at least 3 acres in size, while the City of Tracy sets the minimum at 4 acres, and the City of Dublin sets the minimum at 5 acres.

- Neighborhood Parks provide active and passive recreational opportunities and are accessible to neighborhood residents traveling on foot and by bicycle.
- Most County residents should be able to access a neighborhood park within a five to ten minute walk, or 1/4 to 1/2 mile, of their home.
- Neighborhood parks may provide opportunities for active play and exercise in the form of:
 - ADA accessible paths and walking circuits
 - Play areas for 2-5 year old and 5-12 year old activity levels (ideally separate areas for each group)
 - Multi-purpose turf lawns for informal sports activities
 - Sports Courts, including tennis, basketball, pickleball, and others
 - Sports fields (typically one or two fields, rather than multi-field specialty sports parks geared toward tournament play)
- Neighborhood parks may also provide:
 - Shaded seating areas (proximate to play areas)
 - Exercise equipment for adult park users
 - Community gardens
 - Educational or memorial gardens (Xeriscape gardens, rose gardens, etc.)
 - Dog run areas/Dog parks

Special Interest Parks

The parks which fall into this category typically include areas dedicated to specific outdoor recreation purposes. Most of the County's Special Interest parks are fishing or river access points. While Special Interest parks make up almost 9% of the County's park land, they cater to a specific user group and therefore each requires specialty features to ensure its use is being utilized in the best way possible.

Amenities at Special Interest Parks may include:

- ADA accessible paths and amenities
- Barbecues, picnic tables, bike racks, trash cans
- Parking lot
- ADA accessible trails through natural areas
- Information kiosk and educational signage
- Dog waste stations
- Boat launch or other river interface
- Restrooms

Miscellaneous Park Space

County owned and maintained open space which falls into the Miscellaneous category includes areas not categorized otherwise into the County park classifications. Miscellaneous Parks make up more than less than 1% of the County's park land and include areas not typically considered "parks," such as green space within traffic easements, flood control basins, and cemeteries.

Amenities at Miscellaneous use areas may include:

- ADA accessible paths and amenities
- Benches or other seating
- Shade structures
- Dog waste stations

Park Facilities	Tulare	San Joaquin	Kern	Stanislaus
Neighborhood Parks	5	11	41	22
Regional Parks	7	9	7	5
Special Use/Miscellaneous	-	-	-	14
Total Acreage	460	511	4,702	6,505.25

Table 5.3: Benchmark Counties' parks by use typology

5.3 CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Stanislaus County has unique interface with varied natural ecosystems. The County reaches into the foothills of the Coastal Range to the west and to the Sierra Nevadas to the east. The Stanislaus and Tuolumne Rivers pass through the County before joining the San Joaquin River, which then flows North to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Tuolumne River is the San Joaquin's largest tributary and supports wild trout and salmon populations.

The Tuolumne River Trust is a regional nonprofit organization which is dedicated to not only the preservation of the Tuolumne River but also to increasing public awareness of the River's benefits and promoting safe public interface with the River. A representative from the Tuolumne River Trust provided feedback which contributed to this Parks Master Plan. Specific goals for improvement of County-owned Tuolumne River's public access points will be discussed further in the Recommendations chapter of this document.



In addition to ensuring standard environmental compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Stanislaus County places high priority on preservation of its environmental resources within parks and open space. Stanislaus County states in the Conservation/Open Space Element of the General Plan;

The element: (1) promotes the protection, maintenance, and use of the County's natural resources, with special emphasis on scarce resources and those that require special control and management; (2) prevents wasteful exploitation, destruction, and neglect of natural resources; (3) recognizes the need for natural resources to be maintained for their ecological values as well as for their direct benefit to people; (4) preserves open space lands for outdoor recreation including scenic, historic and cultural areas; and (5) preserves open space for public health and safety including areas subject to landslides, flooding, and high fire risk and areas required for the protection of water and air quality.

Municipal Parks and Recreation divisions are uniquely situated to positively influence the public's perception of our natural environment and resource management. Cutting edge use of both new building technology and tried and true low impact development methods can be integrated seamlessly into existing facility retrofits and new facility development. The public in turn will experience these technologies close-up. Many low-impact stormwater management techniques in particular can be integrated into the park user experience to become educational experiences.

Leading regional park districts have established sustainable development and ecological awareness as an integral feature in the development, expansion, and branding of their facilities.

- The East Bay Regional Park District manages local parklands as portions of the larger watershed area in which they lie. This larger-picture component of parks planning and development preserves the unique landscape of each park as well as encourages the park's long-term functionality within its unique ecosystem.
- The Marin County Countywide Plan emphasizes the importance of Stream Conservation Areas (SCAs) and the importance of planning construction so as to complement and encourage healthy waterways. Marin County's best practices include recommendations to use pervious pavement wherever possible and to use vegetated drainage swales rather than hard-surfaced ditches in order to improve infiltration.
- Santa Clara County Parks recently enrolled one of their parks in the Countywide Habitat Plan, a program run by the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency. Being a part of the plan ensures a comprehensive and effective way to address the impact of the public's access to Rancho San Vicente for endangered and threatened species and their habitats. These types of cross-agency partnerships may also be appropriate to Stanislaus County's parks given their dynamic and varied ecological statuses and needs.

Sustainable Infrastructure

There is a common misconception that sustainable building alternatives are inherently more expensive than traditional planning and building practices. In a 2009 survey by the National Recreation and Park Association, Parks and Recreation leaders noted concerns about keeping up with funding environmental improvements while struggling with budgets cuts and reductions in water supply.⁶ Fortunately, water-saving technology and practices have improved such that conforming with state-mandated water usage restrictions is now widely achievable across even the most arid parts of California. Integration of modern irrigation equipment and selection of low-water using plant material will save County funds on irrigation water for its parks as well as demonstrate to County residents the accessibility of low water using landscapes.

Moving forward, environmental sustainability practices should be incorporated into all Stanislaus County park retrofits and new development. Best practice guidelines outlining the potential strategies that should be included are listed below.

- Implement Low Impact Development (LID) stormwater management technology into retrofits and new design. Options include permeable pavement, bioswales, and the use of level spreaders to manage water on-site, close to the source, rather than relying upon one large drain and potentially overloading the local stormwater system.
- Install hardy, native and adapted plant varieties with retrofits and new developments. Avoid invasive or water-intensive plant varieties.
- Design greywater (recycled water) irrigation systems into new park facilities.
- Retrofit existing irrigation system controllers with weather-based sensors to avoid over-watering.
- Partner with regional environmental organizations such as the Tuolumne River Trust to identify appropriate projects and funding to serve joint purposes.
- Consider partnering with community organizations to test a pilot project community garden. Many cities are moving to incorporate community gardens to foster community ownership of park space and educate the public about food security.

Sustainable Infrastructure	Tulare	San Joaquin	Kern	Stanislaus
LID Stormwater Management Guidelines	Y	Y	Y	Y
Greywater Irrigation Recommendations	Y	Y	Y	Y
Native Plant Recommendations	Y	Y	Y	Y
Community Garden Recommendations	N	Y	Y	N

Table 5.4: Benchmark Counties' sustainable infrastructure policies

5.4 PROVISIONS FOR SHADE

Public survey responses indicated a strong desire for increased shade at County parks, whether that be via additional shade shelters or new tree plantings. The general public has become more educated in recent years about the dangers of sun exposure, particularly the exposure of young children to the sun. In the heart of central California and the San Joaquin Valley, which can get very hot in the summer months, shade is even more valuable. There are a number of solutions that may be implemented to provide this health and comfort amenity to the users of County parks and recreation facilities:

- Provide shade proximate to play equipment to encourage families to visit parks with children during the day.
- Where possible, shade play equipment or locate out of direct sun.
- Install play equipment that provides shaded play areas underneath raised platforms or other structural elements.
- Plant more shade trees and design them into areas where people congregate.

6 Recreation Management. "A Look at Trends in Parks and Recreation." 2009.

- Install shade structures until trees grow into maturity.

Shade Regulations	Tulare	San Joaquin	Kern	Stanislaus
Shade Required at Park Facilities	Unknown	Y	Unknown	N
Shade Required in Parking Lot Facilities	Y	Y	Y	N

Table 5.5: Benchmark Counties' shade regulations

5.5 SAFETY AND SECURITY

A dominant trend in the feedback from community outreach efforts was County residents' concerns about safety in County parks. Whether this trend is based in perception or reality, it is important that Stanislaus County dedicates resources toward mitigation of this perception and to demonstrate the County's investment in citizen safety.

The most important aspect of monitoring and providing safe parks and open space is maintaining existing partnerships with County and municipal law enforcement. Law enforcement agencies provide the "boots on the ground" throughout the County's parks and open space assets, and are therefore uniquely able to advise on the unique needs and proven methods for various locations. Moreover, regular communication and reporting between the County Parks and Recreation Department and local law enforcement will help both parties identify opportunities for changes in the status quo and the level of service required.

Parks districts may choose to partner with private security agencies to provide additional security services to public areas. This practice is most commonly used to provide additional monitoring for special events and reserved uses of municipally-owned assets, such as concerts and community hall rentals. Long term use of independent security providers for the purpose of providing regular patrols of County parks should be examined carefully from both a legal and financial perspective to determine suitability. Similarly, surveillance cameras located in particularly problematic public parks may be the best option for certain locations, but these systems require personnel hours for monitoring as well as maintenance. County and local law enforcement feedback and future staffing decisions must be central to any decision to involve outside security at public parks.

The most widely recognized set of best practice standards relating to safety in parks are the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.⁷ These include:

Natural Surveillance

The overall goal of CPTED is the idea that a person will be less likely to commit a crime if there is risk of being seen. This principle encourages the "see and be seen" quality in public spaces.

- New parks should be designed such that there are buildings or roads fronting all sides of the park for maximum surveillance. Homes and businesses should face toward the park.
- Design and maintain safe pedestrian routes to the park and clear lines of sight from these routes into major activity zones within the park.
- Encourage neighbors to keep an eye on the park by keeping nighttime lighting pleasant and non-obtrusive and by enforcing hours of park usage to avoid nuisances that could cause neighbors to close doors and windows facing the park.
- Follow lighting best practices such as using pleasant, dimmer lighting rather than bright, blinding lighting to avoid creating the excessively dark areas that form just outside the reach of bright lights.
- Implement surveillance cameras to provide a secondary level of security to especially problematic sites. This may include rural sites or areas of parks which are difficult to patrol from the street or perimeter sidewalks.
- Consider use of motion sensor lighting where feasible.

⁷ CPTED Guidelines: www.cptedsecurity.com



Exhibit 5.1: Sanders Park in Modesto exemplifies characteristics of CPTED principles. Use of pedestrian-scale lighting, surrounding residential frontages, visual cues announcing territorial reinforcement, and maintenance of clear sight lines into the park activity areas contribute to an increased perception of safety. In this case, the park and adjacent school as an aggregate are surrounded on all sides by residential frontage.

- Residential Frontage
- Lighted Pathways
- ➔ Sight Lines Into Park

Natural Access Control

This CPTED principle encourages use of creative access control using pathway alignment, landscape/topographic features, signage or other features to direct the flow of user traffic, rather than traditional but intimidating mechanisms such as fences and wire.

- Avoid using control mechanisms such as barbed wire fences. This aesthetic supports the perception that the facility is dangerous.
- A combination of eyes-on-the-park, sufficient lighting and patrolling, and other measures should be used where at all possible. Transformer and utility security fencing is excepted from this recommendation; fencing around pools, required by law for safety purposes, should also be considered excepted from this recommendation.
- Incorporate clear, bilingual signage at the major pedestrian entrance(s) to the park. This signage should include (at a minimum) information about park hours, maintenance/littering, and emergency contact information.
- Avoid landscape features that create blind spots and prevent adequate surveillance.
- Maintain plant materials to groundcover height (less than 2') and maintain tree canopies to a minimum of 6' above ground level. Keeping the 2' - 6' visual range open will increase surveillance capabilities and reduce perceptions of possible criminal activity areas.
- Address longstanding facility closures promptly in order to avoid the perception of uncared-for spaces. Minimize the duration of new facility closures.



Territorial Reinforcement

Use of visual cues, such as consistent types of pavement, plant materials, or signage to encourage specific usage of park space and to delineate public/private divisions is an important part of CPTED. In the case of public parks, this territorial reinforcement will:

- Encourage community ownership of and presence at parks. Involve community projects such as volunteer days or art installations to support this goal.
- Include community participation in the design of new parks.
- Regularly poll the community regarding satisfaction with park facilities to reinforce community ownership of these public spaces and to assess any new programmatic needs as they develop.
- Consider supporting/encouraging the formation of Neighborhood Watch groups.
- Use varied plant materials to encourage activity in some areas and to discourage unwanted activities.
- Support the formation of community service group adoption and maintenance programs.

Maintenance

Maintenance is of high importance in CPTED safety guidelines. Consider the “broken window” theory, which is the theory that poorly maintained properties will breed criminal activity. Well-maintained places indicate that there is regular human presence which monitors the site and that the community cares about that park, which can deter criminals and deviants from that space.

- Dedicate maintenance staff to low-hanging maintenance needs, including regular clean-up of litter and graffiti.
- Ensure adequate staff and funding to maintain and prune trees and shrubs. This is important in order to keep the trees healthy and make the parks safer and cleaner without excess dead landscape material.
- Schedule periodic repairs of site amenities such as benches, tables, playground equipment, barbecues and garbage receptacles.
- Schedule regular maintenance of ball field surfaces where the field is “closed” to repair and replace turf/clay as needed. This may include rotation of fields so that turf can “rest” to recover from year-round use.
- Meet with user groups on a regular basis for ball field use to create buy-in for regular maintenance needs.
- Staff enough maintenance personnel to visit each park on a regular rotation.
- Determine maintenance schedules based upon regular review of park needs with maintenance staff.
- Create outcome-based maintenance standards for landscape and facility maintenance that are developed with community and user group input. Outcome-based standards emphasize “expected end result” maintenance standards.

5.6: SITE FIXTURES

The community survey results underscore the importance of lighting and overall park maintenance as contributors to perceptions of safety at County parks. CPTED principles reinforce this importance and show how investment in basic maintenance and community ownership can change usage patterns for the better. The following guidelines provide best practices for provision of site fixtures to support community goals for safe, usable parks.

Lighting

- Lighting of public spaces should conform to the Illuminating Engineering Society's guidelines. These include provision of sufficient lighting for users to discern changes in topography and surface type and discern physical details of approaching figures.
- Motion sensor activated security lighting may be considered for all new park construction and existing park renovation as a method of security lighting. Parks may be evaluated for feasibility of dimming or motion sensor activated lighting compliant with California Energy Commission Title 24 on a case-by-case basis.
- The Project for Public Spaces emphasizes the importance of not "over-lighting" an area.⁸ This creates a harsh adjustment for the eyes and deeper shadows just outside the lighting candle for park users. Shields should be installed to direct light.
- Light fixtures should be installed to appropriate heights for usage. Neighborhood parks may benefit from lighting focused around the playground and pedestrian paths only, whereas lighting in larger parks may be required to light sports fields and large expanses. Neighborhood parks may therefore require lights installed to an appropriate pedestrian height, whereas sports field lighting will require greater height.
- Consider requiring vandalism-proof fixture standards for fixtures to reduce maintenance needs.
- LED and solar lights offer benefits of lower energy consumption with a minimum of construction disruption to the surrounding area. Solar lighting is appropriate for providing light for pedestrian areas and pathways, not large-scale night lighting of parks.
- Refer to local dark sky ordinances for restrictions on up-lighting or other light pollution mitigation requirements.

Lighting Regulation	Tulare	San Joaquin	Kern	Stanislaus
Safety Standards	Y	Y	Y	Y
Technology Standards	Y	Y	N	N
Dark Sky Standards	N	Y	Y	N

Table 5.6: Benchmark Counties' lighting regulations



8 Project for Public Spaces. "Lighting Use and Design." 2015. www.pps.org/reference/streetlights

Site Furniture

- Site furniture should be attractive and inviting, yet durable enough to withstand heavy use.
- Site furniture may be manufactured to include the County or department logo in order to reinforce the County's commitment to maintaining its amenities.
- Post concise, bilingual signage requiring dog owners to clean up after their animals.
- Add dog waste bag dispensers at prominent entrances and at intervals along pedestrian pathways at park facilities.
- Ensure all playgrounds receive regular safety inspections by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI).
- Fixtures should be selected that will discourage lying down. Handrail-divided or curvilinear benches are options.
- Site furniture and other fixtures should discourage skateboarding.
- Select fixtures that will not create visual obstructions or potential blind spots which could impair surveillance.
- Provide trash receptacles at locations that may be easily monitored and emptied by County maintenance staff.

5.7: PARKS SYSTEM CONNECTIVITY

Connecting County Facilities to the Greater Community

Connecting parks to their users is an important piece of increasing community investment and use of parks facilities. Best practices typically involve locating new parks centrally within a neighborhood or adjacent to other community amenities, such as schools or community centers, in order to increase visibility and use. Alternatively, locating walkable streets and bicycle paths so as to connect parks with other community hot spots provides alternative access for users who cannot or do not prefer to drive. The same efforts may be made to align public transportation stops with parks, as the East Bay Regional Park District has done in its efforts to coordinate parks and trailheads adjacent to public transit and BART stations.

In a district the size of Stanislaus County, connecting all County parks via non-motorized transportation networks is not practical. However, the County's Neighborhood and Community Parks should be connected to their local communities in a way to maximize visibility and usage by local residents. Geographically adjacent amenities, such as schools in the unincorporated Airport Neighborhood of Modesto, Mono and Oregon Parks, and the adjacent Tuolumne River Regional Park, are opportunities for the establishment of walkable, bikeable connections. Other resources, such as La Grange's historic and natural areas, are prime candidates to support a linking walking or biking trail in order to draw day-users and tourism. A non-vehicular option to navigate these sites and others within the County might encourage users to walk or bike between natural and cultural amenities firsthand rather than driving between each. StanCOG's 2013 Non-Motorized Transportation Master Plan sets forward current visioning and implementation associated with development of these pedestrian and bicycle networks.

5.8: ACCESS AND INCLUSION:

ADA and Beyond: Planning for Inclusion of all County Citizens

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits all state and local governmental agencies from discriminating against qualified individuals with disabilities in the operation of all services and programs. Stanislaus County is committed to ongoing efforts to provide access to public services to all residents of Stanislaus County. In the interest of pursuing this goal, the County has a dedicated County ADA Title II and Civil Rights Title VI Coordinator to monitor compliance of all County programs with these standards. All retrofits and new construction must meet or exceed County, State and national standards for safety and accessibility.

In addition to complying with ADA standards for basic accessibility, Stanislaus County Parks may include recommendations from the California State Parks Accessibility Guidelines in order to increase accessibility to its facilities for all users. Retrofit projects and new development of the County's parks may also take into account the functionality of that park given the needs of County constituents with mental health disabilities. For example, in addition to establishing accessible paths and trails in developed and natural areas, County parks may also increase the number of amenities available for quiet reflection. Quiet areas are beneficial to all users, and can be especially well-used by seniors and those on the autism spectrum.

Similarly, playground areas should include elements appropriate for supporting all facets of childhood development in a safe environment. Play areas should engage children’s motor skills as well as support social interactions and cooperative play. Individual future projects may refer to The National Program for Playground Safety standards by age that support physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development.

Cutting-edge studies of children and nature suggest myriad benefits of integrating natural systems and opportunities for spontaneous learning about the natural world into playgrounds. Examples may include unprogrammed areas consisting of varied topography and surface materials, planting of trees within the playground space, and flexible play space edges to encourage play to extend to other natural areas of the park. Nature play, a valuable experience in childhood development, may be explored as a signature resource to be developed at the County’s regional parks in order to take advantage of the County’s valuable environmental assets.

Economic Accessibility

An important piece of the user experience of park facilities is encouraging accessibility for all County residents, regardless of economic status. For example, the County may consider offering scholarship programs to provide regional park annual passes or camping fees at discounted rates to constituents who are otherwise unable to pay the required fees. A key component to such an effort would be effective public awareness and outreach, particularly via the internet as it allows for anonymous access for any interested parties to learn of the program.

Other ways to promote equitable access to parks include education and outreach efforts targeting the less affluent demographic. The East Bay Regional Park District’s Master Plan emphasizes the importance of developing “threshold experiences” to draw infrequent or new park users into park activities. Maintaining metrics tracking the involvement of disadvantaged communities in County parks and recreation facilities is important in understanding how usage patterns respond to specific programming or amenities. Such metrics may then be used to develop programming in such a way as to increase participation by these target groups.



5.9: ADDRESSING HOMELESS POPULATIONS WITHIN COUNTY PARKS

The open-answer portions of the public survey were dominated by concerns with vagrancy and the homeless population at County parks. These complaints are related to other concerns regarding safety and policing at parks. For example, homeless persons are subject to the same posted regulations regarding camping and day-use of parks facilities as are all park users. Addressing homelessness is different from addressing basic code enforcement issues, however, in a number of ways.

Namely, homelessness is a humanitarian issue affecting the lives of citizens of all ages and ethnic backgrounds. Homeless persons may be among the most vulnerable of the County's residents, often suffering from domestic abuse, severe economic hardship, hunger, mental illness, or physical disability. The Stanislaus County Housing Authority's 2017 homeless county indicated at least 1,600 homeless persons within the County, ranging from age 14 to age 86. Of those surveyed, 14 indicated they had been involved in human trafficking.

Homelessness is increasing across the country and particularly throughout the Bay area as housing prices increase past prices many struggling persons can afford. Santa Clara County reported a 13% increase in its homeless population from 2016 to 2017, with the largest proportion in the affluent suburb of Morgan Hill.⁹ A May, 2017 article in the Los Angeles Daily News reported that the state of California accounts for 22% of the homeless population of the United States.¹⁰

In light of the pervasiveness of the challenges of homeless populations using park facilities, County and regional parks districts have engaged in a number of dynamic programs aimed at approaching homelessness as a public health issue, rather than simply a criminal offense. Stanislaus County hosted a summit on homelessness in 2015 which outlined efforts on the 10-year Focus on Prevention initiative. The National Recreation and Park District recommends parks districts consider a network of partnerships both within municipal and other public offices as well as from the outside community. Santa Clara County has engaged in a public-private partnership which supports Destination:Home, a group which draws together stakeholders, planning and policy initiatives, and funding partners to work toward the goal of reducing homelessness. The East Bay Parks District engages with numerous volunteer initiatives to address various components of the homeless presence in parks.



5.10: STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Increasingly, parks districts look to build robust strategic partnerships in order to develop specific resources and build long-lasting community relationships. The County General Plan supports these types of partnerships. Interest groups, such as Modesto's Manos Unidas and I Love Modesto, galvanize community interest behind specific projects which benefit the larger community. Recent examples of outreach include clean-up days, work days, and planned projects to develop local sports fields and community gardens.

Volunteer programs not only beautify parks, but also connect residents to local parks and provide a powerful example of community ownership. Stanislaus County also currently benefits from a productive partnership with the Police Activities League (PAL), which engages youth through police department programming. The County's Department of Aging and Veterans is also one of 33 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) under the California Department on Aging (CDA), and the Healthy Aging Association conducts programming across the County.

9 Handa, Robert. "Santa Clara County's Homeless Population Jumps 13 Percent." <http://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/Santa-Clara-Countys-Homeless-Population-Jumps-13-Percent-431889503.html>

10 Collins, Jeff. (2017 May 7) "Housing Crisis tops California's Legislative Agenda this Year." *Los Angeles Daily News*

Non-profit organizations may assist in managing programming or fundraising for particular programs of interest, such as the Tuolumne River Trust's ongoing work toward environmental improvements and educational outreach. The Parks Foundation of Monterey County, for example, partners with Monterey County to manage private fundraising efforts. Schools and colleges are often appropriate partners in efforts to increase community engagement with the educational opportunities available at parks, either through classroom studies or through educational programming outreach. Where feasible, the County may consider partnership with historical or cultural preservation groups in order to expand its programming at County parks historic and cultural sites.

Regional consortiums are often helpful in connecting nearby expert and professional groups with agencies, such as San Luis Obispo County's numerous partnerships with the California Conservation Corps, the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, and the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo, among others. National efforts, such as the Sierra Club and the National Park Service's Healthy Parks Healthy People program, often provide valuable outreach materials and recognizable branding to support parks efforts to engage the public. Further exploration on the subject of strategic partnerships will be included in the funding mechanisms portion of this document.



5.11: CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Stanislaus County parks provide a valuable service in preserving and maintaining local historic and cultural resources. The County has experienced several notable historic human populations, including thousands of years of Native American settlement, hundreds of years of Spanish and European influence, and an exciting century of history affiliated with the gold rush and large-scale agriculture booms. An emphasis on unique cultural and historic character of local assets attracts interest from park users who may look particularly for passive recreation opportunities rather than active recreation options in the area.

Best practices related to cultural resource management require compliance with State and federal regulations regarding preservation and discovery of sites during new construction. The County may elect to go further, as have many other regional districts with similar resources, by including the local Native American and historical preservation groups in planning and development of culturally significant sites. Best practices typically dictate the establishment of a long-range asset management plan for the historic resources of an area.

An excellent regional example of such a planning effort is Tulare County's 20-Year Conceptual Master Plan for the historic assets at Mooney Grove Park. The Recommendations chapter of this plan specifically includes recommendation that a Master Plan for the historic assets at La Grange be conducted such that Stanislaus County's historical assets be well-managed with a detailed approach to historic preservation as well as a coordinated approach to managing economic drivers such as tourism and marketing.



5.12: DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Modesto Reservoir Regional Park and Woodward Reservoir Regional Park both encompass reservoirs which supply potable water to the citizens of Stanislaus County. The requirements for managing domestic water assets such as Modesto and Woodward reservoirs are highly regulated by both Federal and State entities as well as the managing water utility.

Modesto Reservoir is owned and operated by Modesto Irrigation District (MID) and supplies potable water to Stanislaus County. It has a maximum capacity of approximately 28,000 acre feet (AF) and currently serves as a regulating reservoir for irrigation and domestic water. MID's 2010 Joint Urban Water Management Plan currently provides reference for appropriate water level, water usage, and water quality at Modesto Reservoir. The South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) owns water storage rights at Woodward Reservoir, which supplies potable water to San Joaquin County. SSJID's 2017 Strategic Plan and other planning documents are appropriate reference documents regarding specific regulations upon Woodward Reservoir's water.

Given the complexity of water rights, domestic potable water safety, and dynamic ownership, management, and stakeholder/partnership facets associated with the County's reservoir parks, best practices dictate the appropriate action is to follow a strategic plan created by the utility owning/operating the water source. Ideally, this plan should have short and long term reporting phases in order to continually assess the successes and deficiencies of the dual-use recreation reservoir. Per the American Water Works Association, water utilities managing reservoirs with adjacent recreational uses should work with stakeholders to develop an integrated reservoir management plan and associated implementation actions to mitigate water quality impacts and to minimize increased risks.¹¹

11 American Water Works Association, www.awwa.org



5.13: SPECIAL USE AREAS

Stanislaus County parks, Special Interest areas, and Miscellaneous parks spaces provide a variety of activities to the public. Some of the options offered through the Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation Department require specific management plans to maintain compliance with local, state, and federal regulations. Special uses such as hunting and fishing involve many regulatory bodies to ensure the County serves both the public and its natural flora and fauna to the greatest extent possible. Areas used by hobbyists such as model airplane enthusiasts and archers involve maintaining important relationships with stakeholder groups to support high quality, useful assets for the community.

Fishing

Perhaps the special interest most commonly served by County parks assets is fishing. Fishing is permitted at four of the County's five Regional Parks. These four are:

- Modesto Reservoir Regional Park
- Woodward Reservoir Regional Park
- Laird Regional Park
- La Grange Regional Park (at river access points managed by the County within the town of La Grange).

Fishing is also permitted at nine of the County's neighborhood parks and special interest areas, including:

- Basso Bridge River & Fishing Access
- Fox Grove River & Fishing Access
- J-59 Fishing Access
- Las Palmas River & Fishing Access
- Old La Grange Bridge Fishing Access
- Riverdale Park River & Fishing Access
- Shiloh River & Fishing Access
- Tuolumne River Regional Park
- Turlock Lake Fishing Access

All fishing activity must comply with regulations regarding catch-and-release, seasonal fishing restrictions (such as the seasonal closure of the Tuolumne River to support the salmon run), and species and habitat management. The County also permits bow fishing for a limited season at both Modesto and Woodward Reservoirs. The County seeks to support the desire for recreational fishing by stocking both Modesto and Woodward Reservoirs with fish seasonally. All anglers must comply with licensure requirements of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.



Hunting

Hunting of mammals and waterfowl is currently permitted at three regional parks, including:

- Frank Raines Regional Park: Deer, wild pig, and rabbit hunting permitted within the Minniear day-use area only.
- Modesto Reservoir Regional Park: Waterfowl hunting permitted in set hunting blinds area only.
- Woodward Reservoir Regional Park: Waterfowl hunting permitted in set hunting blinds area only.

Hunting fees associated with usage of hunting blinds, dog field trial training fees, and others, are collected by the Stanislaus County Parks Department. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is responsible for maintaining Game Management programs of hunted mammal and waterfowl. All hunting license requirements are also managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.



Archery

The archery range at Modesto Reservoir Regional Park offers targets of various types at measured distances. The range is currently operated by the Yahi Bowmen Archery Club, based in Modesto. In light of this partnership, future improvements proposed to the archery range should be made in collaboration with the Club and any other stakeholders directly impacted by work at the site.

In accordance with archery range best practices, future improvements may include extending fencing to protect a 180 degree area from the shooting position. This perimeter is currently marked with signs, but increased safety precautions may be appropriate given the range's proximity to recreational areas. Perimeter fencing at the far end of shooting locations should also be added to enhance safety of all park users. This fencing should be at least 190' from the shooting position in order to allow for wind drift/overshoot .

Model Airplane Airfields

The model airplane runway and venue at Woodward Reservoir is currently operated and maintained by Radio Control Flyers Unlimited, Inc. The club was responsible for obtaining permission for construction and operation of the field during the 1990s and continues regular use and maintenance of the airfield today. Any decisions regarding future improvements and expansion to services offered at the airfield should be made in collaboration with these and other stakeholders.

The Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) is the regulating body in which the Radio Control Flyers Unlimited requires all RC pilots hold a current membership card in order to fly. The AMA is increasingly striving to embrace hobbyist drone pilots as recreational drone flying becomes more and more popular. The AMA's stance is that educating new pilots is the key to keeping them out of trouble. Both RC airplanes and drones are under increased FAA registrations and both require aircraft registration and certified pilot training for most recreational pilots. Therefore, the possibility of the Radio Control Flyers club partnering with local drone hobbyist groups to strengthen continued operations and maintenance funding of the Woodward Reservoir airfield may prove a logical partnership in the future.

Improvements required for dual-use of the airfield are to-be determined by stakeholders, but may include updated signage regarding usage and regulations, signage and other improvements to the parking area, increased WiFi coverage of the site, and additional electricity charging areas. Increased electricity needs may be achieved with solar or wind-generated off-grid equipment not requiring additional electric lines/cables.



Dog Parks

The County is actively engaged in analysis of sites for future dog parks. Dog parks are an important part of community parks and there is a rising demand for dog parks throughout the region and across the country. In dense urban and suburban neighborhoods, dog parks offer the opportunity to not only exercise and socialize dogs (which typically results in calmer, less aggressive dogs, less prone to barking), but also to support community between human users of the space. The American Kennel Club's (AKC) publication "Establishing a Dog Park in your Community"¹² lists the following benefits of dog parks:

- Allows dogs to exercise and socialize safely
- Promotes responsible dog ownership
- Provides an outlet for dog owners to socialize
- Makes for a better community by promoting public health and safety

An important part of creating a successful dog park is to partner with local community groups and clearly communicate expectations for use of the park. Educating dog owners on the importance of responsible use ensures a more successful long-term park and requires less maintenance of each site by maintenance personnel. The AKC lists the following rules and regulations to be considered for a dog park. The rules listed below may be edited as appropriate by the local stakeholders during the development phase of a new park.

- Owners are legally responsible for their dogs and any injuries caused by them.
- Puppies and dogs must be properly licensed, inoculated, and healthy.
- Animals should wear a collar and ID tags at all times.
- Owners must clean up after their dogs.
- Animals who exhibit a history of aggressive behavior will not be permitted to enter.
- Puppies using the park must be at least four months old.
- Owners should not leave their dogs unattended or allowed out of sight.
- Owners must carry a leash at all times. Dogs should be leashed before entering and prior to leaving the park.

12 www.akc.org/pdf/GLEG01.pdf

The City of San Francisco Recreation and Park Department (RPD) has developed formal policies regarding design, operation and maintenance of dog parks (“dog play areas”).¹³ In conjunction, the RPD has a web page dedicated to the City’s many dog parks which clearly and concisely lists the sites, pertinent City contact information, regulations, and relevant City ordinances. The City of San Jose has similarly proactively compiled the list of dog parks and associated relevant information into a webpage to facilitate access by the community to the amenities provided by the City. San Jose promotes Butcher Park, a destination dog park, as an amenity to be used by regional visitors.

