

City of Vacaville

COMPREHENSIVE PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

CITY OF VACAVILLE

Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan

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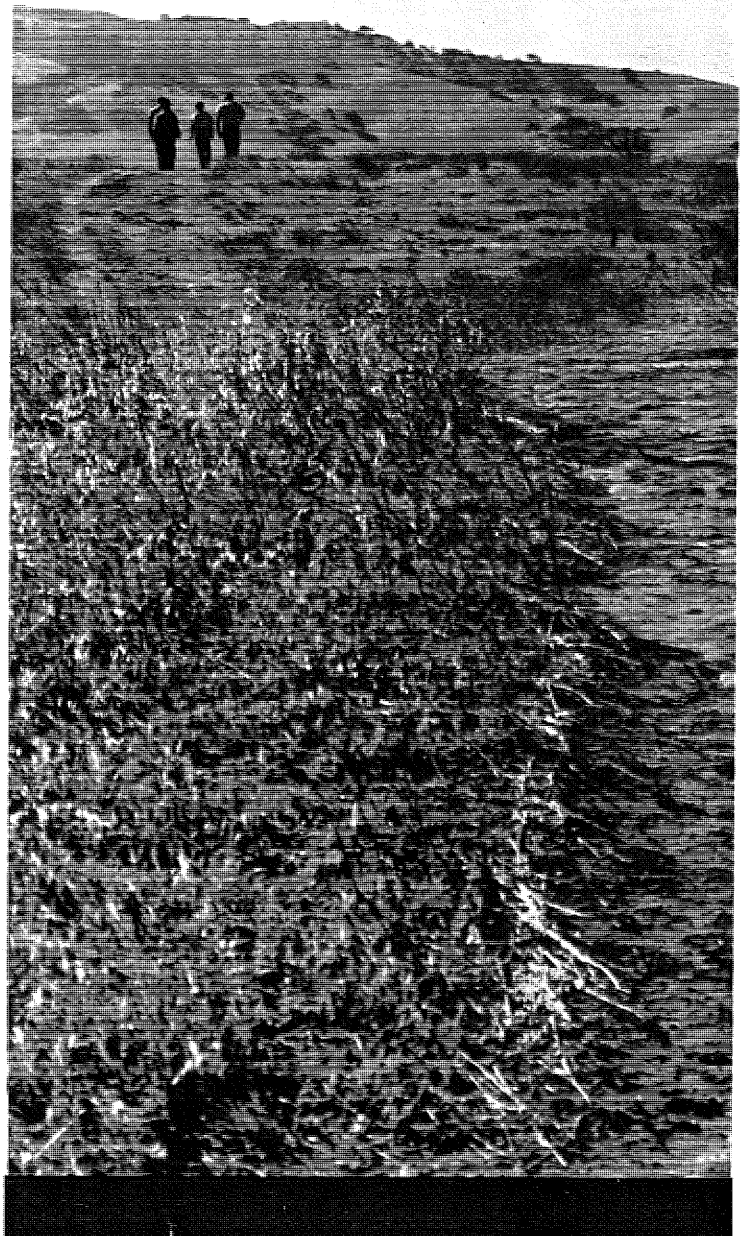
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Executive Summary

Introduction

Cities are known and remembered for the quality of their parks and open space system. For Vacaville, this system already includes many parks with attractive landscaping and challenging recreation facilities, along with open space areas, such as rolling hills and creeks, that connect residents to the more natural environment.

Over the past twenty years, the City has experienced tremendous growth, greatly impacting the provision of parks and recreation facilities. This trend is expected to continue as Vacaville's current household population of 63,889 (April 1, 1990 Federal Census) is projected to grow to 114,000 by the year 2010, an 81 percent population increase. The City recognizes the challenge to enhance existing parks and to commit efforts toward continuing this quality park system for future generations.

The purpose of the *Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* is to guide the orderly development of parks, recreation facilities, open space areas, and recreation programs in order to meet existing and projected needs and to assure an equitable distribution of parks throughout the City. The *Master Plan* will serve as a flexible and long-range planning document.

The *Master Plan* process included:

- Identifying deficiencies in existing parks and recreation facilities.
- Assessing community demand with workshops, and a citywide and youth survey.
- Determining existing and future needs for parks and recreation facilities.
- Analyzing opportunities for open space and trails.
- Establishing policies necessary to implement the *Master Plan*.
- Developing a physical plan showing existing and proposed parks with recommended recreation facilities.
- Recommending design guidelines for trails and bikeways.
- Developing an action plan with priorities, estimated costs, and funding alternatives.

City Setting

The City's General Plan (adopted August 1990), discussed in Chapter 3, provides the framework for developing this *Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*. Those elements relevant to this plan include Land Use (community form, open space),

Open Space (urban open space), Parks and Recreation (parks and trails), and Circulation (bikeways).

In 1990/1991 the City of Vacaville, through the Community Services Department, owns and operates nearly 731 acres of parkland. The City and local school districts have co-developed school properties, providing additional play fields and ball courts to serve active recreation needs. Vacaville residents also enjoy the Lagoon Valley Regional Park operated by Solano County. The City owns and maintains:

- 11 Neighborhood Parks ranging in size from 2-10 acres.
- 8 Neighborhood School Parks with 2 sites planned in the near future.
- 7 Community Parks ranging in size from 12-74 acres.
- 6 Recreation Centers (after-school, gymnasium, senior and community centers).
- 930 acres of Urban Open Space, including multi-purpose trails and bike rest areas.
- 1,000 acres of potential greenbelt, and 330 acres of currently owned greenbelt.

Existing Park and Recreation Facilities

In September 1990, the Planning Team visited existing park and recreation facilities in the City of Vacaville as summarized in Chapter 4. The general impression was that of a well-conceived park system, thoughtfully conceived design, with quality materials maintained to the highest standard. In evaluating the existing facilities some general recommendations apply to the entire park system:

- Use drought tolerant plant materials where possible.
- Reinststate native plant materials where appropriate.
- Avoid over-reliance on irrigated turf.
- Rehabilitate older parks.
- Formulate and enforce maintenance standards.
- Create and implement a standardized signage system.
- Comply with state and federal law on facility and play equipment accessibility.

Opportunities and Constraints

In evaluating existing conditions, several opportunities and constraints become apparent as discussed in Chapter 5. Opportunities include views to be enhanced, well sites to be used as community gardens, creekways for use as trails, hillsides as open space, transmission easements and railroad corridors as multipurpose paths. These opportunities are of such importance that they are addressed as policies in the City's General Plan. Constraints include the freeways bisecting the City and the Putah Canal acting as a barrier to public

access. Maximizing these opportunities and mitigating constraints will develop a cohesive parks and open space system.

Recreation Demand

The *Master Plan* identifies existing demand and needs in parks, recreation facilities and programs to determine existing and future needs. Five different components comprise this recreation demand profile:

- Population statistics showing growth and demographic characteristics.
- Surveys to determine recreation needs as expressed by the community and youth.
- Needs as expressed by the community at workshops and City staff.
- Current participation use levels at recreation facilities.
- Recreation standards to gauge need for additional facilities.

Population statistics can suggest demographic characteristics to develop a recreation user profile as discussed in Chapter 6. In terms of revealed demand or actual day-to-day use the highest volume of use comes from children under 18 years of age. In the future, the adult parks and recreation users will be highly skilled or professional workers with 60 percent working in or near the City of Vacaville. As adults, they will demand the opportunity to bicycle, exercise walk, jog and swim. As parents, they will demand opportunities for youth activities in neighborhood and community parks. The population will be aging over the next twenty years, increasing the median age and creating a higher demand for passive, less intensive recreation pursuits.

In assessing current demand, the Planning Team conducted a City staff workshop early in November 1990, three community workshops late in the fall, and a fourth community workshop in May 1991. The workshops provided everyone with the opportunity to identify key programs needs and goals, to recommend changes to existing recreation programs, and to express community needs and desires for parks and recreation facilities.

The *Master Plan* included two surveys: a youth survey of 146 teenagers to identify the park and recreation needs of Vacaville youth, and a community-wide public opinion telephone survey of 300 randomly selected Vacaville households. The survey results show a need to provide youth with more places and activities for recreation, a desire for more places to walk, run and bicycle, and a concern for facilities protection and maintenance.

In Chapter 7, an analysis of Recreation Programs assesses the availability of organized recreation activities and events in the community. Vacaville offers about 175 different recreation programs throughout the year, with approximately 44,000 people participating each year. In certain areas, the current quantity and variety of programs appear to be adequate. The availability of these programs should increase with the population growth over the next two decades. In other areas, existing demands are clearly unmet and future

demands will be even greater. Most of the programming priorities have implications for recreation facility development, such as multipurpose trails, swimming pools and basketball courts, that would be needed to accommodate identified program requirements.

An analysis of Recreation Facilities (Chapter 8) inventories existing facilities and compares the facility inventory with City of Vacaville Standards. Based on the inventory and analysis of existing and planned recreation facilities, level of service ratios are proposed and future recreation facilities are recommended. According to city standards, Vacaville has needs in various recreation facilities. The most pressing recreation needs are for an additional swimming pool, gym, community center, a space for youth, basketball courts, neighborhood centers and another senior center.

Master Plan

In relation to parks, recreation and open space, the Vacaville General Plan specifies numerous Guiding Policies and Implementing Policies within the following elements: Open Space, Parks and Recreation, and Transportation. A primary guiding policy as stated in the General Plan is to: Develop a high-quality public park system that provides varied recreational opportunities accessible to all City residents. Using these policies as a framework, the *Master Plan* recommends additional implementing policies to direct the overall program of the Plan (Chapter 9). The policies respond to those issues identified by the public, City staff, and from Vacaville's recreation standards.

The *Master Plan* discusses the Development Program (Chapter 10) along with two maps showing Existing and Proposed Parks, and Recreation Facilities. Highlights of the *Master Plan* include:

- Improvements to existing Neighborhood and Community Parks.
- A City Park to serve the entire City population as a centerpiece and outdoor recreational complex.
- Two new Community Parks at 20-25 acres each.
- New Neighborhood Parks and Neighborhood School Parks between 6-9 acres located within one-half mile of the park service area
- Working with the County to pursue Lagoon Valley Park as a regional facility with urban recreation amenities.
- Developing a network of trails and bikeways to connect neighborhoods, parks, schools and other public facilities.
- Enhancing the visual character of Vacaville and providing opportunities for more passive recreation activities by acquiring specific Urban Open Space areas.

Chapter 11, *Implementation*, discusses priorities for implementation of the *Master Plan* and funding. In making recommendations for recreation facilities for the next 20 years, the City

must evaluate the need to improve existing park facilities or develop existing park sites in relation to acquiring additional land for park development, urban open space or trails. Discussions with staff, site visits, and public input indicate the immediate need to improve several existing parks. The City has also developed or approved plans for several park sites with approved budgets for the 1991-1992 or 1992-1993 fiscal year. Priorities for the development of new recreation facilities can be determined from the surveys, the series of workshops, the population projections, and both the Programs and Recreation Facilities Analyses. The first nine facilities are listed in order of priority:

1. Baseball/Softball Fields
2. Swimming Pool
3. Neighborhood Centers
4. Tennis Courts
5. Football/Soccer Fields (Multi-purpose)
6. Senior Center
7. Gymnasiums
8. Basketball Courts
9. Community Centers

Funding the *Master Plan* will depend on foresight and the ability to design flexible financing systems to provide necessary revenues over time. In general, funding parks and recreation facilities and programs blends development impact fees, general fund contributions, and some defrayment for program costs by direct end users. The General Plan clearly states an intent to link facilities and their support as closely as possible to users. Thus, neighborhood parks are the responsibility of the neighborhoods, and community parks are the responsibility of the community as a whole. The regulations stated in Assembly Bill 1600 also require that a nexus be shown between proposed new facilities and new residential development. These new residential developments will be responsible for the cost of new neighborhood and community parks. They also will be responsible for portions of specific community facilities (i.e., senior center, City Park) that their development impacts. The City Council has approved a park and recreation fee study that details all proposed facility unit costs and the necessary development fee to support those facilities. The fee is based on facility unit costs and the projected 2010 population. The fee will be reviewed annually to determine if adjustments are needed to reflect changes in unit costs. The timing of construction of the proposed facilities is both population- and need- driven. Other funding sources such as grants, gifts, general fund, etc., will be actively sought to support those proposed facilities that are not covered by development fees.

Ongoing maintenance of facilities, either capital or land, is critical to their use potential and to containing costs into the future. Costs are ongoing and tend to escalate over time as facilities age or use is intensified. Maintenance is often a target for deferred funding in times of rising municipal costs and diminishing revenues, making it a particularly sensitive budget item. Maintenance costs are discussed for Neighborhood and Community Park facilities, and for Open Space areas.

Conclusion

The Vacaville *Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* will not be implemented all at once. This document will serve as a planning tool or guide for future planning decisions. Specific actions and commitments can assure that in the future the entire system will be developed by: improving certain existing parks; implementing budgeted park improvements; protecting proposed park sites, trail or bikeway linkages, and designated open space areas; acquiring priority park sites; involving future public and private projects; taking full advantage of available funding opportunities; periodically assessing or soliciting public opinion; and updating the *Master Plan* every five years. In this respect, this *Master Plan* is only the beginning in a process of working toward these goals.

INTRODUCTION



Introduction

Project Description

Vacaville's current population of 63,889 (April 1, 1990 Federal Census) is expected to grow to 114,000, an 81 percent population increase, by the year 2010, placing great demand on parks, recreation and open space. At present, the City has 232 acres of developed parks, an almost equal acreage of undeveloped park sites, and 443 acres of open space. But even with this seeming wealth of parkland, existing facilities appear inadequate to meet the present population and with the anticipated 63 percent increase over the next 20 years to approximately 108,000, this demand will be even greater.* A few examples of this pressure on existing facilities include:

- City group picnic facilities at Peña Adobe, Andrews Park and City Hall are booked 12 months in advance.
- The City has 250 adult softball teams.
- Little League had a waiting list this past summer.
- On some summer days children line up waiting to swim at the Community Pool.

In 1990, in conjunction with the General Plan update, the City adopted a revised Park and Recreation Element recommending additional park and open space acquisition, trails and bikeways. In addition, the Element recommends preparing a Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.

In implementing the recommendations of the General Plan, The City of Vacaville Community Services Department worked with a consultant team to prepare a *Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*.

Purpose

The purpose of the *Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* is to guide the orderly development of parks, recreation facilities, open space areas, and recreation programs in order to meet existing and projected needs and to assure an equitable distribution of parks throughout the City. The *Master Plan* will serve as a flexible and long range planning document.

*Note: The total City population on April 1, 1990 was 71,479; however, this figure includes inmates at the California Medical Facility (CMF). Therefore, this report bases its population figures and projections on household population, consistent with the General Plan.

The *Master Plan* includes:

- *Data Analysis*: What resources does the City have? What do City residents want for their park system?
- *Policy*: What does the City want to do to meet existing and projected needs?
- *Implementation*: What actions will the City take to accomplish what it wants to do?

Section I, *Background Information*, addresses the following: deficiencies in existing parks and recreation facilities; community demand with demographic analysis, workshops, and surveys; existing and projected demand for parks, recreation facilities and programs; and recreation facility standards. Section II, *Master Plan*, outlines: clear policies for parks, open space, trails and bikeways; a development program to upgrade existing facilities, provide new facilities, open space and trail/bikeway connections; and an implementation program with facility priorities, estimated costs and funding alternatives.

The public played a vital role in this planning process through a series of public workshops, a community and youth survey, and ongoing telephone calls and correspondence.

The Planning Process

A preliminary aspect of the planning process identified existing deficiencies in parks, recreation facilities and programs and correlated this information to existing community demand in order to determine existing and future demand.

The *Master Plan* process began with a *Facilities Evaluation* to assess existing City parks, trails and open space areas. On-site reconnaissance work confirmed the condition of existing facilities, replacement needs and accessibility. Interviews with the Community Services Department staff, along with other departments, offered special insight into the adequacy of existing facilities and at the same time provided an opportunity to discuss facilities needed to accommodate new recreation programs. This *Resource Analysis* phase included meetings with Vacaville Community Services and Planning staff, local school districts, City of Fairfield Planning staff, and Solano County Planning and Parks staff.

The *Demand Analysis* included a series of public workshops, a demographic profile of the City, a youth survey and a citizen's survey to determine the need for recreational facilities both for the present population and for anticipated growth. A *Recreation Programs* report identifies recreation programs, the age group and number of people served, expressed needs, trends effecting program demand, and recommended future programs. A *Recreation Facilities* report inventoried existing facilities, selected similar communities with expressed community needs, and recommended facility standards for Vacaville. As an example, accounting for current use and projecting demand to the year 2010, the report recommended that Vacaville plan for one additional City swimming pool.

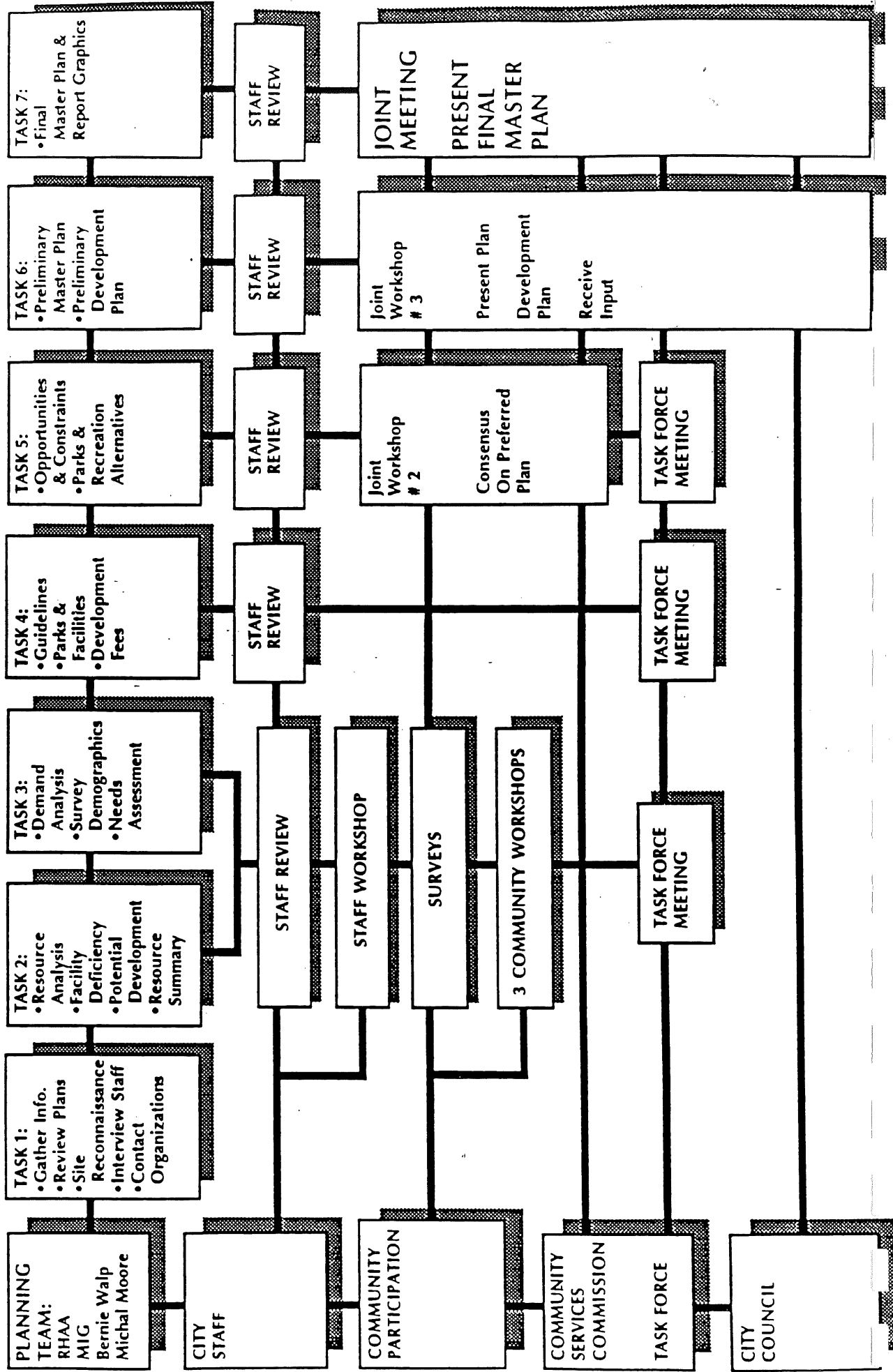
Opportunities and Constraints documented the condition of existing facilities, the opportunities for new parks or facilities (e.g., use abandoned railroad rights-of-way for trails), constraints (e.g., I-80 restricting public access to park sites), and the needs of the community in order to develop *Park and Recreation Alternatives*.

The resulting *Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* has two components: a physical plan and supporting implementation strategies. The Plan shows existing and proposed parks and open space areas within Vacaville along with proposed connections to adjacent jurisdictions. The supporting text enables the City to implement the Plan by providing background information, documenting the resource and demand assessments, describing the parks and open space system, discussing standards for recreation facilities, outlining a series of policies, specifying priority facility projects and specifying funding levels for each proposed facility.

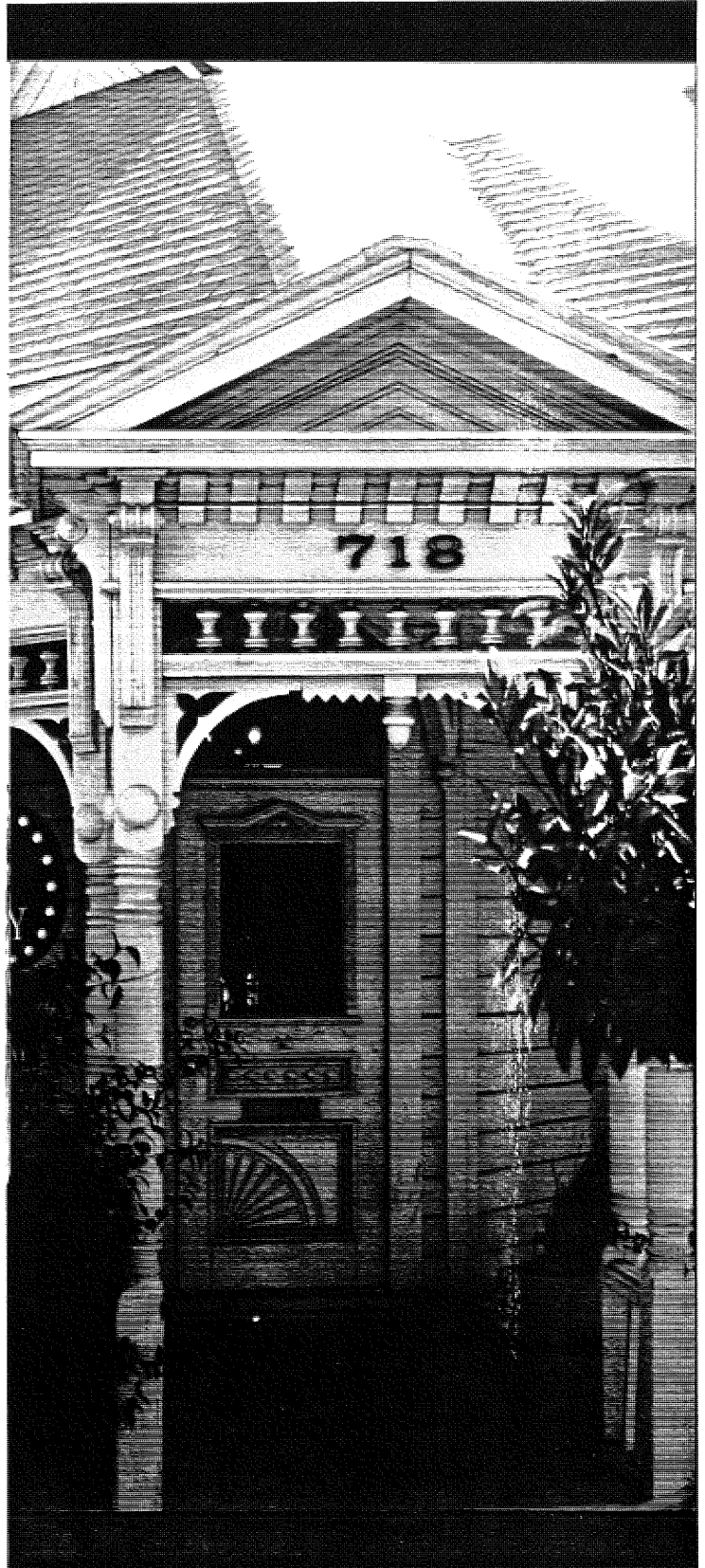
In following through with this *Master Plan*, the Community Services Department should work with the Community Development Department to coordinate this Plan with the adopted General Plan, recommend improvements to existing parks, and designate new park sites. The departments should work together to revise other related Elements like Open Space, Land Use and Circulation to assure that the General Plan is internally consistent. Recommendations for each park site will require more detailed planning efforts to enlist public input, develop a specific park plan, and make appropriate decisions on funding.

The Parks *Master Plan* was prepared with the guidance and assistance of the Community Services Commission and an Advisory Task Force. The Task Force was composed of four members of the Community Services Commission and representatives of the Community Services Department. The Task Force monitored the work program, assisted in developing policies and appropriate standards, contributed to formulating a park system concept, and provided guidance and leadership in developing the completed plan. The Community Services Staff contributed to preparing the *Master Plan* with continual assistance, cooperation and supervision. Their knowledge of day-to-day operations of existing facilities and their understanding of the community were invaluable resources.

VACAVILLE PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLANNING PROCESS



CITY SETTING



City Setting

The City of Vacaville is located in northern Solano County northeast of Fairfield along I-80. Ridges, hillsides, agricultural valleys, and free-flowing creeks characterize the natural setting of the City. In the transition from small agricultural community to a suburban city in a major transportation corridor, the City has recognized the value of preserving open space, both hillsides and farming areas, to define city borders. The Vaca Mountains, Alamo Creek Ridge, and the English Hills along the western borders of the City provide a backdrop for views from almost anywhere in Vacaville and contribute to the rural character of the City. Alamo Creek and Ulatis Creek, along with other creeks and associated riparian corridors, represent other valuable visual assets.

Development patterns in the City have been restricted to those areas below 25 percent slope. Within these developed areas, the creeks are the only natural areas remaining and provide important wildlife habitat and open space values. Commercial areas dominate along I-80, with the residential uses in the outlying areas, primarily single-family housing.

Vacaville General Plan (1990)

The City's General Plan provides the framework for developing this *Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*. Vacaville adopted an updated General Plan in August 1990, with policies for land use, circulation, community facilities, and environmental resource management. Striking a balance between industrial, commercial and residential use, community identity, traffic, parks and open space are the leading development issues. The General Plan format addresses each of these issues by establishing Guiding Policies that state the City's philosophy and Implementing Policies that represent its commitment to action. Those elements relevant to this plan include *Land Use* (community form, open space), *Open Space* (urban open space), *Parks and Recreation* (parks and trails), and *Circulation* (bikeways).

The *Land Use Element* recognizes the value of surrounding hillsides and ridges in establishing an image for Vacaville along with establishing natural boundaries along the western edge. Creeks and associated riparian areas represent valuable natural habitat within the more developed areas of the City. With this in mind, this Element establishes guiding policies to:

- Maintain Vacaville as a freestanding community surrounded by foothills, farmland and other open space.
- Retain ridgelines and hillsides of 25 percent and greater as open space.
- Establish open space linkages by preserving habitat areas, including natural creek corridors. Use utility easements where possible as open space linkages.

- Preserve scenic features and the feel of a city surrounded by open space, and preserve view corridors to the hills and other significant natural areas.

A series of Implementing Policies outline strategies to achieve the above policies. One of these policies states an intent to make open space more accessible with a linked park, trail and open space system, thus setting the framework for developing this *Comprehensive Master Plan*.

The *Open Space Element* addresses four types of open space lands: Open Space for the Preservation of Natural Resources, Open Space for the Managed Production of Resources, Open Space for Outdoor Recreation, and Open Space for Public Health and Safety.

1. Areas qualifying for natural resource protection include oak woodlands, wildlife habitat, creeks, scenic hillsides, riparian habitat, and productive agricultural acreage. The adopted General Plan defines specific limits for urban services and thus protects open space for preservation of remaining natural resources.
2. Agricultural lands in Upper Vaca Valley and east of Leisure Town Road represent open space for the maintenance of agricultural production. The City is committed to maintaining viable agricultural areas and establishes a specific agricultural service zone.
3. The General Plan plans for a system of parks, trails and open space to serve existing residential need and to provide a framework for future development. Open space areas along creeks and in the foothills can be utilized for passive recreation, walking, jogging and hiking.
4. Areas deemed hazardous or potentially hazardous include slopes susceptible to landslides, creek beds with flooding potential, areas with extreme fire hazard, and restricted areas within designated air flight zones. For public health and safety these lands have been designated open space.

The Parks and Recreation Element recognizes the value of parks and recreation facilities in contributing to the quality of life, creating green spaces, providing places for children to play, creating a staging area for civic functions, preserving places for relaxation, and preserving natural landscape features.

The Element inventories existing parks and recreation facilities and for proposed parks recommends standards for distribution, size and service area (radius drawn around a neighborhood or community park). The standard establishes a citywide standard of five acres of public park per 1,000 residents of population, distributed as shown in the table on the following page.

Using the population forecast of 114,000 projected residents by the year 2010, Vacaville will require 60 additional acres of new neighborhood parks, 50 acres of community parks, and

Public Park	Distribution	Size	Service Area
Neighborhood Park	1.8 acres/1,000	6-9 acres	.5 miles
Community Park	1.7 acres/1,000	10-40 acres	1.0-2.0 miles
City Park	1 acre/1,000	138 acres	Central to all areas
Total	4.5 acres/1,000		

Note:

The ultimate total parks acreage will be a function of total population of the City and the established Citywide standard for parkland area of 4.5 acres/1000 people. All new parks, however, shall meet the minimum park size standards.

100+ acres of City Park. Ten new Neighborhood Parks are distributed throughout the City with some in combination with new elementary schools. Two (2) new Community Parks (50 acres) are located at "gateway" locations to the City: Hawkins (in the vicinity of Elmira and Leisure Town Road) and Laguna Hills (along I-80 and Laguna Creek). The General Plan designates 100 or more acres as City Park land on open space lands on both sides of Browns Valley Parkway near Nut Tree Airport to serve as a community centerpiece and large open space near the center of the City.

The *Parks and Recreation Element* also addresses Urban Open Space and Trails. As discussed above Urban Open Space is acquired and maintained by the Community Services Department as part of its parks inventory. In addition to the existing inventory of 313 acres, the General Plan proposes other areas for acquisition within or adjacent to new development, on hillsides or along creek corridors which provide habitat and establish urban edges.

A Trails System is proposed to link neighborhoods to recreational resources with bikeways, hiking trails and equestrian paths. The proposed trails include: hiking/equestrian, multipurpose, creekway, riparian preserves, and trailheads.

The Park and Recreation Policies, both Guiding Policies and Implementing Policies, are discussed in detail in Chapter 9 in conjunction with recommended policies to implement the proposed *Parks Master Plan*.

The *Transportation Element* addresses major roadway improvements including the provision of bikeways. Recognizing the attractiveness of the relatively flat areas of the City for bicycle riding, the General Plan designates bikeway routes to expand previously adopted bikeways.

The three designated bikeway types are bicycle paths, bicycle lanes and bicycle routes. New off-street bicycle paths are proposed for:

- Lower Lagoon Valley
- Sacramento Northern right of way from California Drive to I-80
- Uncompleted sections of Alamo and Ulatis creekways
- Elmira Road from Leisure Town Road to Depot Street
- Vaca Valley Parkway and the Akerly loop
- Allison Drive from Browns Valley Parkway to Elmira Road

The Guiding and Implementing Policies for bikeways are discussed in detail in Chapter 9, with recommended policies to implement the proposed Parks *Master Plan*.

Vacaville Parks

In 1992/93 the City of Vacaville, through the Community Services Department, owns and operates nearly 1,173 acres of park and open space, of which 232 acres are currently developed. Undeveloped park sites amount to 215 acres and the balance, 930 acres, being open space. The City and local school districts have co-developed school properties, providing additional playfields and ball courts to serve the active recreation needs of the community as discussed below.

The Vacaville General Plan (1990) classifies these park and recreation facilities into five categories:

Neighborhood Park: A park or playground developed primarily to serve the recreation needs of a small portion of the City, serving a residential area within one-half mile of the park. Park facilities are usually oriented toward the recreation needs of children.

Neighborhood School Park: A park or playground built adjacent to but separate from an elementary school. These parks provide open space for the residential area within a one-half mile service area of the park, as well as for the adjacent school.

Community Parks: A park designed to serve a portion of the City's population living within a 1- to 2.0-mile service radius. These parks provide facilities such as lighted ballfields, areas and buildings for civic events, and organized sports and athletics.

City Park: A 138-acre park designed to serve the entire City with large specific-use areas and with active recreation facilities. The park may include:

- Soccer fields
- Baseball/softball
- 50-meter swimming pool

- Football field
- Golf course (18 hole)
- Group picnic facilities
- Community playground
- Gymnasium
- Senior center
- Croquet
- Model airplane field

Its location is to be accessible and central to the entire City.

Recreation Centers: Specialized centers providing recreation programs and facilities to meet the needs of a certain population sector. These centers are located in buildings operated or under contract to the Community Services Department.

Urban Open Space: Land parcels owned by the City of Vacaville and intended for maintenance or preservation in a natural or less intensively developed state. Included are areas of scenic significance, hazardous lands, public utility rights of way acquired for recreational use, and sections of the proposed Trails System.

The City owns and maintains twelve neighborhood parks ranging in size from two to ten acres, with one park budgeted for construction during 1991-1992, and another site designated as a *turnkey park*¹ scheduled for construction upon completion of the surrounding subdivision.

- Pheasant Country Park
- Fairmont Beelard Park
- Trower Park
- North Orchard Park
- Alamo Creek Park
- Dos Calles Padan Park
- Hawkins Park
- Patwin Park
- Willows Park
- Meadowlands Park
- City Hall Park
- Southwood Park
- Ridgeview Park (undeveloped turnkey park)

¹A park that is the result of a park dedication agreement between the City and a developer. The developer plans and constructs the park according to City Standards and then transfers the park to City maintenance.

In the developed areas of Vacaville, neighborhood park needs are also met at neighborhood school parks, operated and maintained through joint use agreements with the local school district. At present, there are nine such neighborhood school parks with another two sites planned for development in the near future:

- Irene Larsen Ball Diamonds
- Alamo School Park
- Cambridge School Park
- Sierra Vista School Park
- Fairmont School Park
- Hemlock School Park
- Willis Jepson Softball
- Cooper School Park
- Boulder Valley Park Site (undeveloped)
- Meadowlands Park
- Foxboro Villages Park Site (undeveloped)

The City currently owns and maintains seven Community Parks ranging in size from 12-74 acres, with an additional park budgeted for 1991-1992. The 25-acre Cultural Center (under construction) is also considered to be a Community Park and will have a 500-seat theater, meeting rooms, library and community center.

- Pena Adobe
- William Keating Park
- Eleanor Nelson Park
- Andrews/Ulatis Park
- Community Center Park
- John Arlington Park (under construction)
- Allison Park (under construction)
- Cultural Center (under construction)
- Laguna Hills Park (undeveloped)

The City operates nine Recreation Centers, including six centers with after school programs, a senior center, a gymnasium and a Community Center with programs for all ages.

- Community Center
- John A. McBride Senior Center
- Georgie Duke Athletic Center
- Trower Neighborhood Center
- Cambridge Neighborhood Center
- Fairmont Neighborhood Center
- Boulder Valley Neighborhood Center
- Meadowlands Park Neighborhood Center
- Alamo School Neighborhood Center

The Vacaville General Plan (1990) designates four different types of open space: Greenbelt Buffers, Agriculture/Open Space, Community Separator Overlays and Urban Open Space. Urban Open Space is distinguished from other open space lands in that the former is acquired and maintained by the Community Services Department as part of its parks inventory. Acquiring open space parcels of land enables the City to preserve the features of its natural setting. In 1992, the City of Vacaville owned and maintained 930 acres of Urban Open Space including open land, trails and bike rest areas.

- Pena Adobe
- Alamo Terrace
- Hidden Valley
- "Old Rocky"
- Glen Eagle
- Boulder Valley
- Allison
- Woodcrest
- Bike Trails
- Creekside Bike Rest
- North Orchard Bike Rest
- Wellsite Bike Rest #1
- Wellsite Bike Rest #2
- Laguna Hills
- Lagoon Valley

Solano County

The 300-acre Lagoon Valley Regional Park is a Solano County park located within the City of Vacaville and owned by the City. The park is not considered part of the neighborhood and community park system. At present, programs, operation, maintenance, planning and development are the responsibility of Solano County. The County's goals for the park are to develop regional uses related to the lake, including boating, sailing, group and individual picnicking, fishing, and festivals or other special events.