Dog parks are also an important part of parks that allow camping. Many times, campers bring dogs and having a place to allow the dogs to exercise within a gated area can be a great benefit for campers. It can also increase camping use for areas in that campers with dogs may use campgrounds with dog parks more.

Dog parks are typically built in dense residential areas so that users may walk to the site and on-site parking does not need to be accommodated. Destination dog parks or purpose-built dog training facilities may be appropriate for rural park facilities. The parking and other associated facets of building a destination park (need for restrooms, picnic areas, etc.) should in that case be considered during the site selection and design process.

Cemeteries

The County Department of Parks and Recreation is currently responsible for management of three cemetery assets. These include:

- Roberts Ferry Cemetery, Waterford
- Pauper’s Field Citizens Cemetery, Modesto
- Historic La Grange Cemetery/French Bar Cemetery, La Grange

Best practices and improvements to cemetery sites must reflect the regulations and guidelines set forward by the State of California Cemetery and Funeral Bureau. Cemeteries must be managed by a managing officer appropriately licensed by the State of California. All signage, maintenance, and other aspects of operations and maintenance are to be completed to standards set forward by the State regulating agency. Specific operations and maintenance requirements may include the following, set forward by the State of California:

- Trim or mow grass and prune shrubs and trees in and around the cemetery. Grass shall be trimmed or mowed to a level where flat markers of individual graves can be seen.
- Suppress or remove weeds on the developed cemetery property.
- Provide a sufficient supply of water to keep cemetery grass and plants as green as seasonally possible in accordance with natural terrain, availability of water, and local or county ordinances regarding water use.
- Repair or restore improvements, structures and fences on the property which are owned by the cemetery.
- Keep cemetery roads seasonally accessible and repair surfacing which presents a hazard.
- Keep all occupied crypts and niches properly sealed or closed.
- Refill or reset settled graves and markers annually, or within 120 days of the cemetery office becoming aware of the issue. Cemetery and Funeral Bureau California Code of Regulations January 2016 Page 16
- Repair any grave marker, monument, or burial vault that is damaged by the negligence of the cemetery or its employees or contractors.
- Supply and empty trash receptacles when filled, and keep public areas of the cemetery grounds and water features clear of trash and debris.
- Provide clear delineation of undeveloped cemetery property with the use of signage.
- Control vermin and insect problems.

13 <http://sfrecpark.org/parks-open-spaces/dog-play-areas-program/>

5.14: ECONOMIC DRIVERS

Current best practices advocate monetization of all factors associated with parks and open space assets. Public assets such as parks and historic/cultural assets provide not only aesthetic and recreation benefits to the residents of Stanislaus County, but also have the potential to act as economic engines by attracting tourism. The American Planning Association notes that It has been recognized since the 1800s that parks are associated with increased surrounding property values. Additionally, parks often contribute to an increase in municipal revenues as a result of property tax benefits, sales tax benefits, and tourism related benefits. Local parks with desirable amenities attract home buyers and help retain desirable demographics such as retiree homeowners and knowledge workers.¹⁴

Parks districts are able to put forward projects and programming which support current best practices because they are able to offer evidence supporting a particular amenity's economic benefit to the District, the service area at large, or both. The potential for a positive return on investment in the form of tourism dollars generated by public parks and cultural assets has been proven many times over. It is for the same reason - long-term economic viability - that Low Impact Development stormwater management practices have become best practice because the long-term return on investment in terms of water quality management, maintenance, and aesthetics is favorable. The same is true for on-site energy generation such as wind and solar, which reduces the need for trenching and traditional electric utility installation and reduces long-term costs via a renewable energy source. Similarly, quality neighborhood parks provide fiscal and quality of life benefits which can be monetized and are therefore to be considered as part of a return on investment calculation when constructed by developers or public authorities.

High quality recreational assets contribute to a high quality of life for local residents and draw visitors from outside the County to share in our resources. Successful parks districts in benchmark communities across Central California consider the fiscal sustainability and intrinsic values of public parks and historic/cultural assets in order to plan for sustainable future management of these assets. Factors including user fees, rentals and special events at parks, and implementation of a system-wide marketing strategy contribute to the long-term success of a parks system. Best practice for evaluating economic returns and future planning is to work from a long-range fee study, under which fees must meet a Board of Supervisors approved cost recovery policy.

Fees

User fees are a source of continuous funding for the Department of Parks. User fees apply to day-use fees at destination parks, special use fees such as camping, boating, fishing, and hunting, and to facilities rentals. The majority of parks districts have a tiered fee structure where local residents pay lower fees than visitors. This typically applies to all facets of the fee structure at an even percentage increase (i.e., in-County fees would be \$X, out-of-County fees would be \$X + 20% for all fee items, from day-use to camping to facility rentals).

Further, standard application of an increased fee for rentals which serve a commercial purpose for the renting party are standard practice. This is currently applied in the Stanislaus County fee structure to parties renting space to conduct Field Trial Training for dogs, but nowhere else within the existing fee structure.

Marketing

Goal: Initiate Sponsorship Programs and Marketing Promotions

To continue the Department's advertising efforts and in an effort to further increase visitation to our parks, the Department would like to incorporate into its strategies, several accepted marketing practices that are commonly used to foster public involvement. These practices include the use and distribution of promotional items, seeking out public sponsorship opportunities, and the sale of merchandise that promote the parks.

14 www.planning.org/cityparks/briefingpapers/economicdevelopment

A coordinated marketing campaign focusing on allowing community businesses and organizations to contribute funds for park events and park features in return for recognition on temporary, semi-permanent and permanent signage and naming of park amenities. Public Sponsorships would be used to provide extra funding for the annual park events, as well as features and amenities at park sites. Selected businesses and organization would have the ability to have their logo displayed through the department's various advertising and social media platforms, and/or participate in park functions in exchange for sponsorship fees that would help to cover the cost of advertising and supplies.

Marketing is an ever-evolving, dynamic study. Used well, marketing can increase attendance at parks and events. In order to remain relevant, marketing strategies must be continually re-assessed and compared to successful competitors in order to effectively reach the target audience. In the fiscal year 2017-2018 budget, Parks and Recreation requested \$100,000 to continue marketing efforts for the "Big Five" Regional Parks.

Parks and recreation marketing via digital and social media is of primary importance. Even in disadvantaged areas where residents may not have regular access to a computer, most residents have regular access to a smartphone. Young professionals, families, and youth predominantly search for information using a smart phone. Marketing campaigns can reap the benefits of this trend by designing content that reads particularly well on a smart phone or other hand held device. Such content tends to list important information visually using images and photos, with links to text-heavy content for those who wish to read more information on a given subject.

Much of the current marketing mechanisms which use existing apps and social media is free, therefore requiring an investment in staff time rather than digital platform hosting. Some municipalities have funded pieces of public art which are specifically meant to draw tourism to a place particularly well-suited to being photographed. Examples include the "Love" sculpture in Philadelphia (and now worldwide), the Project Angel Wings public art paintings. Providing these kinds of opportunities has low initial cost and a potentially wide reach of free advertising as visitors post photos from the location across multiple social media platforms.



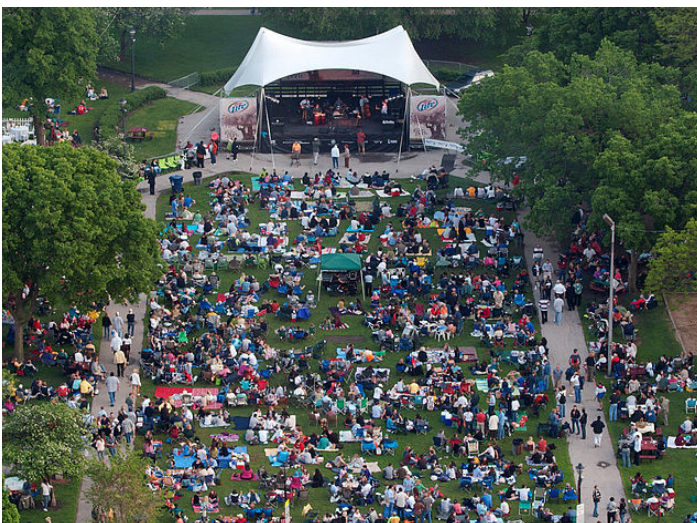
Parks districts across the country have also begun to develop their own apps to compile web reservation forms, event calendars, volunteer needs and scheduling, and more. An app is a convenient way to make sure regular park users are well-connected to announcements, reservations, and other relevant information. Park districts provide apps for free download to mobile devices and do incur cost to the district in the form of a start-up cost and ongoing maintenance and upgrade costs.

Special Events

Special events have the potential to provide tangible benefits in the form of fees gathered by the park district as well as increasing attendance in parks. Large concerts and festivals draw visitors from outside the area who may have never visited before, therefore introducing new potential users to the region. Smaller regularly scheduled events, such as partnerships with local environmental education groups or academic institutions for workshops and wildlife tours, keep locals engaged in their parks. Original investment for major improvements such as a special events amphitheater may be significant, and a realistic cost return analysis should be performed such that marketing and promotion are able to gather enough yearly events to recoup costs.

Weddings are a specific area of year-round special events offerings at comparison park districts across the San Francisco and East Bay area. Best practices include creating a web page within the existing department website which is dedicated to wedding planning. This allows potential customers to quickly determine whether it is an option to have their event at a given park. The dedicated wedding page should list locations available for use as wedding venues, fee information, rules and regulations, and contact information at the district.

The Santa Clara County Parks District, the San Francisco Recreation and Park District, and the East Bay Regional Park District all feature an events calendar clearly on the front page of its website, along with graphics advertising the upcoming events. The events calendar is a priority for these districts in terms of making sure it is as easy as possible for the public to quickly view upcoming events.



San Jose Park and Recreation System: Economic Benefits Analysis

San Jose and The Trust for Public Land developed a document in 2016 which breaks down that City's parks and recreation assets into real economic value metrics. Examples include the value of parks to increasing surrounding real estate, in managing stormwater within the City, and toward providing health benefits to citizens.¹⁵

In measuring the overall economic value provided by various aspects of the City's public parks and trails, the study found that fees gathered from special events within the parks accounted for 13.6% of the total value but just 1.2% of the annual person-visits. At the same time, however, this study does acknowledge that visits from first-time visitors should be valued more highly than those of repeat visitors (in accordance with the economic law of diminishing marginal utility, discussed in the County's 2015 Marketing and Strategy Plan.

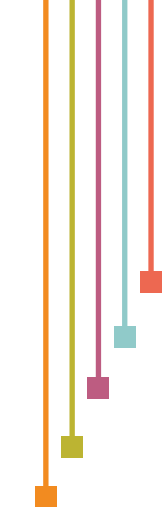
¹⁵ The Trust for Public Land. "The Economic Benefits of the Park & Recreation System in San Jose, California." 2016. <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/54093>

San Francisco Recreation and Parks Case Study: Special Events Fees and Policies

The San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department has a robust yet easy to navigate fee structure associated with special events. The Department offers two tiers of pricing for all of its public venues available for rental: Commercial and Nonprofit. The Nonprofit fees for special events use are 50% the Commercial fees and are available to groups which can prove not for profit operational status. Additional fees associated with special events are listed and assessed as needed. Notably, the Department charges special events providers 25% of ticket sales generated by gated events.

Santa Barbara Recreation and Parks Case Study: Special Events Fees and Policies

Unlike San Francisco, the Santa Barbara County Parks Division does not advertise special events use fees up-front. Rather, Santa Barbara assesses special events use fees on a case-by-case basis. Of particular interest to special events funding, the County 2017-2018 budget shows that Special Events generated approximately \$270,000 during the previous budgetary year. The 2017-2019 budgetary objectives also include a fee study to analyze special events use fees associated with specific public amenities. One of Santa Barbara's most popular special events venues is the County Courthouse, which is particularly popular for wedding celebrations on its grounds.



CHAPTER 6
DESIGN GUIDELINES

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DESIGN GUIDELINES

County Parks should be consistently constructed in a manner that will best serve County residents of all ages, socioeconomic statuses, and abilities. This includes consistent application of standards to maintain ADA accessibility and meet all County requirements. The proposed design guidelines will further ensure that improvements to County parks and facilities are guided by a cohesive design strategy for entry areas and meet or exceed industry standard best practices in the purchasing and maintenance of landscape and irrigation materials.

6.1 USER FRIENDLINESS & ACCESSIBILITY

As the Parks Department's 2015 Marketing and Strategy plan showed, the most efficient way to maintain and grow park visitor numbers is to retain existing users and rely upon positive word-of-mouth reviews and repeat visits. The County seeks to create accessible, comfortable parks which are clearly and consistently marked and which project a tidy, safe place to be. Based upon current best practices, the County should seek to prioritize the following qualities as they directly impact user friendliness and accessibility:

- ADA Compliance
- Universal Access, Social Inclusion, and Sensory Integration
- Provision for Shade
- Security and Policing
- Presence of Homeless Population

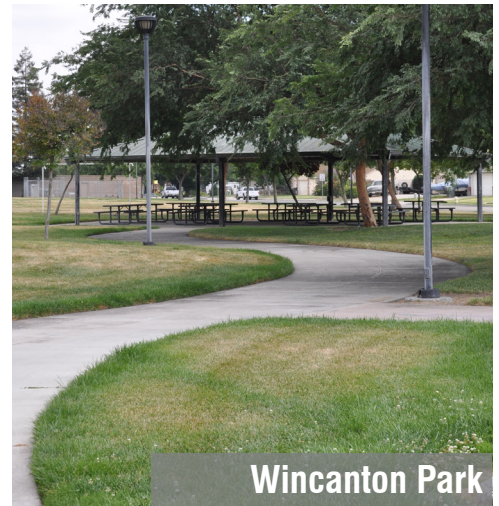
ADA Compliance

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was established in 1990. ADA standards for accessible design and guides to disability rights are modeled on the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and seek to provide equal opportunity to people with disabilities. When a public entity chooses to alter any of its facilities, the elements and spaces being altered must comply with the ADA's 2010 Standards. Within ADA, Title II Regulations pertain to state and local government compliance, while Title III pertains to businesses and non-profit providers.

Building projects such as renovations and new construction of parks are expected to provide facilities which comply with these national regulations, as well as any applicable State and County requirements for disability access. A number of current project recommendations include retrofitting/renovation of existing restroom facilities at parks and campgrounds. Both access to the restroom site and specific construction details including fittings and features must conform with ADA standards. Recommended project elements such as dog parks, picnic facilities, and special event amphitheaters each include specific ADA requirements as well. Trailhead and other educational signage elements are also recommended to include full ADA access so that all visitors may engage with park signage.



Frank Raines OHV



Wincanton Park



Mono Park

The following specific accessibility requirements for sidewalks and parking lots are drawn from the Stanislaus County Department of Public Works 2014 Standards and Specifications. These standards relate specifically to ensuring ADA accessibility within the public right-of-way, street crossings, and parking lots. This is not meant to be a complete list, rather a selection of elements that will most commonly be involved in retrofit and new construction projects at the County's park facilities. Each project should proceed per County standards with regard to satisfying all relevant code requirements.



Design Element	Stanislaus County 2014 Standards Compliance (ADA Related)
Sidewalks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sidewalks shall have a cross slope toward the curb face at no more than 2% cross-slope and shall meet current ADA requirements, unless otherwise approved by Engineer. Disabled access curb ramps shall be constructed at all intersections in conformance with the requirements of the ADA, California Title 24, and plates 3-D4A through 3-D5. All new curb ramps installed in the County shall be constructed with 1 ft x 1 ft truncated domes tiles. Truncated domes may be omitted when ramp slope exceeds 6.67%. The truncated dome tiles shall extend 36 inches in the direction of travel and the full width of the curb ramp as shown on the plans. The edge of the detectable warning surface nearest the back of curb line shall be 6" inches minimum and 8" maximum from the back of curb line. In existing areas where domes need to be added, a glue down and anchored option may be used if the existing ramp meets all current ADA ramp guidelines with the approval of the Engineer.
Parking Lots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handicapped parking stalls shall be 17 feet wide in total (9' for parking space and 8' for loading/unloading adjacent to vehicle). If a walkway is used as a wheelstop (maximum 2-1/2 foot vehicle overhang permitted), the walkway must still have a net clear width of 4 feet. Surface slopes of parking spaces for the physically handicapped shall be the minimum possible and shall not exceed 1/4 inch per foot in any direction. All handicapped parking shall comply with the California State Accessibility Standards, Title 24 of the California Administrative Code. Minimum number of handicapped accessible parking stalls shall comply with requirements of County Public Works.

In order to engage the public on the subject of accessibility and continue to monitor how well County parks and recreation facilities satisfy the needs of the public, the County Parks Department may consider adding a page on its website which is dedicated to accessibility. Several successful County parks districts in the region currently maintain web pages devoted to parks accessibility, including the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District, the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department, and the East Bay Regional Parks District. The page may be a simple listing of the County park assets which feature unique accessible features, and may also include a list of planned projects that will increase accessibility within existing parks.

The Santa Clara County webpage offers a particularly robust example for what might be included on the recommended Stanislaus County Parks Accessibility webpage, listing activities by type, relevant County staff contact information, upcoming public meeting dates, and an link to an ongoing public survey for visitors to share feedback and needs directly with County staff. As with all marketing and outreach materials, any new web communications provided by Stanislaus County should be branded to fit within the Parks Department's current aesthetic and should be legible to users accessing the page from both standard computers and handheld mobile devices.

Universal Access, Social Inclusion, and Sensory Integration

Planning parks and recreation amenities which encourage participation by all County residents and visitors, regardless of physical or mental ability, demonstrates investment in the public. Complementary to ADA compliance, efforts toward universal access, social inclusion, and sensory integration include park features which thoughtfully include everyone and which function on many levels for many unique users. Establishing standard design guidelines which promote this type of development Countywide will launch the County's parks and recreation assets into the leading edge of parks and recreation practices currently in place across the United States.

Seven Principles of Universal Design:¹

- Equitable Use
- Flexible Use
- Intuitive Use
- Perceptible Information
- Tolerance for Error
- Low Physical Effort
- Size and Space for Approach and Use

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) defines three pillars impactful to our communities:

- Conservation
- Health and Wellness
- Social Equity

Social equity in a park refers to a person's ability to access the health and wellness benefits associated with using the park. Universal Design enables groups in society who struggle with physical or mental abilities to fully access and utilize parks and recreational spaces. The following six areas of parks design contribute to creating socially inclusive spaces with universal accessibility and sensory integration.

1. Facilities

Facilities include parking areas, pathways, restrooms, public buildings, and pools/water areas.

2. Parking Areas

Provide more than the minimum ADA requirement for parking spaces. Provide accessible parking throughout the park and locate near inclusive play areas. This provides numerous access points available to all users

¹ The Center for Universal Design (1997). The Principles of Universal Design. Version 2.0 Raleigh, NC: North Carolina State University



3. Pathways

Exceed ADA width guidelines. Wider pathways allow for easier group access and multiple wheeled devices like wheelchairs and strollers.

4. Restrooms

Locate restrooms near ball fields and inclusive play areas. Include family restrooms large enough to house a full-size changing table large enough for a full-size adult.

5. Pool/Water Areas

Access to pools and water areas can benefit individuals with different disabilities. Universal design expands the ADA requirement of a transfer lift to zero entry design that allows visitors to walk or roll into the pool. To provide access to natural water features like a public beach access, consider a variety of roll-up access mats and accessible beach chairs.

6. Playgrounds

Children with disabilities are one of the largest underserved minority groups in our nation. 8.9% of children between the ages of 3 and 21 years old have a disability. Of these, approximately 1.1% will have a physical disability, 1.1% will have a sensory disability, 19.1% will have a communicative disability, 11.2% will have a social/emotional disability, and 53.9% will have an intellectual disability. Additionally, 2.2% will have multiple disabilities and 10.1% will have a chronic health impairment such as cancer. Disability is often misconstrued as inability to experience play because of limitations from impairment. With over 16% of the local population of children 5 and up having some sort of disability, and over 27% of the local population aged 18 and under, the need for a place to play together regardless of physical or mental limitations is evident.

Standards for socially inclusive and sensory integrated play includes the following minimum needs:

- Comprehensive and balanced sensory play opportunities: Sight, Smell, Sound, Touch, Taste, Interoceptive, Vestibular, and Proprioceptive.
- Cozy spaces: Areas designed to escape sensory overload and re-engage after self-regulation.
- Unitary system impact attenuating surfaces: For unimpeded access to recreation (note: engineered wood fiber does not qualify as unitary).
- Shade: Play areas must have ample shade to provide respite from the Valley heat.
- Allergens: Plant species in and near playgrounds and parks should be selected from those that produce low levels of allergens and that are not irritating to skin when touches. The Ogren's Allergy Scale or OPALS Scale can be used to determine this.

- Cognitive simplicity: Play spaces should be easy to navigate with recognizable landmarks and wayfinding.
- Social play: Opportunities for social interaction and play that promote multi-users.
- Diversity: Provide diversity in play opportunities that exceed ADA minimums (i.e. types, materials, grasping requirements, level of difficulty, elevated vs. ground level).
- Fencing: Some children with disabilities and on the autism spectrum have a tendency to bolt from the playground. The playground should be fenced to keep children from running into nearby roads, canals, and/or other hazards.
- Intergenerational play: Activities that encourage multiple generations to play together and interact.

Provision for Shade

Public survey respondents listed the provision of shade at parks as an important feature at County parks. Many survey respondents specifically spoke to the desire for more shade trees to be planted at parks, particularly in and around campgrounds, and for additional shade shelters to be constructed at smaller parks which may currently only have one structure. This is a relatively simple action that can have great effect in increasing use of park spaces and the comfort of park visitors for minimal investment.



Moreover, decorative shade options such as pergolas, arbors, or gazebos, may be marketed as special events locations suitable for weddings and other ceremonies. In turn, park visitors' opinions of comfort and beauty of County parks will likely increase, encouraging repeat visits and positive word-of-mouth reviews. Depending upon the unique character of each County park, a number of options may be available to provide more shade cover.

- Shaded seating is recommended adjacent to all playgrounds and sports courts at all County parks. This may consist of benches or picnic tables shaded with trees or structures.
- It is recommended that all Neighborhood Parks have at least one small shade structure which shades at least two picnic tables underneath, in order to promote use of parks for social events and family gatherings.
- Group shade structures are recommended within each Regional Park to support multiple small groups or gatherings of large groups using the park for a special event.
- Group shade structures are recommended proximate to campgrounds.
- Shaded seating with roofed shade structure is recommended at each County-owned special destination park, including fishing accesses, special-use, and miscellaneous purpose recreation areas.

Security and Policing

The overriding theme in the public survey responses was public concern regarding criminal activity and inadequate enforcement of posted regulations at County parks. Respondents were also concerned with lack of law enforcement presence within the parks and the inability to report violations due to no 24 hour park staff and lack of cellular coverage in all areas of parks. The following recommendations seek to address these complaints by improving access to means of reporting violations, increasing staff presence at parks, and drawing County staff and County/local law enforcement into an ongoing dialogue regarding staffing and enforcement needs.



- It is recommended that the County explore options for 24 hour staffing at County parks with campgrounds. This may include County-staffed booths, security personnel, or campground hosts, to be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- Annual review of staffing needs, specifically with regard to on-site staff at regional parks, is recommended in order to allow the County to adjust dynamically to changing parks needs.
- Land line phones with 24 hour 911 access are recommended at regular intervals throughout the five regional parks, particularly adjacent to campgrounds, swim areas, and boat launch docks.
- Coordination is recommended between County parks leadership, the Sheriff's office, and local law enforcement departments to review safety and security issues at County parks.
- A webpage is recommended within the County parks website dedicated to safety, crime prevention tactics, and links to file crime reports or contact local law enforcement.
- The County may choose to introduce surveillance cameras at park locations that have particularly difficult challenges, such as those in rural areas or those which have areas not easily monitored from the nearest road or sidewalk.

Presence of Homeless Population

The National Recreation and Park Association's 2017 report titled "Homelessness in Parks" points to the benefits of approaching the issue of homelessness in parks with an active, organized policy, rather than in a reactive, ad hoc manner. Partnership amongst County departments as well as with third-party groups is important in order to minimize the pressure on one individual department to handle this multi-faceted and increasingly prevalent challenge. Stanislaus County has begun to implement such an approach, with its "Focus on Prevention" initiative and Outreach and Engagement Center located in Modesto. Recommendations for an active, organized approach to ensuring the safety of all park patrons include:

- The Parks Department should coordinate with other County departments when enforcing park regulations that affect homeless persons such that the homeless receive consistent information regarding regulations and resources available.
- Along with increased security patrols and consistent enforcement of County parks regulations, County staff should provide indigent park users with informative handouts listing County resources.

- County staff and law enforcement should consistently enforce regulations upon locations where approved groups may provide food, water and other resources to the homeless. For example, if assistance is consistently available near County buildings downtown, then not only is it easier to monitor the assistance providers, but it also will draw the homeless population toward other County resources like the Outreach and Engagement Center.
- County parks staff should actively maintain partnerships with other County departments, the Housing Authority of the County of Stanislaus, and groups from the community at large in order to approach different angles of the issue of homelessness. For example, the County’s Housing Assistance web page currently lists County, municipal, and privately-operated resources for those in need of housing assistance.
- Ensure all County and private groups working with the homeless population are aware of Stanislaus County Parks Department’s regulations regarding illegal camping, loitering, and other restricted use of County parks facilities in order to avoid the spread of misinformation.



6.2 AESTHETIC GUIDELINES

Based upon current best practices, the County should seek to prioritize the four following qualities in order to foster a safe and consistent aesthetic:

- Park Entries and Parking Areas
- Signage and Wayfinding
- Fences/Walls
- Landscape Materials
- Trees

Park Entries and Parking Areas

Upon arrival, entrance signage and aesthetics create the initial impression of a park space on its visitors. This first impression sets the tone for the user’s experience of that space. It is in the best interests of the County, therefore, to emphasize consistent entry signage and aesthetic treatment across its portfolio of parks and facilities. Best practices dictate signage at vehicular access points should be clear, concise, and directly applicable to that site. The minimum amount of information necessary should be posted on all signs to emphasize the importance of posted information.

- Entry sign listing park name at center with “Stanislaus County Parks & Recreation” or other designator pertaining to County ownership listed at the bottom of the sign. The County Parks logo may be appropriate to include on all signs as well.
- Decorative features such as shrubs, trees, and rocks or other hardscape may be appropriate on a case-by-case basis.
- Aesthetic features including plant or hardscape materials must not present visual barriers to oncoming vehicles or pedestrians.

Examples of Park Entries Utilizing Clear Signage with Required Park Information and Logos



- It is recommended that all paved parking lots are striped to indicate parking stall locations. Appropriate handicapped accessible parking stall shall be provided.
- It is recommended that all unpaved parking lots feature curb stops, boulders, or log wheel stops to indicate parking locations.
- Adequate shade trees are recommended throughout parking lots. Shade coverage should meet both municipal and County requirements.
- Signs with detailed regulations should be posted at trailheads or at parking areas rather than along vehicular routes to maximize readership.
- The minimum amount of information necessary should be posted on all signs to emphasize the key posted information.
- No other signs should appear at the entrance area with the exception of park entrances controlled by a kiosk where fee schedules or other information may be necessary.
- Where feasible, permeable materials and biofiltration techniques are recommended within and adjacent to paved parking areas in order to minimize runoff from paved surfaces into lakes and streams.

Signage and Wayfinding

Consistent signage and provision of clear wayfinding across County parks is recommended in order to emphasize important information to park visitors. Concise signage in a consistent format is important in order to convey the most important part of the message. Additional wayfinding or educational signage may be appropriate for robust trail systems, such as that at Frank Raines Regional Park. This additional signage may include an overall map of the trail system of that park and pertinent landmarks. Signage either at trailhead areas or along selected trails may provide educational opportunities about local history or wildlife. Signage should not negatively affect the aesthetic qualities of the park space and all County regulations regarding posted regulations and physical size of signs must be followed.

- All signage should emphasize simple graphics, include the County Parks logo, and be posted bilingually in English and Spanish when reliant upon text.
- Rules and regulations signs are recommended to provide the minimum information permissible by County regulation in order to encourage readership and emphasize regulations particularly relevant to the County's parks and facilities, such as littering, loitering, and user access.
- Special interest areas are recommended to include signage which specifically references the activity, such as swimming, fishing, camping, RV/trailer camping, pets, etc.
- Trail markers must provide key information so that users can assess whether use is permitted, for which users it is permitted, trail difficulty, and length.
- Signage should not negatively affect the aesthetic qualities of the park space and all County regulations regarding posted regulations and physical size of signs must be followed.

Examples of Signage and Wayfinding Within Parks with Relevant Regulations and Park Use Maps



Fences/Walls

Fences and walls serve important safety and security issues at County parks. Parks adjacent to roadways or industrial uses require adequate fencing to mitigate noise and conflicts with machinery or vehicles. Parks immediately abutting highways, such as Wincanton Park, include sound walls to dampen environmental noise. While fences and walls are frequently necessary components of parks, care should be taken to minimize fences whenever possible and follow best practices for crime prevention through environmental design.

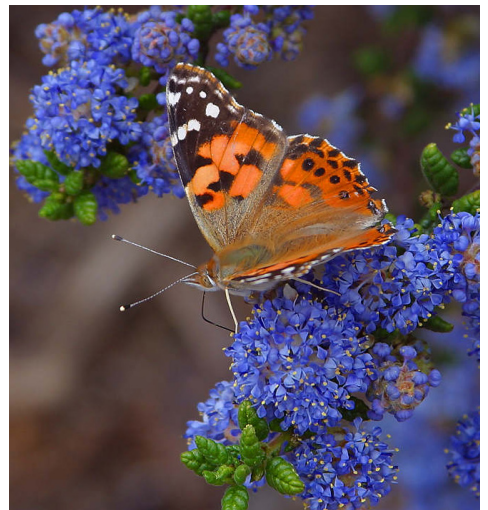


- Solid walls should not have thick planting materials planted against them. This is to ensure clear line of sight to park borders and deter criminal or other deviant behavior that occurs within such visually obscured locations.
- Vines may be planted adjacent to solid walls in order to beautify the park space.
- Chain link fencing should be the minimum height permissible for a location. Typical heights include 4' for "trap" fencing, 6' for dog parks, and 8'-10' surrounding sports courts.
- Chain link fences and modular pre-cast concrete block walls are standard materials for inclusion at small parks requiring fences due to cost efficiency and long-term durability.
- Wilderness areas which require fencing may include wire or steel cable fencing at borders in order to allow for free movement of wildlife and inhibiting trespass by park users onto private land.

- Barbed wire is not recommended for inclusion at any County park facility unless required by law or deemed necessary to protect the public from dangerous equipment or materials.
- Stanislaus County Department of Public Works 2014 Standards, above ground screening, fencing, and/or landscaping shall be provided for all above ground lift stations.
- Screening and landscaping standards shall meet the minimum requirements from the Planning Department and/or Parks and Recreation Department. Such landscape screening should comply with the best practices identified in this document as associated with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies.

Plants and Landscape Materials

Public survey respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the aesthetic qualities of landscape materials within County parks. Many cited dead grass and trees within County parks, largely due to recent consecutive drought years and irrigation restrictions. The County should take steps to include low-water plants which are appropriate to the region in all ongoing landscape renovations and new projects in order to maximize investment in plant materials by increasing the probability that plants will survive intermittent dry periods.



- New plants, trees, and other living materials used within County parks should conform to State and County requirements pertaining to permitted plant species. See the full Water Use Classification of Landscape Species (WUCOLS) reference document on the State Department of Water Resources website at: www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/docs/wucols00.pdf.
- The majority of new plantings should fall within the Low or Very Low water use category for the Central Valley region within the State WUCOLS handbook.
- This plan recommends use of drought-tolerant plant materials in order to extend the lifespan and success rate of new plantings.
- Inert materials should be used where possible to increase durability of a site and reduce irrigation needs.
- Mulch should be applied to all shrub beds according to industry standards, typically 2"-3" depth, to conserve water in the soil and inhibit weed growth.
- Stanislaus County Department of Public Works 2014 Standards, above ground screening, fencing, and/or landscaping shall be provided for all above ground lift stations.
- Screening and landscaping standards shall meet the minimum requirements from the Planning Department and/or Parks and Recreation Department. Such landscape screening should comply with the best practices identified in this document as associated with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies.

Trees: Ideal Locations and Species

Trees are a valuable asset within parks. They provide not only aesthetic value but also add to visitors' comfort by providing shade.

- Replacement of dead trees and additional planting of new trees is recommended at pedestrian-focused gathering areas throughout all County parks. This includes seating and picnic areas, campgrounds, play areas, beaches, and fishing areas.
- All new trees should conform to State and County regulations regarding permitted species and locations.
- Recommended tree species should be native if possible when placed adjacent to water bodies and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Trees are recommended throughout parking areas to provide shade for visitors and vehicles.
- Recommended location of trees to provide maximum shade to the user is to the south, southwest, and southeast of the target object to shade. This orientation provides the most shade for our location in the Northern Hemisphere.