In 1991, the City prepared a *Lower Lagoon Valley (West Valley South) Policy Plan*. As established by the 1990 General Plan and related zoning regulations, a policy plan is a comprehensive master plan for a large area and includes development standards, public infrastructure improvements, and implementation strategies. The development plan for the 2,190-acre Lower Lagoon Valley proposes a mix of regional and local-serving uses including retail, office or business parks, residential neighborhoods, regional and neighborhood parks and private recreation facilities. With the exception of a multi-use trail system, no development is proposed for the 930 acres of hillside open space framing the valley.

Lagoon Valley Regional Park occupies approximately 300 acres in the north end of the planning area, including the 100-acre lake. Enhancing Lagoon Valley Regional Park is a key element of the land use concept that provides for a range of active and passive recreational uses, including greater access to the open space for residents and workers within the valley, as well as for the regional population. Plans for the Regional Park area include redeveloping the shoreline and providing additional park facilities and amenities such as an amphitheater, expanded circulation and parking area, and areas for park-related concessions. Approximately 993 acres of open space are also included in the plan for Lower Lagoon Valley, encompassing 930 acres of hillsides and the entire east and south edges of the valley. The open space would contain trailheads at the Regional Park and other strategic locations around the area of development.

Vacaville Schools

The City of Vacaville is served by four school districts: Vacaville Unified School District (VUSD), Travis Unified School District (TUSD), Dixon Unified School District (DUSD), and the Solano County Office of Education. A small portion of the City's Planning Area, located in the Lower Lagoon Valley, falls within the jurisdiction of the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District (FSUSD). These school facilities, including buildings and play areas, provide public meeting space and recreation facilities that augment the City's parks and recreation facilities.

The public school system offers substantial recreational resource opportunities for City residents. The City's Neighborhood Parks, in conjunction with elementary schools, fulfill a neighborhood's primary recreational needs. The neighborhood school sites are typically within walking distance for most neighborhood residents, and are intended for intensive active recreational activities such as field sports, court games and playground activities. Middle and high schools are generally larger in size than elementary schools. Facilities for organized team sports and active recreation such as gymnasiums, swimming pools, athletic fields and tennis courts are sited at middle and high schools.

Vacaville Unified School District: The VUSD operates ten elementary schools, two junior high schools, and two standard high schools. The District also operates one continuation high school, Country High. The district plans to open two new elementary schools: Browns Valley (September 1991) and Cooper (September 1991).

Travis Unified School District: The TUSD operates one elementary school, Cambridge, within City boundaries.

Dixon Unified School District: In 1990, an estimated 50-55 students from the City of Vacaville attended Dixon Schools. No District schools are located within the Planning Area.

Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District: In 1990, 18 Vacaville school children were reported attending FSUSD schools. No District schools are located within the Planning Area.

Solano County Office of Education (SCDE): One elementary school is operated by the SCDE for children with multiple disabilities.

Each of these districts anticipates increased enrollment with an accompanying need for new schools. The General Plan (1990) forecasts demand for eleven new schools within the Planning Area. All schools would be located within the Vacaville Unified and Travis Unified school districts.

In an effort to take advantage of the public school recreation facilities and their geographic distribution for public use, and to help reduce development and maintenance costs through shared facilities, the City of Vacaville has entered into joint development and joint use agreements with the Vacaville Unified and Travis Unified School Districts.

The City has pursued Joint Development for the following school facilities:

- *Sierra Vista School Park.* The City designed and constructed a portion of the park on school property.
- *Cambridge School Park.* The Travis School District landscaped the school playfields to match up to the City Park. The District allows practice backstops for Little League and Recreation Leagues on school property.
- *Alamo School Park.* The City designed and constructed the park playground, tree layout, the after-school center, the turf playfield, and practice backstops.
- *Fairmont School Park.* The City designed and constructed the playground, the after school center, and practice backstops on school property.
- *Markham School Park.* The City designed and installed the playground (which has since been removed) and practice backstops on the school property.
- *Elm School.* The school built the playground that is not fenced and is used by the neighborhood. Practice backstops were constructed on school property.
- *Hemlock School.* The school developed an unfenced playground used by the neighborhood. Backstop and bleachers were installed on school property for Bobby Sox softball use.
- *Sports Center Parking Lot.* The school district allowed public parking in the District lot adjacent to the new Georgie Duke Center in exchange for the City repairing and resurfacing the lot.
- *Vaca High Tennis Courts.* The City designed and is reconstructing the 8 existing courts.
- *Irene Larsen Ballfields.* The City designed and constructed the Youth ballfields and parking lot on County School property.
- *Jepson Junior High School.* The City installed softball field and lights on school property. The City uses the facility on weekends and nights.
- *Orchard School.* The City installed practice backstops.

The City has Joint Use Agreements to use the following school facilities for various City recreation programs:

- *Vaca High School* - Youth Basketball, Youth Track Meets, Adult Basketball, Adult Volleyball, Aquatic Programs, Tennis Courts
- *Jepson Junior High School* - Youth Basketball, Girls Softball, T-Ball Baseball, Adult Basketball, Adult Volleyball, Dog Obedience Class, Handicap Programs
- *Wood High School* - Youth Basketball, Adult Basketball
- *Vaca Pena Middle School* - Youth Basketball
- *Larson School* - Youth Fall Baseball
- *11 elementary schools* - Girls Softball, T-Ball Baseball, Youth Fall Baseball, Youth Flag Football, Summer T.G.I. Fun Playgrounds

The Vacaville School District has begun a 60/20 school year (60 days on and 20 days off) at selected elementary schools in order to achieve year-round use of school facilities and be eligible for certain state funds. At any one time, a quarter of the students are "off track" at selected elementary sites. This change within the schools affects City-offered programs and child care demands.

In some cases, the 60/20 school year may not affect school facility use by City programs since these facilities are used for programs after regular school hours; however, school facilities may be impacted if the schools begin to implement additional after-school programs at their facilities. Impacts will be more strongly felt during the summer months when school facilities may no longer be available for City-run programs. Children who had previously been in school nine months of the year will now be free at times of the year other than summer, creating special day care needs and increasing the demand for additional recreational programs and facilities.

EVALUATION OF EXISTING FACILITIES



Evaluation of Existing Park and Recreation Facilities

Summary

In September 1990, the Planning Team conducted an on-site reconnaissance of existing park and recreation facilities in the City of Vacaville. The general impression was that of a well-conceived and adeptly administered park system. This park system contains some exemplary cases of strong designs employing quality materials maintained to the highest standard. Unfortunately, there are also, examples where inadequate past planning and improper maintenance have allowed problems to develop. The following evaluation pinpoints such problems and needs of the existing facilities. Recommended improvements are included in the Development Program, Chapter 10.

The evaluation uses 11 categories. Each facility is appraised according to areas which pertain only to that facility. The facilities are evaluated from the standpoint of actual physical condition, as well as design function and aesthetics. The categories are as follows:

Size: Given in acres

Location: Physical geographic position; for example, street intersections.

Setting: Describes surrounding area in terms of neighborhood type and use.

Features: Various uses of the facility and special conditions.

Use Intensity: Describes how many people use facility and when.

Adequacy and Condition of Facilities: Is the facility large enough to handle users? Does it provide enough services?

Condition of Planting: Describes the performance and adequacy of plant materials.

Condition of Hardscape: Describes paving materials and structural components.

Condition of Buildings: Describes condition of site buildings.

Remarks: Describes special conditions, uses of the facility, reactions and comments on the general design and maintenance, or current improvements.

In evaluating the existing facilities some general recommendations are applicable to the entire park system. These recommendations are as follows:

- 1) *Use drought tolerant plant materials where possible.* Plantings should be re-evaluated for area adaptability. An emphasis on drought tolerant plant materials should be implemented.
- 2) *Reinstate native plant materials where appropriate.* This can be accomplished in existing facilities where refurbishing plant materials is already proposed. Proposed facilities should be designed with native plant materials in mind. Native oaks and grassland species are a good start, especially in Urban Open Space areas. The parks and open space of Vacaville can become a model for educating the public regarding water conservation and the native flora of California's Central Valley.

The success of Alamo Creek Park should attest to the appropriateness of this idea.

- 3) *Avoid over-reliance on irrigated turf when available space may be inadequate for playfields.* Existing facility uses should be closely evaluated. In some instances, a park is given over to turf playfield areas even though the available space is inadequate. Water shortages in the near future may preclude an over-reliance on irrigated turf. Perhaps other uses should be considered, such as community gardens, when adequate playfield facilities exist or are proposed in the immediate vicinity.
- 4) *Evaluate remnant orchards on park land for education use.* Existing agricultural uses (i.e. an orchard), when slated for inclusion into an adjacent park, may be considered a source of community interaction and education when allowed to remain an agricultural use run by the community. Creative solutions for development, beyond what is typically perceived as a park, should be encouraged and explored.
- 5) *Rehabilitate older parks.* Several older parks have major inherent problems. These problems are often due to development which has occurred over the course of time without a master plan to direct growth. This haphazard development has resulted in circulation and use conflicts, as well as design discordance. Rehabilitation plans for these facilities should be created with an emphasis on recapturing the original design intent, when appropriate, and solving such conflicts.
- 6) *Formulate and enforce maintenance guidelines.* A regular surveillance of problems and safety hazards should be implemented and the results documented. Mitigation measures and results should be documented.
- 7) *Create and implement a standardized signage system.* Facility uses could be listed, as well as a reference to other nearby facilities when a particular use is not available at that facility.
- 8) *Comply with state and federal laws on play equipment accessibility.* Recent changes in Federal law require that all new play facilities be accessible to disabled individuals, including: play equipment, concession stands, playfields and scoring booths. Revised state regulations are in progress and should become more definitive sometime in 1992. The City is preparing a plan to evaluate its facilities and implement necessary changes to improve accessibility. California Public Resources Code requires at least a portion of any playground constructed after January 1, 1979, be accessible to, and usable by, disabled individuals.

COUNTY REGIONAL PARKS

1. LAGOON VALLEY

Size: 306 acres.

Location: South of the City of Vacaville directly southeast of Interstate 80.

Setting: Rural open space, hills and valleys adjacent to I-80, Hines Nursery and the glider center.

Features: Exercise course, bike trails, lake stocked with small and large mouthed bass, picnicking, pioneer gravesites at top of hill, ridgetop trails.

Use Intensity: Low to moderate use. Windsurfing very popular at this location. Very slow during winter season, extremely busy during Onion Festival when site is used for parking.

Adequacy of Facilities: Very large park with room to develop. Extensive picnic areas.

Condition of Plantings: Salt conditions at lake prohibit growth of certain plant materials. Willows and cottonwoods, however, are sprouting freely along lake edge. Alder grove suffering from drought stress due to springs drying up. Much of the park is natural grasslands (some grazed) with native oaks and riparian vegetation. Heavy star thistle growth in grasslands.

Condition of Hardscape: This park has very little developed hardscape. Paving is limited to asphalt roads and parking areas. These are in good condition.

Condition of Buildings: The one restroom building is in good condition.

Remarks: Oak revegetation from acorns program is in progress.

Status: Small marina, amphitheater, tennis courts, expanded trail system, more tree planting, and increased picnic/barbecue facilities are possible future improvements as shown in County *Master Plan* for the park.

COMMUNITY PARKS

1. PEÑA ADOBE

Size: 64 acres (14 acres developed, 50 acres open space).

Location: Peña Adobe Road, South of the City of Vacaville, southeast of Interstate 80.

Setting: Rural area adjacent to freeway. Views of hills and open space but lots of traffic noise.

Features: Peña Adobe home, a California State Historical Landmark, contains a small museum, two large barbecue areas (covered) and picnic areas, horseshoe pit, multipurpose field for softball, volleyball, small pond with water fowl, Willis Jepson nature plant garden, antique farm equipment area, hiking trail, Pioneer cemetery, hilltop picnic and view area, 1-1/2 mile bike trail, dedication forest (Jack Hume Grove), parking for 100 cars.

Adequacy of Facilities: Too small to accommodate major events which draw increased crowds every year (for example, Onion Festival).

Condition of Planting: Plantings indicative of the old west: cactus and big elm, oak and walnut trees. Ground plane consists of some grass and lots of dusty bare soil. Riparian vegetation along creek. Existing Monterey Pines planted to buffer the view of I-80 are in decline with drought stress and engraver beetle infestation.

Condition of Hardscape: Adobe paths, split rail fences. All in fair condition.

Condition of Buildings: Old Adobe, museum and restrooms are in fair condition.

Remarks: General appearance of the park is slightly run-down but this cannot be judged as being unacceptable. The rustic and ramshackle condition sets the correct atmosphere of the old west. The Hume Memorial Redwood Grove is being improved with new walkways, structures, irrigation, and planting. A "mini arboretum" will be the result.

2. WILLIAM KEATING PARK

Size: 32 acres (12 acres undeveloped).

Location: Intersection of California Drive and Alamo Lane on California Medical Facility property.

Setting: Edge suburban/rural. Adjacent to Medical Facility, orchards. Apartments and storage units across the street.

Features: Seven multipurpose fields, 4 youth ball diamonds, 2 major ball diamonds, 1 softball diamond (5 fields are lighted), 3 grandstands and storage areas, 2 concession stands, playground, parking, picnic area and 4 restrooms. Medical Facility inmates maintain this park.

Use Intensity: Very heavy use at 200,000 visitor hours per year.

Adequacy of Facilities: Space is adequate, although there is demand for more facilities of this type. Heavy use does not allow the fields a chance to recover.

Condition of Planting: Park is filled with large, old trees which are in good to fair condition. The turf is scruffy and worn in many areas; however, fields are in good shape. Shrubs are in poor condition.

Condition of Hardscape: Paved areas consist mostly of asphalt roads and parking which are in fair condition. Paths are compacted dirt. Curbs are broken and discontinuous. Chain link fences are bent in many places. Covered barbecue area is too small and constricted.

Condition of Playfields: Fields are in good condition.

Condition of Buildings: Restrooms do not comply with earthquake standards for public structures. There is no floor drainage and no sewer line tie-in. Fly balls have broken tile roof. Maintenance buildings need screening. Babe Ruth storage building has termites.

Remarks: This park evolved through donated labor without much of a plan. The design is generally disjointed with major conflicts between pedestrian and vehicular circulation. Biggest problem here is the lack of consistency in maintenance. Eleven acres of adjacent orchard land have been acquired. Grandstand to be rebuilt with associated restroom and concession beginning June 1991, with completion by September. Lighting for Little League field to be installed in 1991-1992.

3. **JOHN ARLINGTON PARK**

Size: 18 acres (13 acres developed and 5 acres undeveloped).

Location: Foxboro Parkway and Peabody Road.

Setting: Single-family residential area. On very busy 4-lane road across from the California Medical Facility.

Features: Group Picnic areas (by reservation), 92-car parking lot, playground, 2 youth softball fields, 1 Little League field, 1 Pony League field, combination football/soccer field, 2 picnic shelters, restroom, concession, parking for 200 cars.

Remarks: Thirteen acres recently constructed. Measure I bond passed for youth playfields and road repair. Lighting proposed for Pony League and Babe Ruth fields has been deferred until impacts to surrounding homes can be mitigated.

4. **ELEANOR NELSON PARK**

Size: 10.5 acres (6 acres undeveloped).

Location: Nut Tree and Marshall Road.

Setting: Suburban on large road. Close to commercial area. Adjacent to junior high school.

Features: Two softball fields (lighted), grandstands, electronic scoreboards, concession building, playground, picnic tables, restrooms, parking for 70 cars, multipurpose field, small open turf areas, small maintenance yard. Additional parking for 25 cars recently constructed.

Use Intensity: Heavily used, especially from April to November.

Adequacy of Facilities: Good.

Condition of Planting: Very good. Nicely designed scheme. Turf shows a little brown. Star jasmine slightly drought stressed. Sand turf fields very smooth and even.

Condition of Hardscape: Asphalt and concrete paving new and in good condition. Decomposed granite surfaces good.

Condition of Play Equipment: Small playground. Looks alright but showing some wear.

Condition of Playfields: Good.

Condition of Buildings: Prefabricated restroom and concession building new and in good condition.

Remarks: Future expansion possible on 6-acre parcel.

5. **ANDREWS / ULATIS PARK**

Size: 14.8 acres.

Location: Bordered by Monte Vista Avenue and School Street.

Setting: Near Central Business District. Mixed residential and commercial area.

Features: Outdoor pavilion area, small children's playground, multi-purpose field, 4 barbecue areas and 1 underground barbecue pit. Approximately 16 picnic tables throughout park, across Ulatis Creek is a bike and jogging trail that borders the creek. The John McBride Senior Center is also housed at this site. A nine station fitness course borders the entire park. Private art gallery, 2 parking lots (115 cars), and Georgie Duke Sports Center (13,000 sq. ft.). Oldest park in town.

Use Intensity: Heavily used.

Adequacy of Facilities: Fair to poor. Needs upgrading.

Condition of Planting: Nice big, old trees. Lots of turf in decent condition. Very attractive, natural riparian corridor with large cottonwoods and tree of heaven. Large palms make distinctive statement.

Condition of Hardscape: Concrete paving showing age. Benches are worn. Lamps on wood poles are cracked.

Condition of Play Equipment: Limited, very dated and not very exciting.

Condition of Buildings: All in good condition by themselves, but make an unharmonious composition placed together.

Remarks: A conglomeration of design styles without a definite identity. Old "urban park" character should be enhanced. Park greatly impacted by annual week-long Fiesta Days celebration.

6. **COMMUNITY CENTER PARK** *Three Oaks*

Size: 7 acres developed and 5 acres undeveloped.

Location: Alamo Drive and Crystal Lane.

Setting: On busy 4-lane road; single-family residential behind. Proposed commercial property across street.

Features: Building complex (20,000 sq. ft.) with Community Services Department, majority of City recreation programs, day care program, 8-lane 25-yard swimming pool, 4 lighted tennis courts, and parking for 200 cars. Adjacent 5-acre undeveloped Neighborhood Park.

Use Intensity: High.

Adequacy of Facilities: Fair.

Condition of Planting: Good.

Condition of Hardscape: Good.

Remarks: Parking availability impacted by unofficial use as commuter parking area. As the only City swimming pool, this facility is overused in the summer with frequent "waiting lines." The Community Center is heavily used both for City programs and by private groups and organizations.

7. **ALLISON PARK (Measure I Fields North, budgeted for 1992)** *Centennial*

Size: 14 acres.

Location: Along Browns Valley Road.

Features: Will have 4 softball/baseball fields, 1 football field, 3 soccer fields, restroom/concession, and picnic areas.

8. **CULTURAL CENTER (under construction)**

Size: 25 acres.

Location: Along Ulati Drive and Ulati Creek.

Features: Will have 500-seat theater and cultural center with multi-purpose meeting rooms, a 25,000 sq. ft. library and a 16,000 sq. ft. community center. The contract has been awarded to construct this project.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

1. PHEASANT COUNTRY PARK

Size: 7 acres.

Location: End of Caldwell Drive and Madison Avenue.

Setting: Single-family residential area.

Features: Two playgrounds, basketball court, picnic tables, exercise course, multipurpose field with portable backstop, soccer, barbecues. Newest park.

Use Intensity: Playground equipment heavily used. Park still too new to evaluate.

Adequacy: Good. Still too new to evaluate conclusively.

Condition of Planting: All new. Looks great. Trees, of course, are still very small.

Condition of Hardscape: New concrete walks in good condition.

Condition of Play Equipment: Brand new and very nice.

Condition of Playfields: Very good.

Condition of Courts: Basketball court on asphalt is in very good condition.

Remarks: Nicely designed park with rolling hills and turf. Large rocks accent entrances. Park site is very windy.

2. FAIRMONT BEELARD PARK

Size: 8.3 acres.

Location: Bordered by Beelard Drive, Alamo Creek and Putah South Canal.

Setting: Single-family residential area. Borders on Alamo Creek and apartment area across the street.

Features: Multipurpose field, large trees, picnic area, playground, basketball court, softball, jogging, bike trail, and Neighborhood Center.

Use Intensity: Heavy use after school.

Adequacy of Facilities: Fair but needs more.

Condition of Planting: Large trees on creek are nice. Turf is fair with some dying out.

Condition of Hardscape: Asphalt paths and decomposed granite in good condition.

Condition of Play Equipment: Smallish wood equipment is old and showing signs of wear. Tot lot has new equipment.

Condition of Playfields: Soccer field heavily used. Portable backstop only.

Remarks: Problems with gangs exist in this park and on the adjoining bicycle trail.

3. TROWER PARK

Size: 4.5 acres.

Location: Markham Avenue between Meadows Drive and Holly Lane.

Setting: Multifamily (apartments) residential area on slope.

Features: Picnic area, multipurpose field, basketball court, 2 playgrounds and Neighborhood Center.

Use Intensity: Lower portion used heavily. Upper portion with turf not used heavily because of steep slope.

Adequacy of Facilities: Not good. Needs picnic/barbecue area.

Condition of Planting: Trees are small and not plentiful. Shrubs are scruffy and tattered. Soil erosion present. Turf showing brown.

Condition of Hardscape: Asphalt paving fair but cracking. Wood headers are broken.

Condition of Play Equipment: Old and poorly maintained. Outdated and simplistic equipment.

Condition of Courts: Basketball court on asphalt is in fair condition. Very heavily used.

Remarks: This park is slated to upgrade play equipment and add a basketball court. The Neighborhood Center has been successful and very popular.

4. NORTH ORCHARD PARK

Size: 6.5 acres.

Location: Orchard Avenue between Crestview and Dennis Drive.

Setting: Single-family residential area. Adjacent to transmission tower easement.

Features: Multipurpose field, four tennis courts, two playgrounds, basketball court, jogging and bike trails, picnic tables.

Use Intensity: Heavy use in summer months. Good adult use.

Adequacy of Facilities: Good.

Condition of Planting: Nice turf areas, trees. Some bare soil areas (replanting is planned).

Condition of Hardscape: Asphalt paths good but some drainage problems exist.

Condition of Play Equipment: South playground area is small. Larger playground in north portion. Wood structures present a maintenance problem.

Condition of Playfields: Portable backstop only.

Condition of Courts: Tennis courts have been resurfaced. Non-regulation basketball court is good.

Remarks: Park is bisected by Crestview Drive. Farm Team (8-, 9- and 10-year-olds) uses site.

5. ALAMO CREEK PARK

Size: 9.5 acres.

Location: Corner of Buck Avenue and Alamo Drive.

Setting: Single-family residential and professional office area on 4-lane road. One edge of park is bordered by a creek.

Features: Large native oak trees, jogging/exercise trail, picnic tables, half-court basketball, 2 tennis courts, 2 playgrounds, large multipurpose field, xeriscape demonstration garden, arboretum.

Use Intensity: Most heavily used park in town.

Adequacy of Facilities: Very good, except there is no restroom.

Condition of Planting: Very good. Walnut trees showing some development stress.

Condition of Hardscape: Decomposed granite surfaces good with some drainage/erosion problems. Plastic edges of xeriscape garden are broken down.

Condition of Play Equipment: New and in good condition.

Condition of Courts: Basketball and tennis courts good.

Remarks: This park is a model for all new parks in Vacaville. Use of existing trees is commendable. Attractively designed and maintained. Neighbors do not want a restroom here. Dirt bikes were a problem in drainage channel before installation of low fence.

6. **DOS CALLES PADAN PARK**

Size: 6.7 acres.

Location: Between Alonzo Road and Padan School Road.

Setting: Single-family residential area adjacent to field and school.

Features: Two playground areas, basketball court, picnic tables, multi-purpose field, jogging trail, movable sports field capability for soccer and baseball.

Use Intensity: Very heavy use, especially weekend organized sports.

Adequacy of Facilities: Good.

Condition of Planting: Good turf areas. Trees small but new.

Condition of Hardscape: Asphalt paths are in good condition.

Condition of Play Equipment: Play equipment in good condition; however, wood structures create splinters and maintenance problems.

Condition of Playfields: One temporary/seasonal field is in good condition.

Remarks: Park used heavily for organized sports activities, team practice. YMCA runs latchkey (after school) program. Adjacent Christian school sold land for new development. Trail segments from railroad right of way and creek will connect.

7. **ARCULUS C. HAWKINS PARK**

Size: 6 acres.

Location: Summerfield Drive and Newport Circle.

Setting: Single and multifamily residential area. Creek with large oaks borders one edge.

Features: Three acres of multipurpose turf, large existing 300-year-old oak, 10-station exercise course, 2 playgrounds, picnic tables, 2 tennis courts, open turf with portable backstop, horseshoe pit, and basketball court.

Use Intensity: New park gaining popularity quickly.

Adequacy of Facilities: Good.

Condition of Planting: Large existing trees and small new trees all in good shape. Turf nice but has some drainage problems.

Condition of Hardscape: Decomposed granite surfaces and concrete bike trail all new and in good condition.

Condition of Courts: Tennis and basketball courts new and in good condition.

Remarks: This park is the result of much neighborhood participation. More picnic and barbecue areas are proposed.

8. **PATWIN PARK - Arbor Oaks Section**

Size: 3 acres.

Location: Elmira and Leisure Town Road.

Setting: Single-family residential area with creek.

Features: Playground, picnic area, open turf area, large shade trees.

Use Intensity: Light.

Adequacy of Facilities: Fair. Improvements proposed.

Condition of Planting: Turf in good condition. English Walnut trees are slowly dying out.

Condition of Hardscape: Large decomposed granite area in fair to good shape.

Condition of Play Equipment: Equipment has been replaced recently.

Remarks: This is the most criticized park in Vacaville. There is a big graffiti problem on connecting path to Lewis Homes Section.

Status: More trees, picnic tables, tot lot and perimeter planting is proposed. Planting along creek connection to Lewis Homes Section is also proposed. See also, remarks for Lewis Homes Section.

9. PATWIN PARK - Lewis Homes Section

Size: 5 acres.

Location: Elmira and Leisure Town Road.

Setting: Single-family residential area; creek at one edge and 4-lane road with industrial park at other edge.

Features: Creek edge has large trees with native oaks, playground, picnic area, multipurpose field, basketball, volleyball.

Use Intensity: Light.

Adequacy of Facilities: Poor.

Condition of Planting: Turf has dead spots, Leyland cypress buffer is getting canker and needs a phased replacement.

Condition of Hardscape: Asphalt paving in good condition.

Condition of Play Equipment: Brand new and nice.

Condition of Courts: Basketball and volleyball on asphalt in fair condition.

Condition of Buildings: City well with barbed wire fence in center of park creates noise and visual blight.

Remarks: This park is bleak and not very inviting. There is a definite lack of trees. Well with barbed wire and asphalt is the focal point and not a very attractive one. Neighborhood has waited 11 years to finish. Adopted 1990/1991 Capital Improvements program has allotted \$159,000 for completion of the park.

10. WILLOWS PARK

Size: 2 acres.

Location: Ogden Way off Marshall Road.

Setting: Single-family residential area.

Features: Picnic tables, 1 playground, basketball court, 1 acre multi-purpose field.

Use Intensity: Very heavy.

Adequacy of Facilities: Good.

Condition of Planting: Very nice.

Condition of Hardscape: Decomposed granite surface in good condition.

Condition of Courts: Basketball court in good condition.
Remarks: Very nice, well maintained corner pocket park.

11. MEADOWLANDS PARK (turnkey park)

Size: 11.5 acres.

Location: Vanden Road.

Setting: Single-family residential area adjacent to elementary school. Engineered portion of Alamo Creek fronts one edge.

Features: Two playgrounds, 1 restroom, 6 acre multipurpose field area, picnic shelter, basketball court, off-street parking for 48 cars, and Neighborhood Recreation Center.

Use Intensity: Well used.

Adequacy of Facilities: Good.

Condition of Planting: Turf problems due to inadequately installed irrigation system. Trees small and stressed.

Condition of Hardscape: Concrete walks, asphalt parking areas and decomposed granite surfaces all new and in good condition.

Condition of Play Equipment: Two areas, both very nice.

Condition of Playfields: Large playfield area has 4 portable backstops, no fencing. Grading is too steep.

Condition of Courts: Basketball court in good condition.

Condition of Buildings: Restroom building in fair condition. Graffiti and vandalism is a problem.

Remarks: Perimeter berm is considered too tall. Gangs are also a problem. Heavily used for soccer and Little League.

12. CITY HALL PARK

Size: 1.5 acres.

Location: City Hall on Walnut Street.

Setting: Single-family and apartment residential area. Older section of town.

Features: Shade trees (many memorial trees), turf area with picnic tables, and bocce ball court.

Use Intensity: Used mainly by City employees.

Adequacy of Facilities: Good as green space. Could use barbecues.

Condition of Planting: Large redwoods and oaks in good condition. Turf fair.

Condition of Hardscape: Picnic tables are worn.

Remarks: This park is used mainly for City picnics and celebrations. The park is also popular during the weekday lunchtime.

13. SOUTHWOOD PARK

Size: 4 acres.

Location: Along Alamo Creek within residential area.

Setting: Single-family residential area.

Features: Basketball court, tot lot, playground, 6 picnic sites, fitness/exercise circuit, low water use demonstration planting, and 3 acres turf (to be installed in the fall of 1992).

14. STONEGATE PARK (undeveloped, turnkey park, starting construction 1991)

Size: 6 acres.

Location: North of Ulatis Drive on Stonegate Drive

Setting: Turn-key park within proposed single-family residential neighborhood

Existing Features: Park construction will be pursued in two phases with 2.5 acres in Phase 1, and remaining 2 acres in Phase 2. Facilities will include: large playground, tot lot, picnic area, portions of fitness circuit (to run through subdivision, with beginning and end in park), multipurpose field with portable baseball backstop, full court basketball.

NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL PARKS

1. IRENE LARSEN BALL DIAMONDS

Size: 4 acres.

Location: Alamo Drive and Rosewood Lane.

Setting: Single-family residential area. Adjacent to elementary school on busy four-lane road. Senior apartments behind.

Features: Two youth baseball diamonds with arch backstops, dugouts and bleachers on Solano County Office of Education grounds. City built diamonds and County/School District maintain them. There is also off-street parking for 111 cars.

Use Intensity: Heavily used.

Adequacy of Facilities: There is a wait for use on evenings and weekends.

Condition of Planting: Trees are small. Turf in fair condition.

Condition of Hardscape: Consists of asphalt parking area which has been renovated and is in good condition.

Condition of Playfields: Both fields have skinned surfaces which are in good condition. Turf could be improved. The fences are bent and leaning.

Condition of Buildings: Portable restroom unit is in good condition.

Remarks: This is a playfield facility only with no accommodations for passive activity.

2. ALAMO SCHOOL PARK

Size: 2.5 acres.

Location: Orchard Avenue and Edgewood Drive.

Setting: Single-family residential area, adjacent to elementary school.

Features: Site owned by Vacaville School District. Large multi-purpose field area, 1 large playground area, picnic/barbecue area, 3 baseball backstops, Neighborhood Recreation Center.

Use Intensity: Used mainly for organized sports.

Adequacy of Facilities: Fair

Condition of Planting: Large walnuts are nice. Turf areas are fair with scruffy edges.
Condition of Play Equipment: Small. Wood edges are broken down. City plans to relocate.

Condition of Playfields: Two backstops in turf area only.

Remarks: Playground to receive upgrading.

3. CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL PARK

Size: 8 acres.

Location: Cambridge Drive and Nut Tree Drive.

Setting: Single and multifamily residential area adjacent to elementary school.

Features: Developed by the City of Vacaville for neighborhood, community use. 960 sq. ft. Neighborhood Recreation Center, 1 playground, exercise course, multipurpose field area with portable backstops, picnic tables.

Use Intensity: Moderate

Adequacy of Facilities: Good.

Condition of Planting: Mostly turf with few trees. Trees small but new. Turf has some brown areas but is improving.

Condition of Hardscape: Decomposed granite surface around neighborhood community center.

Condition of Play Equipment: Good.

Condition of Playfields: Very large and in good condition

Condition of Buildings: Looks great for a portable building.

Remarks: 3.4 acres owned by City and the rest by Travis Air Force Base. Planting improvements are planned for the future.

4. SIERRA VISTA SCHOOL PARK

Size: 8 acres.

Location: Bel Air Drive off Alamo Drive.

Setting: Single-family residential area adjacent to elementary school.

Features: Developed by the City of Vacaville for neighborhood, community and school use. The Vacaville Unified School District maintains the entire 8-acre multipurpose field with a jogging path and an undeveloped playground area.

Use Intensity: Heavily used during soccer and baseball seasons.

Adequacy of Facilities: Fair.

Condition of Planting: Fifty percent of the trees have been vandalized. Turf area is very brown.

Condition of Playfields: Three portable backstops only.

Remarks: 4.2 acres are City-owned. Green turf appears to be low priority with school district.

5. FAIRMONT SCHOOL PARK

Size: 4 acres.

Location: Corner of Tulare and Marshall Road.

Setting: Single-family residential area adjacent to school.

Features: Large multipurpose field area, playground and 960 sq. ft. Neighborhood Recreation Center.

Use Intensity: Very heavy.

Adequacy of Facilities: Fair to poor.

Condition of Planting: Large eucalyptus trees are in good condition but have destroyed asphalt tricycle path. Trees in planters won't establish themselves.

Condition of Hardscape: Asphalt and concrete paving showing signs of age and wear and is too extensive.

Condition of Play Equipment: Older custom playground needs rehabilitation or removal.

Condition of Buildings: Portable structure in good condition.

Remarks: This park has major problems with graffiti, vandalism, and assaults.

6. HEMLOCK SCHOOL PARK

Size: 4 acres.

Location: Eldridge and Hemlock Streets.

Setting: Single and multifamily residential area at elementary school and adjacent to walnut orchard.

Features: Playground, multi-purpose field, hardcourt area, exercise equipment, 2 ballfields.

Use Intensity: Heavy.

Adequacy of Facilities: Lots of unusable open space.

Condition of Planting: Only one tree and lots of bare soil, some turf in fair condition

Condition of Hardscape: Asphalt hardcourt area with tetherball in good condition.

Condition of Play Equipment: Big toys equipment in good condition. Exercise equipment in disrepair.

Condition of Playfields: Two ballfields with backstops, Little League and Bobby Sox softball, turf in fair condition.

Remarks: Very bleak appearance.

7. WILLIS JEPSON SOFTBALL

Size: On Willis Jepson Middle School property.

Location: 500 Elder Street.

Existing Features: Lighted softball diamond on school property within residential area. City maintains irrigation and infield and school takes care of turf.

Use Intensity: Heavy.

Adequacy of Facilities: Good.

Condition of Planting: Some brown areas of turf.

Condition of Hardscape: Good.

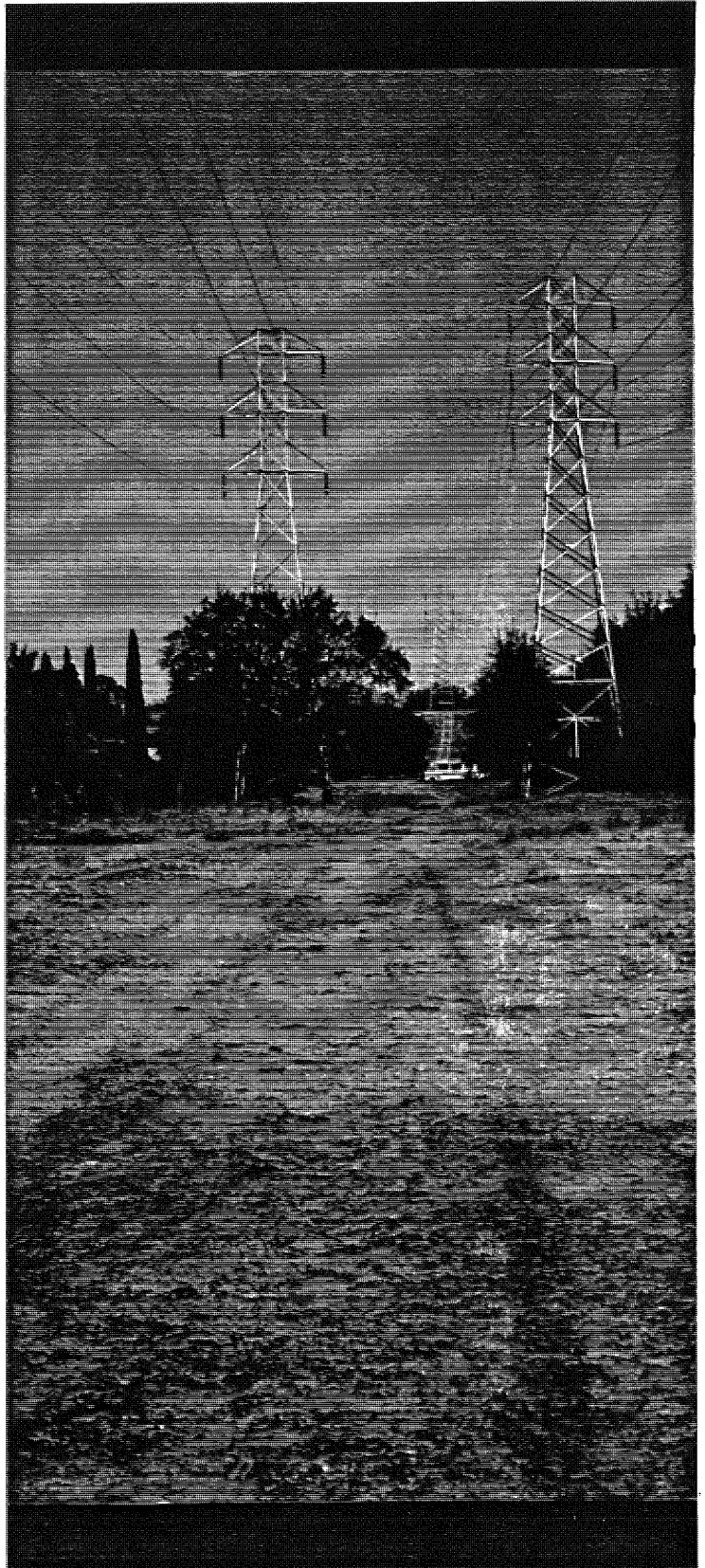
Condition of Play Equipment: No play equipment.

Condition of Playfields: Good.

Remarks: Parking limited on school grounds, public must park on surface streets. Access to field area is not clear, need to meander around school buildings. Remnant orchards fronting the street on either side of the school should be preserved.

8. **WELLSITE 6 - POCKET PARK**
Size: 1 acre.
Location: Elmira Road (between Nut Tree Road and Edwin Drive).
Setting: On busy 4-lane road with industrial park. Single-family residential behind.
Features: One acre of landscaping which includes open grass area and beautification of well site; 1 bus stop bench; 1 practice backstop.
Use Intensity: Light.
Adequacy of Facilities: Fair.
Condition of Planting: Fair. Mostly turf with some brown patches. Trees are small.
Condition of Hardscape: Gravel around well only.
Remarks: Not very accessible. Turf area used for practice by children's sport teams.
Recommendations: Develop a plan for a more usable park. Given the space and accessibility, perhaps this should be a more shaded, passive- type park. Connections and accessibility should be studied.
9. **BOULDER VALLEY PARK SITE (construction to begin by Fall 1992 with most of construction during 1992-1993)**
Size: 4.4 acres.
Location: Wrentham Drive.
Proposed Features: Undeveloped. Site is next to a proposed 8-acre elementary school site and a 7-acre open space hillside.
10. **COOPER SCHOOL PARK (developed as turnkey park)**
Size: 6.62 acres
Location: Christine Drive adjacent to new Cooper School.
Setting: Single-family residential neighborhood.
Existing Features: Picnic tables, playground, large multipurpose field, full court basketball, fitness circuit. Utilities stubbed for possible Neighborhood Recreation Center. Additional playground space and equipment will be installed in 1992.
11. **RIDGEVIEW PARK (undeveloped, a turnkey park)**
Size: 7 acres.
Location: Ridgeview Subdivision.
Features: Plan for park includes a tot lot, older play equipment, full court basketball, multipurpose field for 2 youth softball fields, exercise/fitness circuit, parking for 40 cars, picnic shelter, and potential restroom.
Remarks: Rough grading; basketball court, playground, and turf may begin summer of 1992.

OPPORTUNITIES AND C O N S T R A I N T S



Opportunities and Constraints

Introduction

In evaluating existing conditions in Vacaville from the perspective of parks, recreation facilities and open space, several opportunities and constraints are apparent as shown on the Opportunities and Constraints Map. In some cases, these opportunities have been noted in the General Plan. Opportunities include: views to be enhanced; well-sites to be used as community gardens; creekways for use as trails; hillsides as open space; transmission easements; railroad corridors as multipurpose paths; and detention reservoirs as rural parks. Constraints include the freeways bisecting the City, and the Putah Canal acting as a barrier to public access. The goal of the Parks *Master Plan* is to maximize the opportunities and to mitigate the constraints in order to develop a cohesive parks, open space and trails system for the City.

Views

Gently sloping grass-covered hillsides, agriculture areas, pasture lands, and the creeks meandering through the developed areas contribute to the visual character of Vacaville. For many residents, these visual impressions can be enjoyed by seeing the surrounding undeveloped hills, walking along the creeks, or by driving to the City outskirts to see the more "rural" edge. Several prominent hillsides within the existing Urban Open Space (UOS) areas provide spectacular views of the City and the surrounding region, particularly above:

- Lagoon Valley looking south to Lagoon Lake and north to the City proper.
- "Old Rocky" UOS with 360-degree views looking northwest toward unincorporated County areas, east toward the developing residential and industrial areas, and south to the Nut Tree area and beyond to the residential areas south of I-80.
- Hidden Valley UOS, looking directly east to the hills and sparsely developed unincorporated County areas with abundant vegetation and agricultural fields.

Providing public access and enhancing these existing viewpoint areas, along with evaluating future Urban Open Space acquisitions for viewpoint opportunities, will be important in preserving the visual quality of Vacaville.

Freeways

Interstate 80 running diagonally northeast/southwest through the center of Vacaville bisects the existing developed portions of the City into a northern and southern area. Interstate

505 running north from I-80 also bisects the northeast area of the City, which will become more apparent as this area develops in the future.

These freeways, especially I-80, affect the provision of parks and recreation. Most obviously, they act as a physical barrier (a constraint) for access to parks, facilities and recreation programs. With the limited crossings, residents are almost obligated to use vehicles for transportation across the City. For children who walk or bicycle, the barrier is even more severe. Many of the existing overpasses do not provide safe crossings for pedestrians and bicyclists. In many instances, adults transport children to recreation facilities or programs when the children might otherwise walk or bicycle to the destination.

The freeways also form a psychological barrier. Parks, recreation facilities, programs or events may seem more distant or inaccessible than they really are because of the freeway in between. Even in this plan there is a tendency to discuss providing facilities in the northern and southern areas of the City to make an equitable distribution and to facilitate access.

With future development, the City should work closely with CalTrans to develop additional safe crossings for pedestrians and bicyclists. Several parks, such as Peña Adobe, may need sound walls to mitigate the noise of the adjacent freeway.

Wellsites

At present, the City produces water through nine water wells along with an existing diatomaceous earth water treatment plant and a regional water treatment plant planned in the future. The General Plan states that these wells will need to be replaced as they become old. Most wells should last from 30 to 50 years depending upon construction and operating characteristics. Some of the City's wells were constructed in the 1950s. These wells are located south of I-80, along Elmira Road and Ulatis Drive.

For parks and recreation these wells represent an opportunity. Wellsite #6, with minimal City improvements, has been used as the site for a very successful community garden for the past few years. Other wellsites may present a similar opportunity. The two wellsites along Ulatis Drive may be inaccessible for use as community gardens. The wellsite along Elmira Road west of the Putah Canal is also the location for the City Maintenance Yard and Water Treatment Facility and is, therefore, inaccessible for community use. The wellsites along Elmira Road to the east of the Putah Canal should be further evaluated for potential use as community gardens.

Creekways

Alamo and Ulatis Creeks form two major drainage areas within Vacaville. Both creeks flow in a general east-southeasterly direction through the City and ultimately drain to the Sacramento River via Cache Slough. The creeks are generally in their natural state and alignment, vary considerably in width and depth, and are mostly unlined. Downstream of the City, the creeks were improved by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in the 1960s to protect the agricultural areas east of the City. In the General Plan, both the Open Space and Conservation Elements contain policies for protecting and managing creeks. The City has adopted a Creekways Policy providing: creek setback standards for new development; design guidelines for bike trails, bridges, vehicular restrictive devices and rest areas; privacy protection options; erosion control methods and vegetation options (see *Appendix*).

The General Plan states that stream-channel setbacks should be reserved for flood control, preservation of existing habitat and vegetation, multipurpose paths or trails, and maintenance access needs. These creek areas provide an opportunity for passive recreation, walking, jogging and hiking. Existing multipurpose paths along Alamo and Ulatis Creeks can form the foundation for making additional path connections with the long-term goal of continual access along the creeks. Maintaining existing multipurpose trails and making additional connections will facilitate access to parks without necessitating travel on vehicular routes.

Putah Canal

The Putah Canal, operated by the Solano Irrigation District, flows north-south through the center of the City. Much like the freeways, the canal bisects the City. Unlike the freeways, the canal is not as much of a barrier in that most roads travel over the canal making it virtually unnoticeable. However, in those areas away from vehicular routes, the canal can still serve as a barrier to east-west travel. The District does not allow public access along the canal.

The Solano County Park and Recreation Element (1983) designated an area paralleling the route of the Putah Canal as a major undeveloped regional trail linkage connecting Vacaville to Lake Solano Park. At that time, there were plans for the construction of the West Sacramento Canal which would have paralleled the Putah South Canal from the Yolo County line, terminating at Noonan Reservoir. The plan called for acquiring sufficient right of way to accommodate a trail system between the two canals. The plan for the West Sacramento Canal was never implemented.

At present, the Putah Canal is a constraint to development of a linked trail system.

Ridgelines

Numerous ridgelines define the western boundary of the City including the Vaca Mountains, Alamo Creek Ridge, and the English Hills. The General Plan works toward preserving these ridges and hillsides to enhance the City's character, both in form and image, and to establish defined urban boundaries. The General Plan states an intent *to preserve scenic features and the feel of a city surrounded by open space, and preserve view corridors to the hills, and other significant natural areas.*

Slopes of 25% or More

The above policies for ridgelines work together with other General Plan policies for Slopes of 25% or more. Both the Land Use Element and the Open Space Element have policies to: retain ridgelines and hillsides of 25 percent and greater as undeveloped in order to maintain grazing areas; protect the public health and safety; and provide for community separation and open space. In addition, the Open Space Element requires that open space, designated as a condition of development approval, be permanently restricted to open space use by recorded map or deed. The Land Use Element states an intent *to make open space more accessible to the public with a linked park and trail system.*

These ridgelines and areas of slopes over 25% can become opportunities for acquisition as Urban Open Space to provide public access with trails, passive recreation, and to preserve the scenic character of Vacaville.

Transmission Easements

Several major transmission line easements travel through Vacaville: two running diagonally north of I-80 from Fairfield to northeast Vacaville, and one running north-southeast of Leisure Town Road. The areas below the transmission lines represent an opportunity for development as linear parks or open space areas, with certain restrictions as specified by the public utility districts. Such a transmission line has been successfully incorporated into the design of North Orchard Park. The City is evaluating other opportunities to negotiate agreements and develop linear parks along these transmission line easements.

The City may encounter restrictions such as privately held lands with no public access, steep slopes making trails impractical, industrial areas (especially in the northeast portion of the City) creating an undesirable environment for trail access, or existing predominant agricultural use beneath the power lines (east of Leisure Town Road). In other cases (for instance a private recreation development in the northeast area of the City, east of I-505), the use of the transmission line easement as a trail connection would make an ideal link to future planned adjacent parks and residential areas.

Abandoned Railroad Rights of Way

Vacaville has two major abandoned railroad rights of way: the Sacramento Northern Railway and the Southern Pacific Transportation System. In many instances, rail corridors have been lost to highways, encroachment or other factors that have broken up the continuity of the corridors. But abandoned rail corridors can be recycled into recreational and transportation trails. Rail trails are successful because they are flat or gently graded, span all types of environments, and are often located adjacent to historic structures. For preserving open space, rail trails are ideal because they often offer prime wildlife and conservation sites. Sometimes the only remaining linear greenways in urban areas, rail trails frequently link isolated parks into a recreation system.

A recent report, *Abandoned Rail Corridor Assessment Report, San Francisco Bay Area*, May 1990, maps 13 rail trails and 48 inactive railroad corridors in the San Francisco Bay Area. The map includes the abandoned railway corridors in Vacaville, identifying them as a Vacaville to East of Cordelia route and a Elmira to Vacaville to Yolo County Line route.

Formerly operated by Sacramento Northern, the *Vacaville to East of Cordelia* route turns south from Interstate 80, through the California Medical Facility grounds, then through Fairfield. A short spur, connecting the line to a still-active Southern Pacific track north of Travis Air Force Base, was also abandoned. The City has acquired the corridor and designated it as a future trail between the California Medical Facility and Interstate 80. South of the Medical Facility, the corridor, if acquired, could link with a trail through Fairfield to Cordelia. In the vicinity of the Medical Facility, the trail could go on-street and reconnect with the railroad corridor south on Peabody Road.

Once a Southern Pacific right of way, the *Elmira to Vacaville to Yolo County Line* corridor connects to an active Southern Pacific main line track at Elmira, runs west to Vacaville and crosses Interstate 80. It then changes direction and runs north to the Yolo County line, parallel to Interstate 505. Within Vacaville, in the area south of I-80, much of the abandoned right of way has already been committed to street widening. North of I-80, some areas may be available for acquisition, while other areas are privately owned. The school district owns an important segment which, if the City were to acquire, would connect Trower Park and the Trower Neighborhood Center to the developing Allison Park, and eventually the proposed Allison City Park. The City owns a segment of right of way north of the developing Allison Park off Browns Valley Parkway that could connect the park to the developing residential and industrial areas to the north.

The City should evaluate the opportunities for incorporating these abandoned rail corridors into the City trail system. Such a study would require evaluating each route on a parcel by parcel basis to determine ownership and the feasibility of acquisition.

Proposed Upstream Detention Reservoirs

The General Plan proposes major drainage improvements consisting of upstream reservoirs on Ulatis and Alamo Creeks located in the Vaca Mountains east of the City. These proposed upstream reservoirs are located:

- On Ulatis Creek upstream of Pleasant Valley Road.
- On Encinosa Creek upstream of Pleasant Valley Road.
- On Laguna Creek upstream of Cherry Glen Road.
- On Alamo Creek at Gates Canyon.

The upstream reservoirs would reduce the 10-year peak flows upstream of existing and proposed development. The proposed locations could be modified, if necessary, so long as the same hydraulic effect could be achieved downstream. Constructing these upstream reservoirs would minimize channel and structure improvements through Vacaville.

Preliminary discussions with City staff indicate that these upstream reservoir locations might present an opportunity to be managed as Urban Open Space with passive recreational uses such as a day camp, scout overnight camp, staging area for equestrians, and access to trails within the unincorporated County areas. All of the sites should be evaluated for this potential use. At the present time, the upstream reservoir along Alamo Creek at Gates Canyon appears to have the most potential for park use because of existing road access.

Detention Basins

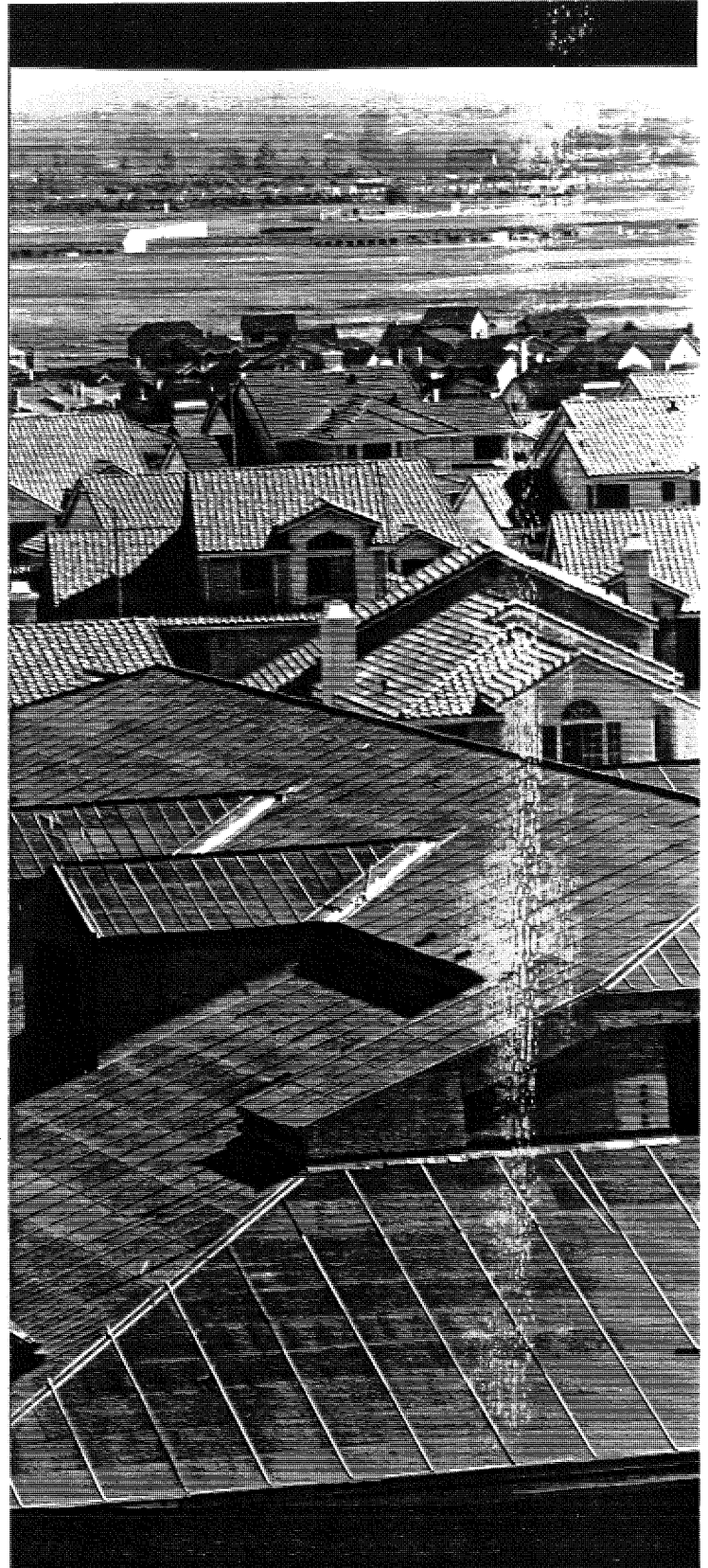
In recent years, Vacaville has required on-site detention by new development on a case-by-case basis where new drainage will flow directly into the creek system. New development should not increase the 10-year and 100-year peak runoff from the site between pre-development and post-development conditions (due to higher peak flows from the site, filling or building within overflow areas, or changing flow paths). In some cases, a group of developers have worked together to provide a common detention basin serving several developments.

Detention basins with seasonal water flow provide an opportunity for development as multipurpose fields. Three sites were evaluated for such potential field use, but only one is usable.

- Foxboro Detention Basin (11.5 acres). State Fish and Game imposed requirement to permit water drainage throughout the year with no public access allowed.
- Stonegate Detention Basin (5.31 acres). A triangle parcel between the golf course and Ulatis Creek, could only be accessible by a bridge crossing the creek through private property.

- **The Cultural Center Detention has two acres of usable, flat land that can be used for a multi-purpose field.**

RECREATION DEMAND DATA & FORECASTS



Recreation Demand Data and Forecasts

Introduction

This *Master Plan* identifies deficiencies in existing parks, recreation facilities and programs and correlates this information to existing community demand in order to determine existing and future facility requirements. Identifying the needs and desires of the community is essential in order to serve the specific needs of Vacaville's citizens. Quantifying a community's recreation needs is complex, but feasible, using accepted planning approaches to analyze trend data to project likely scenarios of the future. This is vital in identifying the relationship between the Vacaville parks and recreation facility inventory and the desired facilities and services of a citywide recreation master plan.

Five different components, summarizing information regarding the community, are incorporated in this Recreation Demand profile. The first factor is the anticipated growth of the population and the changing demographic characteristics of the City. The second factor is the recreation and service needs expressed by youth and the community as a whole through surveys. The third is the summary of needs as expressed by City staff and the Community at a series of workshops. A fourth is the actual participation at current facilities and programs as summarized in Chapter 7 *Recreation Programs Inventory and Analysis*. The fifth component are the recreation standards that provide widely used methods of gauging a community's need for additional recreation facilities (Chapter 8 *Recreation Facilities Inventory and Analysis*).

The five factors leading to the Recreation Demand profile are then compared with opportunities to satisfy this demand and with the financial resources of the City of Vacaville. The *Master Plan* represents a balancing of desirable programs and facilities and the capacity of Vacaville to finance these facilities, both immediately and in terms of longer-term recreation programs and maintenance activities.

All of this information assists in understanding the existing level of service and quality in Vacaville and how it must be adjusted to serve the unique and changing demands of residents in the future.

Demographic Characteristics

Population characteristics of Vacaville are reflected in the overall statistical profile summarizing the age and family size characteristics of current and projected residents. These characteristics have been tracked over the past ten years with forecasts for selected statistics to the year 2010. Wherever possible, they are portrayed in a regional context, that region being broadly defined as the greater Solano County area; more discrete observations are available by looking at trends and performance in neighboring Vallejo and Fairfield.

In large measure, the housing demand pressure experienced in Vacaville reflects spillover growth from the Bay Area. This trend and its acceleration are visible not only in the population increases of the mid 1980s but in the shift in household and per capita income. The region has seen accelerated development of industrial and commercial enterprises in the past five years, a significant harbinger of the change in status of Vacaville from supporting bedroom community to self-contained City. Housing continues to be driven, however, from Bay Area demand and, given limitations on land available for industrial and commercial expansion, this will probably continue to be an important source of population growth in the future. Some limits will appear in the short term due to leapfrog development occurring past Vacaville in the Sacramento area as well as absorption of space already in inventory in the City.

Rates of growth overall are expected to slow with per capita income and median age expected to rise slightly. This will be true for the region as a whole, although Vacaville is expected to capture a higher share of the per capita and family income growth. The region, however, is expected to lag the income growth experienced in neighboring counties, largely due to the higher base with which they start.

The General Plan

Building activity has been robust in recent years although it is expected to slow somewhat during the first half of the new decade.

Vacaville Building Activity and Population Growth Based on the Number of Permits

Category V										
Year >	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Population	42,216	43,553	44,438	45,163	45,915	47,483	50,392	52,689	57,044	63,889
Single-family	19	93	204	276	310	451	1,010	1,432	2,135	581
Multifamily	6	7	1	3	173	31	15	9	8	42
Commercial	9	5	8	9	7	14	25	20	26	20
Industrial	1	2	4	3	4	8	11	6	11	7

Source: Vacaville Community Development Department.

Employment forecasts for Vacaville and for the region as a whole reflects the increased levels of new investment for Industrial/Commercial and Retail areas.

Average household income figures reflect the influence of the Bay Area and also the newer industrial and commercial relocations experienced by the community. While still lagging the performance of the North Bay area, as constraints of water and traffic facilities grow, the competitive performance of the Solano region should increase. This performance is reflected in the table below as averages and reflects some households in unincorporated areas.

Average Income

	Average Household Income 1990	% Growth 1980-90
Fairfield	37,400	7.1
Vacaville	39,100	7.2
Vallejo	34,000	7.9
Novato	62,400	30.9
San Rafael	58,700	25.6

	1990 Income Per Worker	% Change Per Worker Income 1980-90
Fairfield	25,422	4.4
Vacaville	30,317	2.7
Vallejo	25,360	-3.5
Novato	40,485	24.5
San Rafael	42,811	22.5

Source: Association of Bay Area Governments and U.S. Census.

During the period extending to 2010, the number of resident workers commuting to areas outside the City of Vacaville is expected to decline. Current figures suggest a higher than average percentage for Vacaville in comparison to the other regional cities reflecting previous job growth in neighboring communities. This out-commuting population is expected to decline through the year 2010 to reach approximately 45%.

**Current Out-commuting Population
in percent**

Fairfield	35
Vacaville	61
Vallejo	42

Source: Association of Bay Area Governments.

Although the influx of new families into the Vacaville area suggests younger residents, the average age is actually increasing slightly and should rise by approximately 2.5 years by the year 2010. There is expected to be a corresponding increase in those in the over-50 category as the baby-boom generation moves in a block into middle and late middle age. The consequence of the changing population is that the new resident will reflect many of the values and preferences of the existing population with slightly more income and a slightly decreased family size to support. For instance, those families with children under 18 in the home is expected to decline from a current level of approximately 44% to an expected level of 38% in 2010 where it is expected to stabilize.

**Population: Existing and Projected Percentages of Age Groups
in percent**

	1989	2000	2010
<17	27.2	27	26
18 - 24	11.0	10.5	10
25 - 34	23.1	20	20
35 - 49	22.4	24	22
>50	16.3	18.5	22

Source: Census Bureau, State Department of Finance.

The City of Vacaville has prepared a forecast of growth and development through 2010. This forecast reflects the City's adopted General Plan and Planned Growth Management Ordinance.

The *Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* accommodates this growth forecast at Vacaville's Level of Service for Parks, Recreation and Open Space. (This Level of Service is described in Chapter 8.)

Recreational User Profile

Demand Characteristics

In terms of revealed demand or actual day to day use the highest volume of use is derived from the category of children under 18 years of age. This group creates the highest facility demand in virtually all categories other than meeting room space or community room space.

While no long term record of use is available to further bolster this claim, reviews of the programs offered and the times available provide further evidence that active parks and recreation demand is dominated by this age group. In terms of expectations from voters within the City, this is a continuing expression of the high priority put on providing facilities for children and young people under 18.

Adult Recreationalists in the Future

In the future, adult users of parks and recreation areas should be highly skilled or professional workers. Sixty percent of them will work at facilities in or near the City of Vacaville. They will be married and will have slightly more than one child on average, half of whom will be under 18 and living at home; nearly half will be in the 30 - 50 year age category and more than eighty percent will own their own homes. The family will own 2 cars and family income will average slightly more than \$50,000 annually. They will resist the urge to move continuously and will average more than 8 years in the same neighborhood.

As adults, they will demand the opportunity to do more bicycling, exercise walking, jogging and swimming. As parents, they will demand more opportunities for their children to participate in youth activities at neighborhood parks which they will expect to be located at intervals throughout the City. They will expect more regional trail connections and opportunities to hike, bicycle or ride a horse to or near regional facilities and will expect preservation of open space to be a priority in City land use planning.

In the citizen's survey (summarized below), 46% of those surveyed felt the City should spend more on neighborhood parks and playgrounds (a figure 4% higher than those who had similar feelings on child care facilities). Fully 50% of those surveyed felt the City should bolster its spending on open space acquisition. Similarly, 52% of those surveyed wanted the top priority established for small neighborhood facilities. Fifty-three percent felt the top priority (another 33% felt it was at least a medium priority) for developing

places for children under 12, while 71% felt the absolute top priority was the construction of facilities for teenagers and young adults.

In the future, most of the new residents of Vacaville will respond to housing in relation to new employment opportunities. Currently, over 60% of those in the City of Vacaville commute out of the City boundaries to their place of employment. This out-commuting tendency is an expression of the outside demand that has been driving housing construction locally. With the aggressive program of commercial/industrial expansion, though, a significantly higher proportion of jobs are likely to be filled with those residing locally. As a result, the out-commute percentage is expected to drop to the low 40% range by 2010. Demand for community-based functions, those that see higher proportions of adult residents, should experience modest increases (as reflected in Chapters 7 and 8).

At the same time, the population will be aging over the next twenty years with a commensurate increase in the median age of the community. Ultimately, the upshot of this change will be a higher demand for passive, less intensive recreation pursuits as the population matures. Additional emphasis will be placed on facilities oriented toward music and art. Some spectator sports and special group activities are expected to see higher participation levels.

Community Workshops and Surveys

Introduction

In assessing current demand the Planning Team conducted a City staff workshop early in November 1990, three community workshops late in the Fall, a Youth Survey in late November, a Citizen's Survey in February 1991, and a fourth Community Workshop in May 1991. The results of this work are summarized below with more detail provided in the *Appendix*.

Workshops

Staff Workshop

On November 7, 1990 the Planning Team held a workshop with City staff. Representatives from Community Services, Public Works, Economic Development, Police, Fire and Community Development participated in this workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to provide staff members with an opportunity to identify key program needs and goals for park and open space areas, and to make specific recommendations for changes and additions to existing recreation programs. Major concerns addressed the need to:

- Recognize the importance of parks as an important amenity for the City.
- Improve the transition between Andrews Park and the downtown area.

- Avoid locating high use recreational facilities in the downtown area.
- Factor the impact of year round schools when estimating demand for recreational facilities and programs.
- Recognize the demand for indoor and outdoor programs.
- Provide facilities that can be used for practice and other unstructured activities.
- Designate a site for festivals, to accommodate large numbers of people, traffic and parking.
- Locate recreational facilities and schedule programs to minimize traffic impacts.
- Improve access between the Duke Sports Center and the Senior Center.
- Design and plan park facilities for easy maintenance.
- Standardize equipment in park facilities to make maintenance more efficient.
- Consider increased police use of motorbikes to patrol linear parks and trails.
- Design trails to accommodate emergency vehicles.
- Consider telephones in remote open space areas.
- Provide more viewpoints and vistas with picnic facilities.
- Consider a reforestation program, range management and fire prevention programs.
- Identify potential safe zones in fire-prone open space areas.
- Develop a specialized craft center.
- Implement more outdoor programs such as opera in the park, summer bands with supporting parking and picnic facilities.
- Develop more programs for seniors with accompanying transportation.

Community Workshops - First Series

Several community workshops were scheduled during key phases of the planning process to provide opportunities for Vacaville residents to participate in the development process of the Plan. All workshops were announced in *Park Visions 2000*, the newsletter of the Vacaville Parks and Recreation Master Plan Study. The newsletters contained the date and location of the workshops, background information regarding the purpose and scope of current planning efforts, and an overview of some of the issues to be addressed in the workshop (see *Appendix* for copies of the newsletters).

On November 19 and 28, and December 4, 1990, the Planning Team held the first series of public involvement workshops. The discussion topic addressed community recreation needs and desires, and goals for the future of Vacaville parks, open space and recreation programs. Major issues expressed included:

- Develop a multi-use trail system.
- Link trails to parks, schools, open space.
- Use utility easements for trails.
- Connect bike trails throughout the City.
- Provide separate equestrian trails.
- Provide more open space.
- Preserve natural creek and hill areas.

- Increase trees and shrubs in all parks.
- Improve the Vacaville Art League facility.
- Expand the McBride Senior Center.
- Provide for an amphitheater, festival grounds, concert/dance hall, miniature golf.
- Provide at least one additional swimming pool.
- Provide more lighting on existing ballfields.
- Provide more adult softball fields.
- Install bocce ball courts in parks.
- Upgrade play equipment at some parks.
- Add tennis, basketball, volleyball courts at parks.
- Provide more restrooms and parking.
- Create a "gateway" to Vacaville.
- Use volunteers to improve parks.
- - Improve maintenance and security.

Community Workshop - Second Series

On May 1, 1991, a fourth Community Workshop was conducted to gather initial feedback from the community on the proposed improvements developed to meet identified park and recreation needs. Approximately 30 persons attended the workshop in addition to the Community Service Commissioners.

The Planning Team summarized two reports that were prepared to guide development of the recreation improvement plans (*Recreation Programs Inventory and Analysis* and *Recreation Facilities Inventory and Analysis*, Chapters 7 and 8). The two reports recommend improvements in recreation programs and facilities, based on an analysis of existing and projected inventories and expressed community needs. Workshop participants responded with questions and comments and recorded their top five priorities for recreation facilities improvements. The Planning Team also presented preliminary plans for recreation facilities improvements. The workshop participants discussed three specific proposed parks: City Park, Elmira/Leisuretown Park, and Lagoon Valley Regional Park.

General Questions and Comments

- Recognize the need for more community centers and senior centers; convert old Fire Station into senior center.
- Clarify that some recreation programs use school facilities.
- Evaluate if developers should build facilities to meet demand generated by their projects.
- Include competition gymnastics in the programming for new gymnasiums.
- Clarify the status of bike trails and define types.
- Discuss priorities for parks and phasing.
- Address land acquisition
- Develop high priority facilities (like pools) before parkland acquisition.

Discussion on City Park, Elmira/Leisuretown Park and Lagoon Valley Regional Park

City Park

- Support concept for competition recreation complex.
- Evaluate cost/benefit of municipal golf course.
- Consider central location of City Park.

Elmira/Leisuretown Park

- Support concept for joint City/School recreation complex.

Lagoon Valley Regional Park

- Support concept of City working with County to develop park.
- Refurbish cross-country track.
- Evaluate impact of proposed development on park.
- Enhance historic value of park in addition to natural surroundings.
- Include equestrian trails.

Surveys

Youth Survey

From November 27 to December 3, 1990, the Planning Team conducted a survey of 146 teenagers to identify the park and recreation needs of Vacaville youth and to determine how the City could improve recreation facilities and programs to better serve youth. Major findings included:

- Youths hang out at malls (16%), movies (15%), friend's house (15%), parks (12%), and own house (8%).
- Youth socialize (27%), have fun (20%) and pursue sports (18%) with friends.
- When alone most youth are at home (65%), watch television, listen to music, read or play sports.
- Youth recreate in average groups of 5.
- Thirty-seven percent of youth spend \$5-10 with friends.
- Most youth rely on parents and friends for transportation; 25% either walk or bicycle.
- Keating, Pena Adobe, Community Center/Pool, Andrews and Alamo Creek Parks are used most frequently.
- Big draws are baseball, waterslides, picnic areas, community pool and dances.
- Many parks are unknown to youth.
- Alamo Creek, Keating and North Orchard Parks are considered especially nice.
- Skating rink, dance club, baseball/football, and teen hang-outs are needed.
- Sixty-two percent of youth have used City programs.
- Youth want more places and activities.

Citizen's Survey

The Planning Team conducted a telephone survey of 300 randomly selected Vacaville households employing a questionnaire designed under the supervision of City staff. The interviews were conducted from January 10 to January 14. Participants in this survey were adult members of households selected in a randomized systematic cluster sample drawn from a special street-order telephone listing leased from Pacific Bell. The confidence interval, or statistical "margin of error," of observations from a sample of 300 is ± 5.7 percentage points (see *Appendix* for the complete survey results). Major features of the survey included:

- Growth is changing Vacaville, but people are not leaving. A third of the respondents report living in Vacaville at least 15 years; 70% of the respondents had lived in the City at least five years.
- The community gets good marks for creating a healthy business climate, providing a good family environment, and *our friendliness to each other*. Low marks are given for *ease of getting around town* and *opportunities for young people*.
- Growth and planning issues, crime, traffic and youth needs top the list of local unsolved problems.
- Vacaville residents place a high priority on *green* matters. On a list of 14 selected City government spending items, three of the top six receiving the most *spend more* responses were environmental issues.
- A majority of residents said they would vote for a \$15/year parcel assessment to double the number of trees planted annually, and to have the City maintain those trees as well.
- Places for children and youth held the highest priority for future planning.
- On a list of 32 specific ways to spend leisure time, Vacaville residents placed a high emphasis on walking, running and bicycling, with the greatest demand for better opportunities addressing places for exercise walking and bicycling.

Conclusions

Community Attitude is a Positive One. The data show that Vacaville citizens are willing to embark upon group projects of unquestioned import but uncertain outcome, such as recycling, open space, the needs of youth, child-care and car-pooling. They seem prepared to commit to these efforts even more readily than they are inclined to support near-term tangible developments such as athletic fields and courts, camping/fishing sites, and playgrounds. The good news for community leaders is that the public is willing to take a

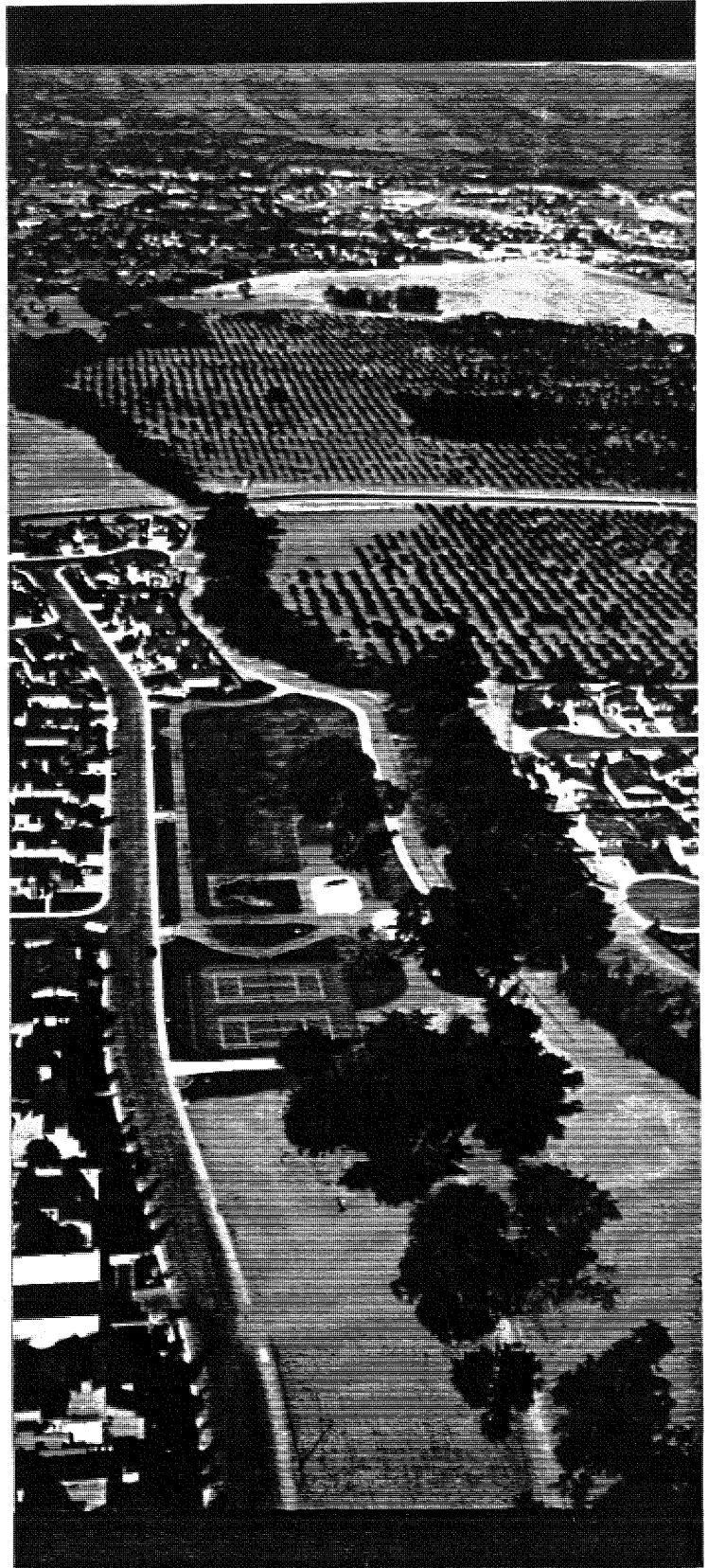
constructive attitude toward social undertakings that require a degree of consensus and optimism.