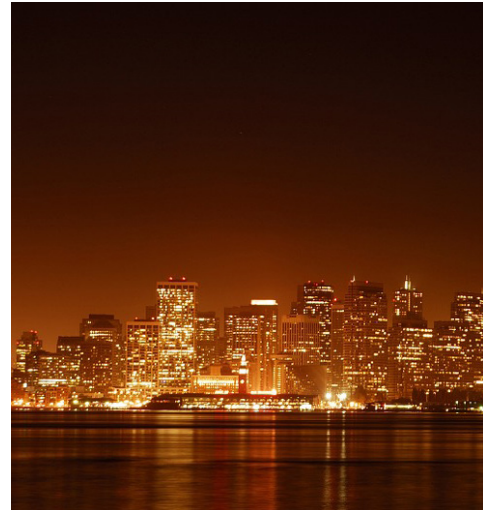
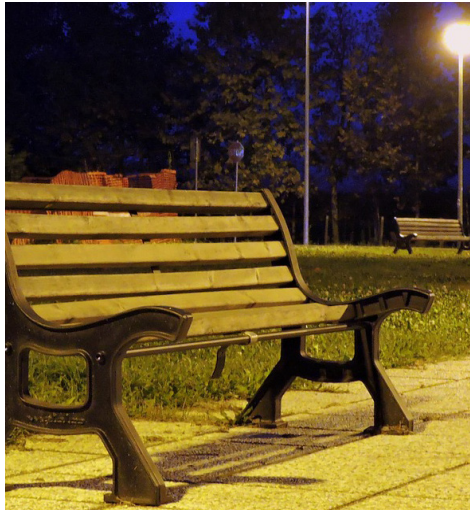
6.3 TECHNICAL ASSETS GUIDELINES

Infrastructure at all County parks should be designed first and foremost for the health and safety of the public. Technical equipment should meet or exceed County standards. Technical systems should also seek to satisfy the Conservation/Open Space Element of the General Plan, Goal 11, Policy 31: New construction by the County shall meet or exceed code requirements for energy conservation. Therefore, renovations and new construction projects should feature equipment that best satisfies given technical needs while also providing the greatest environmental and aesthetic benefits in the following categories:

- Lighting
- Irrigation
- Solar and Wind Power
- Electric Vehicle Infrastructure
- Low-Impact Development (LID) Stormwater Infrastructure

Lighting

Supplying appropriate lighting at County parks is an important component of ensuring the safety of park users. Not only should lighting features be of an intensity best-suited to the use (high-intensity for event or sports field use, lower-intensity for lighting pedestrian paths and parking lot), but they should also be of the industry standard which provides the least amount of environmental pollution. Both energy efficiency and light pollution are of particular concern to County parks management and users.



- It is recommended that lighting improvements be included in all new projects and major retrofits in the best interest of public safety.
- Lighting improvements should be of the lowest intensity that may be used and still ensure the safety of the public.
- Dark Sky standards should be adhered to in all lighting retrofits and new building projects in order to minimize light pollution.

Irrigation

Irrigation is of particular relevance in California at this time, as recent drought years spurred a series of water restrictions statewide over the past five years. All County parks improvement projects should be committed to stewardship of the valuable resource of water.



- Irrigation equipment in all County parks should be assessed annually in order to determine efficacy and manage funding requests for maintenance and repairs.
- Best practices such as those put forward by the California Department of Water Resources Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO) are recommended at all County park facilities.
- Landscape irrigation should water for the minimum duration possible, depending upon microclimates and plant types.
- Large expanses of turf grass should not be irrigated unless that turf is part of a sports field surface.
- Subsurface irrigation is recommended in order to reduce evaporation and conserve water.



Solar and Wind Power

Public survey respondents indicated interest in seeing expanded solar power throughout the parks for purposes of fueling lighting and other features. Solar power continues to become more accessible in terms of cost and applications and may be the appropriate solution in parks locations which otherwise would require invasive trenching or unattractive power lines to supply electricity. Solar and wind power energy may be stored immediately adjacent to the panel or turbine using batteries. Alternately, there may be locations where it is desirable to tie into the existing grid to ensure constant power supply and/or to supply economic sell-back benefits to the County.

- Solar panels may be integrated into parking and other shade awning applications in County parks.
- Small wind turbines are recommended for supplying local electric power at appropriate locations within Woodward and Modesto Reservoir regional parks.
- Solar and wind power options may become educational assets with associated signage and learning opportunities.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure

As the number of electrical vehicles on the roads continues to increase, websites and interest groups have sprung up dedicated to planning road trips and vacations around convenient charging locations. Stanislaus County parks have the opportunity to be part of this burgeoning trend if electrical vehicle charging infrastructure is included in major parking lot and campground renovations. Addition of electric vehicle charging stations to parks parking lots and facilities is recommended for all new and major retrofit projects.



- A proportionate number of electric vehicle charging parking spaces with electric charging infrastructure are recommended in all new parking lot projects at County parks. Refer to the Department of the State Architect (DSA) office for current standards.
- It is recommended the County engage subject experts from nearby park districts, namely the East Bay Regional Park District and the Santa Clara County Parks District, to assess means of monetizing EV infrastructure to the extent permissible in order to ensure economic viability of the County's investment.
- The County should study the feasibility of Public-Private Partnerships in order to have industry providers install EV charging stations within County parks.
- Advertise the availability of electric hook up camping spots and any electric vehicle charging stations added to County parks on the County parks website in order to publicize the County parks' assets to EV owners.

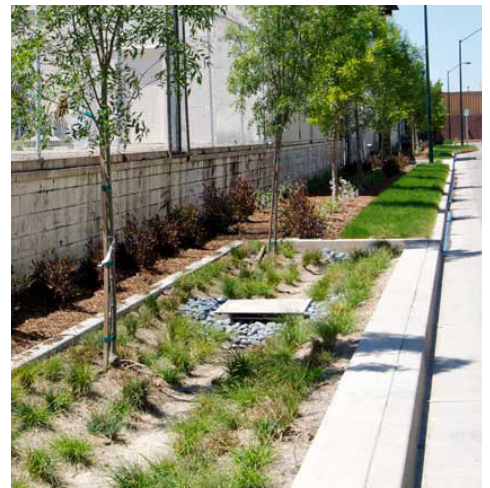
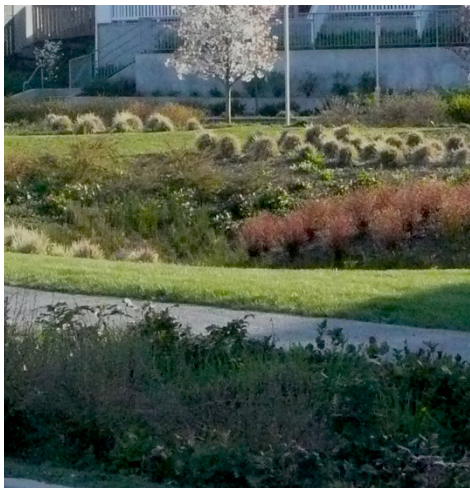
Low Impact Development (LID) Stormwater Infrastructure

Stanislaus County's Department of Public Works 2014 Standards and Specifications includes two new chapters which specifically address stormwater runoff quality and the use of Low Impact Development (LID) technology. These chapters establish the County's compliance with the Clean Water Act and National Pollution and Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) standards.

Moreover, the Standards and Specifications item 4.18 sets forward the following standard relating to LID stormwater management techniques for new construction:

4.18.a.2: If your project creates or replaces between 2,500 ft² but under 5,000 ft² of impervious surface area, the Developer shall implement one or more of the following Site Design Measures and quantify the runoff reduction using the State Water Board's SMARTS Post Construction Calculator:

- i. Stream Setbacks and Buffers
- ii. Soil Quality Improvement and Maintenance
- iii. Tree Planting and Preservation
- iv. Rooftop and Impervious Area
- v. Disconnection
- vi. Porous Pavement
- vii. Green Roofs
- viii. Vegetated Swales
- ix. Rain Barrels and Cisterns



In line with the County's commitment to principles of Low Impact Development and prioritization of maintaining water quality standards in line with State and national standards, the following guidelines apply to new construction and renovation projects within County parks.

- Permeable or pervious surfaces should be used as much as possible to discourage stormwater runoff and encourage natural percolation of rain water into the aquifer.
- Comply with Clean Water Act requirements to improve quality of stormwater runoff from built sites.
- Promote use of LID techniques for capturing, cleaning, and infiltrating stormwater to the extent possible in all new construction and major renovation projects within County parks facilities. This may include use of biological treatment areas, such as bioswales, as well as engineered systems, such as infiltration tanks under pervious concrete at parking lots or other paved locations.
- Comply with best practices with regard to pesticide application and management in order to reduce introduction of harmful elements into the rivers, streams, and reservoirs of Stanislaus County.
- Complete training with Parks and Recreation operations and maintenance teams regarding maintenance of permeable/pervious surfaces, bioswales and infiltration areas, and other LID elements.

6.4 SITE FURNISHINGS GUIDELINES

Site furnishings encompass features such as seating and play structures which are often the most heavily used components of parks. These features also demand high levels of durability and standard maintenance procedures in order not to drain the time and resources of the County's operations and maintenance capabilities. Park renovations and new construction projects should feature equipment that combines function, accessibility, and durability in the following categories:

- Site Furniture
- Playground Equipment
- Sports Equipment
- Dog Parks

Site Furniture

Site furniture, such as picnic tables, benches, drinking fountains, bike racks, and waste receptacles, contribute to the overall user experience of a park space. It is important that these amenities are able to withstand wear and tear associated with being located in public outdoor spaces. These items must not only be durable, but must also be easily repaired and maintained by County maintenance staff. Given high rates of vandalism in the past, especially of recycling receptacles, these features may need to be concentrated at large regional parks in one area which may be locked overnight by County staff.



- Concrete is the preferred material for benches, picnic tables, waste receptacles, fire rings, and group BBQs at County parks.
- All picnic tables, benches, and other park furniture must provide accessible options that are compliant with ADA requirements.
- Both waste and recycling receptacles should be installed at all Neighborhood Parks, Special Interest parks, and Miscellaneous open space within the County park system.
- Regional parks should include both waste and recycling receptacles within high-activity nodes (picnic areas, swimming areas, playground areas, etc.), as well as both waste and recycling dumpsters or other approved large-capacity disposal units within the park.
- Tubular steel with a powder-coated or galvanized surface is the preferred material for bicycle racks.
- Bicycle racks are recommended at all neighborhood parks.
- Drinking fountains should be pedestal-style in metal or concrete.
- Drinking fountains must comply with all ADA requirements regarding height, apertures, and on/off mechanisms.
- Drinking fountains with low dog bowls are preferred at all neighborhood parks and at any other County park areas where dogs are permitted.

Playground Equipment

The County's parks provide its residents with opportunities for children's play outdoors. Playgrounds structure children's play and play an important role in their learning and developmental experience. Increasingly, playgrounds include creative play areas including basic outdoor musical apparatus, playhouses, and other elements to stimulate both individual and group creative play. Creating an inclusive space that supports play by many user groups, including persons of varying abilities across all ages, in a safe play space, serves the maximum amount of the public's needs.



- All new construction and renovation projects of County park playgrounds must meet industry safety standards and comply with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards and all federal, state, and local safety regulations.
- In addition to compliance with ADA regulations, playground equipment should offer options for users of various abilities. This may be achieved via ground-level accessible play features, ramps to access tall play structures, swings and other features specially designed for use by persons with various physical abilities, and/or other methods.
- Equipment should be chosen which reinforces physical learning using visual, audible, vestibular, and other qualities.
- County Operations and Maintenance staff should be periodically trained in maintenance of playground equipment produced by major manufacturers to ensure familiarity with evolving products.
- Play equipment should be periodically inspected by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector.
- County O&M staff expertise and feedback should influence selection of equipment and surfacing materials in renovations and new construction of playgrounds and play areas.

Sports Equipment

Parks traditionally serve surrounding communities with a place to gather and recreate. Stanislaus County parks often provide sports fields and accessory equipment to support community sports activities. Backstops, walking paths/running tracks, basketball courts, and soccer goals are common sports equipment included within County parks. Features such as outdoor exercise equipment for adults are also increasingly popular as neighborhood recreational amenities.



- All parks sports equipment and structures must adhere to current standards regarding safety, accessibility, and materials.
- Areas with sports equipment should include basic instructional signage regarding restricted uses and target user age where appropriate.
- Tubular steel with a powder-coated or galvanized surface is the preferred material for sports equipment frame and body materials.
- Sports equipment should be periodically inspected by personnel trained to certify equipment safety per State regulations.
- Loose equipment and equipment subject to degradation (i.e. soccer nets, moveable goals, baseball bases, etc.) may be managed by the County Department of Parks and Recreation on a rental or library-type check-out availability, to be determined by County staff.

Dog Parks

Dog parks integrate features such as fencing, ground treatment, shade structures, and site furnishings to meet a specific goal of creating a safe, usable, easy to maintain park space. The sites must be easy to maintain and comfortable places for passive human recreation and socializing, yet accommodate the moderate to high levels of wear and tear associated with dogs playing actively.

Per the American Kennel Club, these are the guidelines for standard design components to be included in dog parks:

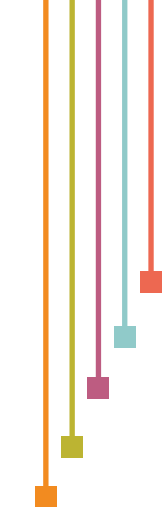
- One acre or more of land surrounded by a four- to six-foot high chain-link fence.
- The fence should be equipped with a double-gated entry to keep dogs from escaping and to facilitate wheelchair access.
- Cleaning supplies, including covered garbage cans, waste bags, and pooper-scooper stations.
- Shade and water for both dogs and owners, along with benches and tables.
- A safe, accessible location with adequate drainage and a grassy area that is mowed routinely.
- If space allows, it is preferable to provide separate areas for small and large dogs. This will enable large dog owners to allow their pets to run more freely, while protecting smaller dogs who may not be suited to the enthusiastic play of larger breeds.
- Signs that specify park hours and rules.
- Parking close to the site.

San Francisco's design guidelines are similar to the AKC guidelines, with notable differences. The following list consists of elements the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department provides at a minimum at each of their dog parks:

- Bag dispensers
- Signs
- Bench(s)
- Surface material (preferred surface material is decomposed granite)
- Barriers
- Trash cans (RPD to service)
- Lighting (where financially and physically possible & will not adversely affect surrounding areas)



Responsibility for maintenance tasks should be allocated early and clearly during all stages of the design, development, and continued operations of dog parks. Recognizing that successful dog parks tend to get busier over time and will therefore necessitate more frequent maintenance and waste hauling is an important part of designing an effective long-term Operations and Maintenance strategy.



CHAPTER 7

RECOMMENDATIONS

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RECOMMENDATIONS

The following chapter will outline recommendations for County wide parks standards as well as individual park specific plans. Each individual plan will include a summary of potential improvements to be completed as part of each project. The recommendations summarized here take into account the local context, County park inventory, public feedback, and best practices reviewed previously in this Master Plan. Recommendations included in this chapter have been contributed by County staff and Parks Managers as well as by members of the public via feedback provided at public meetings and online.

Each park and recreation facility run or maintained by Stanislaus County has its own unique needs. This document seeks to provide recommendations for individual parks and facilities such to enable an itemized account by park of needs typical of that park. Improvements typically take place gradually, and may be phased pending budgetary or other restrictions. The following recommendations should therefore be considered a snapshot of identified park needs as of the writing of the Parks Master Plan update. Changes to the number and extent of recommended improvements may be required as of the time any such project enters into the County's CIP pipeline.

From the lists on the following pages have been selected fifteen priority projects. These fifteen projects are priority projects to be incorporated into future CIP budgets. The estimated costs and phasing for these fifteen priority projects are included at the beginning of Chapter 8.

7.1 REGIONAL PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

Regional Park General Guidelines

Regional parks vary widely in programmatic needs, target audience, and future goals. Based upon current best practices, design decisions for improvements at all regional parks should include the following:

- Due to the complex nature of the County's five regional parks, which include dynamic programming such as hunting, fishing, off-highway vehicle courses, historic and cultural resources, sensitive habitat, reservoirs used for drinking water, and more, it is highly recommended that individual master plans for regional parks should be developed at the time of major construction in order to detail appropriate design and ongoing management issues associated with new projects. These documents will address the needs of each regional park on an individualized basis to best manage the resources and serve the constituents of each.
- Increase overall number of trails (walking, hiking, bicycling, and equestrian options) and accommodate for different user abilities. Paved loop paths in campgrounds and along reservoir may be appropriate for some users, while unpaved hiking/equestrian trails over varied terrain will appeal to others.
- Increasing the maintenance of restroom facilities at all regional parks and increasing the number of restroom/shower facilities available at all campgrounds is highly recommended due to overwhelming public feedback.
- Expand WiFi to regional parks to aid park staff with collecting on-site fees as well as to increase marketability to event organizers and the general public.
- Assess staff and funding allocations specifically designated for pruning and maintaining trees on a yearly or biannual basis. Consider dedication of a "tree crew" to perform all tree-associated work in parks. Trees are a dynamic and important part of the regional parks, and must be maintained to ensure customer safety.
- Design a small outdoor amphitheater to seat 50-100 persons within each regional park to support special events, weddings, educational outings, interest group meet-ups, and more. Amphitheaters should have integrated shade using trees, canopies, or a combination. Development of small amphitheaters should also include associated fee structure to sustain long-term park revenues.
- Install electric vehicle charging parking spaces in a number proportionate to the entire number of parking spaces per the Department of the State Architect 2016 California Green Building Code. Woodward Reservoir and Modesto Reservoir are the priority locations to include this infrastructure.

	2017 Inventory: Regional Parks	District	Recommendations
1	Frank Raines Regional Park	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Frank Raines Trail Management Plan • Open the top 500 acres for vehicular use at OHV park • Create trail system for walkers, hikers, and mountain bikers, with educational signage and trail markers • Restoration of recreation hall at OHV park • Bring potable water to day-use and campsite areas • Change feed from non-potable to potable water for hill top water tanks at day use area campsites. • Renovate electrical wiring to meet demand of current campground users. • Extend electric power capabilities to accommodate potable water improvement needs • Expand existing upper camping area into full hook-up (water and electric) campsites • New restroom at volleyball court area • New restroom at area above campground • Remove baseball field and expand campground to field • Add trees with irrigation to all new campground areas • Expand picnic amenities at day-use area • Improvements to road and storm sewer infrastructure • Construct outdoor amphitheater for small group gatherings of ~50-100 people at Deer Creek entrance

	2017 Inventory: Regional Parks	District	Recommendations
2	La Grange Regional Park	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Historic District Master Plan • Repair/restore historic buildings and assets • Construct ADA compliant sidewalk/path along Yosemite Boulevard to link all historic assets through downtown La Grange • Mark all historic sites with clear, consistent signage visible from the road • Include educational signage containing detailed historical / cultural information adjacent to historic sites • Advertise historic district on website and print materials • Perform professional inspection of Old La Grange Bridge and complete recommended repairs • Construct concrete parking area and install new signage at Old La Grange Bridge • Upgrade fence and gates at cemeteries to wrought iron • Study potential for planting native plants at the Gold Dredge that will attract bees in the fall and create more attractive areas for bees to reduce bee intrusion into OHV; add associated signage to Gold Dredge area regarding bee habitat • Examine future usage options for 30 acres currently housing heavy equipment • OHV: Expand track water supply and install track watering system • OHV: Add camper/RV hookup campsites with electrical and water • OHV: Add (3) vault toilets • OHV: Replace entrance station and repave asphalt parking area • OHV: Expand and level event parking area at OHV • OHV: Replace all wire fence with steel cable fencing • OHV: Construct outdoor amphitheater for small group gatherings of ~50-100 people near event parking area • OHV: Install helipad for emergency airlift access • OHV: Develop signage to promote directional use of tracks to reduce potential of cross-traffic collisions • OHV: Develop track options to separate vehicle users (i.e. bikes, ATVs, Trucks)

	2017 Inventory: Regional Parks	District	Recommendations
3	Laird Regional Park	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add fishing dock(s) and paved boat launch ramp• Install new playground adjacent to existing soccer field, between parking area and main road• Pave entrance roadway• Construct paved parking area• Build destination dog park• Create trail system for walkers, hikers, mountain bikers, and a BMX area, with educational signage and trail markers• Install picnic/seating/shade areas adjacent to playground• Replace all trash receptacles with concrete receptacles with dome lids• Expand options for trails in former firing range acreage• Explore options for joint-use agreements with adjacent Camp Taylor to develop facilities that may be used by both the County and Camp Taylor• Construct outdoor amphitheater for small group gatherings of ~50 people adjacent to parking and picnic areas

	2017 Inventory: Regional Parks	District	Recommendations
4	Modesto Reservoir Regional Park	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enlarge entrance station: expand roadway and drive to the east to accommodate more traffic, add an automated payment station and self-registration area, add small parking area, vault toilet, and security camera system, add electric signage • South side: add paved walking/biking trail with trees, irrigation and benches, add crosswalks, signs, and other traffic calming, improve entrance to Marina Boat Ramp area • South side: Add day-use amenities such as a children's fishing pond, natural garden, horseshoe pit, picnic amenities, and paved parking at the group camp between picnic shelter and Marina Boat Ramp • West side: Drill new well between Lake View and Baptista Point, perform landform manipulation to increase day-use access of south-facing hillside, develop group camping area with picnic amenities, ADA accessible restrooms, trees, and potable roads/parking lots between Lake View and Baptista, improve day-use facilities at West Boat Ramp day-use area by adding picnic amenities, a swimming dock, paved roads and parking, modifying restroom for ADA compliance • West side: Improve Vivian Cove by grading hill at east side to level and expand existing camping area, adding camp sites with fire pits and BBQ amenities, bringing in potable water and planting more trees • West side: Improve Mud Hen Cove by grading, creating dual use camp/picnic areas, adding vaulted restrooms and potable water, installing group shade shelter and electrical lighting, planting trees and adding paved road and parking • Add structures to support fish habitat in reservoir; stock fish annually to increase success rate and promote fishing • Ensure ADA water access at water ski course • Add fishing docks and ensure ADA compliance for universal access • Assess all campground restrooms and showers; refurbish or replace as needed to modernize and ensure ADA compliance • Add asphalt parking and turf area at RC club area or south of A-Loop in order to accommodate Easter egg hunt and other events • Upgrade RV electrical to 50 Amps • Install irrigation system for trees in C and D Loops • Add group campsite between A Loop and archery range • Construct California Poppy wild flower meadow ecological education area; signage, seating and shade, along with loop path, to encourage passive recreation • Construct outdoor amphitheater for small group gatherings of ~50-100 people

	2017 Inventory: Regional Parks	District	Recommendations
5	Woodward Reservoir Regional Park	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand North side for special events and potential camping • Construct a large special events outdoor amphitheater with amenities for performing groups and for use for educational and other special events • Upgrade all roadways to current County road standards (paving, striping, signage, etc.) • Create trail system for walkers, hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians, with educational signage and trail markers • Increase staffing and equipment to manage litter and grounds management • Bayview Point: Add underground power source, add new well (to service restroom and double-lettered camp areas), renovate/construct new ADA compliant showers and restrooms and ensure handicapped vehicle parking accessibility to restrooms • Bayview Point: Add 40'x 60' event awning with expanded BBQ and picnic facilities northeast of Area T • Bayview Point: Add campgrounds; improvements to include potable water at 2-3 locations throughout, picnic tables/fire rings/BBQ amenities, ADA compliant restroom and shower located centrally, unpaved road access, and trees with irrigation throughout campground • Bayview Point: Construct new day-use area between existing campgrounds L and M; amenities to include ADA compliant vault toilets, all picnic and BBQ amenities, at least 2 potable water locations, paved access road and parking lot, and trees with irrigation throughout • Add trees and irrigation throughout high-activity areas to provide shade for park users • Add (1) additional entrance station on the north side • Add (1) additional entrance station on Dorsey Road or property adjacent to current entrance station • Refurbish and add an additional (4) lanes of dumping access to existing RV dump station • Within undeveloped camping areas, select a location for an RV water station and install water station • Expand the Cocklebur day-use area with new amenities • Upgrade or replace all restrooms and showers with larger capacity facilities • Potential for additional wastewater treatment plant onsite as needed

7.2 NEIGHBORHOOD PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

Neighborhood Park General Guidelines

Based upon current best practices, design decisions for improvements at all Neighborhood Parks should include the following:

- Include paved walking circuit paths in all redesign and new design projects to encourage healthy community practices.
- Introduce adult exercise options/workout stations.
- Explore options for fenced off-leash areas for dogs (“dog parks”) at parks over 5 acres and on a case-by case basis.
- Assess staff and funding allocations specifically designated for pruning and maintaining trees on a yearly or bi-annual basis. Trees are a dynamic and important part of the regional parks, and must be maintained to ensure customer safety.
- Develop facilities that can be rented to help sustain parks long term.
- Minimum park size of Neighborhood Parks is to be set at 3 acres.

	2017 Inventory: Neighborhood Parks	District	Recommendations
1	Bonita Park & Pool	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add tot lot play area • Construct outdoor fitness stations for adult recreation • Construct at least (1) shade shelter with picnic tables • Explore options for community garden area • Renovate pool and construct splash play area • Renovate restroom facilities to ensure ADA and health code compliance
2	Bonita Ranch Park	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovate basketball court • Construct outdoor fitness stations for adult recreation • Build group BBQ • Upgrade playground as inclusive play space
3	Burbank-Paradise Park/Hall	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add (1) shade shelter with picnic tables and group BBQ • Add multi-use court adjacent to PAL headquarters building for use for basketball, tennis, or other sports
4	County Center 1: Courthouse Lawn Park	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign park to satisfy modern needs of downtown gathering space; consider design typical of a plaza, with specific design qualities to discourage loitering and to support events in the plaza • Ensure night lighting complies with state and national standards and effectively lights all pedestrian pathways
5	Countrystone Park	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct dog park (to be fenced, with separate areas for small and large dogs, drinking fountains, dog waste disposal stations, shade and seating) • Build walking path around park • Construct outdoor fitness stations for adult recreation
6	Empire Community Park & Regional Water Safety Training Center	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovate restroom facilities to ensure ADA compliance • Build walking path around park; connect existing paths with extensions along north and east borders of park • Add shade toppers to playground equipment • Build shaded seating areas adjacent to playgrounds • Construct outdoor fitness stations for adult recreation • Upgrade playground as inclusive play space

	2017 Inventory: Neighborhood Parks	District	Recommendations
7	Empire Tot Lot	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure night lighting complies with state and national standards and effectively lights all pedestrian pathways • Build shade structure or plant new trees adjacent to picnic area at park entry
8	Fairview Park	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build walking path loop • Build shaded seating areas adjacent to playground • Add shaded seating adjacent to sport court • Construct community hall within park
9	Grayson United Community Park	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore options for community garden area • Construct (1) group shade shelter or at least (2) small shade shelters adjacent to sports courts and playground areas • Construct outdoor fitness stations for adult recreation
10	Hatch Park & Keyes Community Center	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct small dog park (to be fenced, drinking fountains, dog waste disposal stations, shade and seating) • Build walking path around park • Construct (1) group shade shelter or at least (2) small shade shelters to encourage passive recreation • Construct outdoor fitness stations for adult recreation • Construct ADA compliant restroom and concessions building • Explore addition of another baseball park • Pave parking area
11	Hunter's Pointe Park	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct at least (1) shade shelter adjacent to playground • Plant trees to shade seating surrounding playgrounds • Add shade toppers to playground equipment • Construct outdoor fitness stations for adult recreation • Build walking path around park • Build group BBQ • Upgrade playground as inclusive play space
12	John Murphy Park	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build walking path around park; connect existing paths with extensions along north and west borders of park • Explore options for community garden area • Add shaded seating adjacent to sport court • Upgrade playground and play surfacing • Build shaded seating areas adjacent to playgrounds • Plant trees along pathways to increase shade cover
13	Leroy F. Fitzsimmons Memorial Park	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add shaded seating adjacent to sport court; replace existing bench at least (3) concrete benches with trees or shade shelters to shade seating area • Resurface sport court with durable brightly colored sports surfacing, striped for multiple sports if possible • Renovate playground and playground safety surfacing to conform with current safety standards • Build shaded seating areas adjacent to playgrounds

	2017 Inventory: Neighborhood Parks	District	Recommendations
14	Mono Park	4	N/A - park slated for sale imminently as of 2017
15	Oregon Drive Park	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore options for community garden area • Ensure night lighting complies with state and national standards and effectively lights all pedestrian pathways • Resurface sport court with durable brightly colored sports surfacing, striped for multiple sports if possible
16	Parklawn Park	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct dog park (to be fenced, with separate areas for small and large dogs, drinking fountains, dog waste disposal stations, shade and seating) • Renovate restroom facilities to ensure ADA compliance • Build walking path around park • Remove former play pit; replace with shaded outdoor exercise equipment area
17	Riverdale Park & River Access	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build walking path around park • Pave/grade river access and day-use boat ramp to ensure ADA compliance • Restore native vegetation and improve drainage by implementing a bioswale or similar vegetated stormwater conveyance area • Restore native vegetation at river; thin as needed to ensure safety for park patrons • Expand playground to include nature playground and trail for educational opportunities
18	Salida Park	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build walking path at SE edge of park to connect existing sidewalk and create a full walkable loop for exercise • Add shade toppers to playground equipment • Add at least (2) additional benches adjacent to playground and shade with new trees • Renovate sport court and stripe surface for multiple sports • Add benches adjacent to sports court; shade with new trees • Upgrade playground as inclusive play space
19	Segesta Park	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct dog park (to be fenced, with separate areas for small and large dogs, drinking fountains, dog waste disposal stations, shade and seating) • Construct shaded seating area between playground areas • Resurface sport court with durable brightly colored sports surfacing, striped for multiple sports if possible • Replace all playground equipment and playground surfacing to ensure safety compliance and ADA accessibility • Upgrade playground as inclusive play space • Plant trees along walking paths for shade • Construct outdoor fitness stations for adult recreation; potentially construct shaded outdoor fitness area

	2017 Inventory: Neighborhood Parks	District	Recommendations
20	Sterling Ranch Park	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build walking path around park (basin included), connecting existing portions of perimeter sidewalk to create a loop • Construct shade shelters over existing picnic tables adjacent to playground • Add trees along path at playground to add shade to existing benches • Construct creative/musical play area adjacent to existing playground
21	Wincanton Park	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build walking path around park • Resurface sport court with durable brightly colored sports surfacing, striped for multiple sports if possible • Add benches adjacent to sports court and shade with new trees • Add benches adjacent to play area with new trees for shade

7.3 SPECIAL INTEREST PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

Special Interest Park General Guidelines

The County parks categorized as “special interest” parks vary in terms of programmatic needs, regulatory constraints, and target user groups. While individual parks require tailored responses regarding environmental sensitivity, water body protection, fishing regulations, camping, and other specifics, each park should adhere to best practices outlined elsewhere in this master plan.

- Ensure ADA accessibility to public amenities such as restrooms, boat launches, and seating/shade areas.
- Provide adequate lighting, particularly for parking areas, to discourage criminal use of park spaces.
- Provide adequate litter receptacles and staff sufficient County maintenance personnel to maintain cleanliness of park space.

	2017 Inventory: Special Interest	District	Recommendations
1	Basso Bridge River & Fishing Access	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform professional inspection of historic Basso Bridge and complete recommended repairs • Construct concrete parking area • Develop walking/biking path to link downtown La Grange to Basso Bridge • Improve signage to indicate entry and parking • Incorporate into La Grange Historic District • Provide shaded seating and waste receptacles adjacent to parking area • Replace damaged restroom
2	Fox Grove River & Fishing Access	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build walking path around park • Provide shaded seating and waste receptacles adjacent to parking area • Build group BBQ • Remove closed restroom structure • Repair boat ramp to ensure user safety during low water level periods

	2017 Inventory: Special Interest	District	Recommendations
3	Joe Domecq Wilderness Area	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve signage to indicate entry and parking • Add fishing dock and cleaning station • Remove Tullies in the pond to improve fishing access • Create trail system with educational signage and trail markers • Construct shaded picnic area with group BBQ and seating
4	Kiwanis Camp	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve signage to indicate entry and parking • Create trail system for walkers, hikers, and mountain bikers with educational signage and trail markers • Construct outdoor amphitheater for special events and educational gatherings • Improve water system • Restore historic structures • Build ADA accessible restroom/shower facility • Provide shaded seating and waste receptacles adjacent to parking area • Build nature-play area with experiential play and children's trail area
5	J-59 Fishing Access	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pave/grade river access path to ensure ADA compliance • Create trail system for walkers, hikers, and mountain bikers with educational signage and trail markers • Integrate educational signage and benches along length of access path between parking area and river • Restore native vegetation at river; thin as needed to ensure safety for park patrons • Improve signage to indicate fishing access location and entry • Construct asphalt parking area with signage • Provide shaded seating and waste receptacles adjacent to parking area
6	Las Palmas River & Fishing Access	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pave/grade river access and day-use boat ramp to ensure ADA compliance • Construct new well and repair vault restroom • Provide shaded seating and waste receptacles adjacent to parking area • Increase access to open natural area • Construct walking path through field
7	Shiloh River & Fishing Access	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pave/grade river access and day-use boat ramp to ensure ADA compliance • Improve signage to indicate entry and parking • Provide shaded seating and waste receptacles adjacent to parking area

	2017 Inventory: Special Interest	District	Recommendations
8	Tuolumne River Regional Park	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all improvements are consistent with Tuolumne River Regional Park Master Plan published December 2001 • Work with project partners to create cohesive branding and signage for all pieces of the park • Restore native vegetation; thin as needed to ensure safety for public access • Coordinate with Tuolumne River Trust and ecological assessments to restore river health at target points to ensure longevity of this resource • Provide shaded seating and waste receptacles adjacent to parking areas and at identified intervals throughout park

7.4 MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS

Miscellaneous Public Open Space General Guidelines

Miscellaneous public open space areas typically feature very specific purposes contributing to the infrastructure of Stanislaus County. The flood control basins, cemeteries, and other spaces included in this portion of the County's inventory typically serve important purposes with specific best practices for which industry standards and best practices should be referenced for specific future planning needs.