Youth. Those who have advocated targeting additional facilities and programs to young people are probably on the right track. Nearly half the households interviewed reported children under 18 in their midst; that youth issues were the fourth highest category of general city problems (and the third highest category of specific parks and community-service recommendations) tends to confirm the messages that have been conveyed to the City by other routes.

Trails. Well designed trail systems meet the needs not just of those who use the trails for their own sake (runners, cyclists, horses), but they serve the community's transportation system. As both of these needs are evident in the survey observations, the currently enhanced trail uses now being discussed probably will meet a great number of residents' approval.

Facilities Protection and Maintenance—Continuing Dilemma for Administrators. Many responses to the survey voiced the opinion that graffiti and rowdiness at public facilities is excessive. Others desired better access to restroom facilities. As one City strategy for clean and peaceful parks is to limit restroom access, the impasse has no simple solution. Law enforcement scored highly on the list of City expenditure categories. Indications are that not only would the public possibly approve increased spending on law enforcement for parks, but there also may be a high level of public willingness to accord sympathy to any of law enforcement's appeals for help.

P R O G R A M S
I N V E N T O R Y &
A N A L Y S I S



Recreation Programs Inventory and Analysis

Introduction

The *Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* will guide the City of Vacaville's efforts to provide residents with recreation facilities and programs over the next twenty years. Consequently, this chapter assesses the availability of organized recreation activities and events in the community. In addition, the quality of recreation service is established by the variety of recreational opportunities provided by community facilities, organized programs, and support for informal activities.

To assess recreation service in Vacaville, this chapter identifies:

- The variety of recreation programs provided in Vacaville;
- Detailed information about each program as available including sponsorship, frequency and location of meeting, age group and number of people served;
- An analysis of the current inventory of recreation programs compared with expressed community needs;
- A presentation of overall trends in recreation, demographics and education which will affect recreation program demand; and
- Recommendations for future recreation programming based on the analysis of program inventory, community need and overall trends.

Methodology

The following steps were taken to ensure that the inventory of recreation programs was thorough and accurate:

- (i) Approximately fifty recreation program providers in Vacaville were contacted by letter and asked to participate in the Recreation Programs Inventory and Analysis.
- (ii) Telephone interviews were conducted with participating program providers to determine the quantity and variety of programs offered and the ages and numbers of people served.
- (iii) A list of recreation programs was compiled based on the information provided in the interviews.
- (iv) The list of recreation programs was sent to the largest providers to verify the data and to check for accuracy and completeness.

Participating providers included: the Vacaville Community Services Department, National Little League, American Little League, Bobby Sox League, Babe Ruth League, Vacaville Swim Club, the Vacaville Art League, the Senior Center and North Bay YMCA. Although the Vacaville Unified School District uses many of the City's facilities (and school facilities are used by the City), it does not offer recreation programs and did not participate in the inventory. Only programs open to the general public and not requiring payment of annual membership fees were included.

Inventory and Analysis of Recreation Programs

There are many opportunities to participate in recreation activities and events in Vacaville. According to information provided by major sponsors of recreation programs, there are approximately 175 programs offered in Vacaville each year.

The recreation programs offered in Vacaville have been loosely categorized as follows:

Sports and Exercise Programs

These activities include sports leagues, martial arts classes, drop-in court play opportunities, aerobics, swimming and gymnastics. Approximately 45% of the total number of recreation programs offered are sports and exercise programs which draw about 50% of the total number of participants in all recreation programs.

Arts and Entertainment Programs

These programs include dance classes, performing arts series, craft workshops and painting classes. Approximately 19% of the total number of recreation programs offered are arts and entertainment programs, drawing 15% of the total number of participants in all recreation programs.

Education/Community Service Programs

These programs include youth groups sponsored by scouting organizations, day camps for children, senior center activities and child care. Approximately 18% of the total number of recreation programs offered are education or community service programs, drawing 12% of the total number of participants in all recreation programs.

Special Events

These one-day events sponsored by the Vacaville Community Services Department include holiday celebrations, dance parties and field trips. Approximately 18% of the total number of recreation programs offered are special events, drawing 23% of the total number of participants in all recreation programs.

Approximately 44,000 people participate in recreation programs in Vacaville each year (according to 1990 registrations). The actual number of residents served is difficult to document because many of these people are repeat participants who have enrolled in more

than one class, workshop, league or session. Some participants reside in neighboring communities. Therefore, the average participation of 44,000 people per year is an estimate of overall participation in recreation programs without accounting for repeat and non-resident participation.

The numbers of people served by recreation programs attest to the demand for recreation programs in Vacaville. The unmet demand is difficult to assess. Current participation, demographic projections, expressed desire for recreation programs and information supplied by program providers indicate that the demand may be greater than the supply. Based on the demographic projections and other trends affecting recreation service, future demand may grow faster than the projected supply of recreation programs.

Though some recreation program providers mentioned plans for more diverse programming or programs to meet specific needs, recreation program expansion is often linked to facility expansion. Lack of space or facilities may result in turning potential participants away or placing them on waiting lists.

The following recreation facilities are currently planned for construction:

- A 500-seat theater and cultural center with multipurpose meeting rooms, a library and a community center (under reconstruction);
- Two playfields funded by Measure I: John Arlington Park (13 acres on Foxboro Parkway, completed) and Allison Park (14 acres on Browns Valley Road), with 4 softball/baseball fields, 1 football field, 3 soccer fields, playgrounds and picnic areas; and
- One 4-acre park on Southwood Drive with a basketball court, playground and picnic area (completed in the fall of 1992).

The three parks will support sports and exercise programs, picnicking and children's play. The theater/cultural center will provide cultural and performing arts events and support arts programs, education/community service activities and classes and special events.

This section presents an inventory and analysis of the recreation programs that are currently offered in Vacaville. The inventory of recreation programs is presented in Table 1, pages 57 - 62. The programs provided in each category are compared to the:

- *Needs and desires for future recreation programs* expressed by community members in the Community Workshops, Youth Survey and Citizen's Survey;
- *City staff perceptions of recreation program demand and future plans for program expansion;*
- *Demographic estimates* for the current year and forecasts for the year 2010; and
- *Guiding and Implementing Policies* of the Parks and Recreation Element of the City's General Plan.

Table 1

RECREATION PROGRAMS IN VACAVILLE

	Age Group		Program Type	Sponsor	Frequency	# of People		Location
						Served	Waiting List	
SPORTS AND EXERCISE PROGRAMS								
Baseball and Softball								
Over 30 Women's	adult	league	City of Vacaville	1x week/ 9 weeks	105	no	Nelson/ Keating Parks	
Men's Open Fall	adult	league	City of Vacaville	1x week/ 9 weeks	270	no	Nelson Park	
Summer Co-ed	adult	league	City of Vacaville	1x week/ 9 weeks	270	no	Nelson/ Keating Parks	
Fall Co-ed	adult	league	City of Vacaville	2x week/ 9 weeks	405	no	Nelson/ Keating Parks	
Over 30 Men's	adult	league	City of Vacaville	2x week/ 9 weeks	495	no	Nelson/ Keating Parks	
Men's Semi-Pro Baseball	adult	contract	City of Vacaville	2x week/ 5 months	15	no	Keating/ Jepson Parks	
Men's Softball Rec League	adult	league	City of Vacaville	1x week/ 20 weeks	1,152	48+	Nelson/ Keating Parks	
Women's Softball Rec	adult	league	City of Vacaville	1x week/ 20 weeks	320	no	Nelson/ Keating Parks	
Men's Softball Open	adult	league	City of Vacaville	1x week/ 20 weeks	288	48+	Nelson Park	
Babe Ruth	13 - 18 yrs	league	Babe Ruth	3x week/ 28 weeks	247	no	Keating/ Jepson Parks	
Youth Baseball Camp	8 - 16 yrs	youth league	City of Vacaville	2 - 1 day camps/ yr	136	no	Vacaville HS Field	
National Little League	8 - 12 yrs	youth league	Nat'l Little League	3x week/ 25 weeks	454	20	Jepson/ Hemlock	
American Little League	8 - 12 yrs	youth league	Am Little League	3x week/ 25 weeks	600	20	Nelson/ Keating Parks	
Baseball Camp	8 - 16 yrs	youth class	City of Vacaville	5 day/ 2x summer	160	no	Vacaville HS	
T-Ball	6 - 7 yrs	youth league	City of Vacaville	2x week/ 8 weeks	700	no	Keating/ Larsen/ Jepson	
Fall Baseball	9 - 16 yrs	youth league	City of Vacaville	2x week/ 3 months	405	no	Keating/ Jepson Parks	
Girls' fast-pitch Softball	6 - 17 yrs	youth league	City of Vacaville	2x week/ 4 months	440	no	Keating/ Larsen Parks	
Pony/ Colt Leagues	13 - 15 yrs	youth league	Pony League	3x week/ 20 weeks	40	no	Keating Park	
Bobby Sox								
Girls' T-Ball	6 - 8 yrs	youth league	Bobby Sox	3x week/ 20 weeks	100	no	Jepson/ Hemlock	
Fast Pitch Softball	9 - 18 yrs	youth league	Bobby Sox	3x week/ 20 weeks	200	no	Jepson/ Hemlock	
Bay Fishing	family	excursion	City of Vacaville	4x year	24	no	San Francisco Bay	
Drill Team	9 yrs and up	class	City of Vacaville	1x week/ 5 weeks	23	no	Community Center	
Volleyball								
Co-ed Rec. Volleyball	adult	games	City of Vacaville	1x week/ 20 weeks	430	no	Duker/ Vaca HS/ Jepson	
Women's Comp League	adult	league	City of Vacaville	1x week/ 20 weeks	offered	not held	Georgie Duke Center	
Men's Comp League	adult	league	City of Vacaville	1x week/ 20 weeks	offered	not held	Georgie Duke Center	
Volleyball Clinic	adult	league	City of Vacaville	1x year	20	no	Georgie Duke Center	
Doubles Tournament	adult	special event	City of Vacaville	1x year	154	no	Keating Park	
Boys Comp. Volleyball	16 - 18 yrs	league	City of Vacaville	3 months/ yr	12	no	Georgie Duke	

Table 1 (continued)

RECREATION PROGRAMS IN VACAVILLE

Age Group		Program Type	Sponsor	Frequency	# of People Served	Waiting List	Location
SPORTS AND EXERCISE PROGRAMS (Cont.)							
Gymnastics							
Kindergym	3 - 5 yrs	class	City of Vacaville	2x week/ 5 weeks	300	15	Georgie Duke Center
Bumble Bee	5 - 7 yrs	class	City of Vacaville	2x week/ 5 weeks	300	15	Georgie Duke Center
Beg. Gymnastics	6 - 10 yrs	class	City of Vacaville	2x week/ 5 weeks	300	15	Georgie Duke Center
Adv. Beg. Gymnastics	11 - 13 yrs	class	City of Vacaville	2x week/ 5 weeks	300	15	Georgie Duke Center
Int. Gymnastics	11 - 13 yrs	class	City of Vacaville	2x week/ 5 weeks	300	15	Georgie Duke Center
Adv. Gymnastics	3 - 13 yrs	class	City of Vacaville	2x week/ 5 weeks	300	15	Georgie Duke Center
Youth Bowling	10 - 12 yrs	class	City of Vacaville	1x week/ 7 weeks	12	no	Vaca Bowl
Open Gym	grades 7 - 9	drop - in	City of Vacaville	10x season	21	no	Georgie Duke Center
Open Gym	grades 10 - 12	drop - in	City of Vacaville	10x season	30	no	Georgie Duke Center
Self - Defense							
Junior Self Defense	6 - 11 yrs	class	City of Vacaville	4x week/ 2 weeks	132	no	Georgie Duke Center
Junior Self-Defense	9 - 14 yrs	class	City of Vacaville	4x week/ 2 weeks	100	no	Georgie Duke Center
Junior Karate	9 - 15 yrs	class	City of Vacaville	4x week/ 2 weeks	80	no	Georgie Duke Center
Junior Self-Defense Adv.	9 - 15 yrs	class	City of Vacaville	4x week/ 2 weeks	60	no	Georgie Duke Center
Adult Karate Co-ed	adult	class	City of Vacaville	4x week/ 2 weeks	40	no	Community Center
Women's Self Defense	adult	class	City of Vacaville	4x week/ 2 weeks	24	no	Community Center
Weight Training	family	drop - in	City of Vacaville	continuous	NA	no	Trower Center
Tennis Lessons	youth	class	City of Vacaville	continuous	500	no	Community Center
Tennis Lessons	adult	class	City of Vacaville	monthly/ continuous	100	no	Community Center
Tennis Lessons	adult	class	City of Vacaville				Vacaville High
Golf							
Men's Golf Leagues	adult	league	City of Vacaville	1x week/ 16 weeks	130	25	Green Tree Golf Course
Golf Camp	youth	class	City of Vacaville	2x year	100	no	Green Tree Golf Course
Women's Golf Leagues	adult	league	City of Vacaville	1x week/ 8 weeks	20	no	Green Tree Golf Course
Women's Golf class	adult	class	City of Vacaville	12 weeks	80	120	Green Tree Golf Course
Track and Field Clinic	grades 4 - 10	class	City of Vacaville	8 sessions/ summer	offered	not held	Vacaville HS
Elementary Track Meet	youth	special event	City of Vacaville	1x year	1,800	no	Vacaville HS
Snow Ski Trips	teens	excursion	City of Vacaville	3x year	50	no	Ski areas
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMS							
Ballet							
PreBallet	3 - 5 yrs	class	City of Vacaville	1x week/ continuous	350	no	Community Center
Newcomer's Ballet	5 - 7 yrs	class	City of Vacaville	1x week/ continuous	500	no	Community Center

**Table 1 (continued)
RECREATION PROGRAMS IN VACAVILLE**

	Age Group		Program Type	Sponsor	Frequency	# of People		Location
						Served	Waiting List	
SPORTS AND EXERCISE PROGRAMS (Cont.)								
Soccer Camps	8 - 16 yrs	week-long clinic	City of Vacaville	2x year	177	no	Schools	
Adult Indoor Soccer	adult	open	City of Vacaville	4x/month	1,200	no	Georgie Duke Center	
Nerf Football Clinic	grades 1 - 3	youth program	City of Vacaville	1x week/ 8 weeks	90	no	Keating field/ Vaca HS	
Youth Flag Football	grades 4 - 8	youth league	City of Vacaville	2x week/ 8 weeks	305	no	Keating fields 1 & 2	
Basketball								
Basketball Camp	grades 1 - 8	youth program	City of Vacaville	3 days/ 2x year	196	no	Georgie Duke Center	
Youth Basketball	grades 5 - 8	league	City of Vacaville	3x week/ 12 weeks	350	no	Georgie Duke Center	
Men's Basketball	adult	league	City of Vacaville	3x week/ 3 months	350	no	Duke/ various	
" Basketball Tournament	adult	2 day	City of Vacaville	2x year	250	no	Duke/ various	
Daytime Basketball	adult	league	City of Vacaville	2x week/ 6 weeks	36	no	Georgie Duke Center	
Men's 3 on 3	adult	league	City of Vacaville	NA	offered	not held	Georgie Duke Center	
Outdoor Basketball	family	league	City of Vacaville	continuous	NA	no	Trower Center	
Youth Basketball Clinic	grades 1 - 4	class	City of Vacaville	1x week/ 8 weeks	85	no	Georgie Duke Center	
Women's Basketball	adult	league	City of Vacaville	NA	offered	not held	Georgie Duke Center	
Teen's Basketball	grades 9 - 12	league	City of Vacaville	NA	offered	not held	Georgie Duke Center	
Men's 5'10" & under	adult	league	City of Vacaville	NA	offered	not held	Georgie Duke Center	
Pepsi Hot Shot	8 - 18 yrs	special event	City of Vacaville	1x year	75	no	Georgie Duke Center	
Swimming								
Public Swim	family	drop - in	City of Vacaville	7x week/ 5 months	NA	no	Community Center Pool	
Public Swim	family	drop - in	City of Vacaville	7x week/ 3 months	NA	no	Vacaville High Pool	
Master Swim Team	19 yrs and up	class	City of Vacaville	5x week	5	no	Community Center Pool	
Adult Lap Swim	18 yrs and up	pass/drop - in	City of Vacaville	11x week/ continuous	4,500	no	Community Center Pool	
Adult Lap Swim	18 yrs and up	pass/drop - in	City of Vacaville	11x week/ continuous	NA	no	Vacaville High Pool	
Adult Water Aerobics	18 yrs and up	class	City of Vacaville	5x week	122	no	Community Center Pool	
Swim Lessons	5 - 12 yrs	class	City of Vacaville	3x week/ 15 weeks	2,100	no	Community Center Pool	
Swim Lessons			City of Vacaville			no	Vacaville High Pool	
Vacaville Swim Club	6 - 18 yrs	competitive	City of Vacaville	5x week/ continuous	42	no	Community Center Pool	
Senior Swim	60+ yrs	open	City of Vacaville	11x week/ continuous	NA	no	Vacaville High Pool	
Tiny Tot Gym	3 - 5 yrs	class	City of Vacaville	1x week/ 6 weeks	24	no	Community Center	
Tiny Tot Dance & Movement	3 - 5 yrs	class	City of Vacaville	1x week/ 6 weeks	48	no	Community Center	
You and Me, Kid!	2 - 5 yrs	class	City of Vacaville	1x week/ 5 weeks	36	no	Community Center	

**Table 1 (continued)
RECREATION PROGRAMS IN VACAVILLE**

Age Group		Program Type	Sponsor	Frequency	# of People Served	Waiting List	Location
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMS (Cont.)							
Beginning Ballet	5 - 7 yrs	class	City of Vacaville	1x week/ continuous	850	no	Community Center
Ballet	8 yrs and up	class	City of Vacaville	1x week/ continuous	1,100	no	Community Center
Advanced Ballet	8 yrs and up	class	City of Vacaville	1x week/ continuous	350	no	Community Center
Pointe	8 yrs and up	class	City of Vacaville	1x week/ continuous	150	no	Community Center
Ballet Recital	youth	special event	City of Vacaville	1x year	600	no	Community Center
Dance							
Ballroom Dancin' 1	adult	class	City of Vacaville	8 classes/ 6 wks	240	no	McBride Senior Center
Ballroom Dancin' 2	adult	class	City of Vacaville	4 classes/ 6 wks	100	no	McBride Senior Center
Swing/ Jitterbug Workshop	adult	workshop	City of Vacaville	4 classes/ 4 wks	140	no	Community Center
Clogging	adult	class	City of Vacaville	12 classes/ 4 wks	120	no	Community Center
Bellydancing	adult	class	City of Vacaville	8 classes/ 6 wks	50	no	Community Center
Country Western Dance	adult	class	City of Vacaville	8 classes/ 6 wks	560	no	Community Center
Creative Jazz Dance	3 - 16 yrs	class	City of Vacaville	1x week/ continuous	512	no	Community Center
Pom Pom and Jazz	7 - 10 yrs	class	City of Vacaville	1x week/ continuous	52	no	Community Center
Motion Dynamics	adult	class	City of Vacaville	8 classes/ 7 wks	120	no	McBride Senior Center
Jazzercise	adult	class	contract	3x week/ continuous	252	no	Community Center
Hairbrows I & II	adult	workshop	City of Vacaville	4/ 2 days	64	no	Community Center
Victorian Hat	adult	workshop	City of Vacaville	4/ 1 day	48	no	Community Center
Eucalyptus Swag	adult	workshop	City of Vacaville	4/ 1 day	48	no	Community Center
Poipourri Hoop	adult	workshop	City of Vacaville	4/ 1 day	32	no	Community Center
Covered Album	adult	workshop	City of Vacaville	4/ 1 day	48	no	Community Center
Fall Wreath	adult	workshop	City of Vacaville	1 day	9	no	Community Center
Lily Shirt Painting Workshop	adult	workshop	City of Vacaville	1 day	11	no	Community Center
Bejeweled Mask	adult	workshop	City of Vacaville	1 day	6	no	Community Center
Halloween Candle	adult	workshop	City of Vacaville	1 day	8	no	Community Center
Halloween Sweatshirt	adult	workshop	City of Vacaville	1 day	7	no	Community Center
Watercolor Shirt Painting	adult	workshop	City of Vacaville	4/ 1 day	24	no	Community Center
Drawing/ Painting	adult	workshop	City of Vacaville	12 classes/ 4 wks	72	no	Community Center
Snow Bear Shirt Painting	adult	workshop	City of Vacaville	1 day	9	no	Community Center
Kids Are Music	5 - 12 yrs	workshop	City of Vacaville	2x week/ 5 weeks	105	no	Community Center
Children's Drawing & Painting	6 - 12 yrs	class	City of Vacaville	1x week/ 5 weeks	33	no	Community Center
Vacaville Art League	adult	art program	Art Gallery	1x month/ continuous	50	no	Vacaville Art Gallery

**Table 1 (continued)
RECREATION PROGRAMS IN VACAVILLE**

Age Group		Program Type	Sponsor	Frequency	# of People Served	Waiting List	Location
EDUCATION/COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS							
American Sign Language 1	adult	class	City of Vacaville	4 classes/ 6 wks	28	no	Community Center
American Sign Language 2	adult	class	City of Vacaville	4 classes/ 6 wks	28	no	Community Center
Beginning Dog Obedience	adult/pets	class	City of Vacaville	4 classes/ 6 wks	40	no	Keating Park
Chinese Cooking	adult	class	City of Vacaville	3 classes/ 8 wks	33	no	Community Center
Vacaville Teen Committee	12 - 18 yrs	youth program	City of Vacaville	continuous	114	no	Community Center
T.G.I.FUN/ Summer Adventure	grades 1 - 6	child care	City of Vacaville	5x week/ continuous	4,045	no	various schools
Cook, Play and Learn	3 - 8 yrs	class	City of Vacaville	continuous 6 week	16	no	Community Center
Saturday Night Babysitting	4 - 10 yrs	child care	City of Vacaville	1x month	15	no	Community Ctr/Cambridge
After- School Program	5 - 12 yrs	drop - in	YMCA	5x week/ continuous	26	no	Padan Park
Lamaze	adult	class	City of Vacaville	8 classes/ 6 wks	48	no	Community Center
Preschool Class Schedule	3 yrs	class	City of Vacaville	2x week	125	120	Community Center
Jump & Grow	2 - 3 yrs	class	City of Vacaville	2x week	50	no	Community Center
Jobworks	13 - 18 yrs	youth program	City of Vacaville	continuous	40	no	Community Center
Craft Class T-Shirts	seniors	class	City of Vacaville	1x week/ 3weeks	2	no	McBride Senior Center
Painting Classes	seniors	class	City of Vacaville	1x week/ continuous	9	no	McBride Senior Center
Porcelain Class	seniors	class	City of Vacaville	1x week/ 13 weeks	21	no	McBride Senior Center
Ceramics Class	seniors	class	City of Vacaville	1x week/ 4 weeks	10	no	McBride Senior Center
China Painting	seniors	class	City of Vacaville	1x week/ continuous	33	no	McBride Senior Center
Sugar Britches	seniors	class	City of Vacaville	4x quarter	15	no	McBride Senior Center
All About Living Trusts	seniors	class	City of Vacaville	2x quarter	105	no	McBride Senior Center
Computer Literacy Class	seniors	class	City of Vacaville	2x week/ 6 weeks	25	no	McBride Senior Center
Life History Class	seniors	class	City of Vacaville	1x week	40	no	McBride Senior Center
Tai Chi Exercise Class	seniors	class	City of Vacaville	2x week	10	no	Georgie Duke Center
Bereavement Support Group	seniors	class	City of Vacaville	2x month	5	no	McBride Senior Center
55 Alive Mature Driver Course	seniors	class	City of Vacaville	2 day	40	no	McBride Senior Center
Saturday Respite Program	seniors	class	City of Vacaville	4x week	5	no	McBride Senior Center
Ball Room Dance Class	seniors	class	City of Vacaville	1x week/ 6 weeks	40	no	Senior Center
Latin Dance Class	seniors	class	City of Vacaville	1x week/ 6 weeks	22	no	McBride Senior Center
Future Farmers of America	grades 9 - 12	class	Vacaville HS	1x month	70	no	Vacaville HS
Girl Scouts	grades K - 12	youth program	Napa Girls Council	1x week	150	no	Hemlock School
Special Needs Handicapped	youth/ adult	drop - in	City of Vacaville	24x year	47	no	Community Center/ Duke

Table 1 (continued)

RECREATION PROGRAMS IN VACAVILLE

	Age Group	Program Type	Sponsor	Frequency	# of People Served	Waiting List	Location
SPECIAL EVENTS							
Modern Music Dance	grades 9 - 12	special event	City of Vacaville	1 day/ 4x year	150	no	Community Center (calls to kids' homes)
Santa's Hotline	kids	holiday event	City of Vacaville	1 day	72	no	Community Center
Junior High Dance Party	grades 7 - 9	special event	City of Vacaville	1 day/ 3x year	120	no	Community Center
Talented Teen Contest	grades 7 - 12	special event	City of Vacaville	1 day	150	no	Community Center
Rocktober Jam Festival	15 - 23 yrs	special event	City of Vacaville	1 day	66	no	Community Center
Minimum Day Activities	grades K - 12	youth program	City of Vacaville	6x year	28	no	Community Center
Xmas Wreath Demonstration	youth	holiday event	City of Vacaville	1 day	13	no	Community Center
Haunted House	youth	holiday event	City of Vacaville	1 day	850	no	Community Center
Santa's Christmas Party	kids	holiday event	City of Vacaville	1 day	205	no	Community Center
Community Parking Lot Sale	all	event	City of Vacaville	1 day	700	no	Community Center
Mini Christmas Tree	adult	holiday event	City of Vacaville	1 day	17	no	Community Center
Christmas Fluffy Bow Wreath	adult	holiday event	City of Vacaville	1 day	13	no	Community Center
Christmas Ornament	adult	holiday event	City of Vacaville	1 day	4	no	Community Center
Christmas Bows/ Giftwrap	adult	holiday event	City of Vacaville	1 day	13	no	Community Center
Christmas Lights Sweatshirt	adult	holiday event	City of Vacaville	1 day	7	no	Community Center
Giants (Vacaville Night)	all	holiday event	City of Vacaville	1 day	600	no	Candlestick Park
Oakland A's game	youth	special event	City of Vacaville	2x year	53	no	Oakland Coliseum
Baseball Card Shows	youth	special event	City of Vacaville	1x year	1,600	no	Community Center
Easter Egg Hunt	1 - 8 yrs	special event	City of Vacaville	4x year	1,800	no	Community Center
Summer Teen Fest	youth	special event	City of Vacaville	1x year	150	no	Pena Adobe
Marine World Trip	youth	special event	City of Vacaville	1x year	95	no	Pena Adobe
Teen Concerts	youth	special event	City of Vacaville	3x year	600	no	Marine World
Scarlet Teen Concert	youth	special event	City of Vacaville	1x year	600	no	Keating Park
CPR Class en mass	adult	special event	City of Vacaville	1x year	40	yes	Community Center
A Craft Affair	adult	special event	City of Vacaville	1x year	350	no	Community Center
Country Western Dance	adult	special event	City of Vacaville	1x year	490	no	Community Center
Vacaville Art Show	adult	special event	Vaca Art League	2x year	300	no	Community Center
Piano Concert	adult	special event	City of Vacaville	1x year	100	no	Community Center
Melodrama	adult	special event	City of Vacaville	1x year	200	no	Community Center
King's (Vacaville night)	all	special event	City of Vacaville	1x year	175	no	Community Center
Day Camp	6 - 12 yrs	special event	City of Vacaville	1x year	600	25	Arco Arena
		day camp	City of Vacaville	5x wk/ 10 wks/ year	600	no	Pena Adobe

Sports and Exercise Programs

Traditionally, community recreation departments have emphasized sports and exercise programs. The City of Vacaville Community Service Department has also emphasized this type of programming, with approximately 45% of all offered programs in this category. The community has responded enthusiastically as indicated by full enrollments. Approximately half of the total participants in all programs were enrolled in a sports and exercise activity. Generally, more information is available about sports and exercise participation and interest than about other types of recreation programs.

Sports and exercise programs and facilities received a significant number of mentions in the Community Workshops, Youth Survey, and Citizen's Survey. This high level of response may be due to local interest in these types of programs and/or because these programs are identified in the minds of residents with the Community Services Department. High participation in these activities was indicated in the results of the Citizen's Survey. Respondents to the survey also indicated a high level of interest in watching local sports games in Vacaville, with 32% participating at least 5 times during the last year. In addition, when Citizen's Survey respondents were asked in an open-ended question if there was any recreational activity which was not mentioned on the survey, many mentioned an indoor or outdoor sports or exercise activity.

A significant finding of the Citizen's Survey is that the dominant activity pattern among Vacaville residents is that of self-directed, less organized activities such as cycling, exercise, walking, swimming and bicycling. This concurs with the findings of the *California Outdoor Recreation Plan* (1988) which states that the most popular recreational activities are those which are the simplest and least expensive, such as the informal activities mentioned above.

Baseball and Softball

Little League baseball programs are sponsored by the National and the American Little Leagues and serve children 8 to 12 years of age. During the season, approximately 1,054 children play in the two leagues. In 1990 there were approximately 40 children on the waiting list for the two leagues, all eight-year-olds. The Babe Ruth league offers baseball for youth 13 to 18 years and has roughly 247 participants on 19 teams. The Bobby Sox league has a 20 week program (T-Ball for 6- to 8-year-old girls, Fast Pitch Softball for 9- to 18-year-olds) that draws about 300 children annually. Recently added Pony and Colt Leagues serve teens 13 to 16 years old. The City sponsors Fall Baseball for youth 9 to 16 years, with approximately 405 participants, and Girl's Fast-pitch Softball in the Summer for 6- to 17-year-old girls, with about 440 participants. The City's T-Ball program for 6- and 7-year-old boys and girls has 700 participants. The City also offers Baseball Camps for 160 youth ages 8 to 16. A total of approximately 3,500 children and youth participate in baseball or softball recreation programs each year.

For adults, the City sponsors men's, women's and co-ed softball leagues during Summer and Fall, serving over 3,300 people on approximately 252 teams. The leagues play six nights a

week on three fields at Nelson and Keating Parks. The two men's softball league programs each have a waiting list of over 48 people.

Although most Citizen's Survey participants indicated that they are average (45%) or below average (39%) users of City parks and recreation facilities, 18% of respondents have played baseball and 25% have played softball at least five times in the last year. These respondents may have played informally or in organized programs. Baseball/softball programs were not specifically addressed in the Survey.

Community Workshop findings suggest that existing league programs are highly popular. Workshop participants indicated that more baseball/softball fields in general are needed, especially lighted fields and youth fields. One workshop participant noted that youth leagues have grown by 25% in the last four years. Some residents suggested that additional ball diamonds be developed at Keating Park and that sports leagues continue through the winter.

City recreation staff identified deficiencies in ballfields and open play or multi-use fields. To respond to a need for practice space, the City has installed over 40 backstops at school sites. City staff identified an urgent need for field lighting. The demand for these facilities indicate that program expansion would probably also be popular.

When asked what facilities or programs they want the City to provide, respondents to the Youth Survey mentioned baseball/softball programs as their third choice (after skating and dances). Sixty-two percent (62%) of Youth Survey respondents indicated that they have participated in City recreation programs (and/or Little Leagues). When asked to specify which programs, baseball (24%) and softball (13%) were mentioned frequently. Many youth also reported baseball and softball as activities in specific parks (Irene Larson, Nelson, Keating, Jepson, Fairmont/Beelard parks, and some of the school parks).

A third baseball Little League is planned upon the completion of Allison Park. Additional field time will be available late in 1992 at Keating Park with the installation of lights on existing fields. These additional facilities will help to provide space for expanded baseball programs and to distribute ball play opportunities into more sections of the City. They could also support informal ball play activities. The popularity of these programs indicates that baseball and softball leagues should be a high priority for program expansion.

Volleyball

The City offers three adult volleyball leagues over a 20-week period: men's competitive, women's competitive and co-ed recreational volleyball. Although all three programs were offered last year, the two competitive volleyball programs were not held due to lack of interest. The co-ed recreational volleyball program drew 430 people. In addition, a doubles tournament is held once a year with approximately 154 adult players in Keating Park and an annual volleyball clinic for adults is offered. For boys 16 to 18 years, league play is

available and attracts about 12 youth. Approximately 616 people participate in volleyball programs each year.

Fifteen percent (15%) of Citizen's Survey respondents indicated that they have played volleyball at least five times during 1990. It is unknown whether this answer indicates formal program participation or informal play. In another question, the majority of respondents felt that places to picnic and play volleyball should be given medium priority in planning for Vacaville parks and recreation facilities (it is not known how many respondents would say the same if asked only about places to play volleyball).

Volleyball was mentioned in one Community Workshop; a comment was made that volleyball courts should be added to all parks. Youth Survey respondents mentioned volleyball only when reporting their activities at Alamo Creek Park. Recreation staff indicated that sand or grass volleyball courts are preferable to asphalt.

Currently, there are four volleyball courts in Vacaville, two indoor wood-floored courts at the Sports Center, one outdoor asphalt court at Patwin Park, and one outdoor dirt-surfaced court at Peña Adobe Park. No additional courts are planned as of this date.

Although a strong demand for volleyball programs is not evident in the analysis of existing programs, waiting lists, needs assessment findings or demographic projections, the availability of more courts would probably stimulate increased participation either in formal programs or informal activity.

Basketball

Basketball programs are available in Vacaville for people of all ages. Organized leagues exist for children in grades 5 to 8 and high school youth. In addition to youth programs, the City sponsors men's, men's 3 on 3, men's 5'10" and under, women's, and outdoor family leagues. (Some of these programs were offered in 1990 but did not draw sufficient numbers of players; these programs — men's 3 on 3, men's 5'10" and under, teen's and women's basketball — were offered again in 1991.) Approximately 736 people per year participate in league basketball. Other basketball programs, clinics and classes are also offered through the City. These include a Basketball Camp for children under 14, a Basketball Clinic for children ages 6 to 9, and a 2-day adult Basketball Tournament two times a year. Pepsi sponsors an annual Hot Shot event for youth ages 8 to 18 years. Approximately 606 people participate in these special basketball events.

Nineteen percent (19%) of Citizen's Survey respondents indicated that they have played basketball at least five times during the last year, either in formal programs or informally. Most notable, however, are survey results related to providing more programs and activities for youth. Basketball is popular among youth, according to the Youth Survey. In three questions (Question 3, 6 and 8), the needs of children and youth were of great concern to Citizen's Survey respondents. These factors indicate that expanded youth programs would be supported.

Community Workshop participants expressed a need for more basketball courts and a specific desire for a basketball court in the proposed City Center park. The desire for additional basketball programs was not mentioned, suggesting that courts are desired for informal play.

Youth Survey results indicate that teenagers play basketball at many Vacaville parks (Padan, Fairmont/Beelard, Meadowlands, Irene Larson, North Orchard, Patwin, Willows parks, and all of the school parks). Of the 62% of youth who have participated in City recreation programs, 16% indicated that they have played City-sponsored basketball. Presumably, many youth also play basketball informally at local parks. The popularity of the sport is underscored by the fact that youth survey respondents mentioned that they would like the City to provide more basketball programs.

Currently, Vacaville has a total of nine basketball full-courts and five half-courts spread throughout the City. Southwood Park will be completed by Fall 1992 and will provide one additional basketball full-court. Additional courts expansion recommended in the Recreation Facilities Inventory and Analysis could support both informal play and additional basketball leagues.

Soccer

Two soccer programs are offered in Vacaville. An indoor soccer open program draws approximately 1,200 adults and a bi-annual Soccer Camp serves 177 youth. The Vacaville Youth Soccer League operates from August to November with 1,000 participants from ages 5 to 16.

Soccer was not directly addressed in the Citizen's Survey nor in Community Workshops. However, in an open-ended question on the Citizen's Survey, four participants mentioned soccer participation. Soccer was mentioned without particular emphasis by City recreation staff.

As expressed by participation rates and in the Youth Survey results, soccer is a popular youth activity at Sierra Vista and Alamo School Parks, and at Padan, Meadowlands, and Fairmont/Beelard Parks. It was also mentioned as a favorite activity at the Sports Center. Many teenagers have participated in City-sponsored indoor soccer programs (18% of those 62% who have participated in City programs).

The interest in soccer has been growing throughout California in recent years. The *California Outdoor Recreation Plan* (1988) reported that 7.4% of survey respondents participated in soccer. However, these respondents reported a very high average number of participating days (43.8 days per person). This indicated the devotion of soccer participants to their sport.

Football

The City sponsors Youth Flag Football as an 8-week program for children 9 to 11 years old. This program serves approximately 305 children and utilizes two multi-purpose fields at Keating Park. A Nerf Football Clinic is also offered by the City, serving 90 children under 9 years old. This program runs for two months and uses fields at Keating Park and Vacaville High School. Two organized youth tackle leagues exist in the City: the Diablo Valley Conference and the California Youth. Participation rates for these leagues are not available.

Community Workshop participants did not mention football programs or facilities. City staff did not emphasize the need for expanded football programs. Football participation was not directly addressed in the Citizen's Survey, but received several mentions in an open-ended question about activity participation. In the *California Outdoor Recreation Plan* (1988), 9.1% of respondents reported participating in football.

Some Youth Survey participants mentioned that they play football at Keating and North Orchard Parks and at some of the school parks. When asked what recreation programs or facilities they want the City to provide, some respondents mentioned football (6% of total mentions). Football was also mentioned by those who indicated that they have participated in City-sponsored recreation programs.

Currently there are two public football fields in Vacaville at Keating Park, with one additional football field planned for Phase 2 development of John Arlington Park. These fields should accommodate future demand for fields and programs.

Swimming

Swimming is a very popular recreation activity in Vacaville, with five programs sponsored by the City and a competitive swimming program offered through the Vacaville Swim Club.

In general, swimming is a highly popular informal activity for all age groups both in Vacaville and California. Every day for five months of the year, the Community Center Pool is open for drop-in swimming. The adult lap swim program is also open year-round seven days a week, drawing about 4,500 swimmers per year. Three swim instruction programs are offered by the City: the Master Swim Team for adults (19 years and up) with five participants; the adult water aerobics class with 26 registrants; and swim lessons for children 5 to 12 years old. The swim lessons attract 2,100 children per year. The Vacaville Swim Club sponsors a competitive swim program involving 42 youth.

Swimming was identified as the third most popular activity for respondents to the Citizen's Survey. Forty-three percent (43%) of respondents indicated that they have gone swimming at least five times during the last year, and 3% indicated that they would go swimming more often if they felt there were adequate opportunities in Vacaville. In the *California Outdoor Recreation Plan* (1988), 31% of survey respondents reported participating in pool swimming. An additional 59% participated in swimming in lakes, rivers or the ocean.

Community Workshop participants strongly expressed the need for additional swimming opportunities. Most comments related to the need for another public pool. Some participants also specifically mentioned a need for additional swimming programs. City recreation staff identified serious deficiencies in swimming facilities and programs. The Vacaville Swim Club concurs that Vacaville lacks both swimming facilities and programs, and strongly advocates the development of an aquatic complex with an Olympic-sized 50-meter pool.

Surprisingly, Youth Survey respondents did not emphasize the need for swimming programs or facilities as much as other recreational opportunities. However, swimming appears as a top priority program or facility desired by youth and also was mentioned as the favorite activity of Youth Community Center users.

With the development of two additional pools as recommended in the Recreation Facilities Inventory and Analysis (Chapter 8), Vacaville will have further opportunities to expand the swim program and encourage swimming as an informal recreational activity. Presently, Vacaville does not offer swim programs specifically for seniors, adaptive swimming programs for people with disabilities, nor swimming lessons for children under five. A broader range of program options could also be offered, including diving, water polo, synchronized swimming, scuba diving lessons, lifesaver training and aqua exercise.

Gymnastics

The City offers many gymnastics programs for children and youth up to age 13. Each class meets at Georgie Duke Sports Center two times a week for a five week session and serves approximately 300 children per year. Across age ranges and ability levels, approximately 1,800 children are served, and nearly 100 children are on waiting lists.

Five percent (5%) of Citizen's Survey respondents have participated in gymnastics during the last year. Gymnastics was not mentioned in the Community Workshops. In the Youth Survey, respondents who have participated in City recreation programs identified gymnastics as one of the programs. City recreation staff mentioned the need for another gymnasium for gymnastics and other indoor programs, or an expansion of Georgie Duke Center.

In light of the noted popularity of these programs, the City of Vacaville should continue to expand gymnastics. The new cultural center will have multi-purpose rooms which may accommodate additional gymnastics programming.

Self-defense/Martial Arts

Karate and self-defense classes are provided for a wide range of ages by ability level. Most classes are co-ed and meet once a week for 10-week sessions. The programs are offered by the City and taught under contract with Reyes Kempo Karate. Approximately 174 people per year participate in these classes. A variety of private programs may be offered in Vacaville; however, these are not represented in the inventory and their participation rates are unknown.

Self-defense and martial arts classes were not mentioned in any of the community participation activities. The need for another gym for Karate was mentioned in the recreation staff interviews.

Currently Karate and self-defense classes are taught at the Georgie Duke Center and at the Community Center. The new cultural center may provide additional opportunities to expand these programs by offering a wider variety of activities and expanding opportunities for teens and youth.

Golf

The City offers men's and women's golf leagues, attracting about 150 people per year, with 25 people presently on the waiting list for the men's golf league. In addition, a golf camp is held twice a year with approximately 45 participants. All programs take place at the Green Tree Golf Course, which is a privately owned course open to the public. Vacaville does not have a City-owned golf course.

Golf is relatively popular among Vacaville residents, according to Citizen's Survey results. Twenty percent (20%) of respondents indicated that they have played golf at least five times during the last year. Golf was not mentioned in the Community Workshops or Youth Survey. In the *California Outdoor Recreation Plan* (1988), 16.4% of survey respondents reported participating in golf.

As reported in the Recreation Facilities Inventory and Analysis, golf course development may be prohibited due to drought conditions. This condition may make it difficult to provide access to golf for all Vacaville residents.

Track

The City currently offers two track and field programs. A clinic for children 9 to 15 was offered last year but was not held due to lack of interest; however, an annual elementary track meet attracts 1,800 youth.

Although jogging or running was a popular activity mentioned by 35% of respondents to the Citizen's Survey, track and field events were not specifically mentioned as desired programs. Likewise, these programs were not mentioned by Community Workshop participants. The *California Outdoor Recreation Plan* (1988) noted that 12.6% of survey respondents participated in jogging.

Youth Survey results indicate that teenagers run or jog at many Vacaville parks (Alamo, Andrews/Ulatas, Fairmont/Beelard, Meadowlands, Willows and Jepson Softball Park); however, whether this preferred activity translates into an interest in organized runs or competitive track meets is unknown. The annual track meet registration indicates that there is interest among youth in organized track and field programs.

With the addition of the Southwood and Measure I parks and the development of multi-use trails recommended in the Recreation Facilities Inventory and Analysis, runners and joggers will have more places to exercise. The City of Vacaville should continue to encourage running as an informal recreational activity. Organized track programs could be expanded among youth. The possibility of holding family fun runs could be explored.

Tennis

The City offers a continuous program of tennis lessons for youth which draws approximately 500 students per year. Adult tennis lessons were added at the beginning of 1991; approximately 30 adults have participated in 3 months.

Fourteen percent (14%) of Citizen's Survey respondents indicated that they have played tennis at least five times during the last year. (This percentage is low compared to the statewide participation rate of almost 18%, according to the *California Outdoor Recreation Plan*, 1988.) However, three percent said that they would play tennis more often if they felt that there were adequate opportunities in Vacaville.

Some Community Workshop participants stated that more tennis facilities are needed, especially lighted courts. Tennis was mentioned in the Youth Survey as a relatively popular activity in Alamo Creek and North Orchard Parks. City recreation staff expressed that more tennis courts are needed.

Currently, Vacaville has 12 tennis courts with 10 more proposed. Both tennis programs and informal recreational use will be expanded.

Other Sports and Exercise Programs

In addition to the major sports described above, the City of Vacaville provides other sports and exercise programs. These include: Bay fishing excursions, a drill team class, youth bowling, weight training programs and winter ski trips. Of these, fishing and bowling were mentioned in the Citizen's Survey or the Community Workshops.

Thirty-two percent (32%) of survey respondents indicated that they have gone fishing at least five times during 1990. Workshop participants and City recreation staff commented that additional fishing facilities are needed. Fishing was noted as a popular activity in the *California Outdoor Recreation Plan* (1988) with 36% of survey respondents participating in freshwater fishing and 18% participating in saltwater fishing. Continued expansion of fishing opportunities appears popular.

Twenty-five percent (25%) of survey respondents mentioned bowling as one of the activities they have participated in during the last year. City recreation staff mentioned the need for more bowling programs, perhaps jointly sponsored with a private bowling alley.

Sports and Exercise Programs Not Currently Offered in Vacaville

Bocce Ball

Community Workshop results indicated a desire for bocce ball courts and leagues, and some suggested locations such as McBride Center and City Center Park. The City recently added a bocce ball court at City Center Park. The Recreation Facilities Analysis recommends development of an additional court. One participant referred to the bocce ball league in Martinez as a good example. This activity might be particularly popular with older Vacaville residents.

Organized Hiking and Bicycling

Exercise walking and cycling are two of the most popular recreational activities among Vacaville residents. Seventy-one percent (71%) of Citizen Survey respondents participated in exercise walking at least five times during the last year. Nearly half indicated bicycling (48%), and 35% reported hiking as an activity. The *California Outdoor Recreation Plan* (1988) also concurs with the popularity of these events. In this survey, 76% participated in walking, 37% in trail hiking, and 23% in bicycling.

Community Workshop participants underscored their interest in hiking and bicycling with many comments related to trails. Workshop participants also suggested City-sponsored trail rides and hikes (endurance, competitive and recreational), and par courses along trails. The Vacaville community shows a strong interest in these activities. In addition to informal participation, related recreation programs would probably enjoy great success. Family and teen oriented events could also be explored.

Skating

Both ice and roller skating were especially popular among teens who participated in the Youth Survey. When asked what programs or facilities they would like the City to provide, skating was mentioned most often (16%). Recreation staff also mentioned that the City should encourage private development or joint development of a roller rink or an ice rink. If this facility is developed, youth participation could be high.

Other Sports and Exercise Programs

When youth were asked what recreation programs the City could provide, 3% requested a skateboard park. Equestrian safety classes and other equestrian events were suggested during the Community Workshops. Workshop participants also indicated an interest in archery and target shooting.

Arts and Entertainment Programs

Generally, survey respondents and workshop participants expressed support for arts and entertainment programs. Although specific programs were not mentioned, arts and cultural

programs are clearly important to the entire community. Programs of this type also present special opportunities to develop multicultural programming in dance, crafts, art and music.

Dance

Vacaville hosts a well developed and popular dance program with offerings both for adults and children. An extensive children's ballet program offers classes on all levels and serves nearly 4,000 children per year. The annual ballet recital includes 600 participants. Two jazz dance classes are also popular with children, serving 564 participants per year.

A variety of adult dance programs serves 1,330 participants. These include both one-day workshops and on-going classes. Two classes have been especially popular: Country Western Dance serving 385 participants, and Ballroom Dancing 1 and 2 serving 340 participants. The Jazzercise program serves an additional 252 participants and a class called Motion Dynamics, offered at McBride Senior Center, serves 120 participants per year.

Dance classes are a high priority for future program expansion for all age groups. Dance programs present special opportunities for multicultural programs and programs serving teens.

Arts and Crafts Workshops

Thirteen one- or two-day craft workshops are offered at the Community Center serving 420 people per year. One children's drawing and painting class serves 33 children per year. Vacaville also offers other arts and crafts programs specifically for seniors.

The Vacaville Art League is sponsored by the Art Gallery and meets once a month. This program serves 50 people a year. Workshop participants suggested implementing a crafts show to allow local residents to exhibit and sell their work. There are three existing seasonal art shows in Vacaville, and an annual Art League show co-sponsored by the City. Expanding art exhibits to community locations, such as public buildings and restaurants, was suggested in a Community Workshop.

Music

Vacaville has one music class which meets twice a week for five weeks and serves 105 children per year. There are no other ongoing music programs offered in Vacaville. Music instruction is often popular with youth and could be expanded.

Education/Community Services

Child Care

According to the City of Vacaville Community Child Care Needs Assessment Report, October 1990, the community is facing an unmet need for an additional 3,200 licensed child care slots and 5,223 unlicensed child care spaces. Vacaville currently offers several child care programs. The T.G.I. Fun Club program serves 375 children on a monthly basis during

the school year and 600 on a monthly basis during the summer. There are waiting lists for 4 of the 6 school year sites. The City-run preschool, The Children's Corner, operates 5 days a week at the Community Center and two other Recreation Buildings. The program offers two and three day a week classes to 270 three year olds on a monthly basis during the school year. The program has a waiting list of 50 children. The Children's Corner offers a Summer program that serves 200 children.

Other Children's Programs

A Saturday evening babysitting program held once a month serves 20 children at one of the Recreation Buildings. A children's cooking class and a Jump and Grow program for preschoolers are also offered. These programs serve 95 children.

Teen Activities

One of the foremost concerns of Vacaville residents is the need to provide legitimate, fun-loving, healthy activities for teens. In the resident survey, 71% of respondents indicated that they would like City planners to make development of places for teenagers and young adults a top planning priority. In the Youth Survey, creating more places and activities for teens received the highest number of responses.

The City currently provides some programming for teens. Many of these programs are discussed in the Sports and Exercise, Arts and Entertainment or Special Events sections of this report. Other programs are also offered. The Vacaville Teen Committee meets to plan special events, dances and trips for teens, and includes 114 teens on a continuous basis. A special needs program operates on a drop-in basis and serves approximately 47 teens a year. A teen job program operates year-round serving about 40 teens per year. Future Farmers of America is also popular. This program meets once a month and serves 70 high school youth.

When asked which local issue needs the most attention from City Hall, 13% of Citizen's Survey respondents mentioned drugs, crime and gang activity. Clearly, providing an expanded program of youth activities and fostering continued youth involvement in the community would be one important response to these issues.

Senior Programs

A wide variety of recreation programs and other supportive services for seniors are offered at the McBride Senior Center. Considering the growing elderly population in Vacaville, programs geared towards seniors will become increasingly important. All types of activities and social services should be expanded to meet future demands.

Other Education/Community Service Programs

Lamaze classes serve 61 people a year. A Dog Obedience class serves 40 people and their canine friends per year. American Sign Language 1 and 2 is offered at the Community Center and involves approximately 28 people. A Chinese Cooking class is also offered for

adults, involving about 33 people. The enrollment in these classes suggests that other adult programs would be successful if there were sufficient interest in the topic.

Education/Community Service Programs Not Currently Offered in Vacaville

Landscaping/Interpretive Gardens/Nature Study Programs

Workshop participants suggested using existing facilities such as the Alamo Creek and Lagoon Valley parks for nature study and environmental education programs. Both children and adults may be interested in these programs. Thirteen percent of Citizen's Survey respondents reported bird watching at least five times a year. This activity represents a potential program opportunity which could be coordinated with the local Audubon chapter.

Workshop participants also suggested offering landscaping classes for home owners. These could emphasize water conservation in landscape design and the use of native and drought tolerant plants. Since residents demonstrated concern about water conservation in the Citizen's Survey, this type of landscaping program might be very popular. (The xeriscape planting at Alamo Creek might be a good program site.) Demonstration gardens or an arboretum with labeled plants should also be considered.

Other Possible Classes

Workshop participants indicated an interest in a variety of personal enrichment classes, such as bicycle maintenance and safety and money management classes. A community pride program that helps residents understand and respect City resources was also suggested.

Other potential areas where community interest may support class development were indicated in the Citizen's Survey. Twenty-one percent (21%) of survey respondents participate in outdoor photography. It is likely that outdoor and studio photography would be popular classes. Outdoor photography might also be combined with nature study classes. Fourteen percent (14%) of the respondents participated in flower arranging. A class on this topic might be successful. Other classes that the City might consider are stress reduction, parent effectiveness, and legal skills, such as will writing. Continued community involvement is recommended to identify areas of future interest.

Special Events

The Vacaville Special Events Program includes holiday events, community-wide events, excursions, dances and concerts. These make a substantial contribution to the sense of community character.

Vacaville offers a variety of holiday events and community festivals geared towards both children and adults. Some of these are very popular community-wide events. A Christmas party for youth served 205 participants last year. The Halloween Haunted House is extremely popular with Vacaville youth and serves 805 people. An Easter egg hunt at Peña

Adobe Park for children under eight years serves 1,800 people. Other one-day events have also been popular. A one-day community parking lot sale held at the Community Center involves 700 people. Baseball card shows offered four times a year involve 1,600 people.

Workshop participants suggested expanding the community event calendar with an event for Independence Day. This could include activities such as a pancake breakfast, barbecue, parade, fireworks and fun rides. Fiesta Days offer a great opportunity for including a variety of special activities. Workshop participants suggested that a costumed trail ride and fun rides could occur during this event. Other events suggested were a kite festival, a rodeo, and an arts and wine festival.

A day camp for children 6 to 12 years currently serves 600 children per summer. Depending on the availability of other summer child care programs, expanding this program could be considered.

Excursions have been popular. The City sponsors "Vacanight" at Candlestick Park for Giants baseball (600 participants), at Arco Arena for the Kings game (175 participants, 25 people on the waiting list), and at the Oakland Coliseum for the A's game (53 participants). An excursion to the Sacramento Symphony is offered three times a year, involving 600 participants. An excursion to Marine World served 95 people last year. More excursions should be planned for teens, children, families and seniors.

Special events for teens have been successful. Parties for high school age and junior high school youth served 270 participants in 1990. Three annual concerts draw approximately 560 youth a year. An annual Teen Fest and a teen talent contest each draws 150 participants. These special events for teens should be expanded.

Conclusions and Recommendations

This section presents recommendations for the implementation of future recreation programs in response to community needs and related trends and circumstances.

Programs are categorized into high and medium priority levels, reflecting a range of current and expected needs. Table 2 on page 88 summarizes the ranking of recreation program needs in Vacaville.

Overall Trends and Circumstances

The following recreation, demographic, political and educational trends and circumstances will impact future demands for recreation programs in Vacaville.

Demographic Projections

Based upon census projections, the proportion of residents in various age groups in the City of Vacaville will remain fairly constant through the year 2010. However, the overall

population of the City will grow by 81%, from 63,889 (1990) to 114,000 (2010). This indicates an overall need for program and facility expansion.

The age group over 50 will show the greatest increase (from 16.3% to 18%). An expansion of recreation programs to meet a variety of needs of older adults is needed. In addition, an expansion of supportive services to meet the social service needs of older adults will be necessary. A variety of these services, including health programs, legal assistance, financial counseling, meals, transportation assistance, medical equipment loan, information and referral, etc., are currently provided by or at the McBride Senior Center. With the improved health and fitness that is characteristic of this age group, continued expansion of programs that serve active elders are needed, e.g., trips, fitness and senior Olympics.

As the ethnic composition of California is expected to shift toward a larger minority population, the Community Services Department should increase their efforts to incorporate multicultural programs. This conclusion supports the commitment of the Community Services Department to "serve the special ... cultural needs of different neighborhoods," as specified in the Parks and Recreation Element of the General Plan, May 1990.

60/20 School Year

In order to achieve year-round use of school facilities and be eligible for certain state funds, elementary schools are shifting to a 60/20 school year (60 days on and 20 days off). At any one time, a quarter of the students are "off track" at some elementary sites. At present, no junior high or high school will be involved. If implemented, the effect on City-offered programs, and child care demands, will be dramatic.

The City of Vacaville must assess the total impact of the new school schedule. This impact will partially depend on the role which the school district and any on-site child care provider will assume in providing programs for students who are off track. At least some districts using the year-round schedule, i.e., Oakland Unified School District, provide a district-funded intersession program which partially meets family child care needs.

If school district and on-site operated programs do not meet the full child care needs of Vacaville families, the Community Services Department should consider accommodating some of these needs. Neighborhood centers may offer day programs for some children who are off track (25% at any one time) and after school programs for others who are currently attending school (75% at any one time). The City will need to consider offering more programs on a smaller scale throughout the year.

A number of potential impacts should be addressed. Scheduling programs and staff coverage will be more complicated, creating increased administrative costs. The need for additional facility use on a year-round basis also necessitates evaluating current facility use for potential program space or programs which can be eliminated to make room for year-round child care. Conflicts will also occur at joint City and school district-operated sites. Seasonal programs, such as softball, will also be affected.

Child Care Needs

According to the City of Vacaville Community Child Care Needs Assessment Report (October 1990, Executive Summary in *Appendix*), Vacaville needs an estimated 3,200 additional licensed child care slots. It is also estimated that Vacaville currently needs approximately 5,223 unlicensed child care spaces. It is difficult to assess the unmet need in this area; however, unlicensed child care arrangements can include community recreation programs.

The City of Vacaville must determine its role in meeting the demand for additional child care. This role may include providing additional direct services as well as other supportive activities. According to City staff, the Community Services Department will facilitate the private sector in establishing private child care. Information on licensing, code restrictions and permits will be coordinated through the recreation division to speed the start-up of new child care operations. The Department will have information on obtaining family day care permits through the Community Development Department, business licenses through the Finance Department, licensing through the State Department of Social Services, and any other necessary information. The Department will focus on supplementing the private sector with after-school and seasonal child care for grade school children at school sites.

Based on community needs, the City should encourage the expansion of programs which meet child care needs with City, school district, government, private, or corporate funds. According to the Child Care Needs Assessment, the need will be greater for school age children than for preschool children. This need can be accommodated through licensed programs as well as through recreation programs which serve a child care function. The Community Services Department may also want to investigate other possible functions which support "latchkey" children, such as a telephone hotline for children on their own after school, first aid and cooking classes, and a homework help hotline. Services that assist parents in finding child care should also be encouraged, e.g., information and referral, development of shared care arrangements, babysitter training classes, etc.

Teen Needs

There has been increasing concern across the country about the needs of youth. This concern was reflected in the City of Vacaville Parks and Recreation Master Planning process through implementation of a specially tailored public involvement effort to identify youth recreation needs.

When asked what can the City do to make life better for youth in Vacaville, the dominant response was "*create more places and activities for teens.*" A variety of specific suggestions for recreation programs were provided. This reflected both the open-ended nature of the Youth Survey as well as the need to provide well rounded programs to meet the needs of all youth. Skating, dancing and sports received the most mentions. Youth also emphasized the need for informal recreational opportunities which are *not programmed by adults*. These included places to "hang out," play sports or exercise.

The City of Vacaville should strongly consider expanding its youth programs to provide additional youth activities. Youth involvement in planning these activities should also continue. Using contacts developed through the Park and Recreation Youth Survey administration and relying on current members of the Teen Committee, a plan to address youth needs could be developed. Youth access to City facilities for informal use, such as hanging out with friends, exercising, and team sponsorship sports activities should be provided and encouraged.

Americans With Disabilities Act

The Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law in 1990. This recently passed law strengthens the existing Federal laws which mandate disabled access in public facilities. The law provides that people with disabilities have equal access to the same facilities and programs that are available to people without disabilities. Facilities and programs which receive public funds must be accessible and usable by people with disabilities.

Therefore, the City of Vacaville will be required to determine the level of accessibility currently provided in their recreation programs and facilities. Plans for making current programs and facilities accessible must be developed. Accessibility must be provided in any programs and facilities developed for public use in the future.

These required provisions are consistent with the Parks and Recreation Element of the General Plan, May 1990, which states that Vacaville will "make provisions for handicapped individuals to freely participate in all aspects of community life including recreational activities."

Participation in Informal Recreational Activities

While this analysis is concerned primarily with organized or formal recreation programs, the importance of informal recreational activities cannot be overlooked. As indicated by the Citizen's Survey results, Vacaville residents' personal activity patterns reflect a high emphasis on unstructured and often private pastimes like walking, running and bicycling. The *California Outdoor Recreation Plan* (1988) survey results provide similar information about statewide participation in informal recreational activities. Participants in the Vacaville Community Workshops expressed needs for additional informal play opportunities. When planning for future recreation facilities, these needs must be considered. Trails of various surfaces, sports facilities, children's play areas, picnic sites and par courses are examples of the types of facilities that support informal recreation. Open space is another important resource.

The community's expressed interest in informal activities such as exercise walking and bicycling can also be addressed through recreation programming. Although the majority of informal recreation activities will remain outside the realm of organized recreation, programs can be designed to respond to all recreation interests. For example, programs such as walking tours, bicycle tours, races, bike maintenance and safety classes, and children's dramatic play events may be especially popular. Even the popular teen activity,

"hanging out," can be facilitated through recreation programming without destroying its essential informal nature. Similarly, children's play, usually free and informal, becomes an extremely popular recreation program when a trained play leader organizes and facilitates dramatic, child-directed play activities.

Recommendations for Future Recreation Programming

The trends and circumstances described above provide further direction for recreational program planning. These factors, along with current participation data, demographic projections, expressed desire for recreation programs, and information supplied by recreation program staff indicate that the demand for recreation programs in Vacaville will grow faster than the supply.

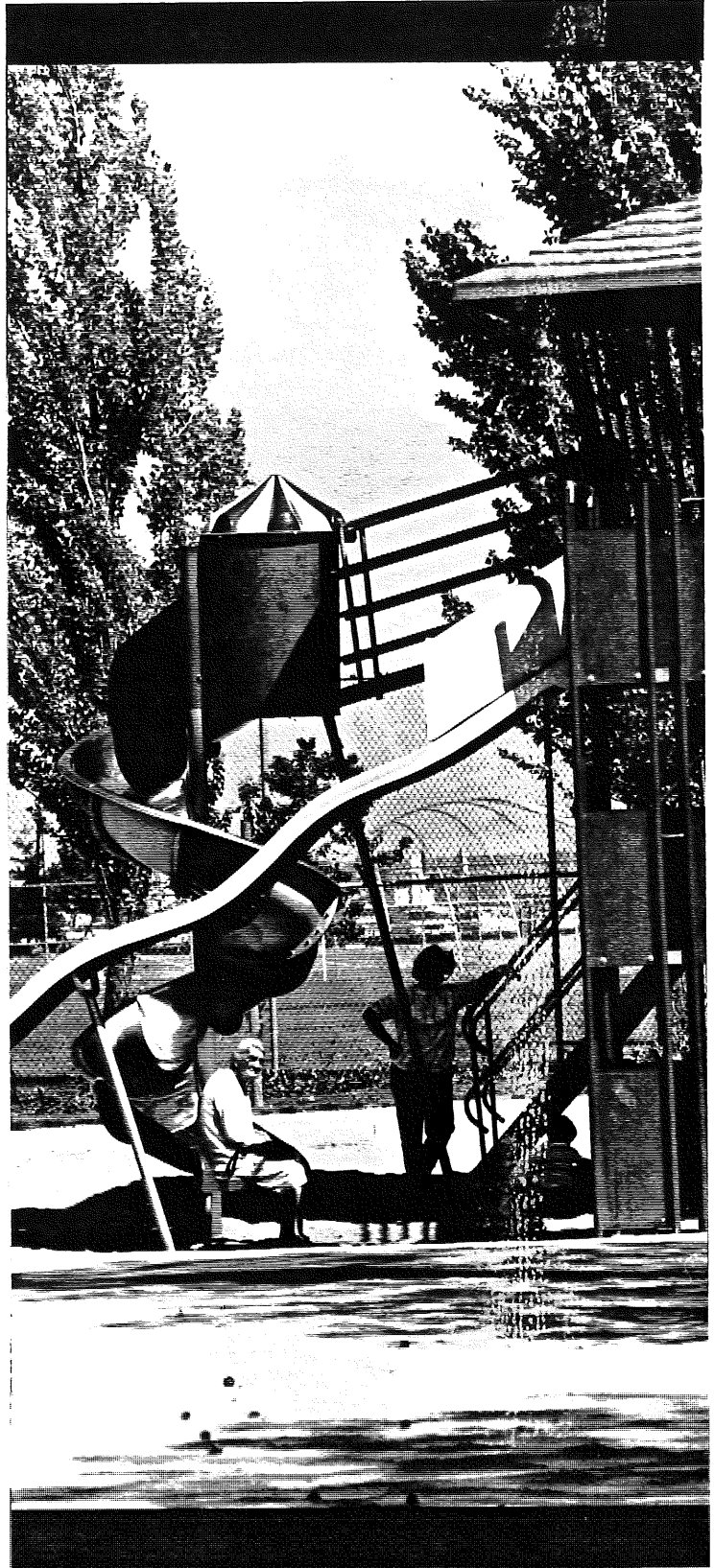
In certain areas the current quantity and variety of programs, as well as the facilities which support them, appear to be adequate. The availability of these programs should increase in proportion to the population increase expected over the next twenty years. In other areas, existing needs are clearly unmet and future needs will be even greater. The trends and circumstances described in this section indicate a need or desirability for additional programs that are not currently offered in Vacaville, as well as a need for expansion of some existing programs. Based on the evaluation of the current program inventory, expressed community need, and overall trends and circumstances, a ranking of priorities for program expansion has been developed and is presented in Table 2 on page 88. High and medium priority program needs in each category are shown, with specific user groups designated where appropriate.

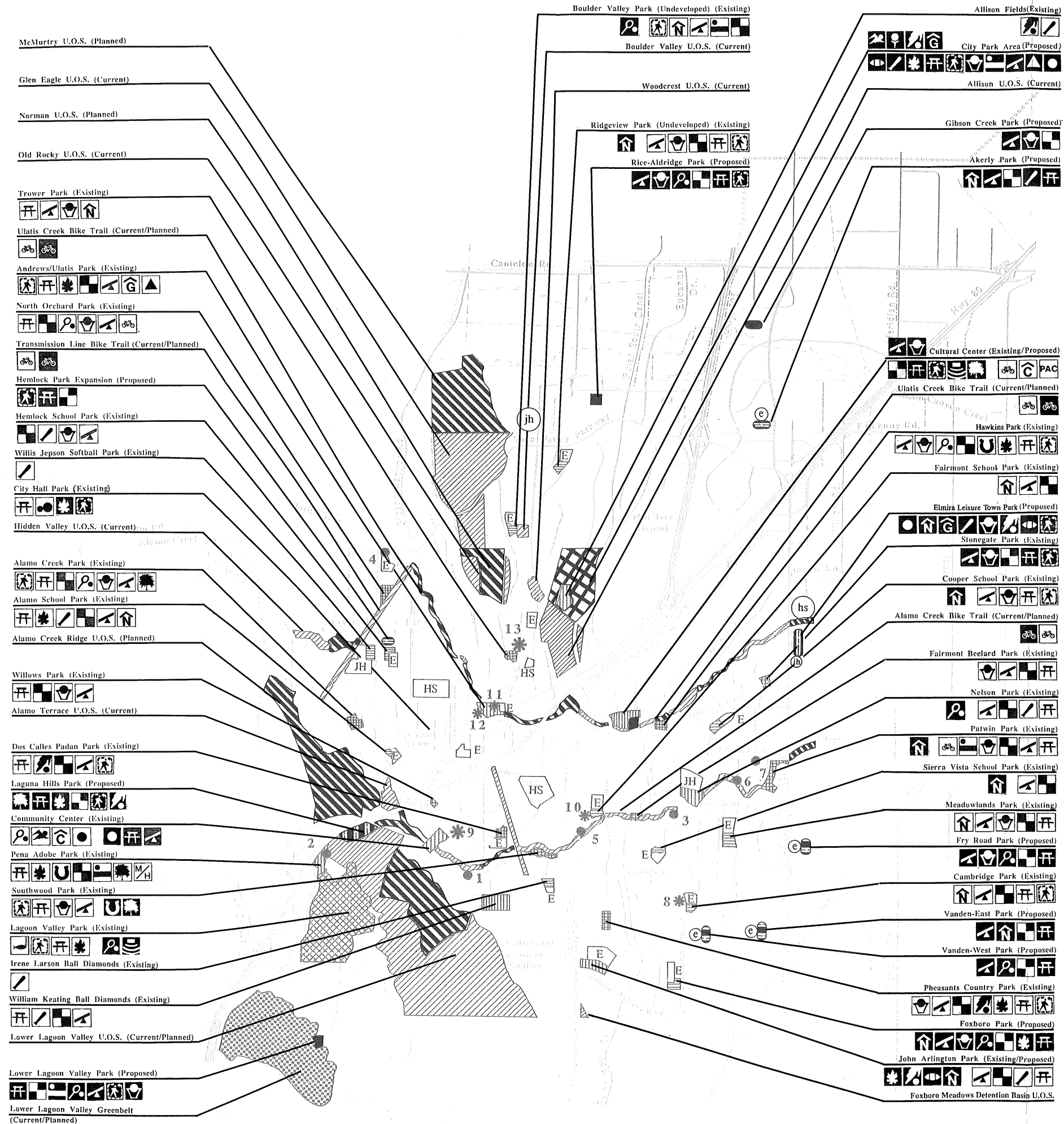
Most of the programming priorities have implications for recreation facility development. Multipurpose trails, another community swimming pool, bocce ball courts, additional basketball courts, even a skating rink and photography studio, are examples of the types of facilities which would be required to accommodate identified program interests.

TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF DEMAND FOR RECREATION PROGRAMS

Program Type	Prioritization of Recreation Program			
	HIGH	<i>Especially for</i>	MEDIUM	<i>Especially for</i>
Sports & Exercise Programs	Basketball leagues, drop-in Baseball/softball leagues Adaptive aquatics Year-round swimming programs Bocce ball league Gymnastics Skating & Hockey	<i>Youth</i> <i>Children, Youth & Adults</i> <i>Seniors & Disabled</i> <i>Children & Youth (Add programs for Children <5)</i> <i>Seniors</i> <i>Children & Youth</i> <i>Youth</i>	Basketball Bowling Fishing Equestrian events Walking tours, hikes, bicycle races Tennis Track & field	<i>Adults</i> <i>Youth</i> <i>Youth</i>
Arts & Entertainment Programs	Dance classes & performances Multicultural arts, dance		Art exhibits & craft shows Outdoor concerts	
Education/Community Service Programs	Child care (esp. after-school & intersession) Home landscaping classes Recycling	<i>Children</i> <i>Adults</i>	Photography classes Environmental education and nature study	
Special Events	Teen dances Community festivals Multicultural events	<i>Youth</i>	Field trips Holiday events Outdoor concerts	<i>Youth</i>
Program/Facility Access for People with Disabilities	Evaluate all existing programs/facilities		Evaluate proposed programs/facilities	

FACILITIES INVENTORY & ANALYSIS





LEGEND

SPORTS FACILITIES

- | | | |
|----------|----------|-------------------|
| EXISTING | PROPOSED | |
| | | SWIMMING POOL |
| | | TENNIS COURTS |
| | | BASKETBALL COURTS |
| | | VOLLEYBALL COURT |
| | | GYMNASIUM |

BALLFIELDS

- | | | |
|----------|----------|---------------------|
| EXISTING | PROPOSED | |
| | | BASEBALL / SOFTBALL |
| | | FOOTBALL |
| | | SOCCER |
| | | MULTI PURPOSE FIELD |
| | | GOLF COURSE |

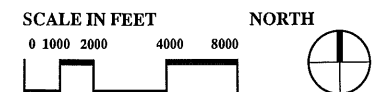
LOW INTENSITY RECREATION

- | | | |
|----------|----------|----------------------------|
| EXISTING | PROPOSED | |
| | | PLAYGROUNDS |
| | | EXERCISE / FITNESS CIRCUIT |
| | | HORSE SHOES |
| | | PICNIC AREA |
| | | BBQ AREA |
| | | BOCCE BALL |
| | | BIKE TRAIL |
| | | FISHING |

RECREATION CENTERS

- | | | |
|----------|----------|-------------------------------|
| EXISTING | PROPOSED | |
| | | ARBORETUM/INTERPRETIVE GARDEN |
| | | COMMUNITY GARDEN (FUTURE) |
| | | AMPHITHEATER |
| | | NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER |
| | | COMMUNITY CENTER |
| | | SENIOR CENTER |
| | | YOUTH FACILITIES |
| | | PERFORMING ARTS CENTER |
| | | MUSEUM/HISTORICAL |

PARK FACILITIES
CITY OF VACAVILLE
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan



Recreation Facilities Inventory and Analysis

Introduction

A comprehensive inventory of existing and planned recreation facilities provides the Parks and Recreation Master Planning process with essential planning information. To supplement the assessment of recreation service in Vacaville, this section identifies an *inventory* of recreation facilities in Vacaville, and an *analysis* of the current facilities inventory compared with national and community standards and expressed community desires.