	2017 Inventory: Miscellaneous Public Open Space	District	Recommendations
1	Atlas Park Cul-de-Sac	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add at least (1) additional bench and shade with new trees • Explore possibility of replacing all or part of turf with low-water using shrubs and drip irrigation
2	Hideaway Terrace Basin	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore options for public access to open space
3	Old School North Flood Control Basin	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore options for public access to open space
4	Pauper's Field Citizen Cemetery	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post signage indicating County management of area
5	Roberts Ferry Cemetery	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade fence and gates to wrought iron fencing
6	Stanislaus Recovery Center (SRC) Park	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore options for public access to park • Add native garden/sensory garden and shaded seating • Add ornamental trees and low-water using shrubs
7	Suncrest Estates Flood Control Basin	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore options for public access to open space

7.5 PROPOSED NEW PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

Proposed Parks and Recreation Facilities

Following the prioritization of recommended improvements to existing parks and facilities, the following recommendations pertain to new parks and recreation projects which require parkland acquisition of major construction/renovation on existing vacant land.

Development of Neighborhood Parks to serve Unincorporated Stanislaus County

As noted in this Master Plan update, Chapter 5: Best Practices, Stanislaus County currently provides developed Neighborhood Parks at an average of one acre per 1,000 residents in unincorporated areas. This is below the General Plan's goal of providing 3 acres per 1,000 population in unincorporated areas.

The US Census gathers information on the following unincorporated communities within Stanislaus County. These are called Census Designated Places (CDPs). Exhibit 7.1 shows population per CDP, per the 2010 US Census, compared with the current County Neighborhood Parks developed in each CDP. The far right column shows current acres of developed County Neighborhood parks per 1,000 population in each CDP. Denair, Empire, Keyes, Parklawn, Salida, and West Modesto currently show sufficient parks coverage.

Stanislaus County CDP Population Statistics: 2010 US Census					
	Place	Population	Area (sq mi)	County-owned Developed Neighborhood Parks Acreage	County Parks Acres per 1,000 Population
1	Airport CDP	1,964	0.60	3.85	1.96
2	Bret Harte CDP	5,152	0.55	4.66	2.37
3	Bystrom CDP	4,008	0.73	0	0
4	Cowan CDP	318	0.16	0	0
5	Crows Landing CDP	355	3.17	1.02	0.52
6	Del Rio CDP	1,270	2.08	0	0
7	Denair CDP	4,404	1.98	6.71	3.42
8	Diablo Grande CDP	826	5.11	0	0
9	East Oakdale CDP	2,762	5.21	0	0
10	Empire CDP	4,189	1.56	6.31	3.21
11	Grayson CDP	952	2.55	5.45	2.77
12	Hickman CDP	641	1.08	0	0
13	Keyes CDP	5,601	2.83	16.99	8.65
14	Monterey Park CDP	133	0.05	?	0
15	Parklawn CDP	1,337	0.17	3.99	3.99
16	Riverdale Park CDP	1,128	1.48	2.23	1.14
17	Rouse CDP	2,005	0.24	0	0
18	Salida CDP	13,722	5.57	32.71	16.65
19	Shackelford CDP	3,371	0.68	0	0
20	Valley Home CDP	228	1.03	0	0
21	Westley CDP	603	1.74	0	0
22	West Modesto CDP	5,682	2.03	21.59	10.99

Exhibit 7.1: Stanislaus County Unincorporated Census Designated Places and associated County parks service per population

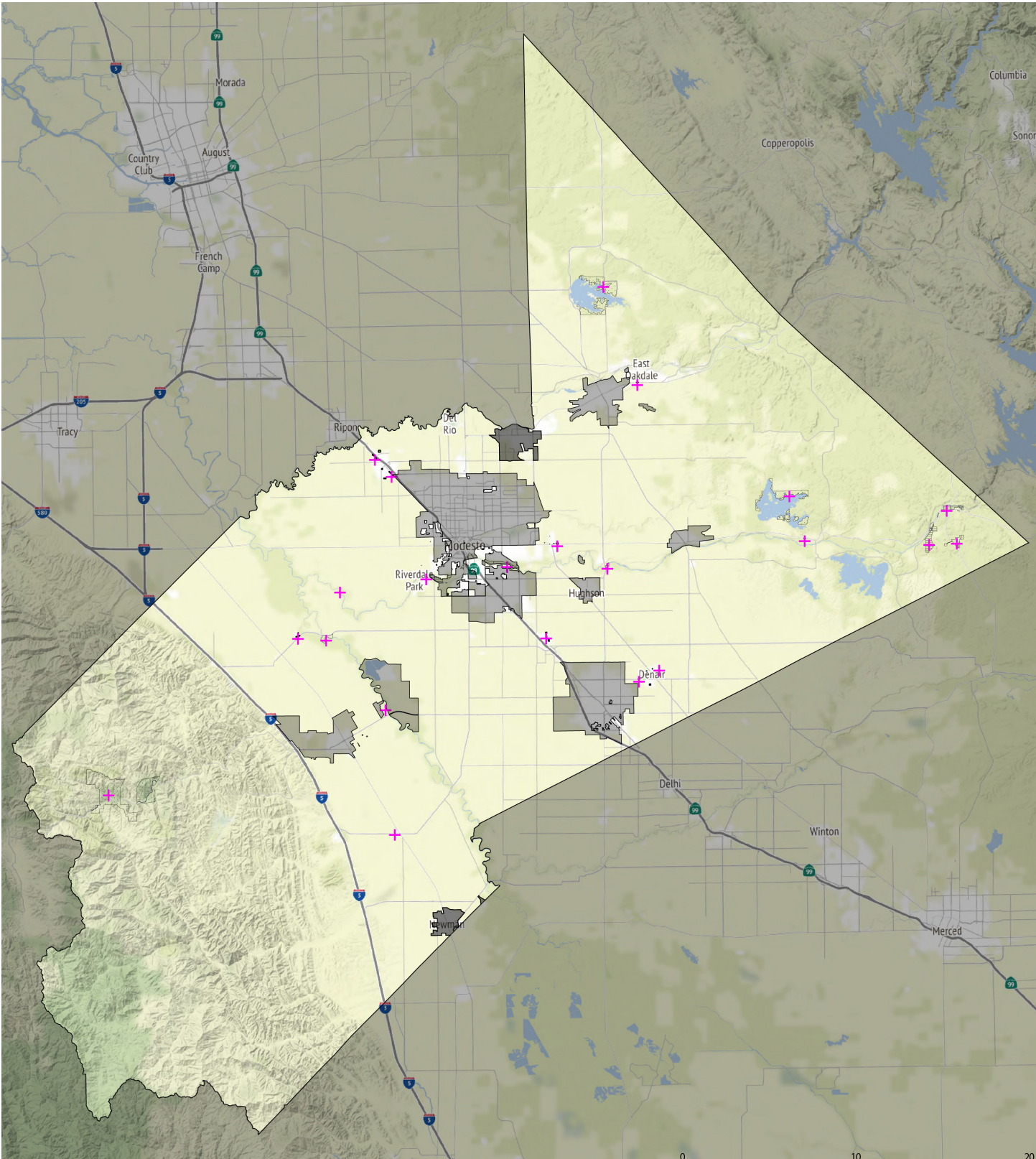


Exhibit 7.2: Neighborhood Parks distribution. Unincorporated Stanislaus County is highlighted and parks are noted with + symbol



As shown in Exhibit 7.2 and 7.3, there are noticeable gap areas within the unincorporated portions of Stanislaus County where Neighborhood Parks are not currently provided by the County. Notable gaps are present and have been numbered to identify specific recommendations appropriate to each area.

Area 1: Diablo Grande/SW Stanislaus County

The circled area is largely unpopulated. The community of Diablo Grande is currently served by internal parks and open space assets. Future parks in this region should take advantage of the varied topography to provide walking and hiking trails. This area should remain under regular review through the life of this Master Plan to monitor future development needs.

Area 2: Westley/Grayson

The circled area includes Grayson, Westley, and NW Patterson. Grayson currently provides just under 3 acres per 1,000 residents, with both Grayson United Community Park and Leroy F. Fitzsimmons Memorial Park. Westley is not served by County Neighborhood Parkland at present. With a local school and residential developments, Westley is a priority for development of a Neighborhood Park to serve the local community. Park amenities should include exercise equipment, active and creative play opportunities for children, and a walking path.

Area 3: West Modesto/West Salida

West Modesto and Salida are some of the most populated CDPs in unincorporated Stanislaus County, and both currently provide sufficient parks service per population. The circled area is not currently served by any County Neighborhood Parks. Neighborhood Park typologies recommended in this area should be compliant with Neighborhood Parks standards set forward in this Master Plan update and should also include specialty features, such as a swimming pool, splash pad, and dog park, none of which is currently offered in the area.

Area 4: Bystrom/Shackelford

The heavily populated CDPs included in this area are currently significantly underserved by County Neighborhood Parks. Due to the dense suburban nature of the area, Neighborhood Parks of varying sizes are recommended to place parks amenities within walking distance (5-10 minutes, or 1/4-1/2 mile) of all residents. Parks should include specialty play options, such as splash pads and tot lots/creative play areas, as well as amenities for adults including walking loops, exercise stations, and dog parks. This central location would also be ideal for a County community hall or swimming pool.

Area 5: Empire/East Oakdale

This area includes towns bordered by the incorporated areas of Modesto, Oakdale, and Waterford. This largely rural area lacks County Neighborhood Parks and would be well-served by a destination park facility, such as one including a dog park, community hall, or water play option.

Area 6: Denair/Montpelier

This area is largely unpopulated, but new developments in Denair require increased numbers of parks. Current parks in Denair do not feature active play options such as exercise stations, sports fields, or dog parks, all of which are appropriate to the needs of the area and should be included in future Neighborhood Parks. This area should remain under regular review through the life of this Master Plan to monitor future development needs as Denair's community continues to grow.

Area 7: West Turlock to Crows Landing

This area is predominantly rural. This area should remain under regular review through the life of this Master Plan to monitor future development needs, particularly monitoring growth patterns in West Turlock and ensuring future County Neighborhood Parks in this area offer active recreation opportunities such as playgrounds, sports courts, and dog parks.

Salida Future Park Site

Summary: The County currently owns a parcel in Salida which is leased for agricultural use at present. The site is 11.4 acres and adjacent to a property owned by Salida Union School District, which is also currently leased for agricultural use. The proximity of these parcels as well as technical logistics involving roadway construction needed to reach the County-owned parcel make this a logical site to develop in tandem at such a future time as the District-owned site is built out. The park is located in an area currently proximate to other County-provided developed parks and therefore the service area overlaps with existing County parks. In light of this location overlap, the park is not a high priority for short-term development but should be continually re-assessed, particularly in the event the school lot adjacent is developed.

Site amenities at this location are recommended to be consistent with the Neighborhood Park programming outlined in the Best Practices chapter and should support active and passive recreation. Proximity to the potential adjacent school would make this park an appropriate location for a community hall to support PAL and other youth sports and recreation programming. Additionally, amenities such as a dog park or a splash pad to supply water play options during the summer months may be appropriate pending the needs of the community at the time of park construction.

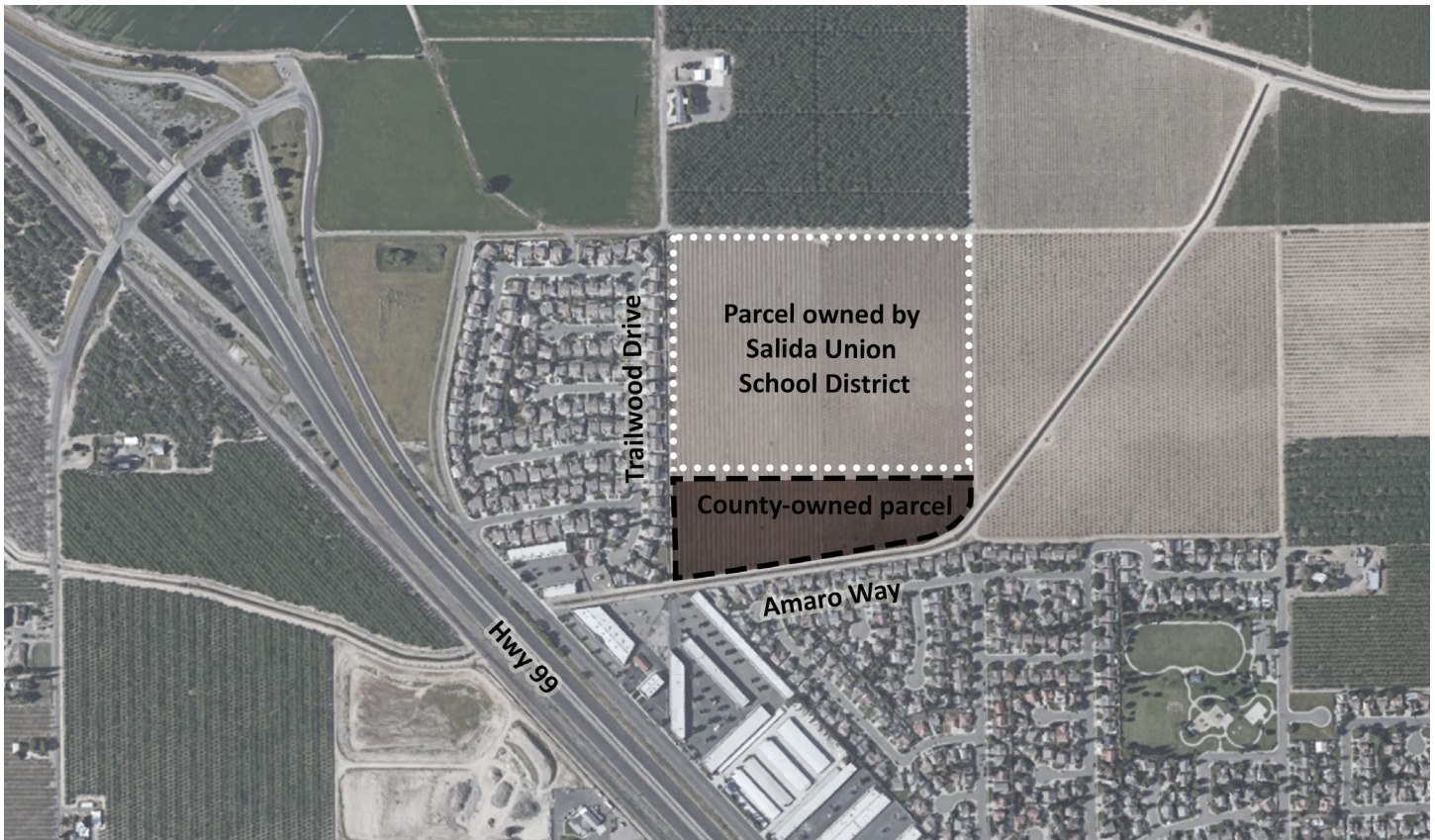


Exhibit 7.4: Salida Future Park Site

Future Dual Use Stormwater Control Basin/Park Sites

Summary: All future dual flood control basin/park sites shall have sufficient level surface at one or more edges of the rim such that permanent site furniture or play features may be installed on-site. Dual flood control basin/park sites must feature at least enough level ground around the perimeter to support a paved walking path in order to offer recreational benefit to residents of the local community. Successful local examples of this practice include Marie Neel Park and Sam Ryno Park in the City of Ceres.

Flood control basins which do not offer a sufficient flat surface outside the high water mark line of the basin will not be considered parks and may not be counted toward the parks acreage requirements as they do not meet health, safety, and welfare requirements by providing accessible, safe recreation areas outside recognized high water line.



Exhibit 7.5: Plan and Section showing recommended design typologies for future dual-use basin/park space

7.6 PRIORITY PROJECT SPECIFIC PLANS

Small Outdoor Amphitheaters to seat 50-100 Persons at all Regional Parks

Summary: Development of small open-air amphitheaters are recommended at central locations within all five regional parks in order to function as informal meet-up points for park users and campers and locations for outdoor educational events and raise money. Amphitheater seating may be tiered in formed semi-circular benches or constructed of natural materials such as stone or wood. Shade in the form of trees and/or shade canopies should be integrated into the amphitheater. There should be a level area or ADA accessible platform at the base or “stage” area of each amphitheater. These may also support special events, such as weddings or other ceremonies, art classes, music or theater events, and various commercial activities. The fee and permit structure should be tiered based upon user group and commercial nature of events.

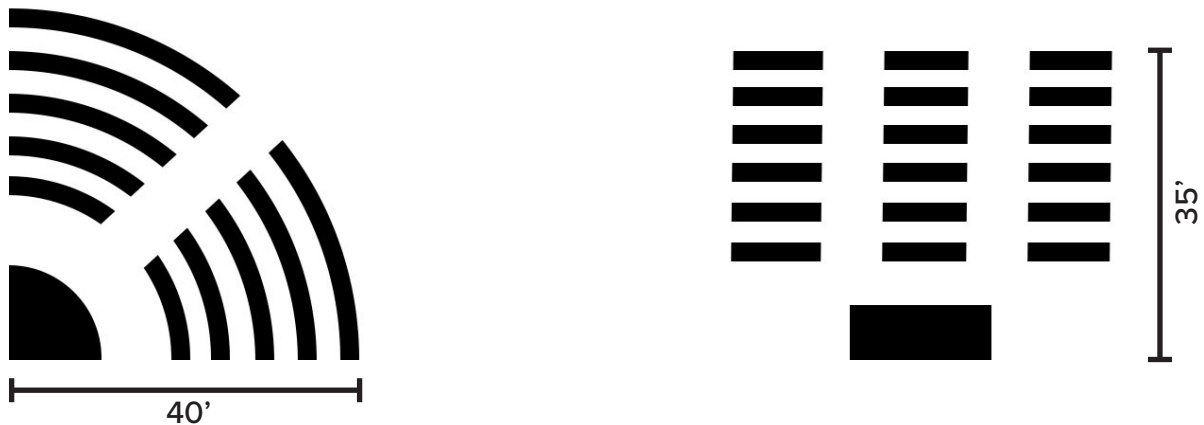
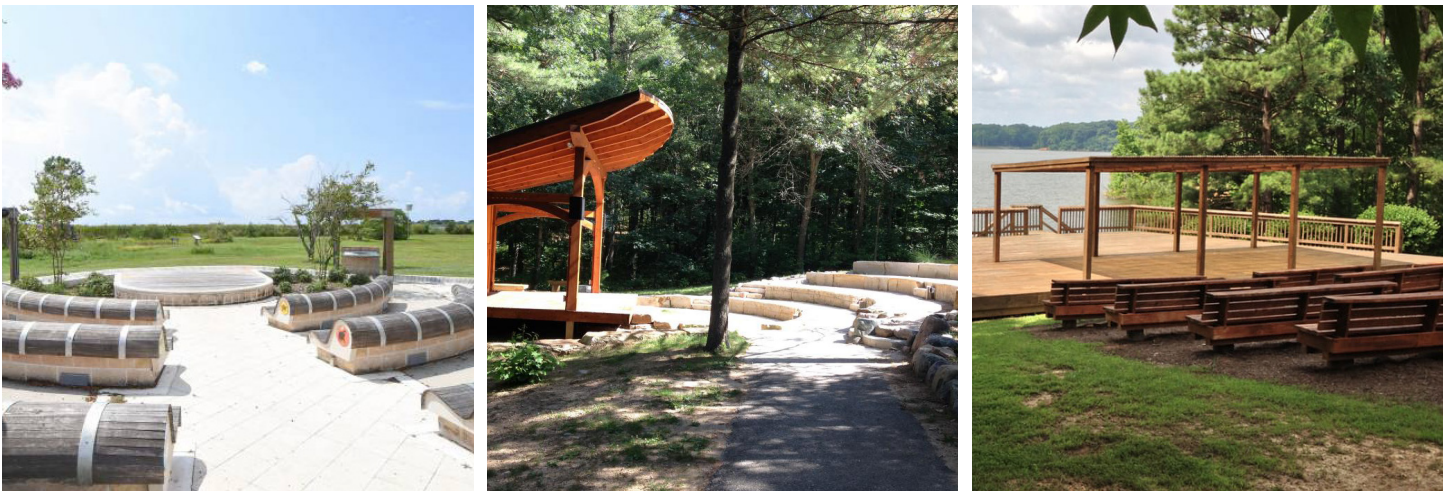


Exhibit 7.6: Typical layouts for outdoor amphitheaters. Each layout shown seats approximately 60 persons.



Examples of potential design typologies for small amphitheaters to be located at County Regional Parks.

Basso Bridge River & Fishing Access: Environmental & Site Improvements

Summary: Environmental improvements to the river frontage at this park location to improve fish habitat, along with a new boat launching area and restrooms catering to day-use non-motorized boaters and other users of the La Grange river access points. Walking trails should be constructed within the site and may feature educational or historical signage. Environmental improvements may spread north of Yosemite Boulevard bridge to the extent County ownership and environmental analysis after design/concept phase scoping will allow.



Exhibit 7.7: Basso Bridge proposed improvements

Bonita Pool: Pool renovations and addition of splash play area

Summary: Prioritize renovation of the pool and addition of small, shallow splash play area for families with small children. County staff have analyzed community need for the different assets and assigned separate budgets to the pool and splash pad as options. It is recommended that the budget be split between renovation of the existing pool, upgrading the restrooms and showers to meet ADA accessibility requirements, and adding a small splash play area adjacent to the existing pool in order to offer the widest range of services to visitors while sharing infrastructure requirements. Shade canopies and/or structures should be added to the pool and proposed splash play area.



Exhibit 7.8: Proposed pool and splash play improvements at Bonita Park

Develop Dog Parks

- **District 1: Empire Park Dog Park**
- **District 2: Hatch Park Dog Park**
- **District 3: Segesta Park Dog Park**
- **District 5 (North): Parklawn Park Dog Park**
- **District 5: Laird Destination Dog Park**

Summary: Public feedback and County staff indicated interest in developing dog parks at County Parks. Five suitable parks have been identified which feature appropriate locations for dog parks. These parks are distributed across four of the five County supervisorial districts. Four of the locations are adjacent to dense areas of housing so that the majority of dog park patrons may walk their dogs to the parks rather than relying upon automotive transportation. The Laird Park dog park is proposed as a destination dog park and should exhibit special aspects such as large size, extra shade features, dog water play options, dog training areas, or other standout features to draw users.

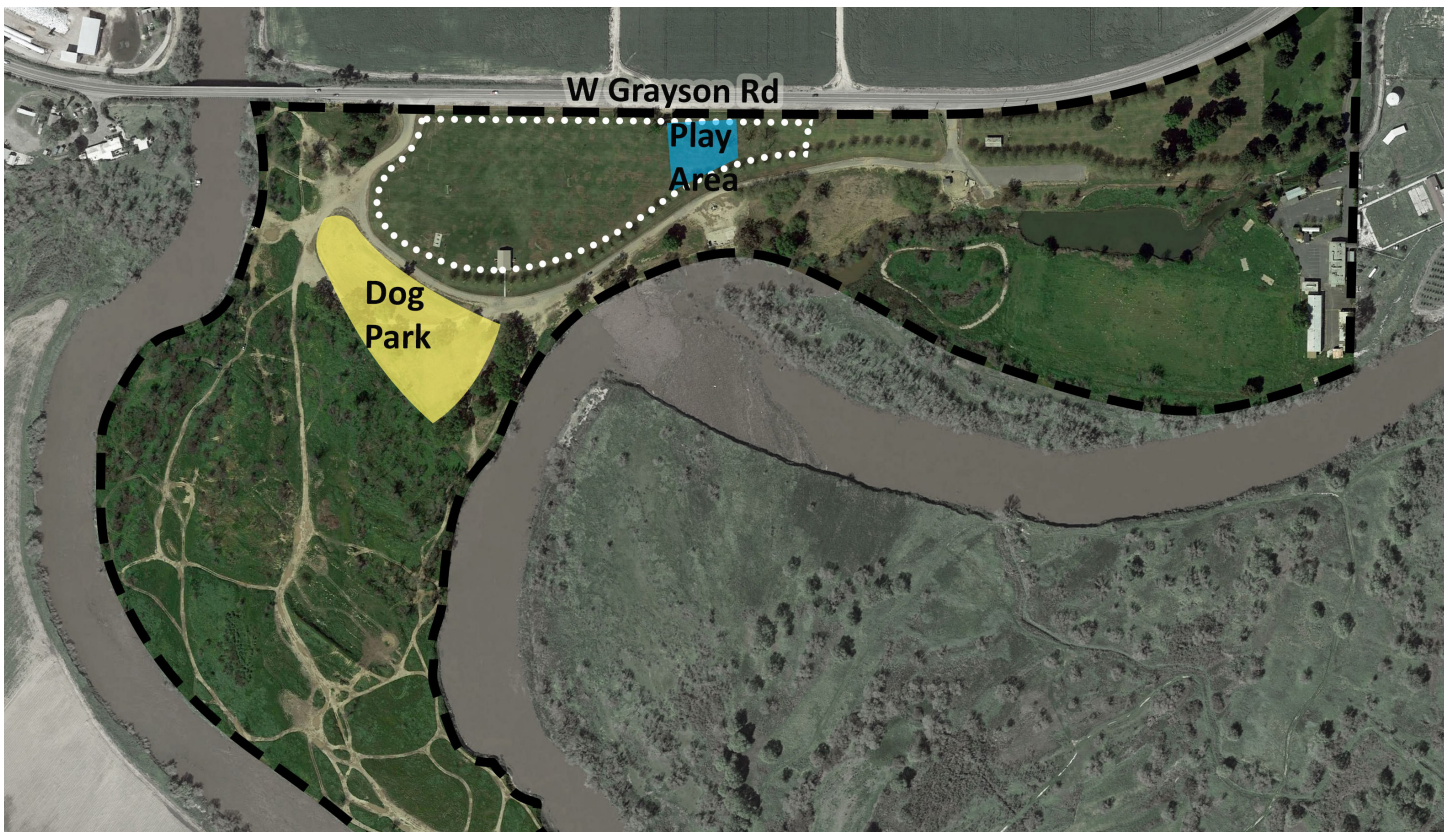


Exhibit 7.9: Proposed destination dog park location at Laird Regional Park, with proposed playground area noted

Dog parks at existing neighborhood parks are recommended as smaller facilities, roughly 1 acre, with separate fenced areas for small and large dogs where geographic area available will allow. Surface material should vary depending upon the microclimate of each location. Decomposed granite, when installed and maintained correctly, is a durable surface that can withstand the heavy use of dog parks, especially heavy use in small, concentrated areas. Turf grass may be considered in wetter/smaller park locations where maintenance can be committed for the extra care turf grass requires when subject to heavy use.

J-59 Fishing Access Parking Lot and Path

Summary: Construct paved parking lot with signage at existing trail access to river. Create decomposed granite or permeable asphalt path to river access from parking area. Incorporate benches and signage into parking area and along path. Consider addition of a restroom adjacent to the parking area, pending public need at the time of design/construction.



Exhibit 7.10: Proposed improvements at J-59 Fishing Access in La Grange

La Grange Historic District Master Plan

Summary: A master plan to be completed to inventory and plan for the best use of the cultural and historic features owned by the County in La Grange. The County is currently responsible for fifteen separate historical sites and structures within the town of La Grange. Stanislaus County General Plan Appendix 1-B includes historical design standards. These standards were issued in 1987.

A nearby comparable, Mooney Grove Park in Tulare County, is one of that County's leading tourism draws. It was also developed in a targeted manner using a professionally produced master plan which specifically prioritized historic preservation needs with fiscal opportunities. With a coordinated, actionable master plan consisting of a detailed facilities inventory and targeted plan for future management of the La Grange historic resources, the La Grange Historic District could become a major tourist draw as visitors pass through Eastern Stanislaus County. Branding should be part of the master plan, as should be a return on investment analysis to determine appropriate fees and prioritization of improvements. The Stanislaus County Regional Roundtable on Travel and Tourism should be consulted in development and implementation of future efforts to draw tourism to this area.



Exhibit 7.11: La Grange Regional Park historic assets, circled

Modesto Reservoir Paving Project

Summary: Pave and upgrade all roads and parking areas within Modesto Regional Park, including roads to campgrounds and archery range.

Modesto Reservoir Footrace/Bike Race Circuit

Summary: Development of a dirt track to accommodate fun-runs and bike races. Events may include Tough Mudder, charity races, or cyclocross bicycle races. The race course may be off-road/cross country, on road (existing gravel or paved roads), on proposed paved pedestrian/bike paths within the park, or any combination of the above. Ideal course layouts should offer options for 5K loops, which may be increased exponentially to accommodate longer races.

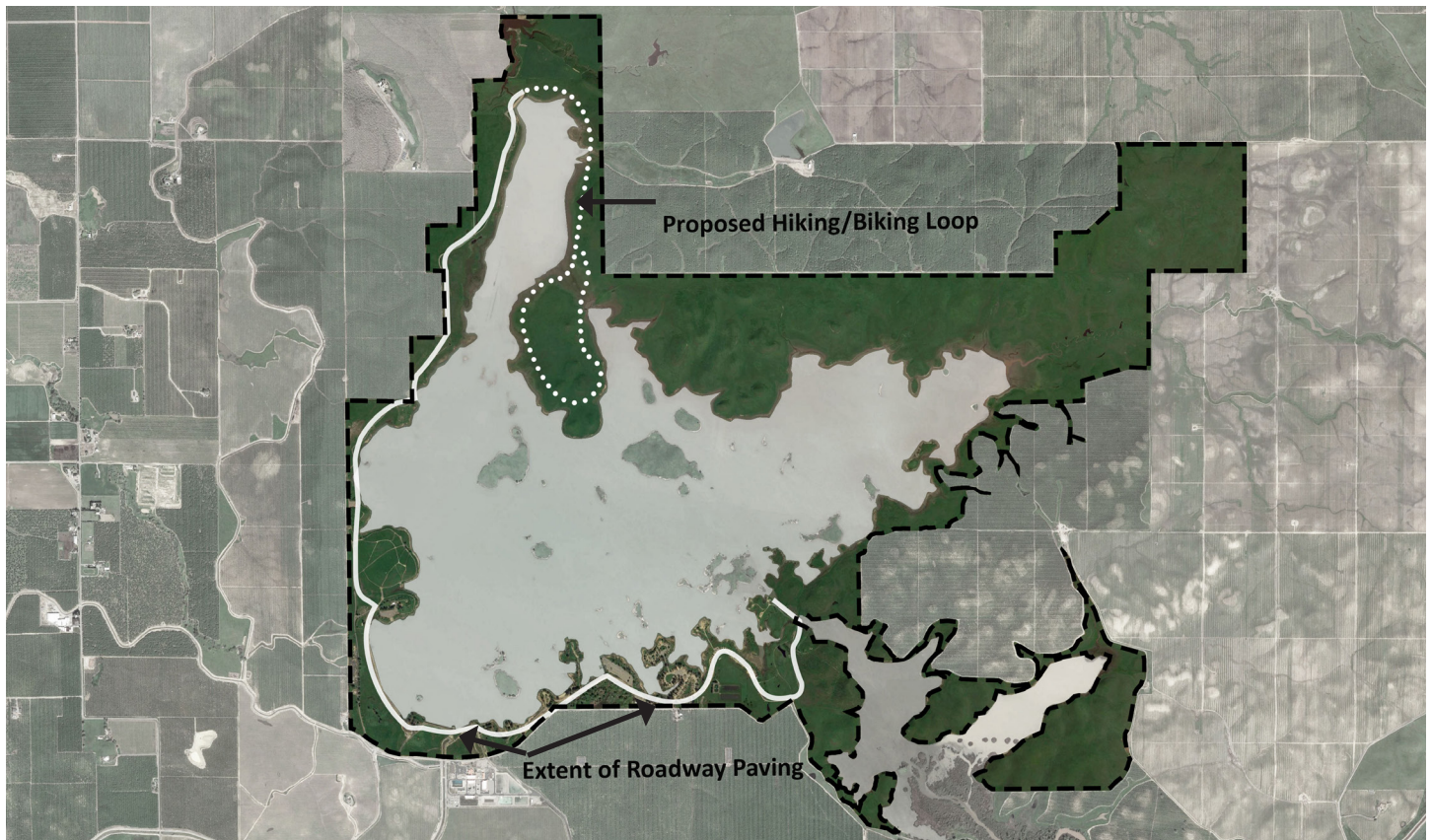


Exhibit 7.12: Proposed Pool and Splash Play Improvements at Bonita Park

Improve Model Airplane Fields at Modesto and Woodward Reservoirs; Re-Brand for Dual Use with UAVs (drones)

Summary: Hobbyist unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) pilots are an active and growing hobbyist group throughout the region and across the state of California and the country. Retrofits to the remote control model airplane fields at Modesto and Woodward Reservoirs that will make these fields attractive to interest groups for meet-ups, competitions, and other events will contribute to drawing more diverse users to the County's regional parks. The turf airfield at Modesto Reservoir should be clearly marked with updated signage and a small shade shelter with seating installed. Proposed improvements at the Woodward Reservoir airfield are minimal and include updated signage. Increased marketing and publicity of the fields and consistent signage are priorities at both airfields.

Woodward Reservoir Special Events Amphitheater

Summary: Since 2015, Stanislaus County has been marketing Woodward Reservoir to attract large groups to utilize the park as a venue for concerts, festivals, fairs and celebrations. On the north side of Woodward Reservoir, there is potential for an open-air venue that could be used for these types of entertainment. Currently the event producers are responsible for bringing in and setting up all of their own stage infrastructure. While this allows them to have full creative control, it is a huge added cost for these producers and does not allow the County to accommodate those promoters who may have a more conservative budget and vision for their event. In order to attract a wider range of events and compete with other venue locations in the area, the concept of building an amphitheater with built in stage and sound barriers to facilitate musical events and performances is a consideration for future Woodward Reservoir planning.

The proposed amphitheater would seat approximately 7,500 persons and include an open-air covered stage with covered reserved seating, as well as a lawn for general admission seating. A covered stage with loading dock and all technical equipment is also to be included. Current constraints to the location of the proposed amphitheater include the existing model airplane airfield and any existing environmental restrictions, to be determined by the PEIR associated with this Master Plan update. Agricultural buffers are to be coordinated with the Stanislaus County Planning Department.

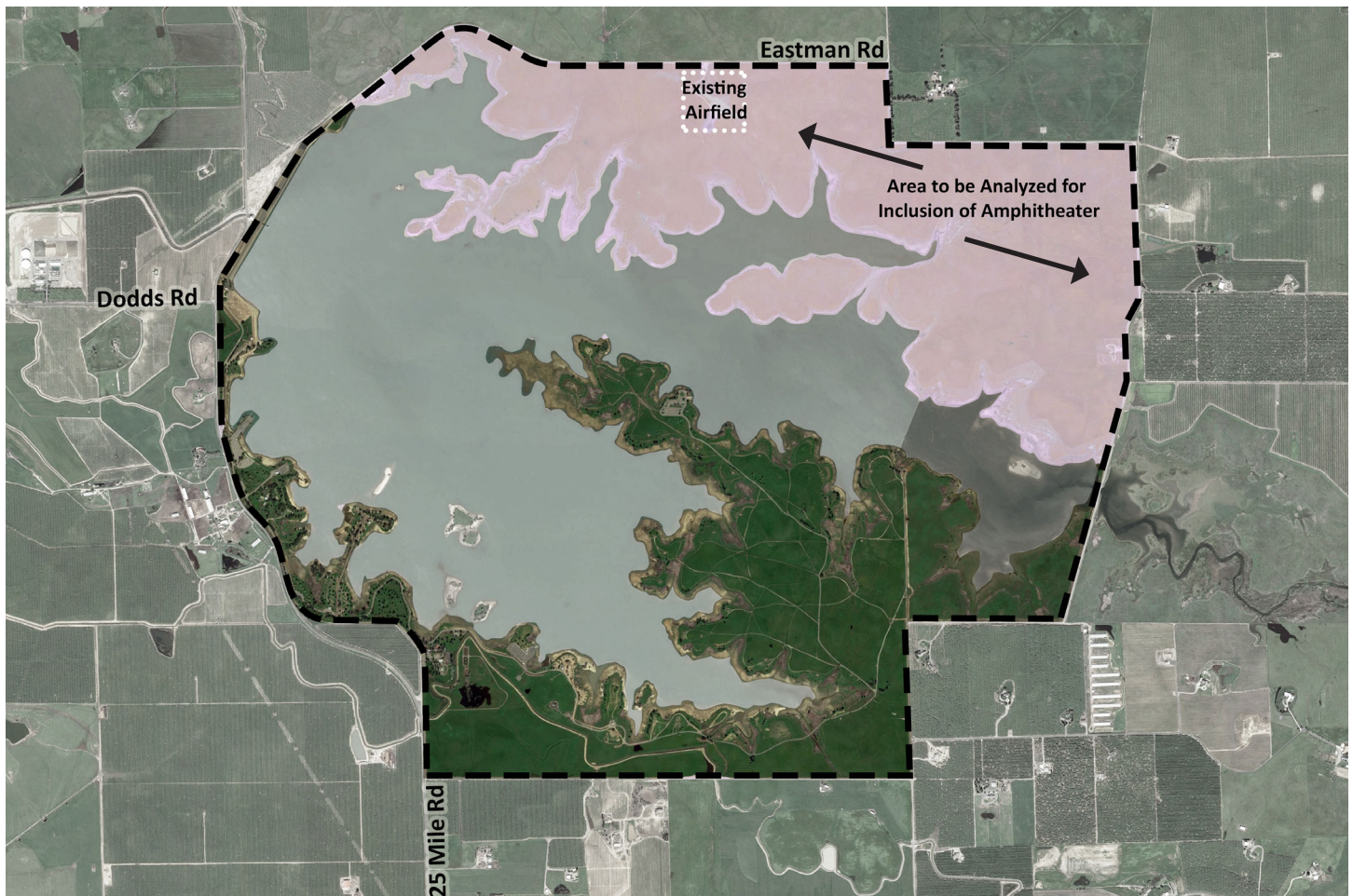


Exhibit 7.13: The north side of Woodward Reservoir is the proposed location for the special events amphitheater.

7.7 PROGRAMMING RECOMMENDATIONS

Partnership Recommendations

Partnerships with community stakeholders such as law enforcement, local volunteer groups, environmental enthusiast groups, non-profits, and others are recommended as a best practice for the future. These partnerships help increase community interest in and ownership of County parks and open space assets and contribute valuable volunteer energy to the parks. Partnerships may also be leveraged toward completion of small capital improvement projects such as the RC airfields, archery range, and OHV trails. This is compliant with the Stanislaus County General Plan, which supports strategic partnerships which contribute to the mission of the County's departments.

- Goal: Develop and implement an official parks partner program.

A parks partner program will assist Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation in various important aspects of funding and upkeep of County parks facilities. Namely, the program may be established as a non-profit and eligible to process donations. A parks partner program also supports volunteer efforts and serves a valuable role as a barometer of public sentiment.

- Goal: Increase partnerships with regional specialty hobbyists and promote group use of facilities.

Sample groups include bicyclists, paintball leagues, "mud run" enthusiasts, hikers, outdoor education groups, birdwatchers, equestrians, and more. Partnerships with Off-Highway Vehicle enthusiast groups as well as with the Radio Control Flyers Unlimited club have led to an increased number of park users and group-organized volunteer efforts at County parks. Investment in creating these relationships may therefore contribute to fiscal benefit in terms of services contributed. Investment in hobbyist groups may also lead to an overall increase in park users.

- Goal: Increase revenue from RC airfields by promoting use (for a set fee) of airfields for enthusiast meet-ups and competitions.

Develop partnerships with regional drone pilot hobbyist groups which may support improvements and volunteer work to improve the airfield at Modesto Reservoir. Publicize the assets of municipal airfields and market directly to hobbyist groups and indirectly through word-of-mouth by promoting airfields via social media and online.

- Goal: Increase regular revenue by hosting "movies in the park," food truck festivals, or other activities with local vendors.

These regular events will bring more activity to the parks as well as awareness of what County parks offer. Events could also be tied to fundraising for Friend of Parks groups or related organizations.

Marketing and Advertising Recommendations

Expanding the scope of the County's marketing and advertising to promote use of its assets is proposed in order to not only increase public awareness of County-provided programming and opportunities, but also in an effort to increase the financial impact of its parks and open space assets. Staff must engage modern and cutting-edge advertising techniques and utilize the prevailing technology of the time to successfully engage potential park visitors. Increasing overall visibility and popularity of the County's parks system is a priority.

- Goal: Utilize online presence to effectively "hook" a target audience of park users and advertise the County's parks and open space assets.

In order to more effectively advertise the County's assets and programming, continually assess the County's webpage compared to other regional parks districts' webpages. The webpage must also be assessed for appeal via handheld mobile device interface. The webpage is currently text-heavy as opposed to other parks districts, which use attractive imagery and concise text with hyperlinks to more detailed text-oriented information. The webpage should be considered a marketing tool and therefore subject to ongoing adjustment to respond to shifting trends in user preference.

- Goal: Publicize availability of small amphitheaters at Regional Parks to draw user groups.

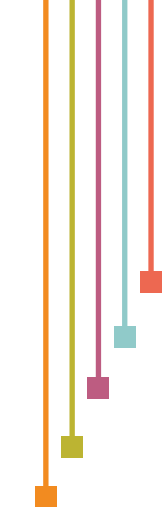
Allow use of amphitheaters for free use with permit for hobbyist group meet-ups and educational events. Specifically target event planners and wedding planners via social media marketing techniques (effective use of hashtags, involvement in/ sponsorship of wedding vendor "fairs", etc.). Structure fees for use for half-day, full-day, and other special events such as outdoor theater, concerts, music, and other events.

- Goal: Promote existing County-sponsored recreation programming across all social media and web-based media platforms.
Many potential park users rely on data that can be accessed from a smart phone to plan recreational outings. While disadvantaged households and communities may have limited computer access, most people have access to a smart phone. Investment in promoting the County's existing programs, such as volunteer programs, hiking and biking meet-ups, PAL sports leagues, and others via social media and smart phone compatible internet platforms is an investment in outreach to the majority of the County's population. This in turn promotes word-of-mouth reviews and engages the community in a way that the County may gauge local sentiment, creating a continuous feedback loop through which the County may continue to tailor its parks and recreation offerings to meet the needs of its constituents.
- Goal: Initiate a donation marketing campaign.
A coordinated marketing campaign focusing on making it more accessible for park users and members of the public to contribute to County Parks maintenance and building projects may be appropriate. Signage may be posted listing key funding needed for parks operations and requests for support. Websites for partner organizations might be listed, along with QR codes for interested people to scan with smartphones and directly access the donation interface. This initiative will also involve coordination with "Friends of Parks" and other groups with missions that complement and contribute to the ongoing operations of the Parks and Recreation Department.

7.8 OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Develop Maintenance Standards and Specifications

- Standards shall be set forth which are results-focused and outcome-driven.
In other words, County maintenance staffing and funding decisions should be driven by the need to meet a set standards, rather than staffing and funding determining the condition of County parks facilities.
- Specifications shall be consistent with industry best practices.
For example, irrigation performance, tree maintenance, turf grass and other surface materials at parks must meet a specified level of performance that is consistent with local, regional, State and national specifications.
- Maintenance standards and specifications shall be approved by the County Board of Supervisors.
Adopted standards and specifications, developed with input and feedback from the Parks and Recreation operations and maintenance team, should be approved by the Board of Supervisors as a measure of long-term accountability to the success of this effort.
- Update County Code to reflect current state mandate regarding water usage (MWELO).
Formal adoption of current State regulations into the County Code will bring the County into line with State best practices. It will also contribute to lower operations and maintenance costs in the long run by installing less irrigated landscaping materials and placing lower demands on water supply for irrigation.
- Establish or adopt Low Impact Development (LID) standards for parks and landscape.
The County Code is moving toward inclusion of this element through recent additions specifying pervious concrete standards and best practices for managing stormwater runoff quality. Formal adoption of best practice standards to manage runoff volume and quality will contribute to ongoing water quality improvements without requiring invasive and expensive traditional engineered stormwater management systems.
- Establish parks development standards (specifications and details).
Establishment of consistent required details and specifications for parks development will contribute to long range success of the County's operations and maintenance. With standard requirements, personnel will be sufficiently trained and familiar with the product and reduce the need for repeat visits to address unfamiliar equipment. Establishment of development standards will also hold developers to a standard requiring a product that will fare best over time and fit within the abilities of the operations and maintenance team.



CHAPTER 8

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT & FINANCIAL PLAN

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CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT & FINANCIAL PLAN

“Many who are knowledgeable about funding for public parks and recreation believe that economic models for these areas are changing irrevocably, and not always for the better. Certainly this has been true at the state level, and some evidence is pointing to similar trends at the local and municipal levels as well. While recessionary pressures over the past few years led to greater efficiencies and greater adoption of business-oriented models, it also led to what many fear are permanent declines in tax-supported funding devoted to parks and recreation. Moreover, new trends, such as the infusion of private capital into public parks, the growth of public-private partnerships, and the development of privately funded and managed parks and park systems through Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) or Tax-Increment Financing (TIF) mechanisms, have caused a re-evaluation of traditional methods of funding parks and recreation through tax-supported general funds.”

National Recreation and Parks Association

All recommended park and recreation projects included in this Master Plan update must be assigned budget estimates and estimated timelines in order to develop a long-term implementation program and identify appropriate funding mechanisms. Community consensus is an important component of the implementation program, and as a result it is important that this document continues to develop and evolve as a dynamic set of guidelines over time. The following tools are recommended to guide the staff and residents of the County through the implementation of parks and recommendation projects.

8.1 PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Based upon identified best practices and this plan's needs assessment and recommendations, the list of priority parks for construction/ completion include the following. These items have been selected as priorities from the comprehensive list of recommendations listed in Chapter 7 of this Master Plan. Estimated schedules to identify short, medium, and long-term priorities are noted, as are estimated budgets for each.

Recommended Projects, Schedules, and Estimated Project Costs			
	Project Name	Project Schedule (years)	Estimated Project Cost
1	Small amphitheaters at 4 Regional Parks	5-15	\$750,000 ea/\$3,000,000 total
2	Basso Bridge River & Fishing Access Environmental and Site Improvements	15-20	\$1,500,000
3	Bonita Pool Renovations and Splash Play Addition	0-5	\$950,000
4	Dog Parks Developed at Priority Neighborhood Park Locations (4)	5-15	\$187,500 ea/\$750,000 total
5	Fencing Upgrades at all Cemeteries	0-5	\$500,000
6	J-59 Fishing Access Parking Lot and Path	0-5	\$1,000,000
7	La Grange Historic District Master Plan	5-15	\$200,000
8	Laird Regional Park Destination Dog Park	0-5	\$250,000
9	Modesto Reservoir Footrace/Bike Race Circuit	0-5	\$250,000
10	Modesto Reservoir Paving Project	5-15	\$5,000,000
11	Re-brand RC Airfields to Support Use by Drone Pilots	0-5	\$50,000 ea/\$100,000 total
12	Salida Proposed Park (Currently Undeveloped)	15-20	\$1,500,000
13	Signage and Entry Design Installed with Consistent Aesthetic across all County Facilities	5-15	\$850,000
14	WiFi Expansion to all 5 County Regional Parks	5-15	\$25,000,000
15	Woodward Reservoir Regional Park Special Events Amphitheater	5-15	\$25,000,000

Exhibit 8.1: Master Plan recommended projects, schedules, and estimated project costs

8.2 ACTIVE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROJECTS

Projects Currently listed on County's 2015-2017 CIP Projects List

The following projects are currently listed on the Stanislaus County's CIP Projects list. Projects are listed by category, with four projects currently listed as Category B: Pending Implementation, eight projects listed as C: Future Project/Planned, and nineteen projects listed as D: Future Project/Pending Analysis. Each project lists Parks and Recreation as the lead department for the project.

2015-2017 CIP Category B Projects: Pending Implementation

	Project Name	Project Schedule	Estimated Project Cost	Funding Not Yet Identified
1	Frank Raines Off-Highway Vehicle Park Fence	2016-2026	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
2	Frank Raines Regional Park Extension of Potable Water to Playground Day-Use Area	2016-2018	\$210,000	-
3	Modesto Reservoir Office Building, Vaulted Restrooms and New Lift Station	2012-2016	\$667,607	-
4	Woodward Reservoir Park Improvements	2006-2020	\$5,880,000	\$2,342,030

2015-2017 CIP Category C Projects: Future Project/Planned

	Project Name	Project Schedule	Estimated Project Cost	Funding Not Yet Identified
1	Bonita Pool Renovation or Interactive Splash Playground	2016-2021	\$250,000	\$250,000
2	Fairview Park - Playground Equipment and Restroom Renovation	2016-2022	\$542,500	-
3	Frank Raines Regional Park - Hall Restoration and Rehabilitation Project	2016-2022	\$628,842	\$628,842
4	Frank Raines Regional Park Upgrade	2016-2026	\$2,075,000	\$2,075,000
5	La Grange Regional Park Improvements	2016-2021	\$800,000	\$800,000
6	Modesto Reservoir Park Improvements	2016-2022	\$3,030,000	\$3,030,000
7	Riverdale Park Fishing Access	2016-2021	\$250,000	\$250,000
8	Shiloh Fishing Access Development	2016-2018	\$350,000	\$350,000

2015-2017 CIP Category D Projects: Future Project/Pending Analysis

	Project Name	Project Schedule	Estimated Project Cost	Funding Not Yet Identified
1	Burbank Paradise Park Improvements	TBD	TBD	TBD
2	Fairview Park - Ballfield Improvements	TBD	TBD	TBD
3	Fairview Park Improvements	TBD	TBD	TBD
4	Frank Raines Regional Park Expansion of Trails	TBD	TBD	TBD
5	Frank Raines Regional Park Radio Communication	TBD	TBD	TBD

2015-2017 CIP Category D Projects: Future Project/Pending Analysis				
	Project Name	Project Schedule	Estimated Project Cost	Funding Not Yet Identified
6	Hickman Neighborhood Park Property Acquisition	TBD	TBD	TBD
7	Joe Domecq Wilderness Area	TBD	TBD	TBD
8	Kiwanis Camp - Facility Improvements and Rehabilitation	TBD	TBD	TBD
9	Las Palmas Fishing Access and Riparian Restoration	TBD	TBD	TBD
10	Leroy Fitzsimmons Memorial Park - Playground, Potable Water	TBD	TBD	TBD
11	Modesto Reservoir Road Improvements	TBD	TBD	TBD
12	Mono Park - Tot Lot Play Area	TBD	TBD	TBD
13	Mono Park Improvements	TBD	TBD	TBD
14	New South County Regional Park Property Acquisition	TBD	TBD	TBD
15	Parklawn Park Improvements - Phase 2	TBD	TBD	TBD
16	Salida Park Development	TBD	TBD	TBD
17	Woodward Reservoir New Water Well and Extension to Bay View Area	TBD	TBD	TBD
18	Woodward Reservoir Road Improvements	TBD	TBD	TBD
19	Woodward Reservoir Shade Trees	TBD	TBD	TBD

8.3 POTENTIAL FUNDING METHODS

The Master Plan update identifies \$68,650,000 in total improvements to the Stanislaus County parks system and recommends implementation over a 20 year period. Over half of the Parks and Recreation 2017-2018 budget comes from revenue sources not associated with the General Fund. Approximately 40% of the 2017-2018 operating budget comes from the General Fund.

A combination of funding mechanisms may be required to meet budgetary needs for ongoing maintenance of existing facilities as well as proposed construction of new facilities. The following funding sources may be applied to any size park, but are typically best suited to a specific type of improvement (i.e. maintenance, small capital improvement projects, large projects covered by federal grants, etc.).

Development-Related Financing

Growth in the County, whether it be resident or business related, has a direct impact on the use and need for additional County park and recreation facilities. In light of this, the nexus between growth and development fees should be kept up to date. The County should review and update on a yearly basis park mitigation fees that should be required on residential, commercial, retail and/or industrial developments in the County. This should be done to make sure the County continues in its efforts to maintain 3 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents in unincorporated areas.

Furthermore, the County should consider increasing mitigation fees to reflect a new standard of 4 acres per 1,000 population standard. Increasing the recommended standard from 3 acres as it currently exists to 4 acres is in line with allowances made by the Quimby Act. This increase in developer financing will support new construction of parks and open space in unincorporated communities.

Development Agreements

The County can negotiate for park and open space improvements as a result of development agreement regardless of the type of development. The nature of the development agreement is a negotiation between a developer, who may need special consideration related to a project, and the County, who in return can request amenities that benefit the residents as a whole. Many times these negotiations center around economic benefit, something that parks and open space add to the county. Park projects should always be considered as one of the options the County can add to a development agreement.

Special Financing Districts (SFD)

Lighting and Landscape Districts/Landscape Maintenance Districts may be established in developments to provide ongoing maintenance and installation of public amenities including landscaping, lighting, sidewalks, and park and recreation improvements. Additional examples are Open Space Maintenance Districts, Mello-Roos Districts, Community Facility Districts, Community Services Districts.

Bonds and Tax Measures

The County could consider placing a Bond Measure on the ballot for either the development of parks and open space and/or the ongoing maintenance, replacement, and operational costs of improvements for facilities, equipment, or expanded services. The County has the ability to consider a number of Bond and Tax measures for parks and recreation, such as General Obligation Bonds, Parcel Taxes, Sales Taxes, and Special Purpose Taxes. Each of these measures has different approval requirements and should be considered cautiously as a high level of public support is necessary.

Programming and Fees

There is opportunity to update and revise the fees for program and rentals that should be coupled with a Board approved cost recovery program. As a part of the revision of fees, the review should include cost recovery for repair, replacement, and renovation of respective facilities as a result of use. Also, consideration of a consistently applied standard County resident/non-County resident fee structure for programs and rentals could increase revenue without having to expand program costs.

Recommended Standard Fee Structure Assessment

Stanislaus County has implemented a number of methods to continually assess and adjust fees. The six recommendations below are considered best practice for applying consistent strategy to assess County program fees.

1. Establish Board of Supervisors-approved cost recovery policy for parks fees.
2. Complete a fee study.
3. Move to standard “in-County fees” for County residents and “out-of-County fees” for all users from outside the County for all facilities, rentals, programs, etc.
4. Establish fees for park uses that generate commercial income for the event organizers (currently exists only relating to Dog Field Trial Training within County fee structure).
5. Introduce phased policy for fee updates in order to spread fee increases over several years.
6. Allow for yearly cost of living increases to fees.*

The fee structure associated with Stanislaus County’s parks and recreation assets should be based on clear governing expectations set forward and approved by the County’s governing bodies. It is with this basis that the priority for updating parks fee structures should be led by a Board of Supervisors-approved cost recovery policy based upon a detailed fee study. This policy would take into account annual operating costs and set forward an expected return on these costs broken down by fee type. Expected return will vary based upon the results of a fee study and Board of Supervisors decisions, but an example model for expected cost recovery through fees may look like this: 25% from Day-Use and camping fees, 25% from specialty use fees such as boat launch, hunting, OHV, etc., and 50% from special events fees.

* Recommendation number 6 is the only item listed which the County does not currently utilize in regular fee assessment processes.

Following a rudimentary analysis of the County's current fee structure, this report concludes that one clear area for fee structure change lies in creating tiered fees for in-County as opposed to out-of-County residents. This is standard practice for many municipal and County parks districts, and the public feedback gathered as part of the Parks Master Plan update supported a move toward this type of fee structure across County Parks and Recreation fees.

Community Partnerships

The importance of community and regional partnerships should not be underestimated. Partnerships such as Corporate Sponsorships and exclusive product agreements are ways to increase revenue while giving local business exposure through County programs and facilities.

Grants

The County has demonstrated proficiency with locating and attaining grant opportunities. There are a number of opportunities available to parks and recreation departments which may be located on the websites of the National Recreation and Parks Association, American City & County, California Park and Recreation Society, and other organizations.

Grant funding is a high-benefit source of income for capital improvement projects in that grant funding does not require any pay-back or long-term financial commitment on behalf of the County. On the other hand, grant funding is often written for a very specific award purpose and, like bond funding, may be required to be spent within a particular amount of time. Grant funding should be sought for the purpose of specific programming and facility projects. Current needs that would be well-served by grant funding include expanding WiFi services to rural areas, sourcing and installing shade shelters, outdoor exercise equipment, bilingual signage, or sustainable retrofits such as solar energy or water conservation projects.

Crowdfunding

Crowdfunding has become a widely practiced method of fundraising over the past few years. Recently, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) began the "Fund Your Park" program. This program is open to NRPA member organizations and allows organizations to publish requests for funding for specific projects. Any member of the public may then access the webpage to contribute to that project. At the end of the pre-determined time that the project request for funding has been posted, the publishing organization gets to keep any funds raised for the purpose of the stated project.²

The County may find this type of model helpful for projects the community has identified as high importance but which the County has determined are not priorities or are preclusively expensive. Examples may be dog park or water play/splash pad facilities. Dedicated use facilities, such as dog parks, also lend themselves to partnerships with sponsor organizations or local businesses that cater to target user groups. The County should consider increasing its community partnerships relationships to allow local companies and organizations to partner with the City on crowdfunding efforts. These types of projects provide exciting potential for individual community members who want to see these types of amenities in the County. Further, individual community members may be more likely to contribute to a specific project that is a personal priority than to an umbrella fund for parks.

Public-Private Partnerships

Transportation and Parks departments across the United States have recently begun to capitalize more creatively upon the possibilities of "P3" endeavors. The nature of the public/private contract may vary from transfer of program management responsibilities to a private firm to the extent that one contract may include design, construction, financing and operation of a given parks and recreation asset.³

² Fund Your Park: www.nrpa.org/fund-your-park

³ U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration. "P3 Defined". 2015.

Through this agreement, the skills and assets of each sector (public and private) are shared in delivering a service or facility for the use of the general public. In addition to the sharing of resources, each party shares in the risks and rewards potential in the delivery of the service and/or facility.

Various recommended parks improvements may be appropriate for a P3 contract, including the sports complex facility and/or special use facilities, such as OHV, hunting or fishing accesses. Other municipalities have found success in partnering with local medical institutions to complete community recreation facilities, with the agreement that facilities may be shared for programming associated with the medical facility. Case studies suggest diversified “portfolios” of different types of P3 relationships are the most effective to manage. Such efforts do require dedicated staff hours as well as community input and volunteer effort. While a P3 may take cues from similar related efforts in other municipalities, the final partnership should be tailored to the County specifically.

The responsibilities of each party involved in the public/private partnership include:

- County - Provide project location and access, assistance with organization and permitting, submit grant requests on behalf of the partners, and management oversight needed to complete the project.
- Community - Provide volunteer labor to install the project (sweat equity value), efforts to rally the community, and fundraise for the majority of costs through sponsorships, donations, and in-kind services or materials.

The benefits to each party in the partnership include:

- County – Additional funding for projects, community support for municipal facilities, community awareness and engagement, reduction in deferred maintenance projects, and potential long-term solutions for ongoing maintenance.
- Community – Community togetherness, increased utilization of public facilities, redevelopment and modernization of public facilities, development of unique public spaces, development of community leadership, input in the design and development of public facilities, community ownership of public facilities, and the opportunity to expedite development of public facilities.

“Friends of Parks” Programs

Partner programs start with the community. Success is contingent on citizens expressing interest in developing or maintaining a project in a park or park facility, preferably in their own neighborhood. Once a core group of citizens is organized, County staff can help organize volunteer labor groups, coordinate community outreach meetings to foster community-wide support, develop feasible goals and outcomes, and prepare fundraising programs. Following all of these efforts, provided they are successful, community groups may then install and maintain the project under supervision from County staff and a licensed and trained contractor.

Components of a Successful “Friends of Parks” Program

Experience with programs of this type have shown that successful programs are dependent on the right combination of a few key components. These are:

- A process for matching funds/procedures/policy
- Development of a committed team to fundraise & implement
- Training of community organizers that know the process
- Establishment, or availability of a foundation or a non-profit group
- Dedication of County staff to support the effort
- Regular communication between County staff and the general public

Parks and Recreation Foundation

The County may endorse the formation of a non-profit 501(c)3 foundation to support its parks. This type of organization will qualify for grants and funding not typically available to government agencies. It is beneficial in that it can raise money and, if seated with local leaders within the community, can generate support for parks and recreation.

Statewide Bond Acts

The County should become involved at the State level during the development and passage of Statewide Bond Acts. The proposed SB 5 Clean Water, Natural Resources & Parks Bond act would provide funding in a variety of ways, such as; environmental & social equity investments for parks in park poor neighborhoods; trail and greenway competitive grants; rural recreation, tourism, and economic enrichment grants; climate preparedness & habitat resiliency; flood protection and repair; regional water sustainability; and farm and ranch land grants. Additionally, State Bond Acts usually provide direct money to recognized projects, something the County could politically become active to have specific projects included as outright funding through an Bond Act.

Transit/Road Funds

The County should seek opportunities to use local and regional public transit and/or State Roadway funds for multi-use trails and staging areas that also provide a transportation function.

Joint Marketing and Promotion

In addition to public-private partnerships, the County should seek opportunities with travel and excursion providers to market and promote County facilities and the County in general from within and outside the County. Expanding the base for use and visitation of facilities is another option to increase revenue over time.

Fundraising Events

While these are not major source of funds, such events could contribute to an overall effort toward capital funding for a specific facility.

Sale or Lease of Surplus Lands

The sale or lease of land or other capital facilities for which the County has no further use can sometimes be a major source of revenue. One strategy is to look at the overall expanse of a facility to see if there are options for either sale or lease of areas that have no use or are considered “dead spots” where nothing happens. In those situation, the sale or lease proceeds are usually invested back into the existing facility for operation and capital costs.

Local Joint Use Partnership

Cost efficiencies could be achieved by entering into joint use agreements with schools, cities and other agencies in the County to jointly use and operate County facilities where appropriate.

Naming Rights

Many park and recreation agencies have turned to selling the naming rights for new construction of facilities or parks as a way to pay for development and occasionally, costs associated with the project. Many business and product suppliers realize that public agencies operate large scale facilities with thousands of users. If Board policy allows for the agency to enter into naming right agreements, it can be an additional source of revenue for such things as facility improvements, purchase of equipment, sponsorship of programs and events, and assistance with promotion and marketing.

Open Space and Conservation Easements: Mitigation Banking

Stanislaus County is blessed with many areas of open space and agricultural lands. As the Central Valley continues to grow and develop many of these lands, there are more opportunities and requirements to mitigate the loss of these lands. As most cities are unable to set aside land in perpetuity, the County may be able to step forward and use mitigation funds from HCAP’s and other mitigation bank programs for purchase of land, restoration of wetland and environmentally sensitive areas, and development of working agricultural parks.

Land Donations and Transfer of Ownership

Another opportunity exists for the County to take ownership of land and facilities when an owner leaves the property to the County for use as a park and recreation facility. Also known as living trusts or lifetime estates, these properties can contribute to public parks and open space acreage in perpetuity when planned and managed correctly. Gifting and estate programs can allow the County to receive property as a part of development of trust and lifetime estate planning.

8.4 FUNDING METHODS SUMMARY

Funding Methods: Summary and Applicable Projects		
Funding Method	Purpose	Appropriate Project Applications
Development-Related Financing	Assess fees on new development dedicated to County parks and recreation facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase and construction of new facilities and land. Can be used for rehabilitation/ restoration/ replacement of existing facilities through Development Agreement. Used for trail and bikeway improvement through roadway impact fees.
Development Agreements	Used to negotiate for park and open space improvements as part of any type of new development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should always be considered as an option for the County to add to a development agreement. Used for land that is set aside for future use or under a long-term mitigation reserve. Also used for special projects that may not have any other funding.
Special Financing Districts (SFD)	Provide ongoing maintenance and installation of public amenities. Includes Lighting and Landscape as well as Landscape Maintenance Districts, Open Space Maintenance Districts, Mello-Roos Districts, and more.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing maintenance, operation, renovation, and new facilities and amenities. Typically used for landscaping, lighting, sidewalks, and park and recreation improvements.
Bonds and Tax Measures	Contribute to the development of parks and open space and/or the ongoing maintenance, replacement, and operational costs of improvements for facilities, equipment, or expanded services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be used for purchase of land, construction, rehabilitation/ replacement/ renovation of existing facilities and/or new facilities. Pending bond type, may be used for ongoing maintenance of existing and proposed facilities.