Methodology

The following steps were taken to complete this inventory and analysis:

- (i) Meetings were held with City of Vacaville recreation and planning staff to ascertain key planning issues related to recreation facilities;
- (ii) City documents were examined for information about the type, number and location of recreation facilities;
- (iii) Site visits were conducted to verify inventory data and provide qualitative information about each park;
- (iv) A list of recreation facilities was compiled based on City documents and site visit information;
- (v) The facilities inventory summary table was sent to the City to verify the accuracy and completeness of the data.

In addition, other nearby communities (Fairfield, Roseville, Davis, Vallejo) and other Northern California cities (San Rafael, Novato) were contacted for information on their recreation facility standards so that local comparisons could be made; however, only one of these communities (Roseville) has established standards for the provision of recreation facilities. Therefore, this report cites the recreation facility standards of Roseville and two other California cities (Irvine, Capistrano Bay). The Southern California cities were selected because of similarities in weather and demographics (both are fairly young, growing communities like Vacaville).

Based on the inventory and analysis of existing and planned recreation facilities, and financial constraints, level of service ratios were adopted and future recreation facilities

demand was calculated. Timing for construction of new facilities is based on population growth and evolving community demand.

Inventory and Analysis of Recreation Facilities

Prior to developing realistic standards for recreation facilities in the City of Vacaville, the existing level of recreation service is evaluated and compared to adopted planning criteria and expressed community demand.

Community needs and desires for recreation facilities are perhaps the most important planning guidelines for the development of a Parks and Recreation *Master Plan*. These needs were assessed through three community participation activities: three community workshops, a telephone survey, and a youth survey. Needs assessment findings are compared with recognized national recreation standards and the finance capacity of Vacaville to afford alternate standards. Together, these are valuable tools for assessing the adequacy of existing levels of recreation service. These sources are used to establish recreation facility standards for the City of Vacaville:

Vacaville Recreation Needs Assessment Findings

The recreation standards adopted by Vacaville reflect local interests and trends even when these dictate a level of service different from national standards. To gather information about the community's recreation needs and desires, three community participation activities were undertaken: (i) three community workshops; (ii) a resident telephone survey; and (iii) a youth survey. This information is compared to existing levels of service in the facility-by-facility narrative to assess specific areas of deficiency as perceived by the community.

Anticipated demand, based on Vacaville's standards and a projected population of 114,000 in 2010, is compared with the projected level of service based on existing Vacaville community and neighborhood parks and parks that are planned or under construction. Facilities on school property and solely operated by the VUSD are excluded from the level of recreation service analysis for the following reasons: 1) These facilities are only available to the public after school hours and provide sports fields, open play areas and hard courts for student use; and 2) school facilities cannot be relied upon to satisfy community recreation needs because school district needs and priorities change (e.g., VUSD's plan to shift to a 60/20 school year). Hence, the facility analysis presented here examines the levels of service provided by City parks and recreation centers. School District facilities were not included in the initial analysis by the consultant team. City staff, however, evaluated the impact of certain facilities (i.e. gyms, pools, ballfields), and found that they make a significant impact (see tables D1 and D2). The new 60/20 school year will impact the City's ability to access some facilities, but joint use agreements for continued programming shall be pursued.

The Lagoon Valley Regional Park is not included in the following analysis of city recreation services because it is under the jurisdiction of Solano County and has a very broad service area. Private homeowners' association facilities, which are not available to the general public, are also excluded from level of service ratios, as are other membership-only recreation facilities.

Included in the analysis is an assessment of the projected level of service based on the following recreation facilities which are currently under construction:

- A 500-seat theater and cultural center with multipurpose meeting rooms, a library and a community center;
- Two playfields funded by Measure I: John Arlington Park (18 acres on Foxboro Parkway) and Allison Field (14 acres on Browns Valley Road), with 4 softball/baseball fields, one football field, 3 soccer fields (completed), playgrounds and picnic areas; and
- One 4-acre park on Southwood Drive with a basketball court, playground and picnic area.

Following Table 1 (which presents a detailed inventory of recreation facilities) and Table 2 (which presents a summary of facilities), is a detailed discussion of each recreation facility, including:

- A record of the existing level of service;
- A discussion of projected level of service for the year 2010, based on the addition of parks and facilities specified above;
- A summary of expressed community need based on community participation in the planning process, and;
- An analysis of the anticipated demand for each facility type, including recommendations for facility standards and numbers of facilities to be added over and above those planned for 1992 completion.

Baseball/Softball Fields

Existing Level of Service

The number of baseball/softball fields provided in Vacaville is adequate. There are a total of 21 softball and baseball fields generating a current level of service ratio of 1/2,904. Of the 21 fields, six are lighted for night play, providing a level of service of 1/10,648.

Facility Standards

Other communities have adopted standards of 1/6,000 for baseball and 1/3,000 for softball (Roseville), 1/2,500 (Irvine) and 1/3,000 (Capistrano Bay) for both baseball and softball fields.

**Table 1
RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY**

		Recreation Facilities						
City-Owned Parks	Location	Acreage	Softball/ Baseball Field	(Lighted Field)	Football Field	Soccer Field	Multi-Purpose Meadow/Field	
1. Andrews/Ulatis Park Sports Center McBride Senior Center	Monte Vista /School St " "	14.80				1	1	
2. Community Center	Alamo Dr/Crystal Ln	12.00						
3. Willis Jepson Softball Park	500 Elder St	2.00	2	1				
4. William Keating Park	Alamo Dr/California Dr	20.00	7	3	2		3	
5. Irene Larson Ball Diamonds	Alamo Dr/Rosewood Ln	4.00	2			3		
6. Nelson Park	Nut Tree Rd/Marshall Rd	10.50	2	2			1	
7. Pena Adobe Park	Pena Adobe Rd	64.00					1	
8. Bike Trails	(various locations)	7.30						
9. Creekside Bike Rest	Nut Tree Rd/Alamo Crk	0.50						
10. North Orchard Bike Rest	Farrell Rd/N. Orchard Av	6.40						
11. Wellsite/Bike Rest	Elmira Rd	1.00					1	
12. Alamo Creek Park	Buck Ave/Alamo Dr	9.50					1	
13. Pheasant Country Park	Caldwell Dr/Madison Ave	7.00				1		
14. Dos Calles Padan Park	Alonzo Rd/Padan Rd	6.70				1		
15. Fairmont/Beelard Park	Beelard Dr/Mathews Dr	8.30					1	
16. Meadowlands Park	Vanden Rd	8.00				2		
17. North Orchard Park	Orchard Ave/Crestview	6.50					1	
18. Patwin Park	Elmira/Leisure Town Rd	5.00					2	
19. Trower Park/ Neighborhood Ctr.	Markham Ave/Meadows	4.50					1	
20. Valley Oak Park	Summerfield Dr/Newport	6.00					1	
21. Willows Park	Ogden Way/Marshall Rd	2.00					1	
22. John Arlington Park (1991)	Foxboro Prkwy/Peabody	18.00	4		1	3		
23. Southwood Park (1991)	Southwood Dr/Alamo	4.00					1	
24. Allison Park (1991)	Brown Valley Rd	14.00	4				1	
Subtotal - City Recreation Facilities		242.00	21	6	3	11	20	
Neighborhood School Parks								
A. Alamo School Park	Orchard Ave	2.50				1		
B. Cambridge School Park	Cambridge Dr/Nut Tree	8.00					1	
C. Fairmont School Park	Tulare/Marshall Rd	4.00					1	
D. Hemlock School Park	Hemlock/Eldridge	3.00	3				1	
E. Markham School Park	Markham Ave	0.50					2	
F. Sierra Vista School Park	Bel Air Dr/Alamo Dr	8.00				2	1	
Subtotal - Neighborhood School Facilities		26.00	3	0	0	3	7	
Total - All Public Facilities		268.00	24	6	3	14	27	

Table 1 (Continued)

RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY

Recreation Facilities

City-Owned Parks	Swimming Pool	Tennis Court	(Lighted Court)	Racquetball Court	Volleyball Court	Basketball Court (1/2)	Basketball Court (Full)	Playground/ Tot Lot
1. Andrews/Ulatis Park Sports Center McBride Senior Center			2	4	1			1
2. Community Center	1	4	4					
3. Willis Jepson Softball Park								1
4. William Keating Park								1
5. Irene Larson Ball Diamonds				1				
6. Nelson Park								
7. Pena Adobe Park								
8. Bike Trails								
9. Creekside Bike Rest								
10. North Orchard Bike Rest								
11. Wellsite/Bike Rest		2			1			2
12. Alamo Creek Park							1	2
13. Pheasant Country Park							1	2
14. Dos Calles Padan Park							1	2
15. Fairmont/Beelard Park							1	2
16. Meadowlands Park		4					1	2
17. North Orchard Park					1		1	3
18. Patwin Park							1	2
19. Trower Park/ Neighborhood Center		2					1	2
20. Valley Oak Park							1	1
21. Willows Park								1
22. John Arlington Park (1991)							1	1
23. Southwood Park (1991)							1	2
24. Allison Park (1991)								1
Subtotal - City Recreation Facilities	1	12	4	0	4	5	10	27
Neighborhood School Parks								
A. Alamo School Park								1
B. Cambridge School Park								1
C. Fairmont School Park								1
D. Hemlock School Park								1
E. Markham School Park								1
F. Sierra Vista School Park								1
Subtotal - Neighborhood School Facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Total - All Public Facilities	1	12	4	0	4	5	10	31

Table 1 (Continued)

RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY

Recreation Facilities

City-Owned Parks	Unpaved	Paved	Fitness	Horseshoes	Gymnasium	Multipurpose/ Meeting Rm	Recreation Club/Center	Bike Rest
	Path	Path						
1. Andrews/Ulatis Park		Y	1					
Sports Center					1	1		
McBride Senior Center						3	1	
2. Community Center		Y		1		5		
3. Willis Jepson Softball Park								
4. William Keating Park								
5. Irene Larson Ball Diamonds								
6. Nelson Park								
7. Pena Adobe Park	Y	Y		1				
8. Bike Trails	Y	Y						
9. Creekside Bike Rest								1
10. North Orchard Bike Rest								1
11. Wellsite/Bike Rest								1
12. Alamo Creek Park			1					
13. Pheasant Country Park			1					
14. Dos Calles Padan Park								
15. Fairmont/Beelard Park		Y						
16. Meadowlands Park		Y						
17. North Orchard Park		Y						
18. Patwin Park							1	
19. Trower Park/Neighborhood Ctr.								
20. Valley Oak Park		Y	1	1				
21. Willows Park								
22. John Arlington Park (1991)								
23. Southwood Park (1991)								
24. Allison Park (1991)								
Subtotal - City Recreation Facilities			4	3	1	10	2	3
Neighborhood School Parks								
A. Alamo School Park							1	
B. Cambridge School Park			1				1	
C. Fairmont School Park							1	
D. Hemlock School Park								
E. Markham School Park								
F. Sierra Vista School Park								
Subtotal - Neighborhood School Facilities			1	0	0	0	3	0
Total - All Public Facilities			5	3	1	10	5	3

Table 1 (Continued)

RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY

Recreation Facilities

City-Owned Parks	Picnic Area	Fire Ring/Barbeque	Spectator Seating	Nature Features	Other
1. Andrews/Ulatis Park Sports Center	2	5		Creek	Art gallery
McBride Senior Center	1				Kitchen/Theater
2. Community Center	1			Creek	Office buildings
3. Willis Jepson Softball Park	1		3		Portable backstop
4. William Keating Park					Concessions/Restrooms
5. Irene Larson Ball Diamonds	1		2		Concessions/Restrooms
6. Nelson Park	2	5		Creek/Pond/Garden/Forest	Landmark/Museum/Restrooms
7. Pena Adobe Park	3				
8. Bike Trails				Eucalyptus grove/Creek	
9. Creekside Bike Rest	1				
10. North Orchard Bike Rest	5			Shade trees/Creek	Portable backstop
11. Wellsite/Bike Rest	4				Portable backstop
12. Alamo Creek Park	6				Portable backstop
13. Pheasant Country Park	1			Large trees/creek	Portable backstop
14. Dos Calles Padan Park	1				Restrooms, Portable backstop
15. Fairmont/Beelard Park	1				Portable backstop
16. Meadowlands Park	1			Shade trees/creek	Portable backstop
17. North Orchard Park	1	2			Portable backstop
18. Patwin Park	2	3			Portable backstop
19. Trower Park/ Neighborhood Center	2	4		300 year oak tree/creek	Portable backstop
20. Valley Oak Park	1				
21. Willows Park	2				Concessions
22. John Arlington Park (1991)	1		1	Creek	Portable backstop
23. Southwood Park (1991)	1			Creek	Concessions
24. Allison Park (1991)	1				
Subtotal - City Recreation Facilities	39	19	6		
Neighborhood School Parks					
A. Alamo School Park	1	1			3 Baseball backstops
B. Cambridge School Park	1				Portable backstop
C. Fairmont School Park					Portable backstop
D. Hemlock School Park					Portable backstop
E. Markham School Park					2 Portable backstop
F. Sierra Vista School Park					3 Portable backstop
Subtotal - School Facilities	2	1	0		
Total - All Public Facilities	41	20	6		

Table 2 RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY SUMMARY

Recreation Facilities	Community and Neighborhood Parks	Neighborhood School Parks	Sub-total	Planned or Proposed Public Facilities	TOTAL (Existing and Planned Facilities)	Private Facilities with Limited Public Access*
Softball/Baseball Fields	19	2	21	4	25	0
Lighted Fields	6	0	6	0	6	0
Softball/Soccer Fields	13	3	16	11	27	0
Swimming Pools	1	0	1	1	2	4
Tennis Courts	12	0	12	0	12	0
Lighted Courts	4	0	4	10	14	16
Racquetball/Handball Courts	0	0	0	0	0	12
Volleyball Courts	4	0	4	3	7	0
Basketball Courts (1/2)	5	0	5	0	5	0
Basketball Courts (Full)	9	0	9	10	19	0
Playgrounds/Tot Lots	23	4	27	4	31	3
Exercise Fitness Circuits	4	1	5	0	5	0
Horseshoes	3	0	3	0	3	0
Gymnasium/ Sports Center	1	0	1	0	1	5
Multipurpose Meeting Rooms	10	0	10	0	10	0
Golf Course	0	0	0	0	0	1
Recreation Clubs/Centers	2	3	5	3	8	2
Bike Rests	3	0	3	0	3	0
Picnic Areas	35	2	36	4	41	0
Fire Ring/Barbeque Areas	19	1	20	0	20	0
Spectator Seating	5	0	5	1	6	0
Community Centers	1	0	1	2	3	0
Firing Range	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bowling Alley	0	0	0	0	0	1
Billiards Hall	0	0	0	0	0	1
Slider Port	0	0	0	0	0	1
Radio-Controlled Car Track	0	0	0	1	1	1

*"Limited" Public Access as defined by City not being involved in programming, fees, scheduling, hours of operation, or membership eligibility.

Projected Level of Service

Fourteen additional fields are currently planned , bringing the Vacaville ratio to 1/3,350. This level of service may not meet local demand.

Expressed Community Demand

Although most Community Survey participants indicated that they are average (45%) or below average (39%) users of City parks and recreation facilities, 18% of respondents have played baseball and 25% have played softball at least five times in the last year. Respondents' opinions were split when asked if the City should spend more (39%) or if spending is about right (41%) on developing athletic fields and courts in general.

According to the Recreation Programs Analysis, baseball and softball are popular sports in Vacaville with programs involving 6,800 residents per year. Community Workshop findings suggest that existing league programs are highly popular. Workshop participants indicated that more baseball/softball fields in general are needed, especially lighted fields and youth fields. One workshop participant noted that youth leagues have grown by 25% in the last four years. Some residents suggested that additional ball diamonds be developed at Keating Park and that sports leagues continue through the winter.

City recreation staff identified deficiencies in ballfields and open play or multi-use fields. To respond to a need for practice space, the City has installed over 40 backstops at school sites. City staff identified an urgent need for field lighting.

When asked what facilities or programs they want the City to provide, respondents to the Youth Survey mentioned baseball/softball as their third choice (after skating and dances). Sixty-two percent (62%) of Youth Survey respondents indicated that they have participated in City recreation programs (and/or Little Leagues).

Anticipated Demand

A total of 14 fields should be provided by 2010, with a projected total of 35 softball/baseball fields. By night lighting appropriate fields, more games can be scheduled to meet some of the demand. Thus, the number of ballfields needed will decrease in proportion to the additional games scheduled. An empirical approach will better define the effect on required new fields after one or two existing fields are night lighted.

Table D2 presents a detailed inventory of existing and planned softball and baseball fields.

Volleyball Courts

Existing Level of Service

Currently, there are four volleyball courts in Vacaville, two indoor wood-floored courts at the Sports Center, one outdoor asphalt court at Patwin Park, and one outdoor dirt surfaced court at Peña Adobe Park. These courts provide a level of service of 1/16,000.

Table D2 below presents a detailed inventory of existing and planned softball and baseball fields.

Table D2: Detailed Inventory of Softball and Baseball Fields				
Facility Location	Regulation Softball Fields (#/size/type)	Shared Fields (#/size/type)	Regulation Baseball Fields (#/size/type)	Total Fields (#)
Existing				
Willis Jepson Softball Park	1/ no fence/youth			1
William Keating Park	1/ 250'/ adult & youth	4/ 200' youth	2/ 300'/ - Babe Ruth	7
Irene Larson Ball Diamonds		2/ 300' youth	-	2
Nelson Park	2/ 300' adult	-		2
John Arlington Park (Phase 1)		3/ 200' youth	1/ 300'/ Babe Ruth	4
Hemlock School Park	1/ no fence/ girls			1
Planned				
Allison Park (1992-1993)		3/ 200' youth	1/ 300'/ Babe Ruth	4
Total	5	12	4	21

Facility Standards

The City of Irvine currently provides a level of service closer to 1/2,000 (Roseville and Capistrano Bay do not have volleyball court standards).

Projected Level of Service

No volleyball courts are planned for parks currently under development. The projected service level, based on a 30.6% population increase, is 1/10,000, indicating a demand of four courts according to the city standard by 2010.

Expressed Demand

Fifteen percent (15%) of Citizen's Survey respondents indicated that they have played volleyball at least five times during the last year. In another question, the majority of respondents felt that *places to picnic and play volleyball* should be given *medium priority* in planning for Vacaville parks and recreation facilities (it is not known how many respondents would say the same if asked only about places to play volleyball).

Volleyball was mentioned in one Community Workshop; a comment was made that volleyball courts should be added to all parks. Youth Survey respondents mentioned volleyball only when reporting their activities at Alamo Creek Park.

Anticipated Demand

Although a strong demand for volleyball programs is not evident in the analysis of existing programs, waiting lists, needs assessment findings or demographic projections, the availability of more courts may stimulate increased participation. Sand volleyball may be of interest to Vacaville residents; its popularity has grown in California over the last decade. Accordingly, the existing four courts should be supplemented by a minimum of three courts to reach a ratio of 1/10,000 by the year 2010.

Basketball Courts

Existing Level of Service

There are nine public basketball courts in Vacaville parks, one of which is an indoor wood-floored court at the Sports Center. (In addition to these full-courts, there are five half-courts.) The current level of service of 1/7,000.

Facility Standards

The City of Roseville has adopted a standard of 1/1,000 for outdoor courts and 1/8,000 for indoor basketball. Irvine provides basketball courts at a 1/1,250 level of service.

Projected Level of Service

One full-court was recently installed at Southwood Park, establishing a projected level of service of 1/8,350 (based on a 30.6% population increase) with a demand for seven more courts.

Expressed Demand

Nineteen percent (19%) of Citizen's Survey respondents indicated that they have played basketball at least five times during the last year. Most notable, however, are survey results related to providing more programs and activities for youth, because basketball is popular among youth, according to the Youth Survey. In three questions (Questions 3, 6, 8), the needs of children and youth were of great concern to Citizen's Survey respondents.

Community workshop participants expressed a need for more basketball courts and a specific desire for a basketball court in the proposed City Park. The desire for additional basketball programs was not mentioned in the workshops, suggesting that courts are desired for informal play. However, over 700 people currently participate in basketball leagues and over 600 participate in special basketball events.

Youth survey results indicate that teenagers play basketball at many Vacaville parks (Padan, Fairmont/Beelard, Meadowlands, North Orchard, Patwin, Willows Parks, and all of the school parks). Of the 62% of youth who have participated in City recreation programs, 16% indicated that they have played City-sponsored basketball. Presumably, many youth also play basketball informally at local parks. The popularity of the sport is underscored by the fact that youth survey respondents mentioned that they would like the City to provide more basketball courts and programs.

Interviews with City of Vacaville recreation staff indicate that basketball is very popular at Georgie Duke Sports Center. The Center is used extensively for basketball league play so that drop-in basketball opportunities are limited. Outdoor courts at parks and schools are used for youth league practice sites as well as informal play.

Anticipated Demand

Given the popularity of basketball and the current and projected supply of courts, additional courts are needed to support both informal, drop-in play and basketball leagues. A city standard is recommended at 1/5,000. Seven additional courts are needed; ideally, some of these could be indoor courts.

Multi-purpose (Football/Soccer)

Existing Level of Service

The number of soccer fields is more than adequate. Currently, there are two designated football fields in the City, establishing a level of service ratio of 1/31,944. Fourteen soccer fields are operated by the City, 11 at City-owned parks and three at neighborhood school parks. These soccer fields establish an existing level of service ratio of 1/4,563. By combining the two types of fields, the existing level of service ratio is 1/4000.

Facility Standards

Other communities, have set their standards at ratios of 1/7,000 (Roseville), 1/4,250 (Irvine), and 1/5,000 (Capistrano Bay) for both football and soccer.

Projected Level of Service

The recommendation is to combine the football/soccer fields under one multi-purpose designation and utilize the present level of service ratio of 1/4,000 to obtain the needed number of fields for the year 2010.

Expressed Community Demand

Citizen's Survey respondents and Community Workshop participants did not mention football facilities, and City staff did not emphasize the need for expansion of football fields. Some Youth Survey participants mentioned that they play football at Keating and North Orchard Parks and at some of the school parks. When asked what recreation programs or facilities they want the City to provide, some respondents mentioned football (6% of total mentions). Football was also mentioned by those youth who indicated that they have participated in City-sponsored recreation programs.

Soccer was not mentioned in the Citizen's Survey nor in Community Workshops. Soccer was mentioned without particular emphasis by City recreation staff; however, according to Youth Survey results, soccer is a popular youth activity at Sierra Vista and Alamo School Parks, and at Padan, Meadowlands, and Fairmont/Beelard Parks. It was also mentioned as a favorite indoor activity at the Sports Center. Many teenagers have participated in City-sponsored soccer programs (18% of 62%).

Anticipated Demand

Since the fields are somewhat interchangeable, combining soccer and football fields under one designation and utilizing the present level of service of 1/4,000 for the combined fields, five additional fields will be needed by the year 2010.

The table on the next page presents a detailed inventory of existing and planned football and soccer fields.

Swimming Pools

Existing Level of Service

There is one (1) public swimming pool in Vacaville, located at the Community Center. Vacaville High School has a pool open to public use from June to September, accommodating 50% of the City programs. Private club pools in Vacaville are estimated to accommodate 6% of the City's pool needs based on club membership. Based on these assumptions, the present level of service is 1/32,000. After factoring in the school and private pools contributing to meeting pool needs, Vacaville has a current demand for two swimming pools.

Facility Standards

Other California communities have adopted standards of 1/20,000 (Roseville and Irvine) and 1/25,000 (Capistrano Bay).

The table below presents a detailed inventory of existing and planned football and soccer fields.

Table D1: Detailed Inventory of Football and Soccer Fields (Multipurpose)			
Facility Location	Regulation Football Fields (#/size/type)	Regulation Soccer Fields (#/size)	Total Fields (#)
Existing			
Irene Larson Ball Diamonds		2/ 90' x 180' 1/ 60' x 120'	3
Pheasant Country Park		1/ 90' x 180'	1
Dos Calles Padan Park		1/ 180' x 300'	1
Meadowlands Park		2/ 180' x 300'	2
Alamo School Park		1/ 150' x 300'	1
William Keating Park	2/ 50 x 80 yds/ youth		2
John Arlington Park (Phase 1)		*1/ 180' x 300' 2/ 90' x 180'	3
Sierra Vista School Park		1/ 150' x 300' 1/ 120' x 240'	2
Planned			
John Arlington Park (Phase 2)	1/ 50 x 50 yds/ youth		1
Total	3	13	16

* This field is shared temporarily until Phase 2 implementation of John Arlington Park is complete.

Note: Soccer field sizes correspond with specific age groups served:

- 60' x 120' serves children under 6
- 90' x 180' serves children 6 to 8
- 120' x 240' serves children 10 and 11
- 150' x 300' serves children 8 to 12
- 180' x 300' serves children 12 to 14

Projected Level of Service

One gymnasium is planned for the 138 acre City park by the year 2010. This facility coupled with proposed school facilities will maintain a 1/32,000 City standard.

Expressed Demand

Swimming was identified as the third most popular activity for Citizen Survey respondents. Forty-three percent (43%) of respondents indicated that they have gone swimming at least five times during the last year, and 3% indicated that they would go swimming more often if they felt there were adequate opportunities in Vacaville.

Community workshop participants strongly expressed the need for additional swimming opportunities. Most comments related to the general need for another public pool, although some participants suggested specific locations — the north and east sides of Vacaville, Lagoon Valley, City Center Park; or specific features — year-round pool like the Tahoe facility, a lap pool for use in physical therapy. Some participants also specifically mentioned a need for additional swimming programs and lessons. Currently, swimming lessons alone serve over 1,500 children per year.

Surprisingly, Youth Survey respondents did not emphasize the need for swimming programs or facilities as much as other recreational opportunities. However, swimming appears as the seventh of the top nine programs or facilities desired by youth and also was mentioned as the favorite activity of Community Center users.

City recreation staff identified serious deficiencies in swimming facilities and programs. Staff believes that at least one 25 meter swimming pool and one 50-meter pool is needed. They mentioned a Water Park concept, with swimming, paddle boats and a beach. The Vacaville Swim Club concurs that Vacaville lacks both swimming facilities and programs, and strongly advocates the development of an aquatic complex with an Olympic sized 50-meter pool.

Anticipated Demand

Swimming is a popular activity in Vacaville. The projected demand of two pools may be difficult and expensive to remedy, however, a standard of 1/32,000 is proposed and development of one pool by 2010 is recommended. The addition of the lap pool to the Community Center will meet certain competition and exercise needs. However, this does not provide a pool facility in the area north of I-80 where a pool may be needed. Another option is to plan a swim pool complex with 50-meter, lap, teaching and recreational pools and phase the construction based on program needs and funding capability.

Gymnasiums

Existing Level of Service

The Georgie Duke Sports Center is the only public gym serving about 50% of the public need. The City accommodates approximately 10% of the public need by leasing space for its gymnastic programs in the Chandler Building downtown. The school facilities are estimated to contribute about 25% towards meeting gymnasium needs and private gyms

account for about 15% of the public's need. Considering all of these facilities, public and private, the current level of service is 1/32,000.

Facility Standards

City standards are 1/32,000. Although the City of Roseville does not have a standard for gymnasiums, the standard of 1/8,000 for indoor basketball courts suggests an equal standard for gyms. Other California communities have adopted standards of 1/10,000 (Irvine) and 1/5,000 (Capistrano Bay) for gymnasiums. Vacaville falls short of these standards, showing a demand for one additional gym, even by accounting for use of school and private facilities.

Projected Level of Service

One gymnasium is planned for the 138-acre City park by the year 2010. This facility, coupled with proposed school facilities, will maintain a 1/32,000 City standard.

Expressed Demand

Many other City programs are offered at the Sports Center, including basketball, volleyball and self-defense. A gymnasium serves many recreation needs; some of the needs identified in Vacaville which are partially accommodated at the Sports Center have been reported under other facility categories. Needs assessment findings related to gymnastics are reported here.

Approximately 1,800 children are served by the City's gymnastics programs, and nearly 100 children are on waiting lists. Five percent (5%) of Citizen's Survey respondents have participated in gymnastics during 1990. Gymnastics was not mentioned in the Community Workshops. In the Youth Survey, respondents who have participated in City recreation programs identified gymnastics as one of the programs. City recreation staff mentioned the pressing need for another gymnasium for gymnastics and other indoor programs, or an expansion of Georgie Duke Center.

Anticipated Demand

Assuming that school and private gym facilities will continue to meet 40% of the public need, and supplemental leased or reallocated existing space will accommodate 10%, a need for one additional gymnasium will exist by the year 2010. This gym would be at least comparable in size to the Georgie Duke Center, which is around 14,000 square feet.

Community Centers

Existing Level of Service

There is one community center in Vacaville, establishing a current level of service of 1/63,889. This 20,000 square foot facility, with a community-wide service range, is the location of numerous recreation programs and community events.

Facility Standards

City standards are 1/32,000. According to this ratio, Vacaville needs two more centers to serve current community needs.

Projected Level of Service

A cultural center is being constructed for Vacaville, with a 500-seat theater, multipurpose meeting rooms, and a library. This facility will function as a second community center, indicating a projected level of service of 1/32,000. Due to the population increase, Vacaville will have a demand for one additional community center by 2010.

Expressed Demand

Current extensive use of the existing Community Center is an indication of the need for additional centers. The Community Center is the location of about 40% of all recreation programs offered in the City. In workshops and surveys, the community expressed interest in various activities and programs that are offered at the Community Center. City recreation staff also indicated that additional centers serving the whole community are needed.

Anticipated Demand

With the addition of the cultural arts center, the City will still be in short supply of this facility type. A minimum standard of 1/32,000 is recommended, indicating a need to build at least one more (20,000 square foot or larger) community center before the year 2010.

Tennis Courts

Existing Level of Service

There are 12 tennis courts provided by the City of Vacaville. Four lighted courts are available to the public at the Community Center and the other eight courts are provided at neighborhood parks. The eight courts at Vacaville High School are utilized by the City at a 50% usage level. The 16 private club courts serve about three percent (3%) of the population. Including these to meet tennis needs, the current level of service is 1/5000.

Facility Standards

The three comparison communities have adopted standards to provide public tennis courts at ratios of 1/2,000 (Roseville), 1/3,000 (Irvine) and 1/2,500 (Capistrano Bay). None of these standards are currently met by the supply of public tennis courts in Vacaville.

Projected Level of Service

Six additional tennis courts are planned with two at Boulder Valley and four at Nelson Park. Based on the population increase, and continued contribution by the school and private clubs, the projected level of service will be consistent at 1/5,000.

Expressed Community Demand

Night lighting courts will accommodate more play and possibly reduce the need for more courts. However, night lighting may also bring new players who may have not been able to play during the day.

Tennis was mentioned in the Youth Survey as a relatively popular activity in Alamo Creek and North Orchard Parks. Staff expressed that more tennis courts are needed between Sierra Vista and Cambridge. Boulder Valley and Nelson Park are planned to have tennis

courts. Approximately 500 Vacaville residents participate in tennis lessons, clinics, and events per year.

Anticipated Need

Vacaville standards would require 10 new public courts for a total of 16. Because an overwhelmingly strong community demand for tennis courts is not evident, a continuation of the standard of 1/5,000 is recommended. Assuming that the eight school courts will be utilized 50% by the City, and private clubs will continue to serve 3% of the population, four new tennis courts will be required by the year 2010.

Other Facilities

Vacaville residents expressed the need for other facilities for which there are no city standards. - An analysis of these facilities is summarized below.

Neighborhood Centers

There are six neighborhood centers in the City of Vacaville (Trower, Cambridge, Boulder Balley, Fairmont, Alamo and Meadowlands), establishing a current level of service of 1/11,408. These 1,440 square foot centers serve the neighborhoods offering primarily after-school programs for grades K-12, although some are used for drop-in recreation.

Vacaville must set a standard based on expressed community interest and need. Citizen's Survey results indicate a preference for development of smaller, neighborhood-serving recreation centers (52%) over larger, community-serving centers (37%). Staff expressed the demand to decentralize recreation programs, i.e., shift some programming to the neighborhoods and away from the community center. Current use of existing centers plus these factors indicate that additional neighborhood centers are needed.

A standard of 1/13,000 is recommended for the provision of neighborhood centers, indicating a need for four to eight centers in various neighborhoods. Depending on the number and configuration of Vacaville neighborhoods, between four and eight additional neighborhood centers are recommended.

Senior Centers

The McBride Senior Center is the only senior center in Vacaville today, and none are planned for the facilities to be completed by 1992. The Center offers extensive programs including field trips, classes, volunteer opportunities, special events and ongoing drop-in activities such as cards, bingo, pool, ceramics and exercise. Resident Survey results suggest that 39% of the community believes that the City should *spend more* on senior programs, 43% believe that *spending is about right*, and 4% believe that the City should *spend less* (14% had no opinion). The consistent high use of McBride and the aging population of Vacaville suggests a need for at least one additional senior center. A standard of 1/64,448 is recommended, based on community opinion and demographic trends.

Other

Needs for other facilities were also mentioned by the Vacaville community. These are summarized below without specific recommendations for level of service ratios. Interest was expressed in upgrading fairground facilities in Vacaville. Community Workshop participants suggested that the use of Andrews Park as a carnival site should be discontinued. They suggested that a site be built to accommodate large outdoor events such as the Onion Festival, Fiesta Days, County Fair, rodeos and other festivals or special events. Staff also mentioned this need and emphasized the need for adequate parking and traffic circulation.

Improvement and addition of trails for hiking, bicycling and equestrian use was also suggested. Workshop participants particularly emphasized this need, providing specific suggestions and overall goals for trail development. A thorough inventory of existing trails should be conducted and a plan developed.

An interpretive ecological trail or an arboretum was also suggested at the Community Workshops. The drought tolerant landscape planting at Alamo Park was proposed as a possible site for an interpretive trail. Demonstration gardens to illustrate water conserving landscape techniques were also suggested.

Workshop participants suggested that the City provide an arts exhibit space for changing displays of art work. Vacaville offers a variety of arts and crafts programs; products of program participants could be exhibited at this type of facility. The need may not warrant a designated new building, but could be accommodated by existing and planned facilities such as the old library, neighborhood centers, or the proposed cultural center.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The trends and circumstances identified in the Recreation Programs Analysis Report will affect the demand for recreation facilities. The School District's switch to a 60/20 school year will impact all recreation facilities; the Americans with Disabilities Act will require facility redesign; the interest in informal recreation will require investment in facilities that support unstructured play, some of which are not covered in this report, such as trails, picnic areas and open spaces.

The major findings of this analysis reveal the following:

- The most pressing recreation demands are for an additional swimming pool, gym, a place for youth in a community center and neighborhood recreation centers, additional basketball courts, and another senior center.

- The analysis of community need and the current recreation facility inventory indicate the need for *higher* levels of service than recommended by NRPA¹ standards for the following facilities:
 - Baseball/softball fields
 - Soccer/football fields

- The analysis of community need and the current recreation facility inventory indicate the need for *lower* levels of service than recommended by NRPA¹ standards for the following facilities:
 - Volleyball courts
 - Swimming pools
 - Gymnasiums
 - Community centers
 - Basketball courts
 - Tennis courts

Recommended Recreation Facility Standards

The following Table 4 summarizes the recreation facility standards for the City of Vacaville. For each facility, a level of service ratio is established, and an estimate is given of the number of facilities to be added in order to provide the recommended level of service.

Joint Use of City and School Recreation Facilities

Table 4, *Summary of Recreation Facility Standards*, and this Report as a whole, presents an analysis based on City-operated fields and facilities, selected private facilities, and those school facilities available for City use. All School District facilities were not evaluated in this recreation service analysis. City programs held at school pools and tennis courts provided thirty percent (30%) of the total use and were factored in for the number of facilities recommended.

¹ NRPA refers to the National Recreation and Parks Association standards. Those standards were used for staff reference only and were found to be nonrepresentational for outdoor facilities, due to Vacaville's climatic conditions that expands facility use potential.