Funding Methods: Summary and Applicable Projects		
Funding Method	Purpose	Appropriate Project Applications
Programming and Fees	Contributes to cost recovery for repair, replacement, and renovation of facilities as a result of use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide programs and services. • Recover administrative overhead and operating costs. • Create replacement accounts for future replacement/renovation needs.
Community Partnerships	Increase revenue stream while providing local businesses with exposure through County programs and facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase and construct new facilities. • Share or cover operational and/or capital replacement costs. • Offset marketing and promotion costs.
Grants	Provides funding for a specific award purpose and does not require any pay-back or long-term financial commitment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand WiFi to rural areas of the County (Community Connect Grants) • Sustainable retrofits including solar energy or water conservation projects. • Shade shelters and playground amenities.
Crowdfunding	Leverages public interest in specific projects to fund specific projects with no long-term financial commitment required by the County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best for special interest, unique projects. • Suitable for destination activities that are “one of a kind” in the area, such as a dog park or outdoor sport court where none exist.
Public-Private Partnerships (P3s)	May include transfer of County-owned program management responsibilities to a private firm; may also include private build-out of municipal facilities in return for guaranteed usage rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best for large public spaces, such as courtyards, parks, and sports facilities. • Suitable for special-use areas within County parks, such as OHV amenities or hunting areas.
“Friends of Parks” Programs	Group of community members which leads fundraising efforts, solicits feedback from the public related to specific park locations/amenities; may support partnerships such as P3s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best utilized on small projects to offset staff costs via volunteers. • May provide construction for small or specialty parks amenities (similar to how the RC Flyers club constructed amenities at the Woodward Reservoir airfield). • Often used so that a local interest group which is a 501(c)3 may accept donations on a project’s behalf.

Funding Methods: Summary and Applicable Projects		
Funding Method	Purpose	Appropriate Project Applications
Parks and Recreation Foundation	A 501(c)3 foundations specifically founded to support County parks and open space assets. May fundraise and quality for grants not available to government agencies; may also garner community support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar to “Friends” program (above), but may pursue larger grants and projects. • Generate funds for projects and programs. • Useful to the County in the event significant project-specific donations are expected.
Statewide Bond Acts	Provide direct money to recognized projects in a variety of categories.	Projects must be identified within the State as unfunded facilities in an area covered by a specific bond, such as projects in underserved populations, conservation projects, agricultural land preservation projects, and universal access facilities/programs.
Transit/Road Funds	Seek opportunities to leverage local and regional public transit and/or State Roadway funds for multi-use trails and staging areas that also provide a transportation function.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of bike lanes and multi-use trails. • Development of ADA compliant trails and parking lots. • Development of trailheads and parking lots to connect roadways with trail sections. • Use mitigation funds when available for projects that may have a difficult time meeting project circulation requirements.
Joint Marketing and Promotion	Actively pursue marketing and tourism outreach to increase user fees over time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-range tactic to increase user fees over time, which can be used to offset cost of operational budgets. • Can provide access to operational, marketing, and program revenue by tying into local Convention and Visitors’ Bureaus and travel agencies, including bus operators.
Fundraising Efforts	Contribute to overall capital funding toward a specific facility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate for small-scale specific items within a larger capital improvement project. • Defer program and facility use costs. • Support special interest program costs.

Funding Methods: Summary and Applicable Projects		
Funding Method	Purpose	Appropriate Project Applications
Sale or Lease of Surplus Lands	Sale or lease of land or capital facilities not used by the County in order to generate revenue, which may in turn be recycled into improvements and developments at other sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use sale/lease proceeds for purchase of other land assets. • Use sale/lease proceeds for long term maintenance renovation/replacement costs.
Local Joint Use Partnership	Allows for cost efficiencies through partnerships with public agencies such as schools, cities, and others to develop and operate County facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate for improvements to sport fields, aquatic facilities/water play areas, and rentable assets such as community halls, picnic areas, and camping. • Potential for shared use amongst project partners to use all amenities at reduced fees or no cost.
Naming Rights	Sale of naming rights for new construction of facilities or parks in order to pay for development or costs associated with the project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides revenue for facility improvements and purchase of needed equipment. • Sponsorship of programs and events. • Sponsorship and assistance with promotion and marketing.
Open Space and Conservation Easements/Mitigation Banking	Provides a way for the County to step forward and use mitigation funds from HCAPs and other mitigation bank programs to provide park land preservation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of land. • Restoration of wetlands and environmentally sensitive areas. • Working agricultural parks.
Donations and Transfer of Ownership	Used for the County to take ownership of land and facilities when an owner leaves the property to the County for use as a park or recreation facility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes living trusts, lifetime estates. • Provides for acquisition of land and facilities for park and recreation use. • Includes land set aside for preservation and/or restoration.

8.5 FUNDING HISTORY AND PROJECTIONS

Budgets within the Parks and Recreation Department include:

- Parks and Recreation
- Fish and Wildlife
- Modesto Reservoir Patrol
- Off-Highway Vehicle Fund
- Regional Water Safety Training Center
- Tuolumne River Regional Park

The following tables illustrate actual funding history spanning five fiscal years, from fiscal year 2012-2013 to 2016-2017, across County Parks and Recreation operations and programming. These numbers indicate trends in revenue over that period as well as changes to operating costs drawn from County funds.

Five Year History: Parks and Recreation Budget Records				
Budget Item	FY 2012-2013	FY 2016-2017	\$ Change	% Change
Parks and Recreation	Revenue: \$3,015,566 Use of Fund Bal.: - Costs: \$4,363,228	\$4,698,472 - \$6,144,096	\$1,682,906 - \$1,780,868	56% - 41%
Off-Highway Vehicle Fund	Revenue: \$535,517 Fund Bal.:(\$71,166) Costs: \$464,351	\$656,147 \$21,825 \$677,972	\$120,630 \$92,991 \$213,621	23% 131% 46%
Regional Water Safety Training Center	Revenue: \$100,619 Fund Bal.:(\$100,619) Costs: \$0	\$25,409 \$37,845 \$63,254	-\$75,210 \$138,464 \$63,254	-75% 138% n/a
Tuolumne River Regional Park	Revenue: \$0 Fund Bal.: - Costs: \$121,426	\$0 - \$194,512	\$0 - \$73,086	0% - 60%

Exhibit 8.2: Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation five-year budget records, with dollar amount and percent change noted

Exhibit 8.2 highlights specific changes that have occurred within parks assets over the past five years. 2012-2013 was the year the “Five for Five” donations were established, which is why the budget records show a large percentage change.

Five Year History: Parks and Recreation Fund Balance and Projected Changes						
Budget Item	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Projected Balance 2018
Fish and Wildlife	\$25,185	\$30,281	\$45,800	\$53,060	\$45,866	(\$3,534)
Modesto Reservoir Patrol	\$232,404	\$249,257	\$272,257	\$262,980	\$285,980	\$1
Off-Highway Vehicle Fund	\$343,335	\$381,087	\$480,624	\$493,746	\$471,920	\$391,840
Regional Water Safety Training Center	\$125,423	\$125,876	\$131,700	\$125,068	\$87,223	\$57,198

Exhibit 8.3: Parks and Recreation five-year budget records, recorded July 1 each year (only listed for non-general fund units)

Exhibit 8.3 identifies projected shortfalls in the fund balance for Fish and Wildlife and a near-shortfall in the Modesto Reservoir Patrol. All projected balances fall significantly in the 2018 projection. The projected 2017-2018 fiscal year budget includes the following breakdown of anticipated line items:

Parks and Recreation Department Budget in Brief, Fiscal Year 2017-2018	
Budget Summary	2017-2018
Total Revenue	\$4,466,728
Use of Fund Balance	\$445,484
Net County Cost	\$3,100,238
Gross Costs	\$8,012,450
% Funded by General Fund	38.7%
Total Allocated Positions	42

Exhibit 8.4: Parks and Recreation budget in brief, fiscal year 2017-2018

Exhibit 8.4 shows anticipated overall revenue of slightly below the 2016-2017 amount of \$4,698,472. Costs are estimated significantly below the 2016-2017 costs, and use of fund balance is shown where none was reported in the previous five fiscal years. These total anticipated 2017-2018 budget numbers, combined with the County's 2015 population of 527,367, produce the per capita expenditures and net County cost listed in Exhibit 8.5.

County Parks and Recreation Expenditures Per Capita, 2017-2018				
Stanislaus County Population	Gross Costs	Net County Cost	Per Capita: Total Expenditure	Per Capita: Net County Cost
527,367	\$8,012,450	\$3,100,238	\$15.19	\$5.88

Exhibit 8.5: Parks and Recreation budget expenditures per capita, fiscal year 2017-2018

Direct comparison of per capita expenditure in comparable communities is only possible with San Joaquin County, given management differences in the division of budgets within the other benchmark Counties, Tulare and Kern, referenced in this document. San Joaquin County's 2017-2018 fiscal year budget is \$5,504,181. With an estimated population of 708,544, this equates to \$7.77 per capita total expenditure.

The National Recreation and Park Association has compiled data which indicates the average parks and recreation agency has annual operating costs of \$76.44 per capita.⁴ Factors which distort this number to a much higher rate than Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties' current budget per capita are twofold. First, per capita costs rise steeply in densely populated areas with over 2,500 persons per square mile. Second, per capita costs rise with overall population served by an agency. This data as well as data compiled by the Trust for Public Land indicate that overall agency averages are challenging to compare directly as City agencies typically spend significantly more than County agencies.⁵ For example, in 2016, the City of Stockton's budget came in at \$17 per capita, Fresno's at \$44 per capita, and Sacramento's at \$135 per capita.

⁴ National Recreation and Park Association. "2016 NRPA Field Report: Park and Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks." www.nrpa.org

⁵ Trust for Public Land. "2016 City Park Facts." www.tpl.org

8.6 OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Implementation of this Master Plan update will incur increased requirements on the operations and maintenance staff and strategy currently in place. Additional park amenities and acreage will require additional personnel, equipment, and materials. Increasing maintenance and security at existing parks in order to respond to the public needs expressed will require an assessment of budgetary constraints and realistic approach to addressing concerns. County maintenance divisions must be adequately funded in order to ensure the long-range success of this Master Plan.

Currently, funding for park and facility maintenance is being increased to recoup from recent recessionary years and associated cuts. Staffing increases, purchase of new equipment, improvement of maintenance services, and provision of funding for PAL activities are all components of recent increases. The 2017-2018 fiscal year budget included a request for one-time funding of \$192,600 to address deferred maintenance costs.

Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation staffing during 2017 included parks maintenance workers, park aides, seasonal workers, and volunteers, in addition to management and administrative personnel. Exhibit 8.6 shows the estimated Department personnel per acre using the 2017 acreage total of 5,315 acres of Regional Park land and all other parks acreage of 1,190.25 (see Chapter 5 for more information on parks acreage totals and breakdown by park type).

County Parks and Recreation Staffing per Acre: Regional Parks 5,315 Acres		
County Staff Description	Total Staff, 2017	Staff per Park Acre, 2017
Management/Administrative	13	.002
Maintenance Worker	22	.004
Park Aide	22	.004
Summer Seasonal (20 weeks/year)	21	.004
Volunteer	3	.0005

County Parks and Recreation Staffing per Acre: Neighborhood Parks, Miscellaneous Open Space & Facilities 1,190.25 Acres		
County Staff Description	Total Staff, 2017	Staff per Park Acre, 2017
Management/Administrative	13	.011
Maintenance Worker	22	.018

Increasing operation and maintenance services to meet the proposed elements of this Master Plan will require consistent internal reporting by maintenance divisions and area managers to assess suitability of deferred cost programs, re-division of maintenance personnel responsibilities, and/or the usefulness of partnerships with community and volunteer organizations to assist with regular park upkeep.

8.7 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IMPLEMENTATION

The recommendations included in this Master Plan update total \$65,850,000 in overall new projects and existing improvements, proposed over a 20 year implementation period. The following tables show project breakdown by proposed timeline for project implementation: Short term (0-5 years), mid-range (5-15 years), and long-range (15-20 years).

Recommended Projects: 0-5 Year			
	Project Name	Estimated Project Budget	Total 0-5 Year Project Costs
1	Bonita Pool Renovations and Splash Play Addition	\$950,000	\$3,050,000
2	J-59 Fishing Access Parking Lot and Path	\$1,000,000	
3	Laird Regional Park Destination Dog Park	\$250,000	
4	Modesto Reservoir Footrace/Bike Race Circuit	\$250,000	
5	Re-brand RC Airfields to Support Use by Drone Pilots	\$50,000 ea/\$100,000 total	
6	Fencing Upgrades at all Cemeteries	\$500,000	

Recommended Projects: 5-15 Year			
	Project Name	Estimated Project Budget	Total 5-15 Year Project Costs
1	Amphitheaters at 4 Regional Parks	\$3,000,000	\$59,800,000
2	Dog Parks Developed at Priority Neighborhood Park Locations (4)	\$187,500 ea/\$750,000 total	
3	La Grange Historic District Master Plan	\$200,000	
4	Modesto Reservoir Paving Project	\$5,000,000	
5	Signage and Entry Design Installed with Consistent Aesthetic across all County Facilities	\$850,000	
6	WiFi Expansion to all 5 County Regional Parks	\$25,000,000	
7	Woodward Reservoir Regional Park Special Events Amphitheater	\$25,000,000	

Recommended Projects: 15-20 Year			
	Project Name	Estimated Project Budget	Total 15-20 Year Project Costs
1	Basso Bridge River & Fishing Access Environmental and Site Improvements	\$1,500,000	\$3,000,000
2	Salida Proposed Park (Currently Undeveloped)	\$1,500,000	

A successful plan for the implementation of these new recommendations as well as the realization of Parks and Recreation projects which exist in the current CIP pipeline is to:

1. Identify dynamic funding sources for each project, and a combination of funding mechanisms where practical.
2. Develop partnerships which will contribute to the realization of increased revenue and cost offsets for parks and programming.
3. Increase development-related parks funding requirements (Quimby Act) to at least 4 acres per 1,000 residents as a baseline requirement.

These goals support the Board of Supervisors priority area, which reads:

“Parks and Recreation supports the Board Priority area of A Well Planned Infrastructure System and Effective Partnerships by aligning department accomplishments and objectives with the following Board goals: Explore, identify and evaluate opportunities for effective partnerships; and Recognize and promote the value of partnerships to the community to increase awareness of the richness and diversity of our parks and utilization of the parks system.”

Action Steps

1. Initiate amendments to the 2015 Stanislaus County General Plan

- a. Amendments to the 2015 County General Plan are recommended in order to incorporate the objectives and policies adopted herein.
- b. Include an update regarding provision of park development fees from new residential development to reflect the recommendations of this Master Plan.

2. Create Stanislaus County Parks Trust

- a. Establishment of a formal associated parks partner program will enable smooth flow of donation monies and allow County Parks and Recreation to work more closely with the community.

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APPENDIX A

GENERAL PLAN EXCERPTS

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RELATIONSHIP TO STANISLAUS COUNTY GENERAL PLAN

The recommendations within this Plan are correlated with policies within the 2015 Stanislaus County General Plan. Namely, three elements with a total of seven goals, supported by thirteen policies and twenty-six implementation measures, directly name to the Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation Department as responsible department. The relevant elements are excerpted below.

Land Use Element

Goal One:

Provide for diverse land use needs by designating patterns which are responsive to the physical characteristics of the land as well as to environmental, economic, and social concerns of the residents of Stanislaus County.

Policy Six: Preserve and encourage updating of existing unincorporated urban communities.

- Implementation Measure 2: The County will apply for federal and state funds to aid in upgrading existing urban areas.

Policy Ten: New areas for urban development (as opposed to expansion of existing areas) shall be limited to less productive agricultural areas.

- Implementation Measure 2: Requests for designation of new urban areas shall be accompanied by a plan and implementation methods to provide all appropriate urban services.

Goal Three:

Foster stable economic growth through appropriate land use policies.

Policy Eighteen: Promote diversification and growth of the local economy.

- Implementation Measure 5: Allow private recreational uses where they are not found to cause land use conflicts.

Goal Four:

Ensure that an effective level of public service is provided in unincorporated areas.

Policy Twenty-three: At least three net acres of developed neighborhood parks, or the maximum number of acres allowed by law, should be provided for every 1,000 residents, through land dedication and development, payment of in-lieu-of fees, public facility fees, or other methods acceptable to the Parks Department.

- Implementation Measure 1: Continue to implement the strategies identified under Goal Four of the Conservation/Open Space Element.

APPENDIX A

Policy Twenty-four: Future growth shall not exceed the capabilities/capacity of the provider of services such as sewer, water, public safety, solid waste management, road systems, schools, health care facilities, etc.

- Implementation Measure 3: Benefit assessment districts, County Service Areas (CSAs), Mello-Roos Districts or other similar districts shall be formed as needed to pay for the cost of providing ongoing appropriate services.
- Implementation Measure 5: The current level of service of public agencies shall be determined and not allowed to deteriorate as a result of new development.

Conservation/Open Space Element

Goal One:

Encourage the protection and preservation of natural and scenic areas throughout the County.

Policy One: Maintain the natural environment in areas dedicated as parks and open space.

- Implementation Measure 1: Development of County parks shall include provisions for native vegetation conservation. Rare and endangered plants will be protected consistent with state and federal law and consistent with protection standards for private development as established in this General Plan.

Policy Two: Assure compatibility between natural areas and development.

- Implementation Measure 5: Consider adoption of scenic corridors to protect and preserve natural scenic vistas located throughout the County.

Goal Four:

Provide for the open-space recreational needs of the residents of the County.

Policy Twelve: Provide a system of local and regional parks which will serve the residents of the County.

(Comment: The County should acquire future park sites in areas where growth is planned when funding is available.).

- Implementation Measure 1: The County shall consider adoption of an amendment to the Subdivision Ordinance to require parkland dedication, park in-lieu fees, public facility fees, or other methods acceptable to the Parks Department, to be paid by subdividers and developers.
- Implementation Measure 2: The County shall continue to implement the Parks Master Plan. The Plan shall be comprehensively updated as found necessary by the Board of Supervisors.
- Implementation Measure 3: The County shall consider establishing appropriate funding mechanisms for park operations and maintenance, including benefit assessment districts and County Service Areas (CSAs), with appropriate exemptions included for those landowners that provide open space amenities.

- Implementation Measure 4: The County shall encourage the interconnection of recreational areas, open spaces and parks that are oriented to pedestrian and bicycle travel along public highway rights-of-way, while protecting private property and river corridors, to the greatest extent possible.
- Implementation Measure 5: The County shall require dedication and improvement of parks and open space in accordance with the Stanislaus County Parks Master Plan, as amended from time to time.

Policy Thirteen: Promote the use of water reservoirs for multiple recreational purposes, where appropriate.

- Implementation Measure 1: The County shall encourage the multiple uses of reservoirs as flood control devices, recreational facilities, and wildlife habitats.
- Implementation Measure 2: The County shall, when funds become available, install and maintain boating facilities, where appropriate.
- Implementation Measure 3: The County shall encourage the development of on-site resort services and accessory sales designed to enhance recreational opportunities, where appropriate.

Policy Fourteen: Provide for diverse recreational opportunities such as horseback riding trails, hiking trails, and bikeways.

- Implementation Measure 1: In areas where appropriate, equestrian facilities may be provided. (The County should consider equestrian facilities when developing new parks. Also, in large land subdivisions where horses are permitted, the County should encourage the development of equestrian facilities.)

Policy Fifteen: Coordinate the provision of recreation needs with other providers such as the Army Corps of Engineers, the State Resources Agency, school districts, local cities, river rafters, horse stable operators, and private organizations such as the Sierra Club and Audobon Society.

- Implementation Measure 1: The County will pursue various funding options for providing recreational opportunities.
- Implementation Measure 2: The County will assume responsibility for parks, when financially feasible, dedicated to them by state or federal agencies.
- Implementation Measure 4: An inventory of recreational facilities shall be maintained for use in parks and recreation facilities planning.
- Implementation Measure 5: Proposals to establish new or expanded recreational areas shall be reviewed for consistency with policies of the Safety Element when located within an adopted Airport Influence Area as a means to prevent the creation of potential wildlife strike hazards or other hazards to park users, aviators, and the traveling public.

Goal Eight:

Preserve areas of national, state, regional, and local historical importance.

Policy Twenty-four: The County will support the preservation of Stanislaus County's cultural legacy of archeological, historical, and paleontological resources for future generations.

- Implementation Measure 3: The County shall work with the County Historical Society, and other organizations and interested individuals to study, identify and inventory archeological resources and historical sites, structures, building and objects.
- Implementation Measure 4: The County will cooperate with the State Historical Preservation Officer to identify and nominate historical structures, objects, buildings and sites for inclusion under the Historical Preservation Act

APPENDIX A

- Implementation Measure 5: The County shall utilize the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process to protect archaeological, historic, or paleontological resources. Most discretionary projects require review for compliance with CEQA. As part of this review, potential impacts must be identified and mitigated.
- Implementation Measure 7: The County will work with all interested individuals and organizations to protect and preserve the mining heritage of Stanislaus County.

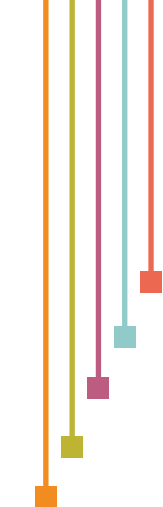
Safety Element

Goal One:

Prevent loss of life and reduce property damage as a result of natural disasters.

Policy Three: Development should not be allowed in areas that are particularly susceptible to seismic hazard.

- Implementation Measure 3: Development proposals adjacent to reservoirs shall include evaluations of the potential impacts from a seismically induced seiche.



APPENDIX B
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH

A public outreach survey was created to assess the current community sentiment regarding the County's parks and recreation facilities. The survey was disseminated via the methods described in depth in the "Needs Assessment" chapter of this document. Between June and August 2017, 614 respondents filled out the survey. 597 of the respondents chose the English version and 17 respondents chose the Spanish version.

Below are the questions provided, in both English and Spanish. The results from the two surveys have been combined and detailed in the following charts.

English Survey Questions:

1. What city or town do you live in? *(If you live in an unincorporated area, please note)*(choose one)
Answer Options: Modesto, Turlock, Ceres, Riverbank, Oakdale, Patterson, Salida, Newman, Waterford, Hughson, West Modesto, Shackelford, Bret Harte, Keyes, Bystrom, Empire, Denair, East Oakdale, Del Rio, Riverdale Park, Grayson, Westley, Hickman
2. The County has many wonderful parks and facilities. How many County recreation parks and/or facilities have you visited in the past year? *(choose all that you have visited in the past year)*
Answer Options: Regional Park – Woodward Reservoir; Regional Park – Frank Raines; Regional Park – La Grange; Regional Park – Laird; Regional Park – Modesto Reservoir; Fishing Access – Basso Bridge River; Fishing Access – Della Mendota; Fishing Access – Fox Grove River; Fishing Access – Las Palmas River; Fishing Access – Riverdale Park; Fishing Access – Turlock Lake; Wilderness Area – Joe Domecq; Camp – Kiwanis; Facilities – Keyes Community Center; Facilities – Burbank-Paradise Park/Hall; Parks – Tuolumne River Regional Park; Parks – Atlas Park; Parks – Bonita Park; Parks – Bonita Ranch Park; Parks – Countrystone Park; Parks – Empire Community Park; Parks – Fairview Park; Parks – Hatch Park; Parks – Hunter's Pointe Park; Parks – Fitzsimmons Park; Parks – Leroy F. Fitzsimmons Memorial Park; Parks – Mono Park; Parks – John Murphy Park; Parks – Oregon Drive Park; Parks – Parklawn Park; Parks – Salida Downtown Park; Parks – Segesta Park; Parks – Sterling Ranch Park; Parks – Grayson United Community Park; Parks – Hunter's Pointe Park; I did not visit any County Parks in the last year.
3. The County's goal is to have residents and non-residents alike utilize parks to their fullest. How important is it for you to have County parks available for public use? *(1=Not Important to Me at All/10=Very Important to Me)*
Answer Options: 1=Dissatisfied/10=Completely Satisfied
4. Please rate your overall satisfaction with Stanislaus County parks:
Answer Options: 1=Dissatisfied/10=Completely Satisfied
5. How often do you visit a County park facility? (choose one)
Answer Options: a.Never, b.Weekly, c.Monthly, d.Seasonally, e.Other
6. How important are sports fields to you? *(1=Not Important to Me at All/10=Very Important to Me)*
Answer Options: 1=Dissatisfied/10=Completely Satisfied
7. Please rate your overall satisfaction with the number of County sports fields? These include: Fairview soccer and baseball fields; Hatch Park baseball field; Laird soccer field; Empire Park baseball field; other *(1=Dissatisfied/10=Completely Satisfied)*
Answer Options: 1=Dissatisfied/10=Completely Satisfied
8. A few County parks provide boat launches and/or fishing access points to water bodies. Please rate how important in is to you to have water access points available in Stanislaus County: *(1=Not Important to Me at All/10=Very Important to Me)*
Answer Options: 1=Dissatisfied/10=Completely Satisfied
9. Please rate your overall satisfaction with the number of water access points in the county: *(1=Dissatisfied/10=Completely Satisfied)*
Answer Options: 1=Dissatisfied/10=Completely Satisfied
10. How many times have you used a water access point (boat launch ramp or swimming area) in Stanislaus County during the past year? (choose one)
Answer Options: a.0, b.1, c.2, d.3, e.4+

APPENDIX B

11. The County strives to meet the needs of its constituents with amenities and features. Which of the following benefits of parks, recreation and trails are most important to you? **(1=Not important/5=Very important)**
a. Provide opportunities to enjoy nature/ the outdoors; b. Improve fitness, health & wellness; c. Strengthen families, neighborhoods & community; d. Protect our natural environment; e. Support youth development; f. Provide venues for special events and social opportunities; g. Provide opportunities to learn new things; h. Other (Please rank and enter your answer below)
Answer Options: 1=Not important/5=Very important
12. How satisfied are you with the way the County fulfills the following through its parks, recreation and trails options? **(1=Dissatisfied/5=Completely Satisfied)**
a. Provide opportunities to enjoy nature/ the outdoors; b. Improve fitness, health & wellness; c. Strengthen families, neighborhoods & community; d. Protect our natural environment; e. Support youth development; f. Provide venues for special events and social opportunities; g. Provide opportunities to learn new things; h. Other (Please rank and enter your answer below)
Answer Options: 1=Dissatisfied/5=Completely Satisfied
13. What do you like most about the County's recreation facilities (all, including reservoirs, off-road vehicle areas, parks, water access points, walking/hiking trails, BBQ areas, etc.)? a. Free answer – answers grouped into general themes for survey analysis purposes.
14. What do you dislike most about the County's recreation facilities (all, including reservoirs, off-road vehicle areas, parks, water access points, walking/hiking trails, BBQ areas, etc.)? a. Free answer – answers grouped into general themes for survey analysis purposes.
15. The County has made great improvements in recent years to its reservation process. How important is it for you to be able to reserve camping spots, park areas, or picnic shelters/ recreational halls for parties and other events? **(1=Not Important to Me at All/10=Very Important to Me)**
Answer Options: 1=Not Important to Me at All/10=Very Important to Me
16. Please rate your overall satisfaction with the County's reservation process for camping spots, park areas, or picnic shelters/ recreational halls for parties and other events: **(1=Dissatisfied/10=Completely Satisfied)**
Answer Options: 1=Dissatisfied/10=Completely Satisfied
17. The County has multiple options for events and parties. How many times in the past year have you reserved a park, BBQ, recreation area, or other space from Stanislaus County? **(choose one)**
Answer Options: a.0, b.1, c.2, d.3, e.4+
18. Special events are a unique benefit offered by the County Parks Department. How many times in the past year have you attended a festival, concert, or other special event in a County park? (Examples: Easter egg hunt, Boat expo, Fireworks show, music event, sailboat regatta, Mudfest, Zombie run, Dog training, Symbiosis, etc.) **(choose one)**
Answer Options: a.0, b.1, c.2, d.3, e.4+
19. How important is it to you for the County to offer special events for the public? **(1 Not Important/10 Very Important)**
Answer Options: 1=Not Important to Me at All/10=Very Important to Me
20. How satisfied are you with the special events the county offers to the public? **(1 Not Important/10 Very Important)**
Answer Options: 1=Not Important to Me at All/10=Very Important to Me
21. Please rank the top five recreation opportunities you would like to see included or expanded in the County's parks.
a. Sports fields (list type); b. Family picnic areas; c. Group picnic areas; d. River access for swimming; e. River access for fishing; f. Boat launching facilities; g. Additional parking; h. Trails for hiking or jogging; i. Trails for bicycling; j. Campgrounds – car or tent camping; k. Campgrounds – trailer or RV; l. Areas for reflection and passive recreation (painting, birdwatching, etc.); m. Nature/environmental education opportunities; n. Facilities for use by groups (for weddings, parties, family reunions, etc.); o. Special Event Facilities (for large events like fairs, swap meets, concerts, etc.; p. Other (please list)
22. Are there environmental concerns that you feel that the County should take into consideration in the development and improvement of County parks? **Yes/No.**
List or note in general comments.

23. The County maximizes and leverages funds to make facilities available as much as possible. In the future, how would you want to see park maintenance, programs, and new parks and facilities get funded? ***(Select your top two answers.)***
- a. User fees (visitors from out of county pay more than Stanislaus County residents), b. A bond measure, which dedicates money to build new things, c. A tax measure, which dedicates money for parks maintenance costs, d. Sponsorship programs by local businesses, e. Volunteer efforts, f. Efforts by non-profit groups, g. Public-Private Partnerships, where private firms partner with the public agency to invest in a project, and where both partners share responsibilities for maintenance and benefits from fees, etc.
 - h. I don't know

GENERAL COMMENTS:

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Spanish Survey Questions:

1. ¿En que ciudad o pueblo vives? (Si vive fuera de la zona incorporada, por favor tenga en cuenta)
Answer Options: Modesto, Turlock, Ceres, Riverbank, Oakdale, Patterson, Salida, Newman, Waterford, Hughson, West Modesto, Shackelford, Bret Harte, Keyes, Bystrom, Empire, Denair, East Oakdale, Del Rio, Riverdale Park, Grayson, Westley, Hickman, No incorporado zona, Otro
2. El condado tiene muchos parques y facilidades maravillosas. ¿Cuántos parques recreativos del Condado y/o instalaciones ha visitado en el último año? **(Elige todos los que ha visitado en el último año)**
Answer Options: Parque Regional – Woodward Reservoir; Parque Regional – Frank Raines; Parque Regional – La Grange; Parque Regional – Laird; Parque Regional – Modesto Reservoir; Acceso a la pesca – Basso Bridge River; Acceso a la pesca – Della Mendota; Acceso a la pesca – Fox Grove River; Acceso a la pesca – Las Palmas River; Acceso a la pesca – Riverdale Park; Acceso a la pesca – Turlock Lake; Área silvestre – Joe Domecq; Campamento – Kiwanis; Instalaciones – Keyes Community Center; Instalaciones – Burbank-Paradise Park/Hall; Parques–Tuolumne River Regional Park; Parques – Atlas Park; Parques – Bonita Park; Parques – Bonita Ranch Park; Parques – Countrystone Park; Parques – Empire Community Park; Parques – Fairview Park; Parques – Hatch Park; Parques – Hunter’s Pointe Park; Parques – Fitzsimmons Park; Parques – Leroy F. Fitzsimmons Memorial Park; Parques – Mono Park; Parques – John Murphy Park; Parques – Oregon Drive Park; Parques – Parklawn Park; Parques – Salida Downtown Park; Parques – Segesta Park; Parques – Sterling Ranch Park
3. El objetivo del Condado es que los residentes y los no residentes utilicen los parques al máximo. ¿Que tan importante es para usted tener los parques del Condado disponibles para uso público?**(1=No es importante para mi /10=Muy importante para mi)**
Answer Options: 1=No es importante para mi /10=Muy importante para mi
4. Por favor califique su satisfacción general con los parques del condado de Stanislaus: **(1=Insatisfecho/10=Completamente satisfecho.)**
Answer Options: 1=Insatisfecho/10=Completamente Satisfecho
5. ¿Con que frecuencia visita las facilidades de los parques del condado? **(Elige uno)**
Answer Options: a.Nunca, b.Semanal, c.Mensual, d.Según la temporada, e.Otro
6. ¿Que tan importante son los campos deportivos para usted? **(1= No es importante para mi /10= Muy importante para mi)**
Answer Options: 1= No es importante para mi /10= Muy importante para mi
7. Por favor califique su satisfacción en general con el numero de campos deportivos del Condado. Estas incluyen: Campo de fútbol y campos de béisbol de Fairview; Hatch Park campo de béisbol; campo de fútbol Laird; campo de béisbol Empire Park; otros.
(1=Insatisfecho/10=completamente satisfecho)
Answer Options: 1=Insatisfecho/10=completamente satisfecho
8. Algunos parques del Condado proporcionan rampas de lanzamientos de barcos y/o puntos de acceso a cuerpos de agua para la pesca. Por favor califique que tan importante es para usted tener puntos de acceso al agua disponibles en el Condado de Stanislaus: **(1= No es importante para mi /10= Muy importante para mi)**
Answer Options: 1= No es importante para mi /10= Muy importante para mi
9. Por favor califique su satisfacción general con el número de puntos de acceso al agua en el condado:**(1=Insatisfecho/10=Completamente satisfecho)**
Answer Options: 1=Insatisfecho/10=Completamente Satisfecho
10. ¿Cuántas veces ha utilizado un punto de acceso a agua (rampa de lanzamiento del barco o zona de nadar) en el Condado de Stanislaus durante el año pasado? **(Elige uno)**
Answer Options: a.0, b.1, c.2, d.3, e.4+
11. El Condado se esfuerza por atender las necesidades de sus componentes con comodidades y características. ¿Cuales de los siguientes beneficios de parques, recreaciones y senderos son los mas importantes para usted? **(1=No es importante/5=Muy importante)**
a.Proporcionar oportunidades para disfrutar de la naturaleza/del aire libre; b.Mejorar la condicion fisica, la salud y el bienestar; c.Fortalecer familias, vecindarios y comunidad; d.Proteger nuestro entorno natural; e.Apoyar el desarrollo de los jóvenes; f.Proveer lugares para eventos especiales y oportunidades sociales; g.Proporcionar oportunidades para aprender nuevas cosas; h.Otro (Por favor clasifique e ingrese su respuesta a continuación)

Answer Options: 1=No es importante/5=Muy importante

12. ¿Cuán tan satisfecho está usted con la manera en que el Condado cumple con los siguientes requisitos a través de sus parques, recreación y opciones de senderos? **(1=Insatisfecho/5=Completamente satisfecho)**
 a. Proporcionar oportunidades para disfrutar de la naturaleza/al aire libre; b. Mejorar la condición física, la salud y el bienestar; c. Fortalecer familias, vecindarios y comunidad; d. Proteger nuestro entorno natural; e. Apoyar el desarrollo de los jóvenes; f. Proveer lugares para eventos especiales y oportunidades sociales; g. Proporcionar oportunidades para aprender nuevas cosas; h. Otro (Por favor clasifique e ingrese su respuesta a continuación)
Answer Options: 1=Insatisfecho/5=Completamente satisfecho
13. ¿Que es lo que mas te gusta de las instalaciones recreativas del Condado (Todo, incluido deposito o embalses de agua, las zonas de vehículo fuera de carretera, puntos de acceso a los parques de agua, rutas de senderos de camino/ caminatas, areas de barbacoa etc.)?
a. Respuestas gratuitas – Respuestas agrupadas en temas generales para el análisis de la encuesta.
14. Que es lo que mas te disgusta de las instalaciones recreativas del Condado (Todo, incluido deposito o embalses de agua, las zonas de vehículo fuera de carretera, puntos de acceso a los parques de agua, rutas de senderos de camino/ caminatas, areas de barbacoa etc.)?
a. Respuestas gratuitas – Respuestas agrupadas en temas generales para el análisis de la encuesta.
15. El Condado ha hecho grandes mejoras en los últimos años en su proceso de reservación. ¿Que tan importante es para usted el poder reservar parques de campamento, áreas de parques, o refugios de picnic/salas recreativas para fiestas y otros eventos ?
(1=No es importante para mí /10=Muy importante para mí)
Answer Options: 1=No es importante para mí /10=Muy importante para mí
16. Por favor califique su satisfacción general con el proceso de reservación del condado para lugares de campamento, áreas de parques, refugios de picnic/salas recreativas para fiestas, y otros eventos: **(1=Insatisfecho/10=Completamente satisfecho)**
Answer Options: 1=No es importante para mí /10=Muy importante para mí
17. El condado tiene múltiples opciones para eventos y fiestas. ¿Cuántas veces en el último año a reservado un parque, barbacoa, área de recreación u otro espacio del Condado de Stanislaus? **(Elige one)**
Answer Options: a.0, b.1, c.2, d.3, e.4+
18. Los eventos especiales son un beneficio único ofrecido por el Departamento de Parques del Condado. Cuántas veces en el último año ha asistido a un festival concierto u otro evento especial en un parque del condado? (Ejemplos: Caza de huevos de Pascua, Expo del barco, espectáculos de fuegos artificiales, evento musical, Festival de lodo, Zombie run, entrenamiento de perros, Symbiosis, etc.) **(Elige uno)**
Answer Options: a.0, b.1, c.2, d.3, e.4+
19. ¿Qué importancia tiene para usted que el Condado ofrezca eventos especiales para el público? **(1= No Importante/10=Muy Importante)**
Answer Options: 1= No Importante/10=Muy Importante
20. ¿Qué tan satisfecho está usted con los eventos especiales que el condado ofrece al público? **(1= Insatisfecho/10= Completamente satisfecho)**
Answer Options: 1= Insatisfecho/10= Completamente satisfecho
21. Por favor clasifique las cinco oportunidades de recreación que le gustaría ver incluidas o expandidas en los parques del condado.
 a. Campos deportivos (tipos delista); b. Zonas de picnic familiares; c. Áreas de picnic en grupo; d. Acceso al río para nadar; e. Acceso al río para pescar; f. Instalaciones de lanzamiento de barcos; g. Estacionamiento adicional; h. Senderos para caminata o correr; i. Senderos para montar en bicicleta; j. Terreno de campamento – para carro de campar o tiendas de campamento; k. Terreno de campamento – remolque o RV; l. Áreas de reflexión y recreación pasiva (pintura, observación de aves, etc.); m. Naturaleza/oportunidades de educación ambiental; n. Instalaciones para uso de grupos (para bodas, fiestas, reuniones familiares, etc.); o. Instalaciones para Eventos Especiales (Para grandes eventos como ferias, encuentros de intercambio, conciertos, etc.); p. Otros (por favor liste)
22. ¿Hay preocupaciones ambientales que usted sienta que el Condado debe tomar en consideración en el desarrollo y mejoramiento en los parques del Condado? **Si/No.**
Liste o note en los comentarios generales.

APPENDIX B

23. *El condado maximiza y aprovecha los fondos para hacer las instalaciones disponibles tanto como sea posible. En el futuro ¿Cómo decea que se financie el mantenimiento del parque, los programas y los nuevos parques e instalaciones? (Seleccione sus dos respuestas principales.)*

a.Cuotas de usuario (los visitantes de fuera del Condado pagan mas que los residentes del condado de Stanislaus)

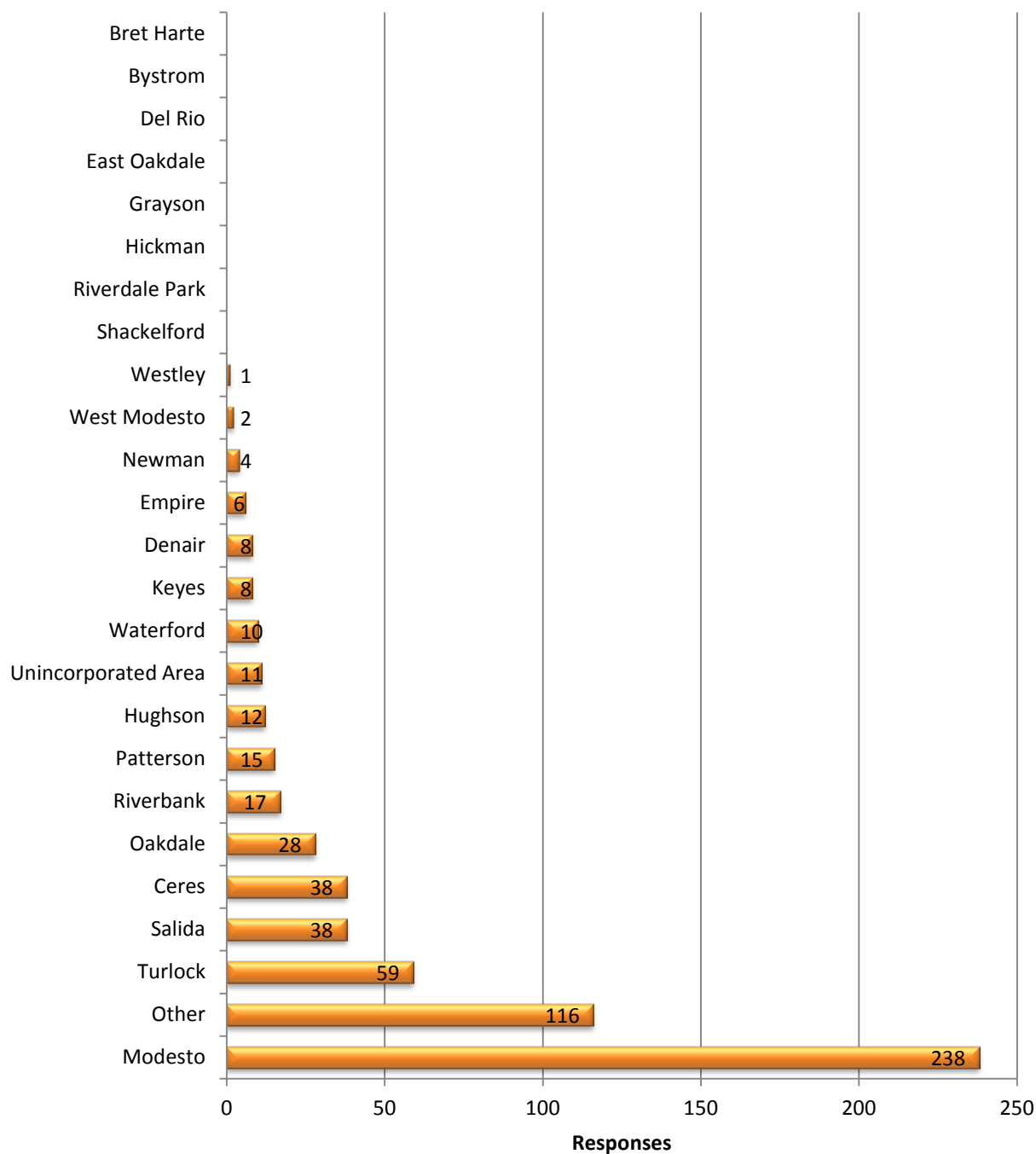
b.Una medida de bonos, en la cual se dedicaria el dinero para construir nuevas cosas. c.Una medida fiscal, en la cual se dedicaria el dinero para los costos del mantenimiento de los parques. d.Programas de patrocinio de empresas locales. e.Esfuerzos voluntarios. f.Esfuerzos de grupos sin fines de lucro. g.Asociaciones Publico-Privadas, donde las empresas privadas se asocian con la agencia pública para invertir en un proyecto, y donde ambos socios comparten las responsabilidades de mantenimiento y los beneficios de los honorarios, etc. h.No lo sé

COMENTARIOS GENERALES:

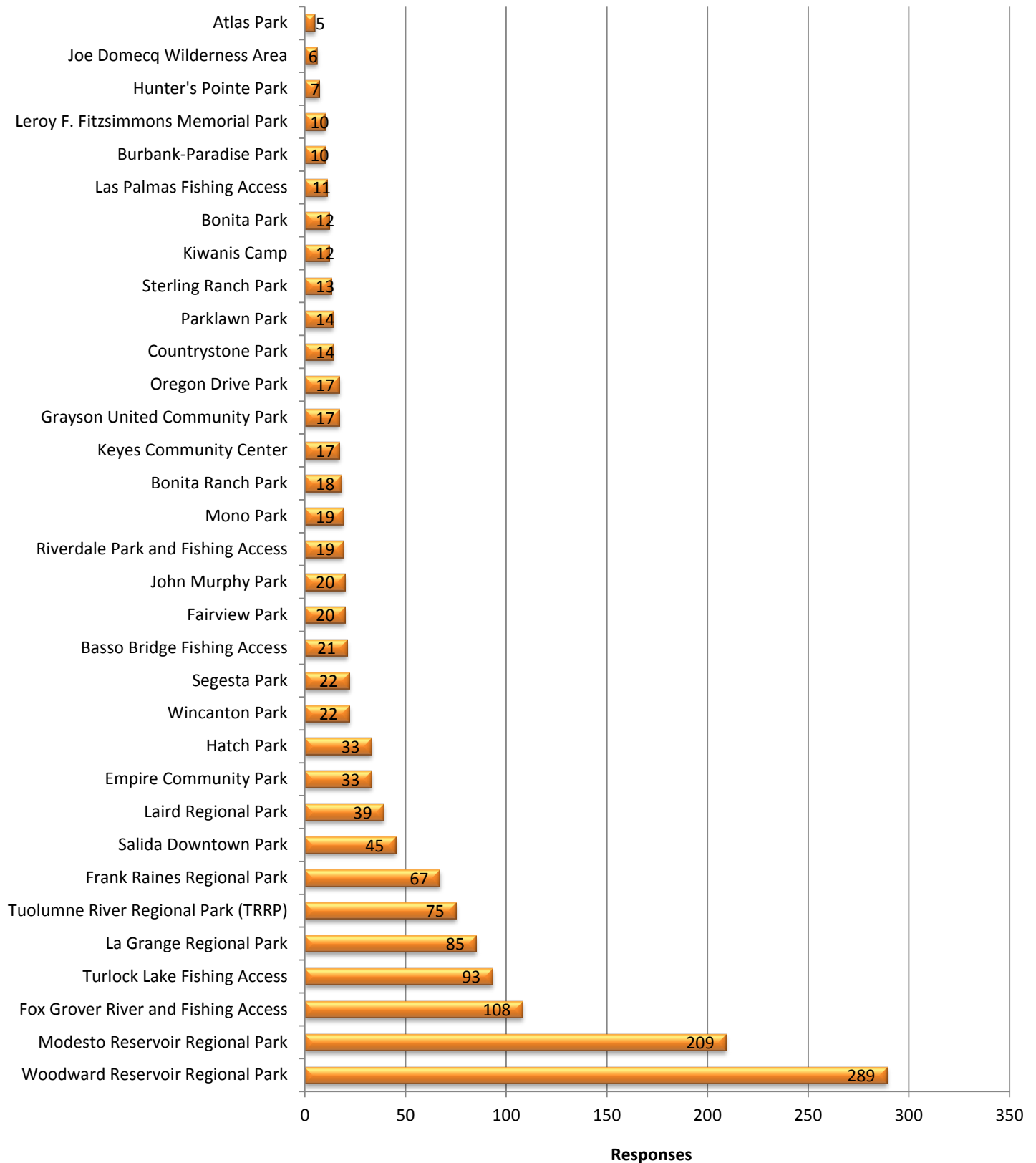
Public Survey Results

English and Spanish-language responses to the public survey have been combined and tabulated. The following charts provide graphic representation of public input gathered through this survey. The importance/satisfaction questions and associated charts indicating opportunity scores are located at the end of this Appendix.

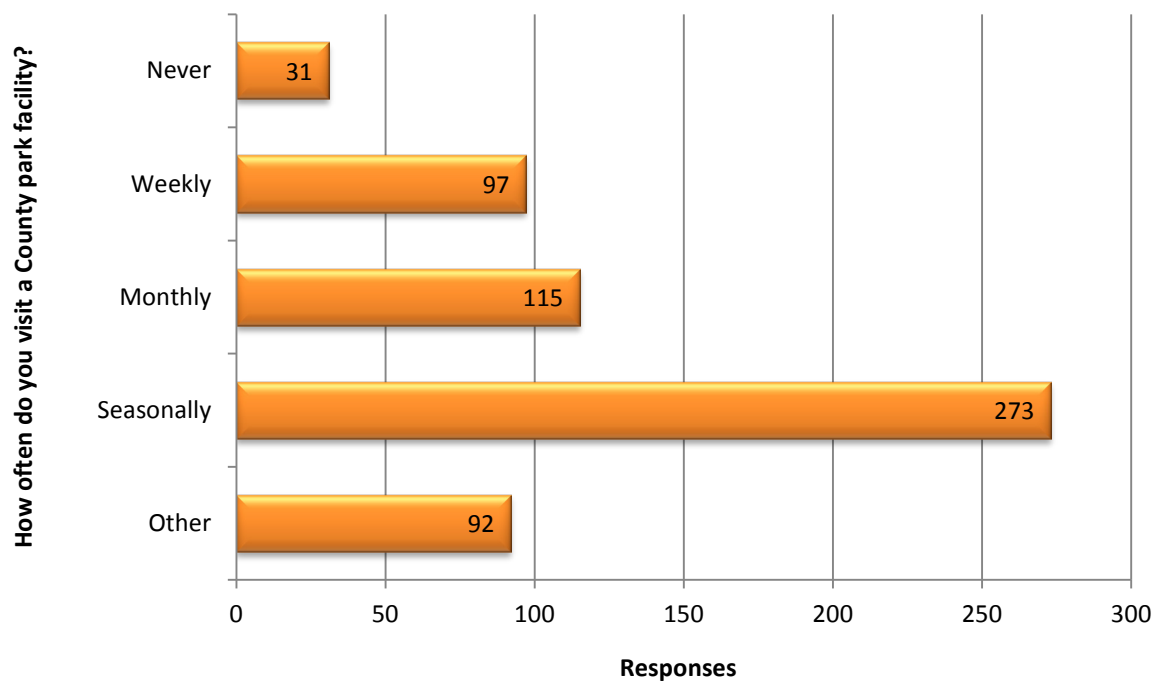
1. What city or town do you live in?



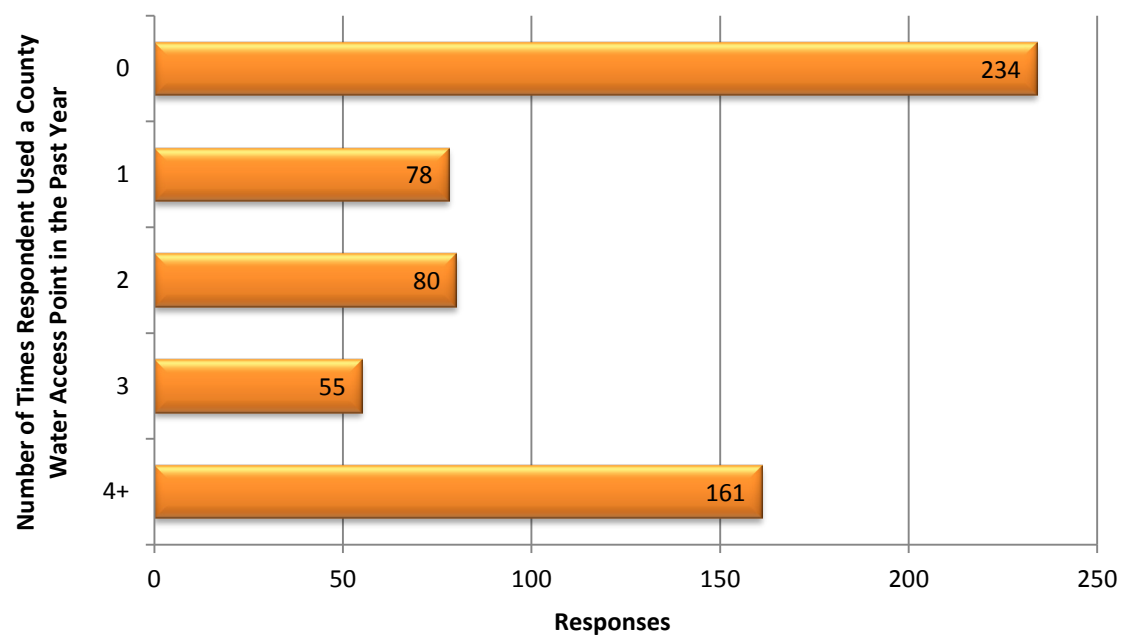
2. The County has many wonderful parks and facilities. How many County recreation parks and/or facilities have you visited in the past year?



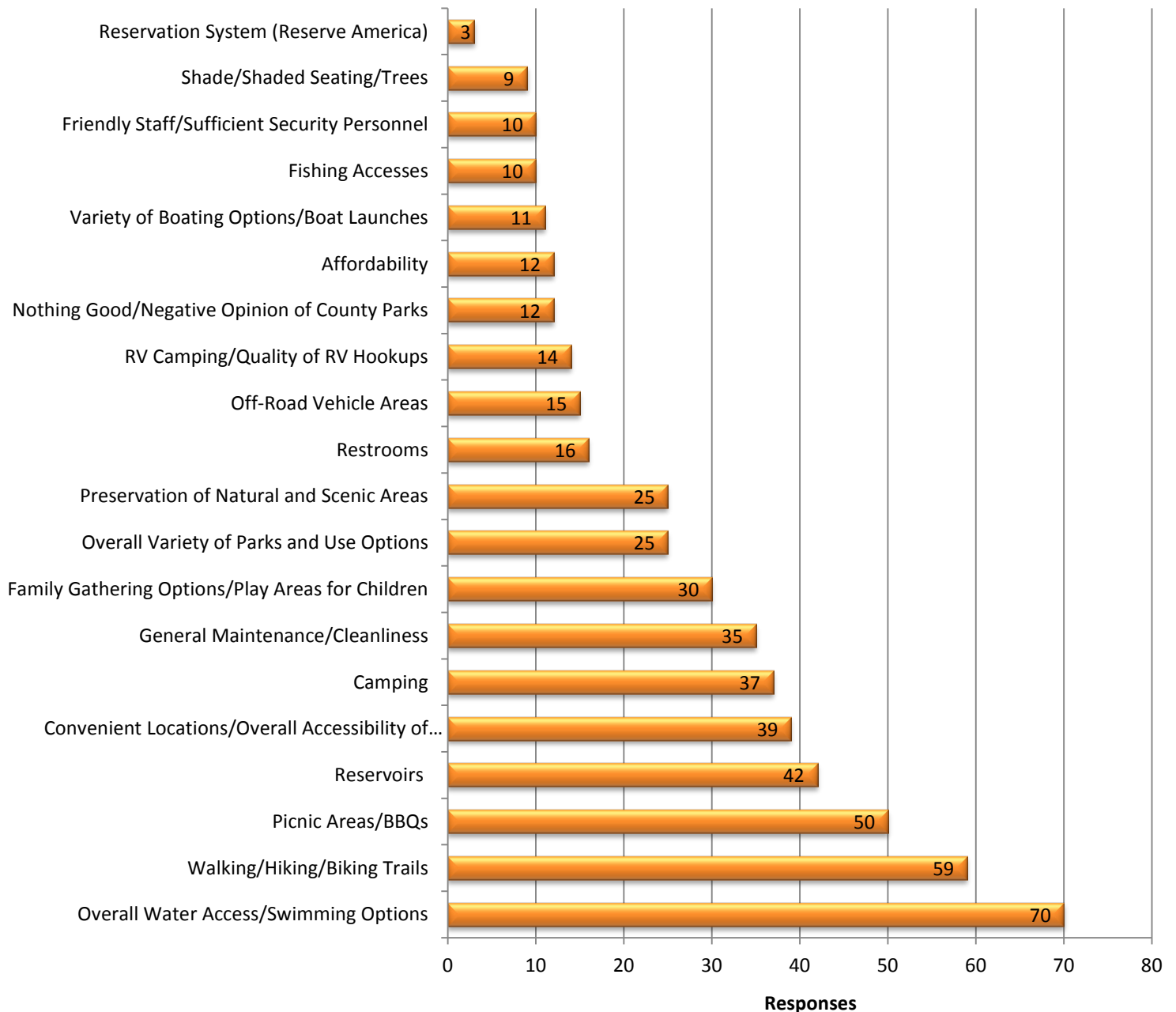
5. How often do you visit a County park facility?



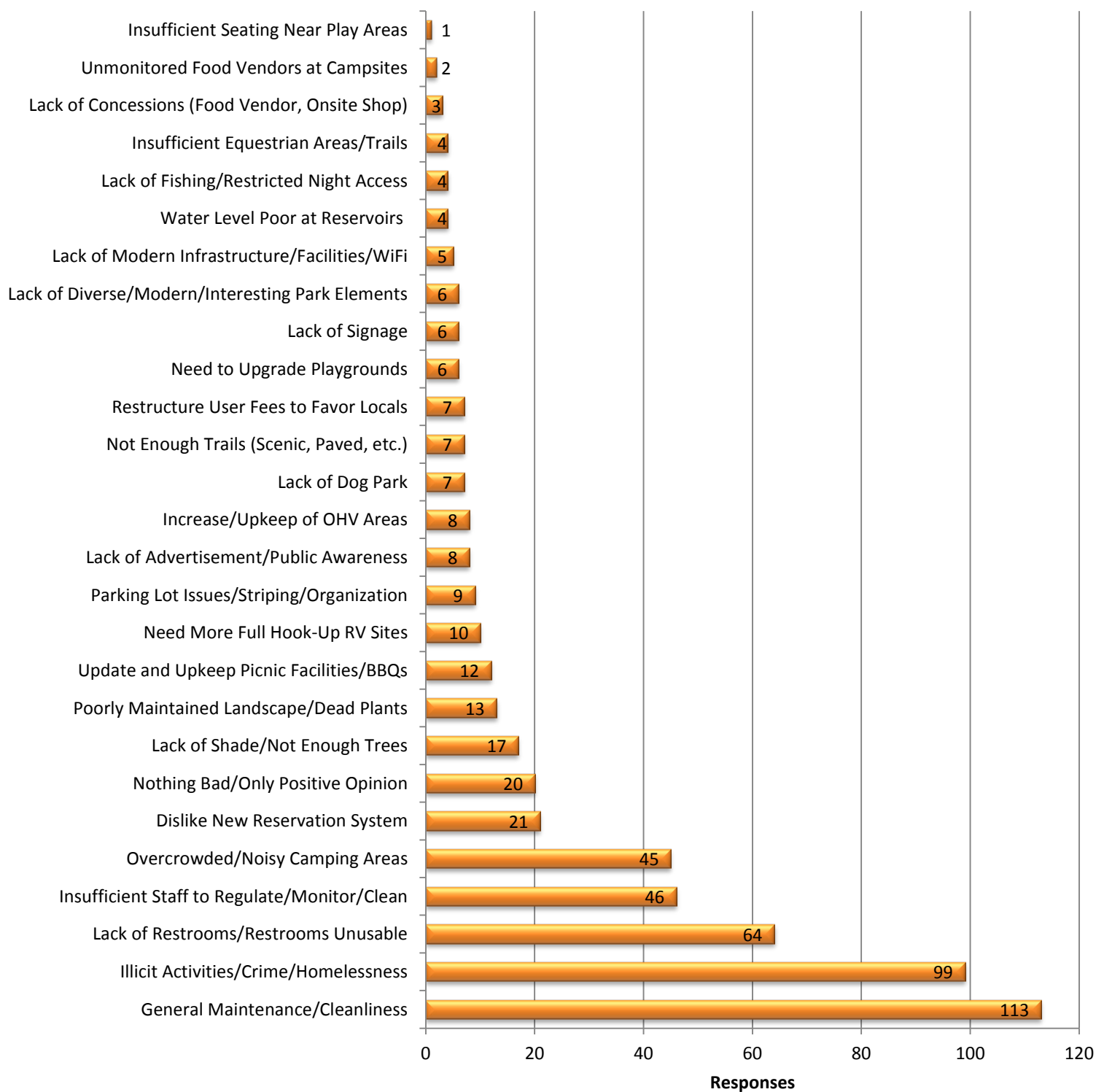
10. How many times have you used a water access point in Stanislaus County during the past year?



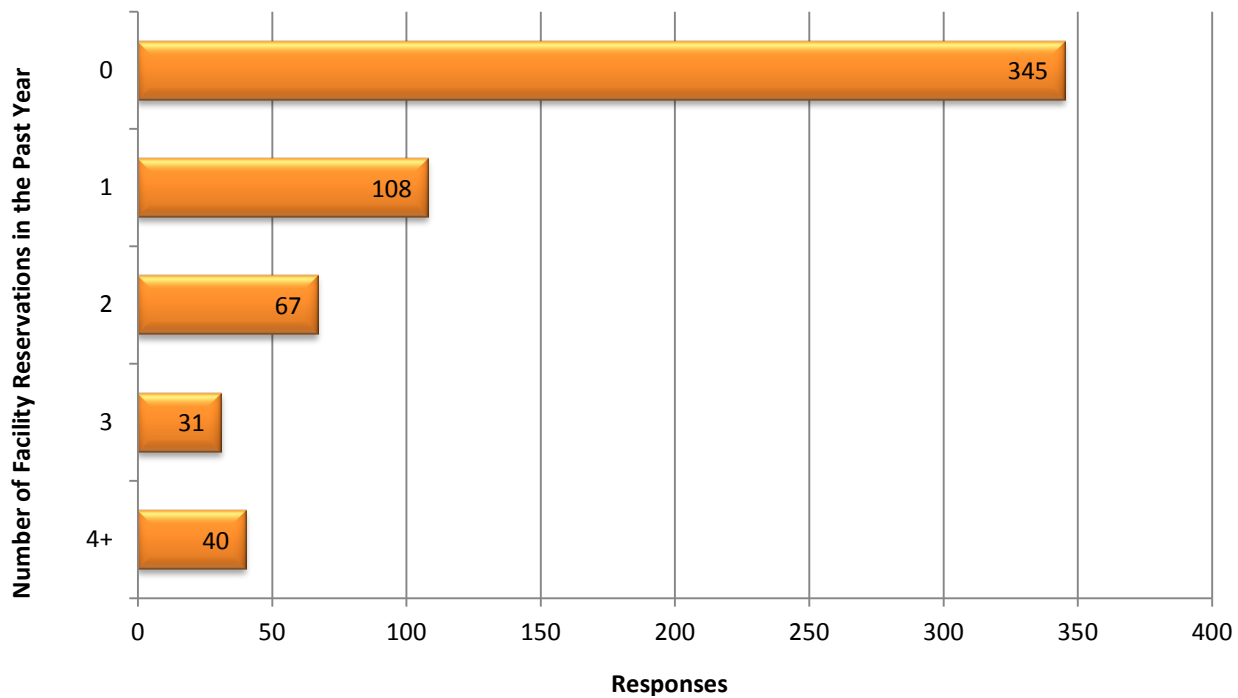
13. What do you **like** most about the County's recreation facilities (all, including reservoirs, off-road vehicle areas, parks, water access points, walking/hiking trails, BBQ areas, etc.)?



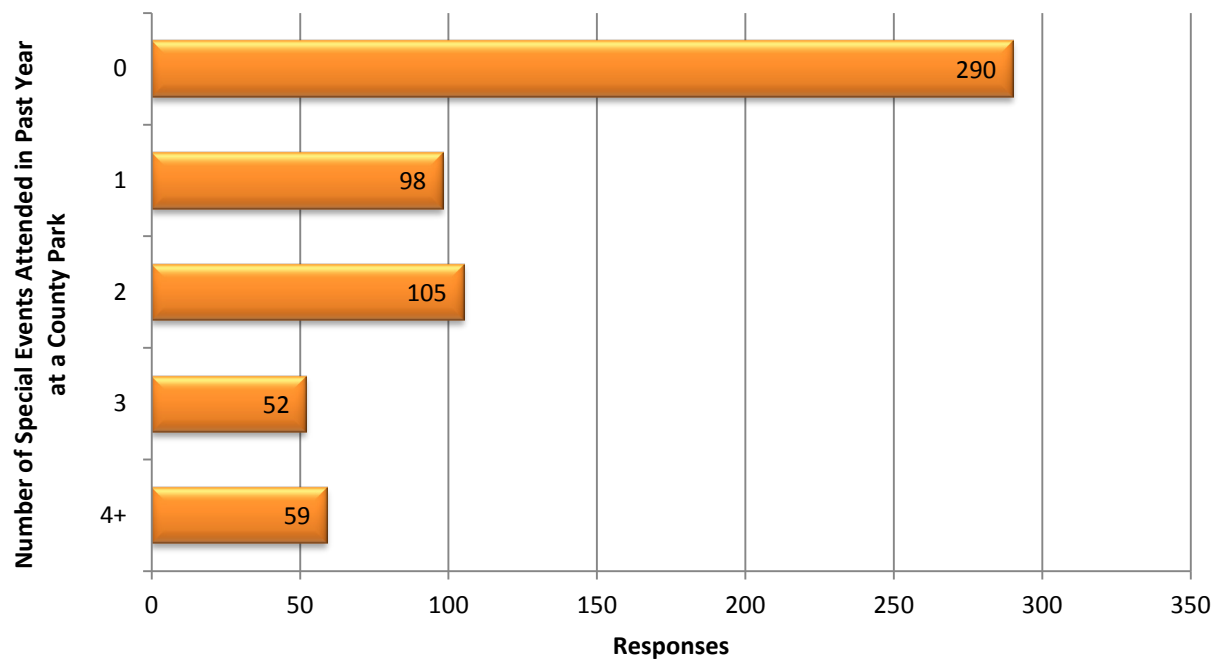
14. What do you ***dislike*** most about the County's recreation facilities (all, including reservoirs, off-road vehicle areas, parks, water access points, walking/hiking trails, BBQ areas, etc.)?