Table 4: Summary of Recreation Facility Standards			
	Current Level of Service Ratio	Recommended Level of Service Ratio	Recommended Number of Facilities
<i>Recreation Facility</i>	<i>Existing Inventory</i>		<i>To be Added by Year 2010</i>
Baseball/Softball Fields	1/2,900	1/2,750	14 (8 lighted)
Volleyball Courts	1/16,000	1/10,000	3
Basketball Courts	1/7,000	1/5,000	10
Football/Soccer	1/4,000	1/4,000	11
Swimming Pool	1/32,000	1/32,000	1.5
Gymnasium	1/32,000	1/32,000	1
Community Centers	1/32,000	1/32,000	1
Tennis Courts	1/5,000	1/5,000	10 (4 lighted)
Golf Courses	0	1/80,000	1*
Neighborhood Centers	1/13,000	1/13,000	4 (Modular - 3; Site Built - 1)
Senior Centers	1/64,000	1/64,000	1

* Facilities that could be provided by the private sector or through joint public-private cooperative effort.

Notes:

1. The recommended number of facilities to be added by the year 2010 is in addition to those facilities planned for completion by 1992.
2. Level of service ratios are expressed as one facility per number of residents (1#).
3. Public use of school and private facilities considered — club and school pools, gymnasiums and tennis courts; also golf course.

At present, however, the Vacaville Unified School District has many facilities that, through joint use agreements, are now used by the public for City recreation programs during non-school hours. City recreation programs benefitting from this joint use arrangement are summarized in Table 5A.

Table 5B presents the estimated percentage of total use of City and school facilities for each City program that uses both City and school facilities.

The School District also uses selected City facilities for school recreation programs as summarized in Table 5C.

To a certain extent, the shared use of City and school facilities has been acknowledged in evaluating the recommended number of facilities to be added by the year 2010 (Table 4). Assuming that the percentage of City use of school facilities will remain constant into the future, this analysis modifies the recommended number of new City facilities by the use percentages (as shown in column three of Table 5B) for such facilities as tennis and swimming pools. The percentage use of City facilities by school programs (Table 5C) should also be factored in as a reduction in the availability of City facilities for City programs. In another respect, acknowledging school use of City facilities may be beneficial when proposing and developing future plans for joint use facilities.

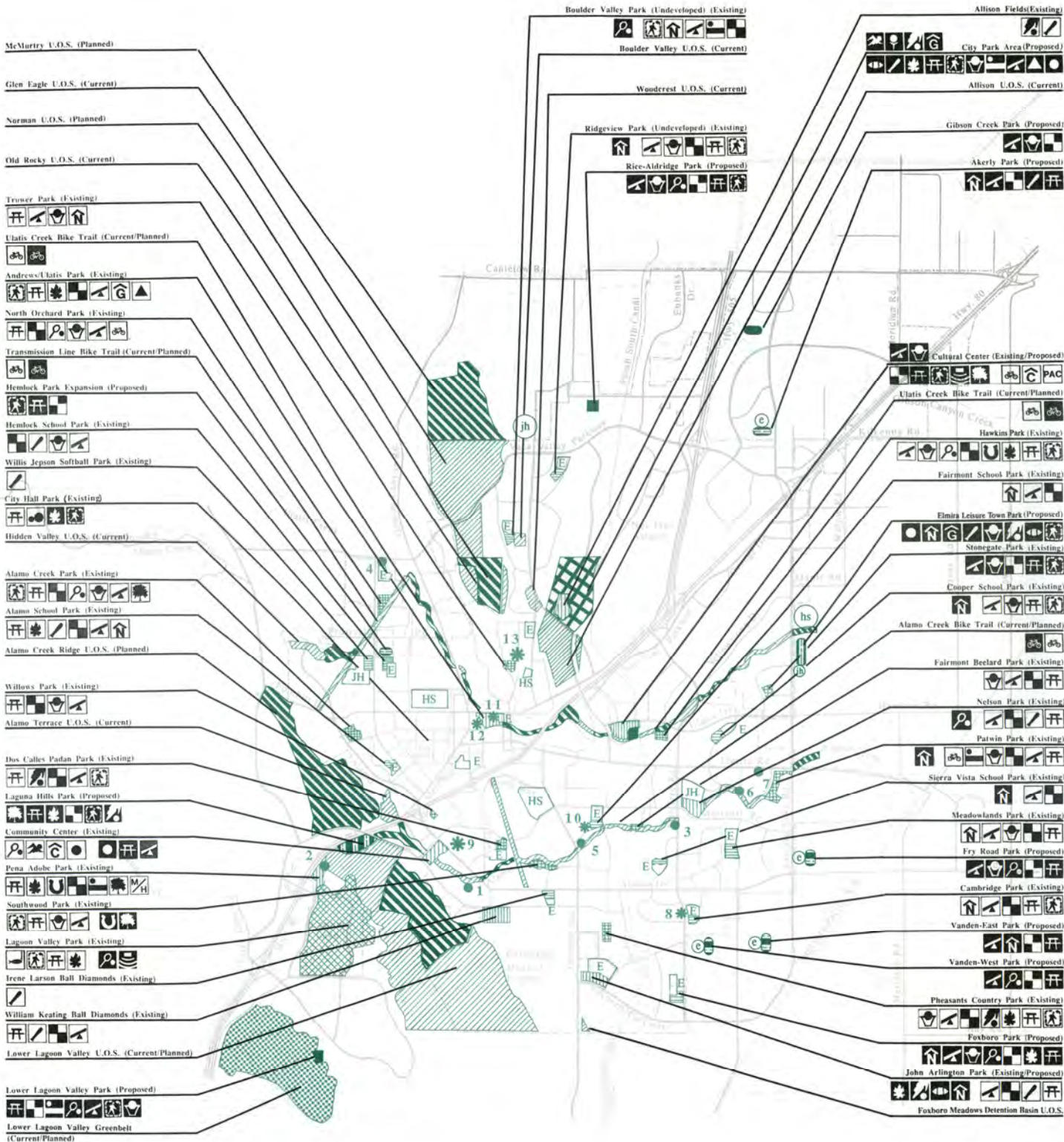
The City should proceed with caution in reducing recommended standards based on these assumptions or in planning on School District participation in new development projects. As stated above, school facilities are not readily available, and with the move to a 60/20 school year these facilities may become less available. Also, the School District has indicated that there will not be increased opportunities for use of existing school facilities in the future. These factors emphasize the need for the City to initiate joint construction and joint use of new school facilities as opportunities arise in the future with clear understanding by each party in the facility development, use and maintenance spelled out in the joint development/use agreement.

Table 5A: City Programs Using Both City and School Facilities

Programs	City Facilities	School Facilities
<i>Youth Programs</i>		
Youth Basketball	Duke Center	Vaca High, Jepson Middle High, Wood High, Vaca Pena Middle School
Girl's Softball	Nelson, Larsen, Keating, Padan, Beelard Parks	11 elementary schools, Jepson Middle High
T-Ball Baseball	Larsen, Keating, Padan, Beelard Parks	11 elementary schools, Jepson Middle High
Fall Baseball	Keating Park	11 elementary schools, Larson School
Youth Flag Football	Keating Park	11 elementary schools
<i>Adult Programs</i>		
Basketball	Duke Center	Vaca High, Jepson Middle High, Wood High
Volleyball	Duke Center	Vaca High, Jepson Middle High
Special Needs (Handicap Program)	Community Center, Nelson, Keating, Duke Center	Jepson Middle High
Aquatics Program	Community Center	Vaca High
Child Care Programs	Meadowlands Park	Alamo Elementary School, Fairmont Elementary School, Brown's Valley Elementary School

Table 5B: Percentage Use of City and School Facilities By Program		
Programs	% Use of City Facilities	% Use of School Facilities
<i>Youth Programs</i>		
Youth Basketball	75%	25%
Girl's Softball	70%	30%
T-Ball Baseball	70%	30%
Fall Baseball	90%	10%
Youth Flag Football	50%	50%
<i>Adult Programs</i>		
Basketball	70%	30%
Volleyball	70%	30%
Special Needs (Handicap Program)	50%	50%
Aquatics Program	70%	30%
Tennis	70%	30%

Table 5C: School Programs Using City Facilities		
Programs	City Facilities	% Use of City Facilities
Vaca High Girl's Softball	Keating Park	40%
Vaca High Boy's Baseball	Keating Park	40%
Vaca High Boy's Volleyball	Duke Center	100%
Wood High School Girl's Softball	Nelson Park	100%
Wood High School Baseball	Keating Park	100%



LEGEND
SPORTS FACILITIES

- EXISTING PROPOSED
- SWIMMING POOL
 - TENNIS COURTS
 - BASKETBALL COURTS
 - VOLLEYBALL COURT
 - GYMNASIUM

BALLFIELDS

- EXISTING PROPOSED
- BASEBALL / SOFTBALL
 - FOOTBALL
 - SOCCER
 - MULTI PURPOSE FIELD
 - GOLF COURSE

LOW INTENSITY RECREATION

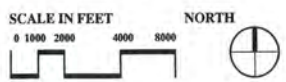
- EXISTING PROPOSED
- PLAYGROUNDS
 - EXERCISE / FITNESS CIRCUIT
 - HORSE SHOES
 - PICNIC AREA
 - BBQ AREA
 - BOCCIE BALL
 - BIKE TRAIL
 - FISHING

RECREATION CENTERS

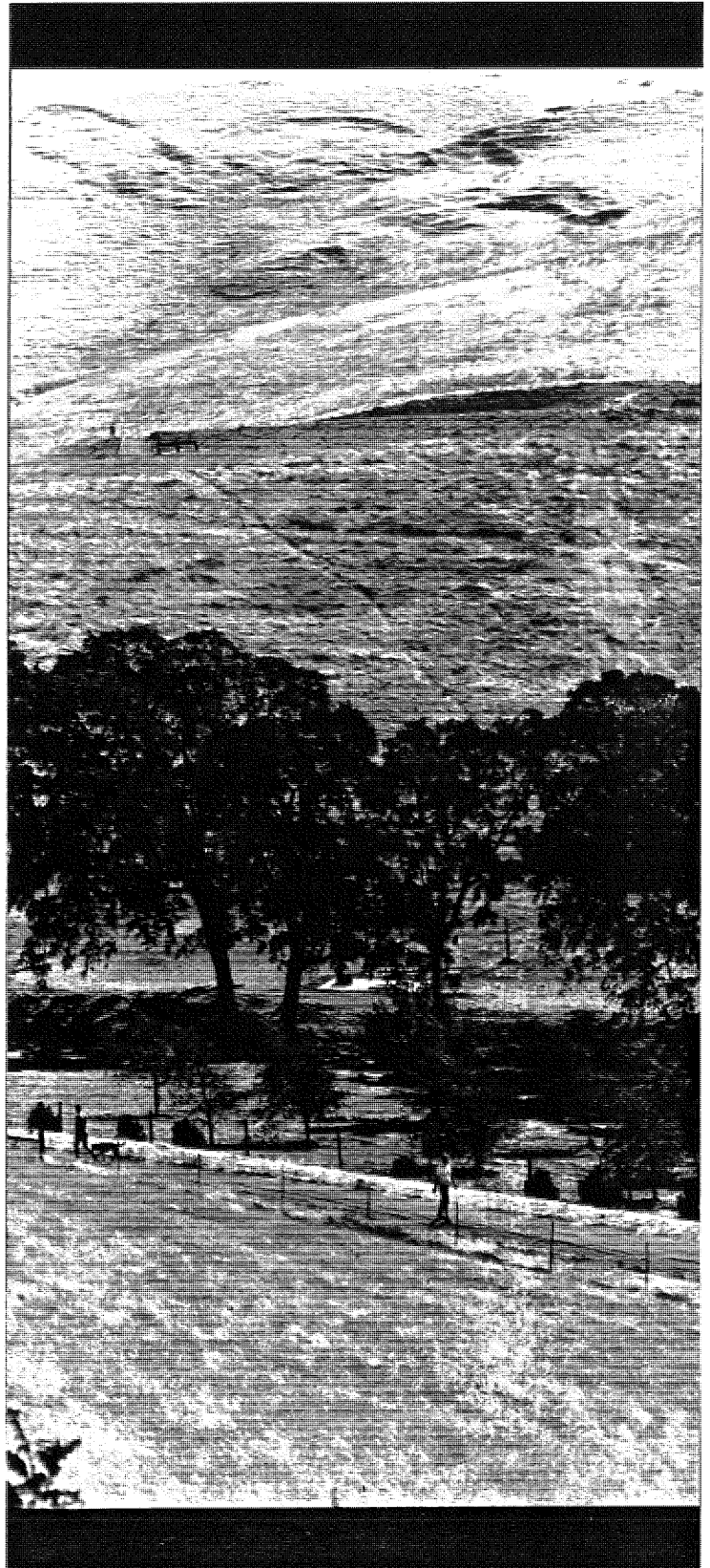
- EXISTING PROPOSED
- ARBORETUM/INTERPRETIVE GARDEN
 - COMMUNITY GARDEN (FUTURE)
 - AMPHITHEATER
 - NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER
 - COMMUNITY CENTER
 - SENIOR CENTER
 - YOUTH FACILITIES
 - PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
 - MUSEUM/HISTORICAL

PARK FACILITIES
CITY OF VACAVILLE

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan



P O L I C Y RECOMMENDATIONS



Policy Recommendations

Introduction

The Purpose of the *Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* is to provide a long-range plan that will guide the City in planning and developing new parks, enhancing existing recreation programming, developing a City-wide trails system, and providing open space areas for public access.

The Vacaville General Plan specifies numerous Guiding Policies and Implementing Policies relevant to this plan within the following elements: Open Space, Parks and Recreation and Transportation. Policies direct the overall program of the *Master Plan*. The following implementing policies (in plain type) will comply with the adopted General Plan Guiding Policies and Implementing Policies (in bold type) for parks, trails, open space and bikeways. These recommended policies respond to those issues identified by the public (workshops and surveys), City staff, and from accepted recreation standards, using the following General Plan definitions:

- **Guiding Policies** state the City's goals and philosophy.
- **Implementing Policies** represent the City's commitment to action.

PARK AND RECREATION POLICIES

Guiding Policies

- 4.6-G1** **Develop a high-quality public park system that provides varied recreational opportunities accessible to all City residents.**
- 4.6-G2** **Provide parks that reflect and respect Vacaville's natural setting.**
- 4.6-G3** **Recognize the role that parks play in preserving natural features and establishing urban limits.**
- 4.6-G4** **Establish standards for the provision of public parks to ensure adequate distribution, size, and service area.**
- 4.6-G5** **Support the use of park facilities by persons working but not residing in Vacaville.**
- 4.6-G6** **Encourage development of private and commercial recreational facilities at appropriate locations. Substitution of private recreational facilities for**

public parks is discouraged in order to ensure access to outdoor recreation by all sectors of the population.

- 4.6-G7 Distribute public parks and recreational facilities throughout the urban service zone according to service area standards specified in this Element.
- 4.6-G8 Evaluate the impact of proposed urban development on open space lands in terms of recreational opportunities and consider means of protecting these lands.
- 4.6-G9 Make provisions for handicapped individuals to freely participate in all aspects of community life including recreational activities. Guidelines to be used in providing access for the handicapped shall conform to local, state and federal codes. Parks and recreational facilities shall be designed and built to meet the needs of the handicapped population.
- 4.6-G10 Establish policies to prevent the degradation or despoilment of the City's parklands through inappropriate uses.
- 4.6-G11 Provide neighborhood parks to serve the special recreational, cultural, and educational needs of different neighborhoods.
- 4.6-G12 Locate new neighborhood parks adjacent to new elementary schools where possible.
- 4.6-G13 Provide community parks encompassing a range of uses including active high-investment (gymnasiums, swimming pools, etc.), active low-investment (playfields, etc.), and passive recreational facilities. Community parks shall contain facilities to serve the entire City or large portions of the City by providing recreational and cultural activities beyond those supplied by neighborhood parks.
- 4.6-G14 Plan park and recreational facilities in cooperation with concerned public and private agencies and organizations.
- 4.6-G15 Solicit the views of the public in planning park and recreation facilities.
- 4.6-G16 Provide a City Park with access to all facilities, that is designed to serve as a community centerpiece.

Implementing Policies

4.6-I1 Establish a Public Parks Distribution Standard of 4.5 acres of park for every 1,000 residents with 1.8 acres/1,000 residents of neighborhood park, 1.7 acres/ 1,000 residents of community park, and 1 acre/1,000 residents of City park.

4.6-I2 Establish a typical size and service area standards for neighborhood, community, and City parks as follows:

Area	Typical Size	Service Area
Neighborhood Parks	6-9 acres	0.5 miles
Community Parks	10-40 acres	1.0-2.0 miles
City Parks	100 acres or more	Centrally sited to serve all areas of the City

4.6-I3 Cooperate with special districts, the County and the State to ensure that the needs of Vacaville residents for regional parks are met.

4.6-I4 Prepare and adopt a Parks, Recreation and Open Space *Master Plan*. This Plan should include the following elements:

- Standards for all park classifications and guidelines for urban open space.
- As assessment of existing and future parks, recreation and open space needs, including a review of opportunities to link the City's facilities with those of neighboring jurisdictions.
- Development of an action plan to provide for sites, funding and facilities to meet the City's needs.
- A schedule for acquisition, development and maintenance of facilities.
- An Action Plan for the Community Services Department.

Child Care

- 4.6-I5** In conjunction with the Parks, Recreation and Open Space *Master Plan*, include a child care element that analyzes needs, supply, demand, and funding mechanisms.

Lagoon Valley Regional Park

- 4.6-I7** Promote the environmental and recreational qualities of Lagoon Valley Regional Park.
- 4.6-I8** Preserve and enhance available riparian corridors, wildlife habitat, oak woodland, and other biotic resources within parks.

Private Recreation

- 4.6-I9** Require developers of moderate and high density projects that do not contain standard yards to incorporate private recreation areas into subdivisions and to create homeowners associations or similar mechanisms for developing, supervising and maintaining such areas. These recreation areas are in addition to the public parks paid for by building and other fees. All other parks and recreation facilities required by this Plan shall be publicly owned, operated, and maintained and shall be funded, at least in part, by fees paid by new development.
- 4.6-I16** Review proposals for private recreation facilities for consistency with Plan policies and standards, and encourage such uses to locate in Greenbelt Buffer areas.

Park Implementation

- 4.6-I10** Require all residential developers, including apartment builders, to provide park and recreation facilities either by reserving sites or by paying an in-lieu dedication fee.
- 4.6-I11** Encourage the dedication of landscaped and developed parks, trail sections and special requirements where these meet the standards established by the Parks and Recreation Facilities *Master Plan*.
- 4.6-I14** Ensure that funding is available for new neighborhood parks as a condition of approval of residential development.

- 4.6-I15** Use existing and new well sites, and other public lands, where feasible, for recreation or community gardens.

Schools

- 4.6-I12** Cooperate with the school districts in developing standards for Neighborhood School Parks that ensure diversity, quality and innovation in design.

City Park

- 4.6-I7** Establish standards and policies for the City Park which define its special function and vision for the City of Vacaville.
- 4.6-I18 -** Coordinate all proposals for recreational facilities within the City Park as part of an overall landscape design under the Parks, Recreation and Open Space *Master Plan*.

IMPLEMENTING POLICIES

Purpose for Community, Neighborhood and City Parks

Community Parks encompass a range of uses to serve the entire City or large portions of the City within a 1-2.0 mile radius of residential areas. Park facilities include lighted ball fields, swimming pools, and areas and buildings for organized sports and athletic competitions.

Neighborhood Parks or playgrounds serve the recreation needs of a small portion of the City, a neighborhood, within one-half mile of the park. Park facilities are usually oriented toward the recreation needs of children and include multipurpose fields, playgrounds and tot lots. Many neighborhood parks are developed in association with local elementary schools to benefit from shared use of facilities and fields and are thus called *Neighborhood School Parks*.

City Parks serve the entire City population as a community centerpiece and outdoor recreational space. Park facilities may include a golf course, playfields, and a swimming complex along with large natural open space areas for passive recreation use.

Citywide

- Provide a broad spectrum of recreational opportunities in park facilities for various functions and in various sizes.
- Locate park and recreation facilities for safe and easy access by their intended users.
- Ensure that Vacaville's park system is developed and maintained in a manner that is cost effective and consistent with the community's ability to pay.
- Maintain and enhance the quality and flexibility of existing parks.
- Provide a park system that is responsive to a diversity of changing needs.
- Phase park development to keep pace with growth and facility demands.
- Use the adopted Public Parks Distribution Standard, the adopted Service Area Standards, and the proposed Facility Standards.
- Give priority to directing renovation or new park development to areas of greatest need within the framework of this *Master Plan* and commensurate with available funds.

Community Parks

- Locate community parks, particularly general multipurpose ones, close to major arterials.
- Plan and design community parks to serve multipurpose need, with variety and flexibility, providing facilities and services that appeal to the majority of interests in a geographic area.
- Designate certain community parks for a special community-wide focus such as intensive athletic complexes, competition pools, a fine arts center or a natural area.
- Share community park facilities with nearby middle and high school facilities where possible.
- Develop certain community parks as a resource for multi-use recreation such as walking trails and open turf areas, particularly in areas of scenic natural beauty and connect to bicycle/hiking trails for access.

Park and Urban Open Space¹ Safety

- Establish standards for park and urban open space development, working with the police department, in order to have mutually agreeable criteria.
- Supervise department-sponsored park and urban open space activities to enforce laws restricting illegal activity.
- Design park and urban open space facilities to discourage illegal activities.
- Ensure that parks are adequately illuminated for safety, where designated for night use.
- Restrict and control nighttime park and urban open space use so that adjacent residences are not adversely affected.
- Coordinate with the City Police Department to monitor and patrol parks and urban open space to inhibit crime and illegal activity.
 - Compile the crime rates within and adjacent to parks and urban open spaces on an annual basis.
 - Consult with the Police Department to determine strategies to reduce criminal activity where problems exist, such as modifying recreational activities (types or hours of use), redesigning site layout and facilities to enhance visibility and "defensible" space, increasing community surveillance, and/or increasing patrols.
- Provide emergency access to all areas.

Accessibility

- Provide access for people with disabilities in accordance with current applicable laws and regulations for accessibility.
- Evaluate accessibility of existing facilities and make every effort to retrofit these facilities to provide increased access.
- Encourage input from interested individuals and groups when planning for access to parks and urban open space, and make a strong effort to keep informed of applicable ideas that other agencies develop.
- Include information in promotional materials on accessible park and urban open space features to encourage use.

¹Refer to Park and Urban Open Space Development, below in this Chapter, for additional policies for Urban Open Space.

Local Parks and Schools

- Locate parks adjacent to elementary, junior high and high schools to benefit from shared use of land and facilities.
- Maintain and expand joint use agreements with local school districts for cost sharing arrangements for parks near schools, for park maintenance and operation, and for annual scheduling of facilities.
- Design neighborhood parks to serve both the neighborhood and the school district's needs.
- Maintain neighborhood parks using the same level of service and quality standards found in other citywide recreation facilities.
- Use elementary schools and neighborhood parks to complement each other in providing playground and athletic field facilities.
- Use middle schools and high schools to provide more intensive athletic field, court, track and gymnasium facilities to complement community-level recreation facilities. The City and Vacaville School District should jointly develop such facilities.
- Coordinate programs and activities at the public school facilities to improve the relationship between the public parks and public schools and to provide greater recreational opportunities to the public.
- Seek a cooperative arrangement with the Vacaville School District in the location and development of a new high school and adjacent sports complex.
- Continue cooperation with local school districts in the location of future elementary and middle school sites in the developing areas of the city to allow for adjacent park acquisition and subsequent park/school complexes.
- Encourage local school districts to improve the aesthetics of existing school grounds through tree planting programs and improved maintenance, perhaps in cooperation with volunteer groups.

Public Input

- Hold public meetings under the auspices of the Community Services Commission in an advisory capacity to the City Council.
- Allow adequate time to provide the public with opportunities to express its opinions on acquisition, operations and other appropriate matters.

- Hold public meetings in planning facilities for each park, major program area or trail as follows:
 - Invite the public to participate in planning for potential uses.
 - Take public review and comments on draft park or trail plans.
 - Encourage public input during the Community Services Commission or City Council consideration of the park or trail plan.
- Consider "turnkey" parks as an exception to the public meeting requirement, because of the need to negotiate with the developer, and the absence of a local neighborhood constituency (located in a new development).

Planning

- Maintain standards to provide recreational facilities based on existing and projected population.
- Maintain standards for recreation facilities to respond to an expected level of service, stated in terms of population. As the project population increases or decreases, so does the need for a facility.
- Designate existing and planned parks on the Parks *Master Plan* map. Proposed locations for future parks shall be schematic, and may be located on any suitable lands in the general vicinity.

Implementation

- Use the Capital Improvements Program to coordinate the acquisition and improvement of park facilities.
- Maintain a 20-year Capital Improvement budget which lists all of the priority construction projects to be implemented based upon an adopted funding program.
- Assure that capital projects proposed for funding conform to the adopted *Master Plan* for each park including the priorities established within this adopted *Master Plan* to the maximum extent feasible.
- Continue to require developers of residential land to dedicate land or fees for parks consistent with General Plan standards.
- Use, to the maximum extent possible, any federal and/or state park, facility, and open space assistance grants that are available. Recognize that many grant programs are on a matching fund basis and that many are awarded after a competitive selection process.

- Require that all multi-residential development projects of five or more units provide on-site open space facilities and pay in-lieu fees for similar facilities nearby or dedicate parklands in accordance with standards to be established in the Development Code.

Administrative

- Monitor the community's recreational needs and evaluate the adequacy of the City's recreational facilities and programs in meeting these needs; conduct a comprehensive evaluation at least once each five years.
- On an ongoing basis, with completion every five years, review the physical and operational characteristics of parks, the site design, landscape development, maintenance of parks, recreational buildings and community facilities. This evaluation should consider the effectiveness and efficiency in accommodating recreational activities, costs of operation and maintenance, rate of deterioration and replacement of equipment and landscape, safety of users and tenants of adjacent properties, adequacy of lighting, compatibility with adjacent uses and other pertinent measures.
- Develop maintenance standards for parks and landscape material, equipment and furnishings to be reviewed periodically, but not less than once every five years.
- Maintain information regarding park facilities, programs and community needs to determine if recreational needs are being met by the facilities and programs. Surveys of use and demand shall be conducted at least every five years.
- Maintain records of usage and demand statistics.
- Maintain an inventory of surplus federal, state and local land in the City and, as funding is available, purchase and acquire those lands that are appropriate for recreational purposes. When purchase is not possible, consider the negotiation of long-term lease agreements to provide park and recreational facilities.
- Work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, Solano County Water Agency, and the City's Public Works Department to provide for the recreational use of Alamo, Ulatis, Laguna, and Encinosa creek drainages, storm water detention channels, and reservoirs. Recreational uses in these areas shall be designed to provide for flood control needs as their primary purpose and be capable of easy restoration subsequent to drainage and floods.

Plans and Ordinances

- Prepare master plans for each park indicating locations of outdoor and indoor facilities, picnic facilities, passive recreation, nature appreciation/education, public parking, emergency access, and other constituent elements. Incorporate landscape and irrigation plans and measures to "transition" the park with adjacent land uses. The design of each park shall reflect and be sensitive to the natural characteristics of the site. For existing parks, analyze the need to re-site existing facilities to increase their efficiency, maintain open space resources, and provide compatibility with adjacent uses. For new facilities, prepare park master plans prior to implementing improvements. Involve local community groups in the preparation of each plan.
- Maintain Municipal Code requirement that proposed residential developments include land for public parks and recreational facilities at a ratio of five acres for each 1,000 persons.
- Authorize the Community Services Department to review all development projects in order to determine potential impacts on parks and recreation .

Funding

- Emphasize the use of the Development Impact Fees, in-lieu fees, and developer contributions as a primary means of parks and recreation funding to serve new development.
 - Review the sufficiency of the fees to support parkland acquisition, improvements, and programming once every year.
 - Adjust fees, as necessary, within the limits established by State law.
 - Impose fees on commercial development to the extent that direct impacts can be defined.
- Continue and expand mechanisms for receiving tax deductible contributions to include the donation of equipment and facilities as an incentive for obtaining additional funding for park improvements.
- Establish the administrative and legal mechanisms to allow for the creation of benefit assessment districts to fund park acquisitions and improvements.
- Incorporate tree purchases in the maintenance budget to facilitate additional tree planting in local parks.

Criteria for New Park Sites

- Follow specific criteria to establish a site's appropriateness as a new park or recreation facility. The proposed site should be:
 - Suitable for meeting the variety of uses identified in the *Parks Master Plan*.
 - Suitable for accommodating the uses identified as a special focus of the park, such as intensive athletics, a natural area, or a community centerpiece.
 - Consistent with the policies of the City of Vacaville and its General Plan.
 - Safe and accessible, and within reasonable proximity to populated sectors of the City.
 - Located adjacent to existing or designated open space or trails, to provide linkages between facilities.
 - Contain and preserve, if possible, a unique or significant natural, historical or cultural feature such as a water feature, geologic feature, orchards, or wildlife habitats.
 - Consist of trees and other plant materials that are of value in park development and use.

Park Naming

- Use current Council-adopted policy for naming parks with the following amendments:
 - Adopt a name for each park that is based on geographic, natural, or historic criteria identified with the area.
 - Consider special recognition naming if the park was acquired through a donation.
 - Name some portions of parks or specific facilities within parks in recognition of, or in honor of, individuals who have been associated with specific parcels over long periods of time.

Access, Roads, Public Transportation, Utilities

- Maintain an interest in, or obtain easements for, roads that provide access to City parks and open space.
- The Community Services Department should review and comment on any improvements or development plans that relate to proposed access roads to City parks.
- Work on a continuing basis with local transportation agencies to assess and propose service to City parks.
- Continue to seek funds for developing and maintaining a bus program to provide transportation to the parks for special populations such as the disabled, elderly or

low-income, and groups who otherwise would be unable to use the park system due to the lack of affordable, properly equipped transportation.

- Cooperate with utility companies in placing existing overhead utilities underground as soon as practical. Work with other agencies and neighbors to reduce the visual impacts of overhead utilities on adjacent lands.

Acquisition

- Acquire land through either purchase or gift, or by an agreement such as a permit, license, easement or operating agreement, or by acquisition dedication (conditions required by the City to build residential subdivisions).
- Assure consistency with this *Comprehensive City Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* and the General Plan when acquiring new parklands.
- Emphasize certain properties when determining the sequence to acquire parkland prioritizing those that:
 - Conform to meeting the equitable parkland distribution goals (refer to 4.6-I2 Service Area Standards).
 - Possess significant natural or created resources.
 - Present unusually favorable acquisition opportunities.
 - Help complete existing parks, remove in-holdings, and protect visual integrity where necessary in existing parks.
 - Avoid problematic sites.
 - Facilitate coordination with joint plans of other public agencies.
 - Qualify for state and federal grants and funds from other agencies.
 - Require minimum development and maintenance.
 - Leapfrog in acquisition if it leads to ultimate system-wide continuity of parks and trails.
 - Have strong public support for acquisition.
- Work with adjacent cities, the County, special districts, other agencies, and landowners to encourage conveyance of appropriate lands to the City for park, recreation, open space and trail purposes.
- Require developers of large residential projects to incorporate park facilities within their overall development plans. Negotiate agreements to acquire and develop facilities.

Park and Urban Open Space Development

- Develop parks and urban open space in accordance with this *Master Plan* and individual Park and Urban Open Space Master Plans.

- Establish development and preservation priorities and revise annually.
- Design proposed facilities so that the color, scale, style and materials are appropriate with the surrounding environment.
- Conduct an irrigation feasibility/suitability study to determine the feasibility of utilizing reclaimed water from local utility treatment plant, non-potable well water, or Solano Irrigation District water for irrigation purposes. Use areas could include turf playfields and a golf course.
- Design trails, roads and other improvements to avoid or minimize impacts on sensitive wildlife habitats and rare plant populations.
- Design and improve Community and Neighborhood parks according to the following:
 - Locate on collector or neighborhood streets, accessible to adjacent residential neighborhoods;
 - Site uses so that they do not adversely impact adjacent residences (e.g., locating high activity, noise-generating, and nighttime use away from residences);
 - Provide parking so that it does not disrupt abutting residences; and
 - Incorporate compatible landscaping with adjacent areas.
- Install new and replace existing landscaping where it is severely deteriorated, inappropriately located for park activities, or incompatible with other landscape and adjacent uses.
- Install masonry walls in parks as part of the adjacent development costs.
- Evaluate placement of bathroom facilities in both Community and Neighborhood parks.
- Maximize street frontage for Community and Neighborhood parks for security and visibility.
- Design trails, roads and other improvements to enhance fire protection systems and reduce the risk of wildfires. Emergency rescue personnel must also have access to all areas where users could become sick or injured.

TRAIL POLICIES

Implementing Policies

Trails

- 4.6-I6** **Develop a Trails and Trailhead System. These trails should provide access to and linkage of recreation sites and facilities. Provide an alternative circulation system where more feasible and appropriate. The trail system should complement and tie in with the City's bikeways system.**
- 4.6-I13** **Locate parks and recreation facilities in relation to components of the Trails System, buffers, urban separators and natural features. Wherever possible, site new parks in locations that encourage pedestrian access and that do not require that users cross arterials.**

Proposed Implementing Policies

Purpose for Trails

Trails, classified in the General Plan as Urban Open Space, provide links between neighborhoods and recreational resources, public facilities, nearby regional parks, and open spaces, and provide emergency access. The General Plan proposes a comprehensive network of hiking/equestrian trails, multipurpose paths, creekway trails and trailheads. Trails can increase the value of individual parks and open space elements by linking them into an interconnecting system that can also link them to facilities in other communities.

Planning

- Provide access to scenic views of Vacaville and surroundings.
- Provide trails next to natural amenities, such as creeks, whenever possible.
- Preserve abandoned railroad rights-of-way wherever possible for trails, linear parks and other recreational purposes.
 - Utilize the Sacramento/Northern and Southern Pacific Railroad rights-of-way as major north/south trails with connections to local trail loops.
- Coordinate with neighboring communities, Solano County, utility districts and other local agencies to provide connecting trail easements that link Vacaville's trails to open space, regional parks, local parks, the downtown area, and other trail systems.

- Encourage a series of trailheads in Lagoon Valley, California Drive, and Vacavalley Parkway to provide access to nearby Urban Open Space areas. (See Trails and Bikeways map.)
- Refer to adopted Creekways Policy (see *Appendix*) for trails within creek areas.

Design

- Encourage the development of creekside areas for recreation and other public uses consistent with public safety, neighborhood security and privacy.
- Encourage open visual access to creeks; discourage residences backing up to creeks in new developments.
- Utilize creeks, natural linear systems, as the alignment for local north/south and east/west trails, considering protection and maintenance of residential neighborhoods.
- Utilize flood control maintenance access roads for trails wherever possible. Negotiate necessary easements as needed.
- Encourage neighborhood, commercial and industrial group involvement in trail planning and development.
- Design trails following recommended design guidelines.
- Recognize the requirements for safety, security and visibility of trail users and adjoining residential properties.
- Plan for safe pedestrian crossings where trails cross existing streets. Direct users to cross at existing traffic signals, where necessary.
- Provide low maintenance, drought tolerant landscaping along proposed trails where applicable to Creekways Policy (see *Appendix*). Maintain natural vegetation and new landscaping to provide good visibility and to protect and enhance adjoining residential properties.
- Develop a trail maintenance element and patrol program as part of an urban open space maintenance and management policy.
- Prohibit motorized vehicles, other than for maintenance, patrol or emergencies, except in special situations (e.g., motorized handicap devices permitted by local authorities).

- Recognize that some trails may be shared by pedestrians, equestrians and bicyclists while others may exclude certain uses.
- Plan for loop trail systems as a top priority. Recognize that users will create loops in preference to backtracking. Identify and avoid trails with blind ends.
- Provide convenient trailhead areas with parking, water and restrooms, where practical.
- Connect trails and designated bicycle routes to create a comprehensive recreation circulation system by utilizing existing easements and publicly-owned properties.
- Orient the trail system development to meet the needs of Vacaville residents.

Implementation

- Participate with neighboring communities, Solano County and other local agencies to establish a coordinated trail system.
- Provide informational signs and maps to guide trail users.
- Community Services staff shall coordinate the detailed planning of the trails system and shall be responsible for acquisition, construction and maintenance; staff shall establish priorities for the development of trails, and include a summary of trail improvements in the annual capital improvement budget.
- Minimize land use conflicts between private property and public areas.
- Utilize existing fire roads, private roads with easements and/or utility easements for the trail system when possible.
- Obtain public rights-of-way from new developments to link existing and planned public trails or parks.
- Coordinate trail improvements with proposed flood control improvements. Provide adequate setbacks, and in some cases fencing, to assure safety for creek trails. Preserve, restore and enhance the natural creek environment while providing access to the creeks for community recreation trail use.
- Recognize that locations of proposed trails are approximate and in some instances may be adjusted where access cannot be obtained through private property.
- Pursue potential sources of funding for park and recreation facility improvements including federal, state, City and private sources.