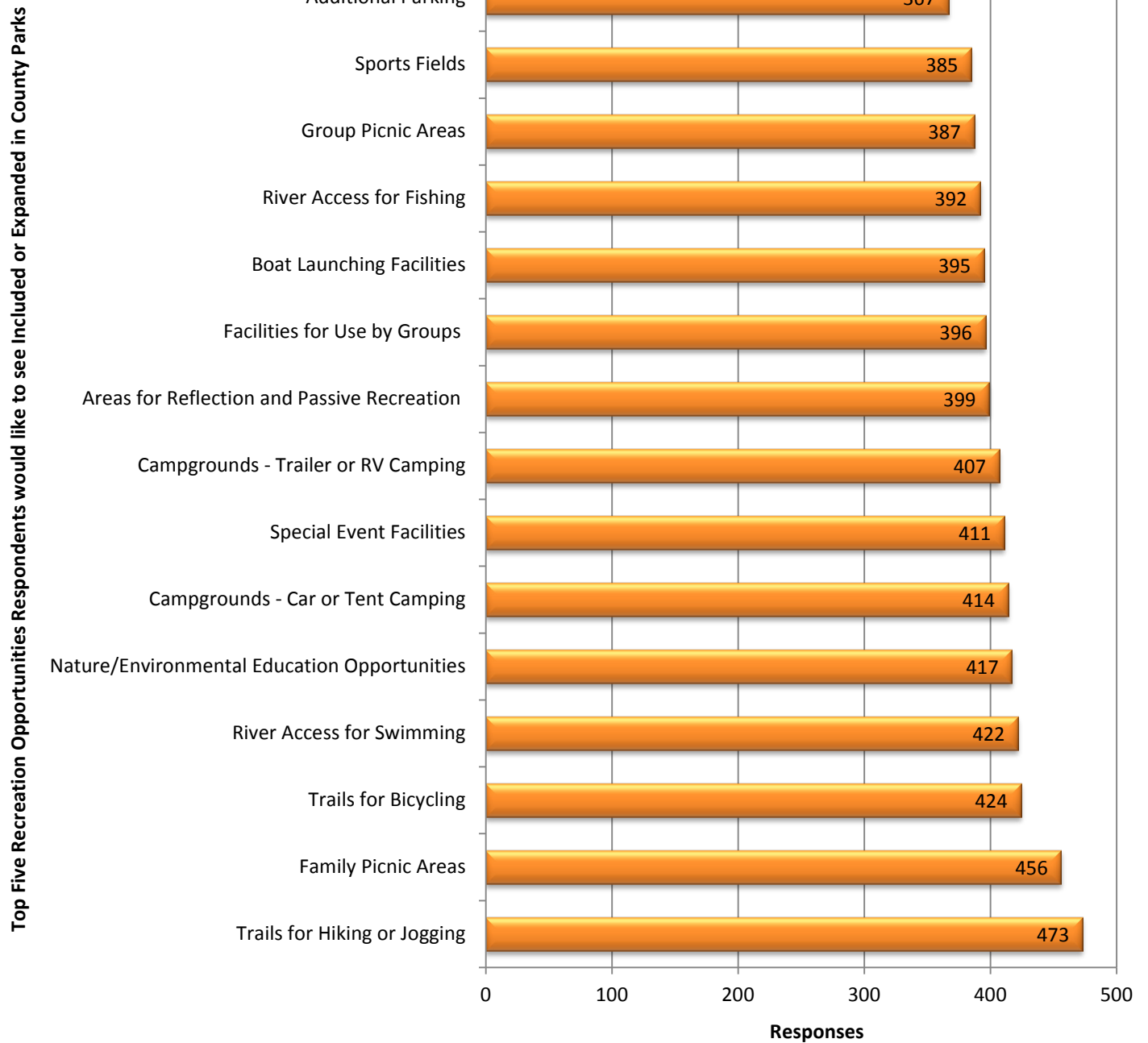
17. How many times in the past year have you reserved a park, BBQ, recreation area, or other space from Stanislaus County?



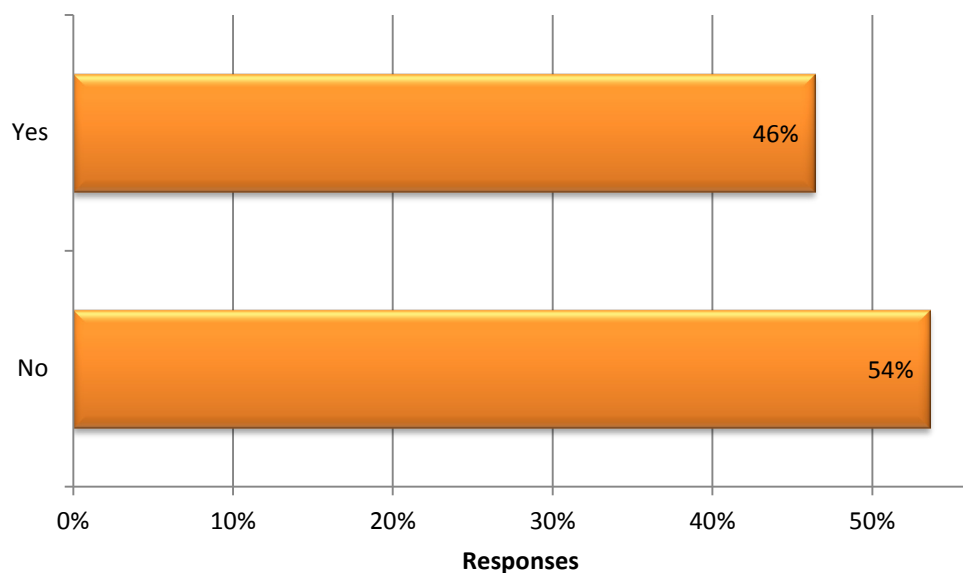
18. How many times in the past year have you attended a festival, concert, or other special event in a County park?



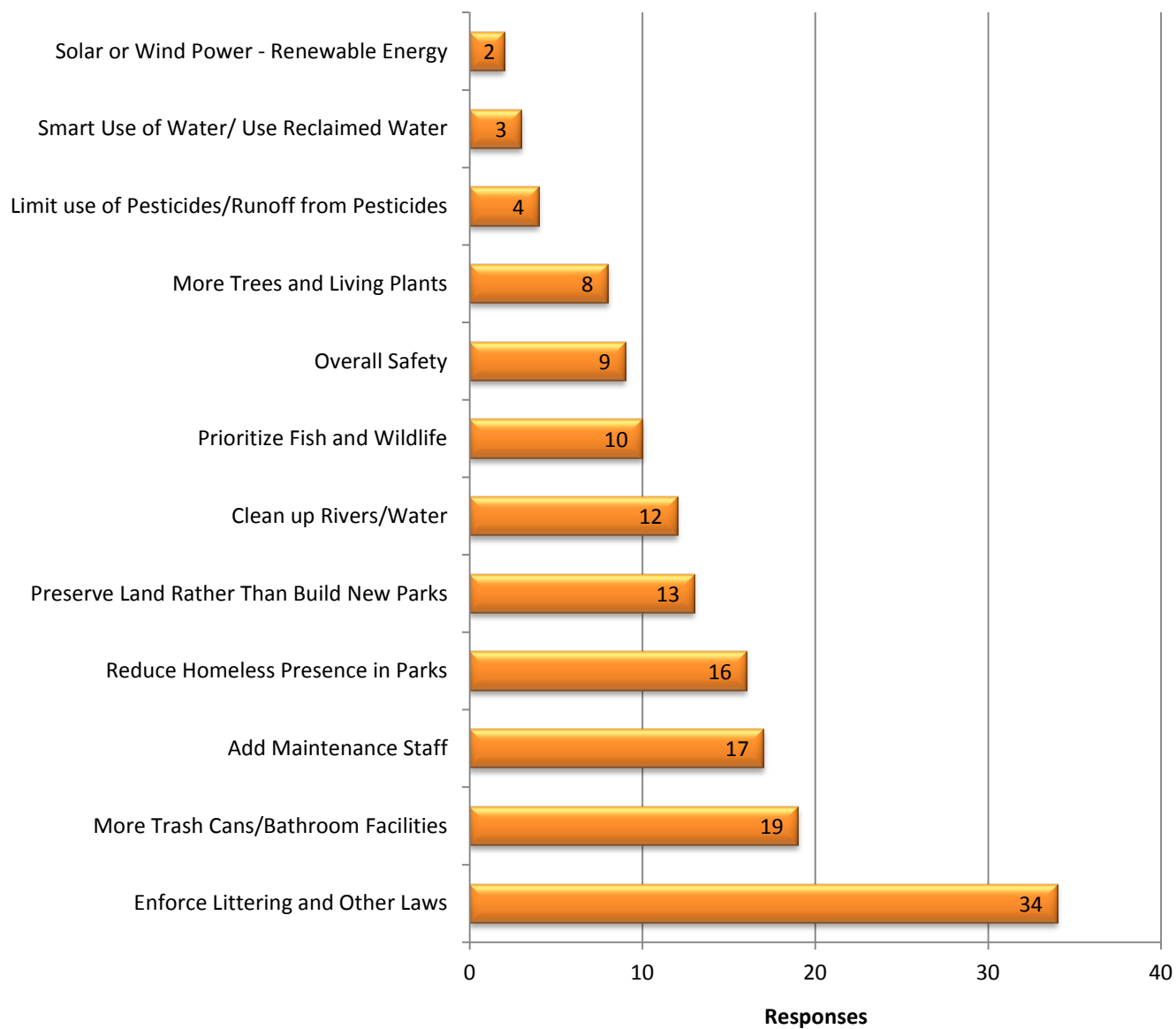
21. Please rank the top five recreation opportunities you would like to see included or expanded in the County's parks.



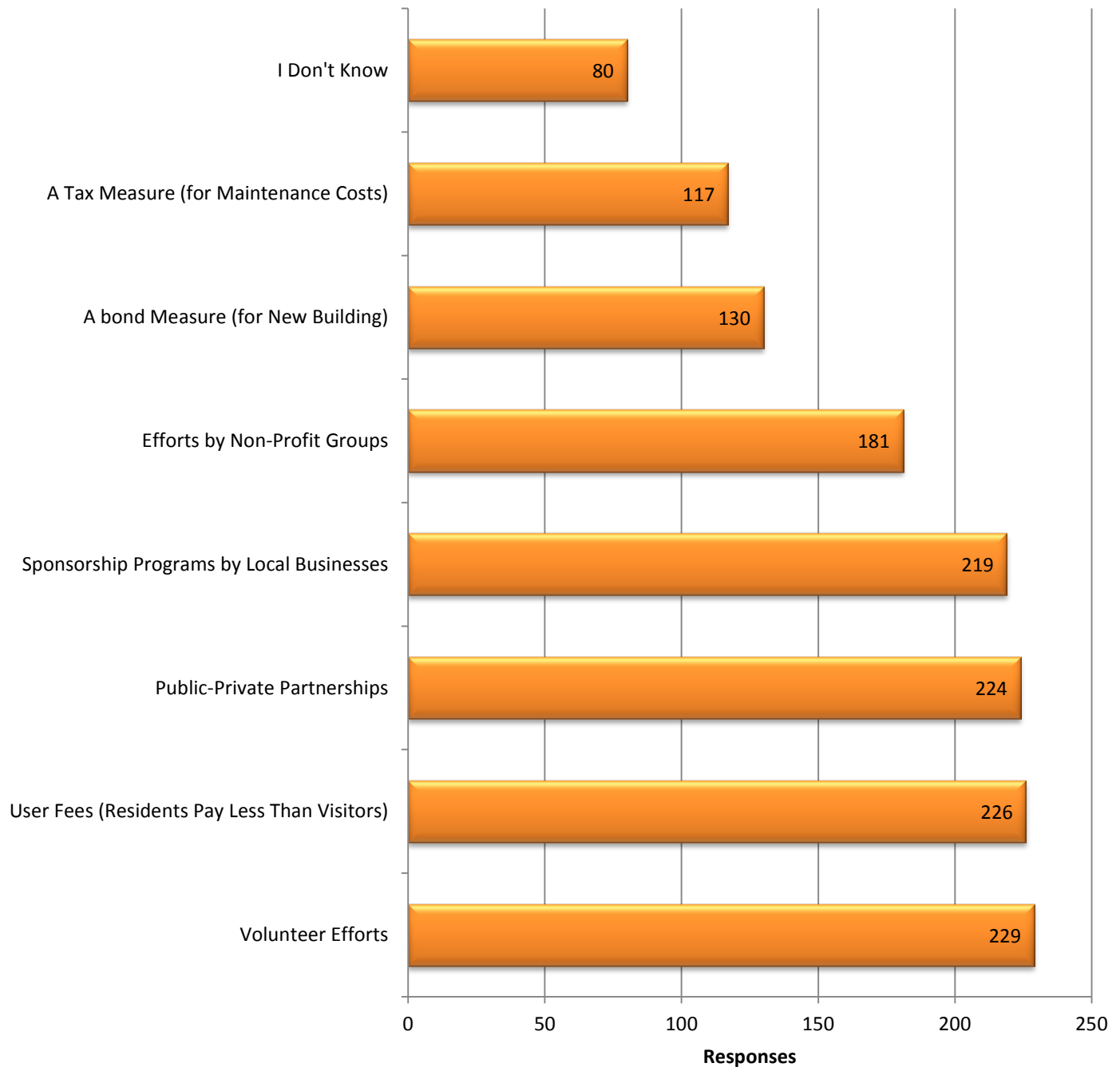
22. Are there environmental concerns that you feel the County should take into consideration in the development and improvement of County Parks?



22a. Free Answer: Environmental Concerns



23. The County maximizes and leverages funds to make facilities available as much as possible. In the future, how would you want to see park maintenance, programs, and new parks and facilities get funded? (Select your top two answers)



Importance/Satisfaction Questions

Each respondent was asked to select on a scale of one to ten (poor to excellent) the importance of various County recreation offerings to the respondent and the respondents satisfaction with each.

Questions 3 & 4:

How important is it for you to have County Parks available for public use?

Please rate your overall satisfaction with Stanislaus County Parks.

Questions 6 & 7:

How important are sports fields to you?

Please rate your overall satisfaction with the number of County sports fields.

Questions 8 & 9:

How important is it for you to have water access points available in Stanislaus County?

Please rate your overall satisfaction with the number of water access points in the County.

Questions 15 & 16:

How important is it for you to be able to reserve camping spots, park areas, or picnic shelters/recreational halls for parties and other events?

Please rate your overall satisfaction with the County's reservation process for camping spots, parking areas, or picnic shelters/recreational halls for parties and other events.

Questions 19 & 20:

How important is it for you for the County to offer special events for the public?

How satisfied are you with the special events the County offers to the public?

The public survey ratings for all public survey responses were added, divided by the total responses to each question, and multiplied by ten. Both Importance and Satisfaction numbers were combined to generate an Opportunity Score. The formula for determining Opportunity Scores is $i + ((\max(0, (i - s))))$. The Importance, Satisfaction, and Opportunity Scores are shown in the table below.

City Parks and Recreation Service Features	Importance	Satisfaction	Opportunity Score
County parks available for public use	9.05	6.27	11.83
Access to County-provided sports fields	6.00	6.20	6.00
Having water access points available in the County	7.38	6.43	8.33
Ability to reserve camping spots or other County park amenities	7.60	6.54	8.66
Public events hosted by the County	7.27	6.18	8.36

APPENDIX B

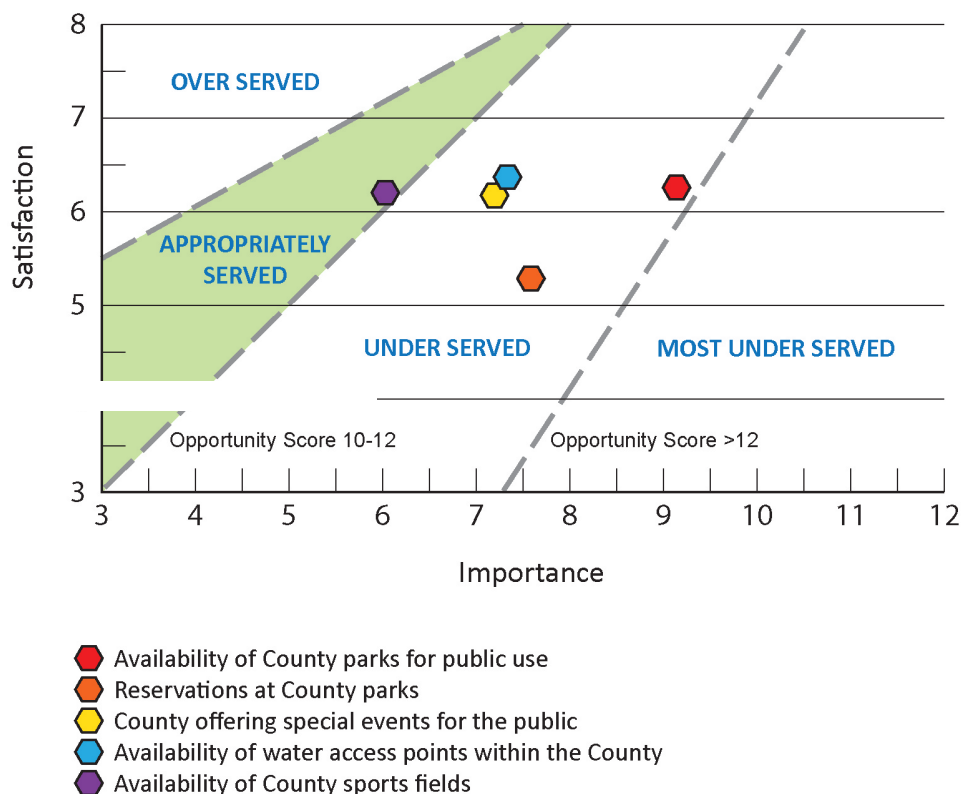
An Opportunity Score above 10 indicates opportunity, scores above 12 indicate high opportunity, and anything above 15 is an extreme opportunity. This exercise indicates that, of the factors assessed, the County has a solid opportunity to improve several assets to improve public perception of and satisfaction with parks features. The largest opportunity lies in improving public perception of:

- County parks available for public use

Other features which indicate strong opportunity for improvement include:

- Ability to reserve camping spots or other County park amenities
- Opportunities to attend public events hosted by the County
- Availability of public water access points within the County

The scatter graph below shows the Importance and Satisfaction results. This shows clearly that the respondents considered all categories surveyed Important. The Opportunity Scores fall within the “Under Served” range, with the exception of “Availability of County sports fields,” which scored as “Appropriately Served,” with an Opportunity Score of less than 10.



Importance/Satisfaction Questions

Questions 11 & 12:

Which of the following benefits of parks, recreation and trails are most important to you?

(1 = Not important/5 = Very important)

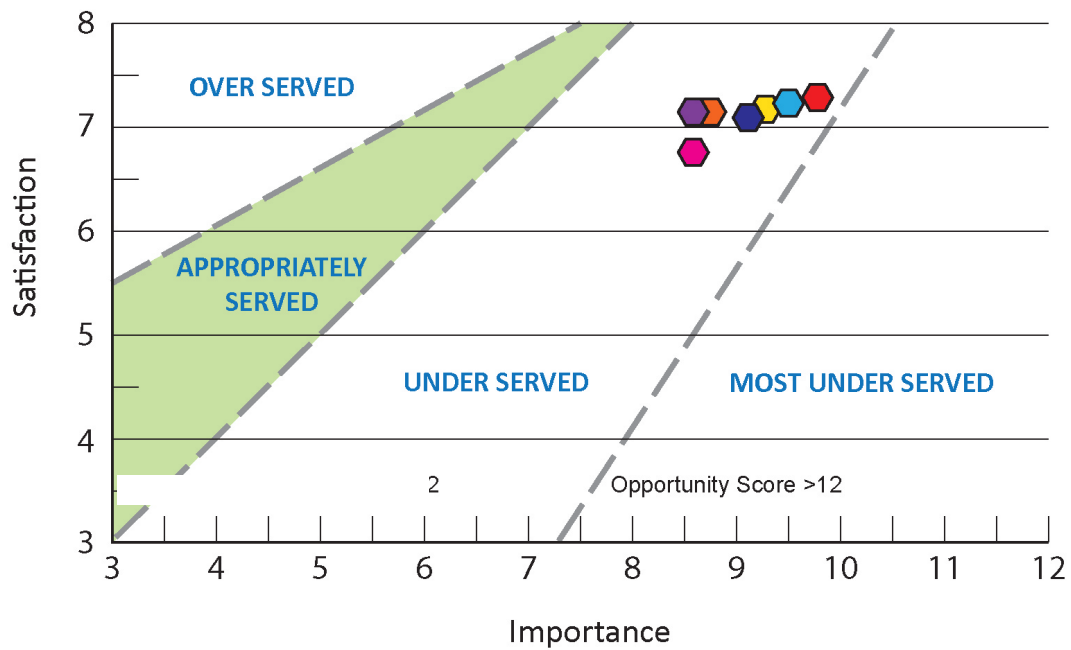
How satisfied are you with the way the County fulfills the following through its parks, recreation and trails options?

(1 = Dissatisfied/5 = Completely satisfied)

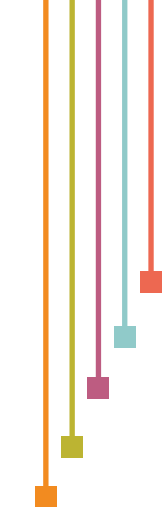
County Parks and Recreation Service Qualities	Importance	Satisfaction	Opportunity Score
Provide opportunities to enjoy nature/the outdoors	4.8	3.71	11.78
Improve fitness, health & wellness	4.33	3.52	10.28
Strengthen families, neighborhoods & community	4.62	3.58	11.32
Protect our natural environment	4.66	3.64	11.36
Support youth development	4.54	3.55	11.06
Provide venues for special events and social opportunities	4.25	3.53	9.94
Provide opportunities to learn new things	4.28	3.39	10.34

The Opportunity Scores from questions 11 and 12 were calculated using the same method as the previous importance/satisfaction questions (Importance and Satisfaction scores, which were here scored from 1-5, were multiplied by two to plot on the standard chart reflecting a 1-10 scoring method). The Opportunity Scores indicated that the public felt all qualities of County parks were important, and that the public is generally less satisfied with the way these qualities are fulfilled. No Opportunity Scores exceeded 12, the threshold for identifying a very underserved need with high opportunity for improvement.

The scatter graph below shows the Importance and Satisfaction results of the questions tested above. This shows clearly that all categories scored between a solid opportunity to high opportunity.



- Provide opportunities to enjoy nature/the outdoors
- Improve fitness, health and wellness
- Strengthen families, neighborhoods and community
- Protect our natural environment
- Support youth development
- Provide venues for special events and social opportunities
- Provide opportunities to learn new things



APPENDIX C
INVENTORY MATRIX

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INVENTORY MATRIX

APPENDIX C

Regional Parks

Parks and Recreation Service Features	Frank Raines Regional Park	La Grange Regional Park	Laird Regional Park	Modesto Reservoir Regional Park	Woodward Reservoir Regional Park
SIZE (ACRES)	3150.34	231.12	98.96	765.61	1068.83
Fees	Yes, vary	Yes, vary	No	Yes, vary	Yes, vary
Camping	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Boat Launch	No	No	No	2	3
Amphitheater	No	No	No	No	No
Recreation Center	Yes, available for rental	No	No	No	No
Restrooms	(4) Permanent (3) Portable	(1) Facility (1) Portable	(1) Portable	(14) Facilities (16) Portables	(38) Facilities (14) Portables
Swimming Pool	No	No	No	No	No
Water Play or Decorative Fountains	No	No	No	No	No
Historic/Cultural Features	(3) Plaques	No	No	No	No
Shade Shelters	(1) at OHV area	No	1	22	No
Concessions Building	No	No	No	1	(2) Stands
Sports Fields	No	No	(1) Soccer (1) Baseball	Archery	Model Airplane Area
Sports Courts	Horseshoes at OHV area	No	No	No	(2) Horseshoe Pits
Skate Park	No	No	No	No	No
Playground: 2-5 yr..	No	No	No	No	No
Playground: 5-12 yr..	(1) at Day-Use area	No	No	No	No
BBQs	(5) Day-Use (41) OHV	15	3	270	481
Drinking Fountains	No	No	No	1	No
Tables	(10) Day-Use (50+) OHV	28	18	282	529
Benches	(5) Day-Use (3) OHV	No	No	No	2
Trails	Yes, at OHV area	Yes	No	No	Used by Equestrians
Parking Lot Onsite	Yes, unpaved	Yes, unpaved	Yes, unpaved	Yes, paved and unpaved	Yes, paved and unpaved
Major Utilities Present Onsite	Water tank at OHV	No	(1) Water Tank (1) Pump	Dam, Wells, Bridge	Well Pump, Windmill
Access to Water Body	No	Mudflats	San Joaquin River	Modesto Reservoir	Woodward Reservoir

APPENDIX C

Neighborhood Parks

Parks and Recreation Service Features	Bellenita Park	Bonita Park and Pool	Bonita Ranch Park	Burbank - Paradise Hall & Park	Center 1 Courthouse Lawn Park	Countrystone Park	Empire Community Park & Pool	Empire Tot Lot
SIZE (ACRES)	20.86	1.02	11.99	0.73	0.7	7.82	6.15	0.16
Fees	No	No (pool currently closed)	No	No	No	No	Yes, for pool	No
Camping	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Boat Launch	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Amphitheater	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Recreation Center	No	No	No	Yes (PAL)	No	No	No	No
Restrooms	1	(1) in pool area - closed	No	(4) in Facility	No	(2) Portable	(1) in Facility	No
Swimming Pool	No	Yes (currently closed)	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Water Play or Decorative Fountains	No	No	No	No	Yes, (1) Fountain	No	Yes, water play feature	No
Historic/Cultural Features	(1) Plaque	No	No	No	Yes, (4)	No	(1) Plaque	No
Shade Shelters	No	No	No	No	No	2	1	No
Concessions Building	No	No	No	No	No	No	1	No
Sports Fields	(1) Baseball (1) Soccer	No	Multi-purpose field	No	No	(1) Backstop and ballfield	(1) Backstop and ballfield	No
Sports Courts	No	No	(1) Basketball	No	No	(1) Basketball	No	No
Skate Park	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Playground: 2-5 yr..	No	No	1	No	No	1	No	1
Playground: 5-12 yr..	No	No	1	No	No	1	1	No
BBQs	2	No	No	No	No	No	2	No
Drinking Fountains	1	No	1	No	No	2	3	1
Tables	4	4	4	3	Yes	13	6	3
Benches	1	No	1	No	Yes	3	15	No
Trails	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Parking Lot Onsite	No	Yes, paved	No	Yes, for PAL use	No	Yes, paved	Yes, paved	No
Major Utilities Present Onsite	No	Pool affiliated	Enclosed Structure	No	No	No	Detention Basin	No
Access to Water Body	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

Neighborhood Parks

Parks and Recreation Service Features	Empire Tot Lot	Fairview Park	Grayson United Park	Hatch Park - Keyes Center	Hunter's Pointe Park	John Murphy Park	Leroy F. Fitzsimmons Memorial Park
SIZE (ACRES)	0.16	4.66	4.93	5.0	2.51	4.24	0.52
Fees	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Camping	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Boat Launch	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Amphitheater	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Recreation Center	No	No	Yes	Yes, PAL	No	No	No
Restrooms	No	No	(1) in Facility	(1) in Facility	No	No	No
Swimming Pool	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Water Play or Decorative Fountains	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Historic/Cultural Features	No	No	No	No	No	Memorial Bench	Plaque
Shade Shelters	No	1	No	No	No	1	1
Concessions Building	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Sports Fields	No	(1) Backstop and ballfield	(1) Soccer	(1) Baseball	(1) Open Field	No	No
Sports Courts	No	(1) Basketball (1) Exercise area	(1.5) Basketball	No	No	(1) Basketball	(1) Basketball
Skate Park	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Playground: 2-5 yr..	1	No	1	No	1	1	No
Playground: 5-12 yr..	No	1	1	No	1	1	1
BBQs	No	6	2	No	1	No	No
Drinking Fountains	1	No	2	No	1	1	No
Tables	3	12	6	No	2	2	3
Benches	No	5	6	No	2	3	2
Trails	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Parking Lot Onsite	No	No	Yes, paved	Yes, unpaved	No	No	No
Major Utilities Present Onsite	No	No	No	(1) Pump	(1) Pump	(1) Pump Solar Panels adj.	No
Access to Water Body	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

APPENDIX C

Neighborhood Parks

Parks and Recreation Service Features	Mono Park	Oregon Park	Parklawn Park	Riverdale Park	Salida Park	Segesta Park	Sterling Ranch Park	Wincanton Park
SIZE (ACRES)	2.25	1.6	3.99	2.23	2.09	9.34	4.2	9.22
Fees	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Camping	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Boat Launch	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Amphitheater	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Recreation Center	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Restrooms	No	(1) Facility	(1) Facility	No	(1) Facility	(1) Facility	No	No
Swimming Pool	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Water Play or Decorative Fountains	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Historic/Cultural Features	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Shade Shelters	No	2	2	No	1	2	No	1
Concessions Building	No	No	No	No	1	No	No	No
Sports Fields	No	No	(1) Backstop and field	No	(1) Baseball Complex	No	No	(1) Soccer
Sports Courts	No	(1) Basketball	(1) Basketball	No	(2) Basketball	(1) Basketball (1) Sand Volleyball - disused	No	(1) Basketball
Skate Park	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Playground: 2-5 yr..	No	1	No	No	1	2	1	No
Playground: 5-12 yr..	No	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
BBQs	No	No	No	2	1	No	No	No
Drinking Fountains	No	3	2	1	No	3	1	1
Tables	10	7	13	7	8	4	3	9
Benches	No	2	3	1	2	1	6	1
Trails	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Parking Lot Onsite	Yes, unpaved	No	No	Yes, paved	Yes, paved	Yes, paved	No	No
Major Utilities Present Onsite	No	No	Fenced utility, Basin	Culvert, Pump	No	No	Basin	Well Pump
Access to Water Body	No	No	No	Tuolumne River	No	No	No	No

Special Interest Parks

Parks and Recreation Service Features	Basso Bridge River & Fishing Access	Fox Grove River & Fishing Access	J-59 Fishing Access	Joe Domecq Wildlife Area	Kiwanis Camp	Las Palmas River & Fishing Access	Shiloh River & Fishing Access	Tuolumne River Regional Park	Turlock Lake Fishing Access
SIZE (ACRES)	10.59	64.0	133.09	265.5	48.04	4.59	1.43	500	27.0
Fees	No	No	No	No	No (currently closed)	No	No	No	No
Camping	No	No	No	No	Yes (when open)	No	No	No	No
Boat Launch	1	Yes	No	No	No	1	No	Informal; funding secured for Modesto site	No
Amphitheater	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Recreation Center	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Restrooms	1	Yes	No	No	(1) Facility (3) Portables	No	No	Yes at varied locations	(1) Facility
Swimming Pool	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Water Play or Decorative Fountains	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Historic/Cultural Features	No	No	No	History and Wildlife Kiosk	Yes, (1)	No	No	No	No
Shade Shelters	No	No	No	No	1	No	No	Yes at varied locations	1
Concessions Building	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Sports Fields	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes, soccer field in Modesto	No
Sports Courts	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Skate Park	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Playground: 2-5 yr..	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes at varied locations	No
Playground: 5-12 yr..	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes at varied locations	No
BBQs	No	No	No	No	1	3	No	Yes at varied locations	2
Drinking Fountains	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes at varied locations	No
Tables	3	No	No	2	12	3	1	Yes at varied locations	5
Benches	No	No	No	No	No	4	No	Yes at varied locations	No
Trails	No	Yes, informal	Yes, informal	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes, paved and unpaved	No
Parking Lot Onsite	Yes, paved	Yes, paved	Yes, unpaved area	No	Yes, unpaved	Yes, unpaved	No	Yes, paved and unpaved	Yes, paved
Major Utilities Present Onsite	No	Yes, misc.	No	No	No	Fenced facility adj.	Bridge	Yes at varied locations	No
Access to Water Body	San Joaquin River	Tuolumne River	No	Marsh	No	San Joaquin River	Tuolumne River	Tuolumne River	Turlock Lake

Miscellaneous Parks

Parks and Recreation Service Features	Atlas Park	Hideaway Terrace Flood Control Basin	Old School North Flood Control Basin	Pauper's Field Citizens Cemetery	Stanislaus Recovery Center (SRC) Park	Suncrest Estates Flood Control Basin	Roberts Ferry Cemetery
SIZE (ACRES)	0.12	10.59	20.86	1.02	11.99	0.73	7.82
Fees	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Camping	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Boat Launch	No	1	No	No	No	No	No
Amphitheater	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Recreation Center	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Restrooms	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Swimming Pool	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Water Play or Decorative Fountains	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Historic/Cultural Features	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Shade Shelters	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Concessions Building	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Sports Fields	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Sports Courts	No	No	No	No	(1) Basketball (1) Volleyball	No	No
Skate Park	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Playground: 2-5 yr..	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Playground: 5-12 yr..	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
BBQs	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Drinking Fountains	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Tables	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Benches	1	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Trails	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Parking Lot Onsite	No	No	No	No	Yes, associated with facility	No	Yes, unpaved area
Major Utilities Present Onsite	No	Yes, drainage	Yes, drainage	No	No	Yes, drainage	No
Access to Water Body	No	No	No	No	No	No	No