- Encourage, where feasible, volunteer/community service organizations and private organizations to assist in the construction and maintenance of trails.
- Provide connections to horse trails within the County.

Trailhead Areas

- Locate areas at strategic access points along the trail system.
- Develop areas with facilities that are adequate and appropriate for the trail users to include: parking areas, sanitary facilities, drinking fountains, picnic areas, shelter, trailhead signs, emergency equipment and access.
- Design areas to provide for the needs of the trail users and serve as an entry point to the citywide trail system.
- Provide rest areas where there are aesthetic qualities or viewpoints and at the end of long uphill stretches.
- Provide adequate and appropriate visitor facilities to include parking area, restrooms, and interpretive signs suited to the area.
- Design areas to have a natural appearance to harmonize with the surrounding environment.

Planning and Management

- Mark trails with signs. Where particular types of users will be using the trail exclusively, clearly designate the trail and use signs or barriers to prevent incompatible activities.
- Consolidate trail modes for hiking, bicycling and jogging wherever possible and feasible within the same corridor.
- Separate bicycling and equestrian paths wherever possible, although they may share a common corridor.
- Design trail width to accommodate the designated users and emergency response units (see *Appendix*).
- Exclude motorized vehicles, such as motorcycles, mini-bikes and mopeds, in order to maintain peace and tranquility for its users.

Trail Naming

- Amend current Council-adopted policy for naming parks to include significant trails.
- Name unnamed trails by approval of the Community Services Commission.
- Submit trail names to the Commission for their review and recommendation (Commission may also suggest their own names), or submit names independently.

Trail Use

- Endeavor to provide a variety of satisfying trail use opportunities throughout the City.
- Provide multiple use on individual trails where such use is consistent with the balance of these policies.
- Protect opportunities for tranquil nature study and observation.
- Make reasonable efforts to provide safe conditions for trail users.
- Ensure that all City trails will be accessible to hiking. If a non-hiking use adversely impacts user safety, the use may be restricted or redirected. The intention is not to restrict access by any individual, but rather to limit incompatible uses and means of travel.
- Endeavor to provide trail access for a variety of physical capabilities and user needs (including persons with physical limitations) consistent with budgetary constraints, and State and Federal regulations.
- Support trail use actions with a strong educational program. Recognize that education in proper trail etiquette and low impact use is a key measure toward reducing negative trail use impacts. Such programs might include fire safety, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and equestrian safety.
- Monitor trail use conditions on a regular basis to evaluate current conditions and to determine whether or not trail management programs, including maintenance, reconstruction, education and use regulations are effective in addressing user conflicts and environmental impacts.
- Work with other agencies, interest groups and private landowners in an effort to promote an interconnecting trail system throughout the region.

URBAN OPEN SPACE POLICIES

This section deals with those policies relating to Urban Open Space, managed by Community Services to provide for public access and recreation.

Guiding Policies

- 3.5-G2** **Retain major ridgelines and hillsides as open space.**
- 3.5-G3** **Preserve natural creek corridors of significance to the City.**
- 3.5-G6** **Minimize conflicts between urban and agricultural uses by establishing Greenbelt Buffers and community separators.**
- 3.5-G7** **Work with neighboring jurisdictions, and regional and State agencies in developing open space programs that will impact Vacaville. Coordinate Vacaville's open space policies with those other agencies whenever possible.**

Implementing Policies

- 3.5-I2** **Ridges and slopes at or exceeding twenty-five percent (25%) shall remain undeveloped in order to maintain agricultural grazing areas, protect the public health and safety, and to provide for community separation and open space.**
- 3.5-I3** **Require that open space which is designated as a condition of development approval be permanently restricted to open space use by recorded map or deed.**
- 3.5-I4** **Establish standards for the management and maintenance of open space within and adjoining subdivisions.**
- 3.5-I5** **Where possible, minimize cut-and-fill activities and disturbance of natural habitats and vegetation. At the minimum, revegetation of cut-and-fill on slopes should be required.**
- 3.5-I6** **Reserve stream-channel setbacks necessary for flood control, preservation of existing habitat and vegetation, multipurpose paths or trails, and maintenance access needs.**
- 3.5-I7** **Amend Zoning Ordinance to include an Open Space designation as well as an Agricultural designation to provide for continued open space and protect agricultural areas.**

3.5-I11 Do not convert Urban Open Space lands to developed urban uses unless an overriding public purpose requires such a change.

3.5-I12 Urban Open Space lands and Greenbelt Buffers that are converted to developed urban use shall be compensated for by providing equal or better lands for a similar use in another location. All proceeds that the City receives from any sale of Urban Open Space lands and Greenbelt Buffers shall be used to acquire additional open space lands elsewhere.

Proposed Implementing Policies

Purpose for Urban Open Space

A series of designated areas of natural landscape essentially undeveloped, such as ridges, streams, hillsides, canyons and scenic buffer areas in public and private ownership owned, controlled or leased by the City of Vacaville for open space purposes. Urban Open Space places significant undeveloped areas that will be preserved in order to preserve their natural visual qualities. Open space lands may be used for passive recreational activities that do not require substantial facilities or improvements, or, secondarily for agriculture offering passive open space benefits.

Resource Policies

Vegetation Management

- Maintain and enhance vegetation for its own intrinsic value, as important wildlife habitat, and use state-of-the-art practices to provide optimum conditions for public recreation and enjoyment in appropriate areas.
- Manage invasive introduced plant species, such as pampas grass and certain species of broom, that degrade the land and recreational use values.
- Provide for fire breaks.

Habitat Restoration

- Designate appropriate areas to restore or reclaim lost or altered natural biotic communities, such as oak woodlands, grasslands or riparian areas for their intrinsic wildlife and educational values.

Wildlife

- Conserve wildlife populations to foster native species and to protect or increase the populations of endangered species.
- Follow the principles of integrated pest management, to control health or safety conflicts between humans and wildlife.

Endangered Species

- Protect and maintain plants and animals and their habitats that are officially listed under state or federal endangered species acts.
- Protect elderberry plants, recognizing their value as habitat for the threatened Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle. Comply with the Endangered Species Act by receiving authorization from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to remove any elderberry plants and to use elderberries targeted for removal to propagate replacement elderberry plants as mitigation for this loss. Development activities that impact the riparian habitat of the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle also require permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Fish and Game.

Water Management

- Maintain the necessary quality and quantity of water in streams and lakes to provide plant communities, suitable wildlife habitat, and recreation values.

Soil Management

- Construct and maintain roads, trails and other improvements to avoid erosion and soil failure.
- Include an erosion-control plan as part of all capital improvement projects that involve substantial soil disruption.
- Design trails, roads and other improvements to avoid or minimize impacts on sensitive wildlife habitats and rare plant populations.
- Mitigate creek erosion with respect to adopted Creek Policy.

Historic and Cultural Resources

- Protect and maintain historic buildings or cultural resource sites within City holdings.

Energy Resources

- Conserve nonrenewable energy resources to the greatest practical extent.
- Do not develop or permit any development of energy resources on lands designated for open space or park uses that are incompatible with those uses.

Hazardous Materials

- Protect the environmental and the health and safety of staff and park and open space users from hazardous materials.
- Require all contractors and concessionaires who use hazardous materials to certify that they operate in accordance with the regulations of the State and Federal offices for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (CALOSHA/OSHA) and to provide copies of all relevant CALOSHA/OSHA inspection reports.

Encroachment on Parklands

- Seek to eliminate or minimize any adverse effects on parkland open space of proposed land use on adjacent property through appropriate buffer zones.
- Plan an active educational role in working with adjacent property owners and public agencies regarding the means and necessities for protecting wildland resources.

Recreational Policies

Outdoor Activities

- Provide appropriate recreational development that fosters use and preserves the remoteness and natural values of these lands.
- Utilize Urban Open Space areas along creeks and in the foothills for passive recreation, walking, jogging, riding and hiking.
- Develop site plans and facilities for bicycling, family or group picnicking, hiking, horseback riding, nature centers, passive recreation, and physical exercise.
- Encourage activities not requiring facilities such as bird watching, blanket picnicking, open space appreciation, contemplation, nature hikes, contemplation, painting, photography, viewing, field research, and educational pursuits.

Citywide Trail System

- Acquire, develop and operate a citywide trail system that includes Urban and Connect Open Space areas.
- Provide a comprehensive system of trails through the Urban Open Space areas and connect to other trail systems and communities.

Educational Policies

Nature Education and Interpretation

- Interpret the Urban Open Space by focusing both on the visitor's relationship to nature and the open space's values, natural processes, ecology and history.
- Provide nature education and interpretation that covers topics such as vegetation, wildlife, ecology, and history of the open space resources.
- Emphasize enhancing the visitor's experience.
- Educate the public on the importance of preserving the natural environment and historical resources.
- Educate the public on the important of fire prevention and safety.

Operations and Maintenance Policies

Minimum Standards

- Designate and preserve areas for Urban Open Space with the following characteristics:
 - Possess open space and agricultural values that make limited development desirable.
 - Have (or have the potential for) logical and definable boundaries, that promote effective and efficient use.
 - A gift of real property that has the potential for self-sufficient operation.
 - Involve locally significant ridges and streams or some other notable landscape feature.

Planning and Management Guidelines

- Preserve significant systems of the natural environment that exist within the City boundaries.
- Develop and open the Urban Open Space to public use only if such use will not require substantial facilities or improvements, and if such use would require only minimal maintenance and operation costs.
- Use management techniques such as erosion control and replanting to enhance the natural and scenic values of the Urban Open Space.
- Consider grazing, crop production, integrated pest management, or other appropriate uses, if they would not result in conditions that are adverse to eventual recreational or agricultural use.
- Preserve or restore scenic and natural values of the Urban Open Space as a primary management objective.
- Prepare a development plan for individual Urban Open Space areas to provide access for fire protection, police, maintenance, and public trail use.
- Protect the Urban Open Space during any development of adjacent land holdings.
- Require that public documents, such as subdivision reports, discuss grazing use of the Urban Open Space in future developments.
- Determine that agricultural fencing is adequate before accepting land dedicated or offered to the City.
- Dispose of Urban Open Space to another public agency or non-profit open space agency only if the future use of the area is restricted to parks or agricultural uses in perpetuity.
- Coordinate open space planning with the County and adjacent jurisdictions through the Community Services Department.
- Be a "good neighbor" to adjacent owners by managing resources and planning, developing and operating open space areas in a manner that does not conflict with adjacent management practices or that reduces impacts to the greatest extent possible.
- Preserve and manage the Urban Open Space areas so that they retain their important scenic, natural and cultural values.

- Enhance access and use of the Urban Open Space areas by members of special populations, such as the disabled, disadvantaged and elderly visitors.
- Restrict allowable uses to those having a minimal impact on the natural environment.
- Consider the use of existing fire roads for horseback riding and hiking in open space areas.
- Provide both pedestrian and equestrian access to these areas wherever possible and appropriate.
- Plan for several minor access points to open space areas in addition to a few larger concentrated or developed trailhead facilities.
- Include *Compatible Uses* such as: pedestrian access; equestrian access; bicycle access; study of the natural environment; photography; painting; sketching; and other day use recreation endeavors compatible with maintaining the environment in its natural state.
- Exclude *Incompatible Uses* such as: use of motorized vehicles (except for emergency or maintenance purposes); hunting; collection of any plants, animals or minerals; commercial exploitation of natural resources; littering or dumping of any kind; non-recreational or non-educational uses, such as the construction of utilities or roads (other than for fire and maintenance access), and amplified music.
- Designate a *Group Use Policy*:
 - No incompatible uses.
 - Group use (15+ persons) will be allowed by permit only.
 - Group use permits will be issued at the discretion of the Community Services Director when use is judged compatible with the Use Policies. Compatible group events may include group celebrations, religious services, races, walk-a-thons, and events of a similar nature.
 - Group use may require providing special services such as portable toilets, temporary signing, etc. If such services are provided by the City, the permitted group will cover all costs.
 - All materials to the permitted group event that have been imported to the Urban Open Space will be removed after completion of the event.
 - At the discretion of the Community Services Director, the group may be required to provide proof of insurance to cover any possible damage to the City or the general public.

- Designate a *Bicycle Use Policy*:
 - The City may designate bicycle routes at its discretion from time to time.
 - Bicycle users must yield right-of-way to pedestrian and equestrian traffic under all circumstances.
 - No bicyclist will exceed speeds of 15 m.p.h. while on Urban Open Space lands.
 - Bicycles can only be used on designated trails.
- Retain all publicly owned Urban Open areas for the public's use, enjoyment, education, and personal enrichment within the guidelines and rules established herein.
- Coordinate the use of lands with other public and quasi-public lands that are contiguous to or are accessible by trails, such as:
 - County open space areas
 - Special district open space areas
 - Water District lands.
 - City parks
 - Schools
 - Quasi-public lands owned by organizations such as the Audubon Society, Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land and others.
- Patrol and maintain Urban Open Space lands under the guidance and direction of the Community Services Department.
- Law enforcement shall be provided by the City. Discuss the special problems of law enforcement in these undeveloped areas with the appropriate agencies and develop solutions tailored to each area.
- Engage in landscape restoration and enhancement programs where the natural landscape has been altered or degraded through misuse. Include restrictions on general public access or specific user groups.

Fire Hazard Control Policy

The threat of fire within Urban Open Space areas and adjacent residential areas during the dry summer months is significant. Reduce the threat of fire by utilizing the following land management techniques as they may apply to any specific area. Comply with local codes and ordinances pertaining to fire hazards, and further reduce the threat of fire by employing the following:

- Prohibit open fires and barbecues year-round unless in designated park sites.
- No smoking allowed during the fire season.

- The City Community Services Department will maintain the fire roads. The frequency of grading and methods of maintenance of these roads will be determined by mutual agreement of the Fire Department and the Community Services Department management personnel. Community Services will provide fuel breaks and sign critical areas. Water storage tanks should be supplied by private developers, before City acquisition, in appropriate locations for fire protection.
- Exclude public access by unauthorized motorized vehicles.
- Plant indigenous fire resistant plant materials in designated high hazard areas on a limited basis.
- Monitor the stability of plant communities in selected areas, particularly the grassland areas, to determine if brush, weeds or other heavy fuel materials are encroaching. Carry out a detailed study to correct the potential problem, if the plant community is found to be unstable and the fire hazard increasing because of biological succession.
- Reserve the right to close certain Urban Open Space areas to the public during periods of high fire hazard conditions. Declare closures when atmospheric and vegetative conditions require it. Make closures on a daily basis, except in certain areas mutually agreed upon by the Fire Chief and the Community Services Director for long-term closure. Publicize closure through the press, radio, television and any other appropriate means.
- When compatible with other open space management goals, use grazing to reduce fire hazard conditions on a controlled basis.

Financial Responsibilities

- Designate the Community Services Department to assume maintenance and management responsibilities for all Urban Open Space lands.
- Maintain all Urban Open Space lands in accordance with this Urban Open Space Land Management Policies.
- Encourage private contributions of land and funds.
- Solicit Federal (and State where available) matching funds.

BIKEWAY POLICIES

Guiding Policies

- 6.5-G1** **Establish a comprehensive network of on- and off-roadway bike routes to encourage the use of bikes for commute, recreational and other trips.**
- 6.5-G2** **Require major employers to provide support facilities to encourage use of bikes for commute purposes.**
- 6.5-G3** **Develop bike and pedestrian routes that provide access to schools, historic sites, governmental services, major commercial centers, parks and regional open space.**
- 6.5-G4** **Ensure safe, pleasant and convenient pedestrian paths, sidewalks, and trails to accommodate all segments of the population.**
- 6.5-G5** **Continue to support programs to improve the mobility of the elderly and handicapped, remove existing architectural barriers, and require that new development be accessible to those with physical impairments.**
- 6.5-G6** **Designate new bike routes only where necessary to connect Vacaville's bikeway system with existing bike routes designated by Solano County.**

Implementing Policies

- 6.5-I1** **Use available rights-of-way and creek banks for public use as trails, bikeways or walkways.**
- 6.5-I2** **Incorporate bike storage and other support facilities into TSM plans at employment sites and public facilities.**
- 6.5-I3** **Provide adequate public and private bicycle parking and storage facilities as part of new multifamily and non-residential developments. Revise the parking regulations in the Zoning Ordinance to require bike parking spaces in retail areas, at major employment centers, and at public facilities.**
- 6.5-I5** **Develop a program to remove all barriers to disabled persons on arterial and collector streets.**
- 6.5-I6** **New and existing on-street bicycle lanes shall be striped, signed and maintained to encourage their use.**

Proposed Implementing Policies

Purpose for Bikeways

Bikeways provide a comprehensive system improving safety and encouraging the use of bicycles as an alternative mode of transportation. A well-designed system of bikeways will improve safety for bicyclists, motorists and pedestrians. Bikeways can link major destination points, offer safe and convenient through routes, and provide recreation opportunities.

Planning

- The bicycle routes designated on the Trails and Bikeways Map represent the bikeways planned for Vacaville.
- The bicycle circulation system as shown contains loops which are an integral part of the circulation system.
- Streets such as Alamo Drive, Peabody Road, Marshall Road, Nut Tree Parkway, Merchant Street, Orchard Avenue, Monte Vista Avenue, Allison Drive, and Browns Valley Parkway are major components of the system. Bike lanes should be a priority on any street improvements.
- The railroad rights of way and the creek trails are important alternative bicycle routes through the City. Use of these routes could avoid traffic and reduce congestion. They should be utilized to connect to park area bikeways.
- Bicycle destination areas are an important part of the bicycle circulation system.
- Make safe passage for bicycles an important priority when existing streets are improved or when approving new development.

Design

- Adopt roadway width standards to accommodate bicycle lanes and incorporate CalTrans bikeway definitions:
 - *Bike Path* — for the use of bicycles, separated from motor vehicle facilities by space or a physical barrier. (Class I)
 - *Bike Lane* — a restricted lane right of way designated for the exclusive or semi-exclusive use of bicycles. (Class II)
 - *Bike Route* — a shared right of way designated by signs placed on vertical posts or stenciled on the pavement. (Class III)
- Accommodate bicycle lanes or bicycle routes in future plans for widening roads.

- Encourage "no parking" on streets designated as bike routes.
- Provide bicycle parking at destination areas, in association with commercial development, and at public transit access points and commuter park and ride lots.

Implementation

- Maintain roadways and traffic-control devices in safe and effective operating condition.
- Implement and maintain marking and striping of existing bike lanes and routes.
- Maintain designated bike lanes and bike routes with the same frequency as roads.
- Include funds for development of bicycle lanes and routes in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).
- Include roadway space for bicycles with future construction and reconstruction of arterials and collector roadways that have been designated for Class II bikeways.
- Include paved shoulders for bicycles with future construction and reconstruction of arterials and collector roadways that have been designated for Class III bikeways.
- Use abandoned railroad rights of way, natural waterways, utility rights of way and public lands for Class I bikeways. Where portions of rights of way are difficult to obtain, existing roadways may provide alternative alignments.
- The Public Works Department shall assume the responsibility for establishing and maintaining Class I bikeways along railroad rights of way, waterways and in parks. Pathways shall be designed to protect existing residences with fencing and/or landscaping.
- The Public Works Department shall assume responsibility for establishing and maintaining Class II and Class III bikeways along roadways.
- Review of public projects shall utilize the following criteria to determine consistency with this plan:
 - Future construction and reconstruction of arterials and collector roadways that have been designated for Class II bikeways shall include roadway space for bicycles.
 - Future construction and reconstruction of arterials and collector roadways that have been designated for Class III bikeways shall include paved shoulders for bicycles.

- On any application for a planning permit, including subdivision or lot-line adjustment, involving lands within a railroad right of way where service has been abandoned, the following findings shall be required in order to determine consistency with this plan:
 - The proposal does not or will not preclude the use of the abandoned right of way for a trail system.
 - A width of 60 feet generally shall be reserved for trail purposes, unless the Community Services Department determines that a greater or lesser width would be adequate.
 - An irrevocable offer of dedication for the path has been made to the City of Vacaville.
- Seek State and Federal funding and grants for bikeway construction.
- Under Community Services Department guidance, encourage private organizations to assist in maintaining and patrolling bikeways.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Development Program

General Introduction

The Vacaville *Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* recommends improvements to the park system phased over the next 20 years to meet existing and projected demand. An obvious priority is to improve existing City parks, implement existing City park plans and develop park plans for existing City parks where needed. The Parks *Master Plan* will be evaluated and updated every 5 years to review progress in meeting the stated goals. The park planning process used the following criteria in evaluating new park locations and in determining facility priorities within the overall park program:

- Including expressed public need through workshops, letters and surveys.
- Comparing existing park acreage, facilities and population to a population growth forecast.
- Evaluating existing park use, level of park development and projected need.
- Considering opportunities that are currently available but may be lost in the future.
- Identifying important City natural resource areas.
- Evaluating financial capabilities to meet projected need.

The summary below outlines the City Parks and Recreation *Master Plan* according to recommended action for a 20-year program. Recommendations may vary according to the need for planning action, a development program, or land acquisition.

Planning Action may require: implementing an existing park plan for a City Park; developing a park plan for an existing City Park (public input, park program etc.); pursuing the park planning process for a newly acquired park site; working with private development to negotiate park dedication; or instigating a joint development program with a local agency such as the school districts.

Development Program represents those park elements perceived to be important at this time as a result of projected population growth, expressed need, or overuse of existing facilities. This program will be modified through individual park planning programs including local participation and evaluation of financial constraints.

Land Acquisition represents the need to acquire additional land adjacent to existing parks, acquire a park site of known acreage in a specific location or acquire a recommended acreage in a general location. The location of these new parks is a general recommendation, based on analysis of existing and projected need. Some natural resource areas may have potential for park lands, other recommended areas are possibilities based

on anticipated change in land use, or desirable features. Public lands suitable for park purposes should be considered as a priority for land acquisition or commitment.

In all cases, acquisition proposals are intended for long range planning purposes only and are not a commitment for acquisition. Each general recommendation will require further study to find out the status of individual properties within a recommended area. This investigation will include: existing ownership, zoning, access, environmental constraints, property costs, land availability, development costs, etc.

In some instances the total park development process (land acquisition, planning and development) should be pursued in the near future. In other cases, the land can be secured by acquisition, applying a park land use designation but postpone park development until a later time. In all cases, the City's intent is to complete development of parks in the *Master Plan* by the year 2010.

NEW PARKS

For new parks the overall concept of the *Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan* incorporates the recommendations of the General Plan for park type, size and location:

- A *City Park* of 100+ acres, centrally sited to serve the entire City as a community centerpiece and outdoor recreational space.
- Two new *Community Parks* of 25 acres located at two "gateway" locations to the City.
- New *Neighborhood Parks* and *Neighborhood School Parks* between 6-9 acres located within one-half mile of the Park Service area.
- Working with the County to pursue *Lagoon Valley Park* as a regional facility with urban recreation amenities.
- Developing a network of *trails and bikeways* to connect neighborhoods, parks, schools and other public facilities.
- Enhancing the visual character of Vacaville and providing opportunities for more passive recreation activities by acquiring specified *Urban Open Space* areas.

City Park

As discussed in the General Plan, the City will develop a City Park of 100+ acres in the Allison Drive/Browns Valley Road area as an expansion to Allison Fields (budgeted for development during the 1992-1993 fiscal year). This central location is accessible from most City locations without requiring freeway travel. The property is owned by the City and thus would not require a large outlay of funds for acquisition. At present, the north side of the City is in need of a major recreation complex, and this need will increase with the population over the next 20 years.



- McMurtry U.O.S. (Planned)
- Glen Eagle U.O.S. (Current)
- Norman U.O.S. (Planned)
- Old Rocky U.O.S. (Current)
- Trower Park (Existing)
- Ulatis Creek Bike Trail (Current/Planned)
- Andrews/Ulatis Park (Existing)
- North Orchard Park (Existing)
- Transmission Line Bike Trail (Current/Planned)
- Hemlock Park Expansion (Proposed)
- Hemlock School Park (Existing)
- Willis Jepson Softball Park (Existing)
- City Hall Park (Existing)
- Hidden Valley U.O.S. (Current)
- Alamo Creek Park (Existing)
- Alamo School Park (Existing)
- Alamo Creek Ridge U.O.S. (Planned)
- Willows Park (Existing)
- Alamo Terrace U.O.S. (Current)
- Dos Calles Padan Park (Existing)
- Laguna Hills Park (Proposed)
- Community Center (Existing)
- Pena Adobe Park (Existing)
- Southwood Park (Existing)
- Lagoon Valley Park (Existing)
- Irene Larson Ball Diamonds (Existing)
- William Keating Ball Diamonds (Existing)
- Lower Lagoon Valley U.O.S. (Current/Planned)
- Lower Lagoon Valley Park (Proposed)
- Lower Lagoon Valley Greenbelt

- Boulder Valley Park (Undeveloped) (Existing)
- Boulder Valley U.O.S. (Current)
- Woodcrest U.O.S. (Current)
- Ridgeview Park (Undeveloped) (Existing)
- Rice-Aldridge Park (Proposed)

- Allison Fields(Existing)
- City Park Area(Proposed)
- Allison U.O.S. (Current)
- Gibson Creek Park (Proposed)
- Akerly Park (Proposed)

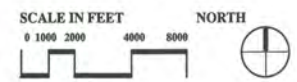
- Cultural Center (Existing/Proposed)
- Ulatis Creek Bike Trail (Current/Planned)
- Hawkins Park (Existing)
- Fairmont School Park (Existing)
- Elmira Leisure Town Park (Proposed)
- Stonegate Park (Existing)
- Cooper School Park (Existing)
- Alamo Creek Bike Trail (Current/Planned)
- Fairmont Beelar Park (Existing)
- Nelson Park (Existing)
- Patwin Park (Existing)
- Sierra Vista School Park (Existing)
- Meadowlands Park (Existing)
- Fry Road Park (Proposed)
- Cambridge Park (Existing)
- Vanden-East Park (Proposed)
- Vanden-West Park (Proposed)
- Pheasants Country Park (Existing)
- Foxboro Park (Proposed)
- John Arlington Park (Existing/Proposed)
- Foxboro Meadows Detention Basin U.O.S.

LEGEND

- Existing Parks**
- EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS
 - EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL PARKS
 - EXISTING COMMUNITY PARKS
 - CURRENT URBAN OPEN SPACE (See Open Space Map for more detail)
 - CURRENT GREENBELT (See Open Space Map for more detail)
 - EXISTING COUNTY REGIONAL PARKS
 - EXISTING BIKE RESTS
 1. Alamo Oaks Bike Rest
 2. Butcher Road Bike Rest
 3. Creekside Bike Rest
 4. North Orchard Bike Rest
 5. Peabody Road Bike Rest
 6. Wellsite Bike Rest #1
 7. Wellsite Bike Rest #2
 - EXISTING COMMUNITY CENTERS
 8. Cambridge Neighborhood Center
 9. Community Center
 10. Fairmont Neighborhood Center
 11. George Duke Sports Center
 12. John A. McBride Senior Center
 13. Trower Neighborhood Center
 - EXISTING SCHOOLS
Elementary, Junior High, High Schools

- Proposed Parks**
- PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS
 - PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL PARKS
 - PROPOSED COMMUNITY PARK
 - PROPOSED CITY PARKS
 - PLANNED URBAN OPEN SPACE (See Open Space Map for more detail)
 - PROPOSED SCHOOLS
Elementary, Junior High, High Schools

**EXISTING/PROPOSED
PARKS & OPEN SPACE
CITY OF VACAVILLE
Parks, Recreation &
Open Space Master Plan**



The park should be designed as a major city feature with diverse recreational facilities to serve citywide needs including: an Olympic swimming complex, competition tennis courts, baseball fields, soccer fields, football fields, a fitness/exercise circuit, several playgrounds for different age groups, horseshoes, group picnic area, a gymnasium (facilities for basketball, volleyball, gymnastics, etc.), a Senior Center and a Youth Center. Portions of the Municipal Golf Course (9 or 18 holes) could be incorporated into the City Park site to enhance the recreational opportunities and to extend the visual quality of the park by "borrowing" the adjacent landscape.

Community Parks

The Parks *Master Plan* recommends two new Community Parks strategically located at City gateways: *Elmira/Leisuretown Park* and *Laguna Hills Park*.

The General Plan recommends an Elmira Community Park at Leisure Town Road and Elmira Road. This Parks *Master Plan* recommends relocating this community park north of Hawkins Road along Leisure Town Road between a proposed junior high and a proposed high school and renaming it *Elmira/Leisuretown Park*. This location provides the opportunity for joint development of some recreation facilities with the school district. As a joint use facility the park would be a major recreational complex with a gymnasium, fields for baseball, soccer and football, a Neighborhood Center, playgrounds and a fitness/exercise circuit.

Laguna Hills Park with access from the California Drive extension along I-80 is the third community park. This park enjoys an attractive location nestled up against the hills with trees surrounding an open meadow area. The park concept takes advantage of this location by recommending a more passive recreation program with picnic areas, a fitness/exercise circuit, barbecue and picnic areas, and a multipurpose field area for soccer. A proposed multipurpose path will extend from California Drive through this park, connecting to Peña Adobe Park and on to Lagoon Valley.

Neighborhood Parks and Neighborhood School Parks

The Parks *Master Plan* supports the General Plan recommendations for Neighborhood Parks and Neighborhood School Parks. Proposed parks are equitably distributed throughout the City based upon a one half mile service area, and are programmed within a 6-9 acre range. In general the recommended park program for each of these parks includes: playgrounds, multipurpose fields, picnic areas, basketball, tennis courts and in some cases Neighborhood Centers. The Neighborhood School Parks provide the opportunity for shared use of recreational facilities and fields.

EXISTING PARKS (AND PARKS BUDGETED WITHIN 1991/1992 CIP)

COUNTY REGIONAL PARKS

1. LAGOON VALLEY

Size: 306 acres

Location: South of the City of Vacaville directly southeast of Interstate 80.

Existing Features: Parcourse, bike trails, lake seeded with small and large mouthed bass, picnicking, pioneer grave sites at top of hill, ridgetop trails.

Proposed Facility Improvements: Work with County to implement County-adopted Parks *Master Plan* with small marina, amphitheater, tennis courts, expanded trail system, more trees, increased picnic and barbecue facilities. Develop several trailhead access points to proposed Urban Open Space. Work with County to develop facilities for fairs and festivals. Integrate park with possible future adjacent office/professional development. Continue tree planting and acorn programs. Consider star thistle abatement program combined with native grassland reinstatement (combine with acorn planting to bring back hills to pre-European influence).

COMMUNITY PARKS

1. PEÑA ADOBE

Size: 64 acres (14 developed and 40 undeveloped)

Location: Peña Adobe Road, South of the City of Vacaville, southeast of Interstate 80.

Existing Features: Peña Adobe home, a California State Historical landmark, contains a small museum, 2 large barbecue areas (covered) and picnic areas, horseshoe pit, large multipurpose field area for softball, volleyball, small pond with water fowl, Willis Jepson nature plant garden, antique farm equipment area, hiking trail, Pioneer cemetery, hilltop picnic and view area, 1-1/2 mile bike trail, dedication forest (Jack Hume Grove), parking for 100 cars.

Proposed Facility Improvements: No additional facilities are proposed. Implement irrigation and storm drainage improvements. Replace picnic gazebo that is removed for Lagoon Valley drainage project. Cost to be borne by Lagoon Valley developer. Evaluate existing adobe paving for hazards and repair as necessary. Prune large trees for health and appearance. Upgrade restrooms and other service facilities to meet current standards. Utilize riparian area more fully and provide connections to adjacent uses. Provide adequate buffer to I-80 using appropriate and culturally adapted plant materials. Relocate the annual Onion Festival to Lagoon Valley Regional Park.

2. **WILLIAM KEATING PARK**
Size: 32 acres (20 developed and 12 undeveloped)
Location: Corner of California Drive and Alamo Lane on CMF grounds
Existing Features: Seven multipurpose fields, 4 youth ball diamonds, 2 major ball diamonds, one softball diamond (3 fields are lighted), 3 grandstands and storage areas, 2 concession stands, playground, parking, picnic area, and 4 restrooms. Medical Facility inmates maintain this park.
Proposed Facility Improvements: Needs development plan for restrooms and concession. Multipurpose turf area for baseball, soccer and football on 11-acre expansion site. Create redevelopment plan geared to solving circulation and use conflicts as well as supplying direction for planting, irrigation and hardscape improvements. Prune and remove trees as necessary for proper health and safety. Develop a workable maintenance plan and implement. Provide new restroom facilities which meet current standards.

3. **JOHN ARLINGTON PARK (under construction)**
Size: 18 acres (13 acres developed 5 acres undeveloped)
Location: Foxboro Parkway and Peabody Road
Existing Features: Group picnic areas (by reservation) with 92 car parking, playground, 2 youth softball fields, one Little League field, one Pony League field, combination football/soccer field, 2 picnic shelters, restroom/concession building, and parking for 200 cars.
Proposed Facility Improvements: Locate a Neighborhood Center, soccer and football at this site.

4. **ELEANOR NELSON PARK**
Size: 10.5 acres developed/6 acres undeveloped
Location: Nut Tree and Marshall Road
Existing Features: Two softball fields (lighted), grandstands, electronic scoreboards, concession building, playground, picnic tables, restrooms, parking for 70 cars, multipurpose field, small open turf areas, small maintenance yard. Additional parking for 25 cars recently constructed.
Proposed Facility Improvements: Develop lighted tennis courts, picnic areas, multi-purpose fields, and additional parking on 6-acre expansion area. Consider replanting drought-stressed plant materials with tougher, less water-thirsty materials.

5. **ANDREWS / ULATIS PARK**
Size: 14.8 acres
Location: Bordered by Monte Vista Avenue and School Street
Existing Features: Outdoor pavilion area, small children's playground, multipurpose field, 4 barbecue areas and one underground barbecue pit. Approximately 16 picnic tables throughout park; across Ulatis Creek is a bike and jogging trail that borders the creek. A nine-station fitness course borders the

entire park. The John McBride Senior Center (7,500 sq. ft. is also housed at this site with a large assembly hall, kitchen, crafts room, card room, and 2 small meeting rooms. Private art gallery, 2 parking lots (115 cars), and Georgie Duke Sports Center (13,000 sq. ft.) with gym, lockers and shower rooms, boxing and gymnastic facilities, multipurpose room. One week long Fiesta Days takes place at this site. Oldest park in town.

Proposed Facility Improvements: Provide new playground, picnic, barbecue and passive recreation areas as well as new planting and hardscape improvements. Old "urban park" character could be enhanced. Consider a new park master plan to integrate disparate elements and unify the various buildings and use areas. Relocate annual Fiesta Days to a larger fairground-type site. Look at expansion of the existing senior center when the existing fire station is removed.

6. CULTURAL CENTER (under construction)

Size: 25 acres

Location: Along Ulatis Drive and Ulatis Creek.

Existing Features: Will have 500-seat theater and cultural center with multipurpose meeting rooms, a 25,000 sq. ft. library and a 16,000 sq. ft. community center.

Proposed Facility Improvements: Arboretum, amphitheater and fitness circuit, multi-purpose field in the site detention basin.

7. NORTH ORCHARD BIKE REST (undeveloped)

Size: 1/2 acre

Location: Farrell Road and North Orchard Avenue

8. WELLSITE/BIKE REST

Size: 1 acre

Location: Elmira Road (between Nut Tree Road and Edwin Drive)

Existing Features: One acre of landscaping which includes open grass area and beautification of well site, and one bus stop bench. Develop a plan for a more usable park. Given the space and accessibility, perhaps this should be a more shaded, passive-type park. Connections and accessibility should be studied.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

1. PHEASANT COUNTRY PARK

Size: 7 acres

Location: End of Caldwell Drive and Madison Avenue.

Existing Features: Two playgrounds, basketball court, picnic tables, exercise course, multipurpose field area with portable backstop, soccer, barbecues. Newest park.

2. FAIRMONT BEELARD PARK

Size: 8.3 acres

Location: Bordered by Beelard Drive, Alamo Creek and Putah South Canal.

Existing Features: Large trees, picnic area, playground, basketball court, softball, multipurpose field, jogging, bike trail.

Proposed Facility Improvements: Check irrigation system and repair as necessary. Study which possible new uses may help eliminate gang problems.

3. TROWER PARK

Size: 4.5 acres

Location: Markham Avenue between Meadows Drive and Holly Lane.

Existing Features: Picnic area, multipurpose field, basketball court, two playgrounds and a Neighborhood Center.

Proposed Facility Improvements: Replace play equipment. Park needs redevelopment plan to organize new use areas and to propose new planting and irrigation.

4. NORTH ORCHARD PARK

Size: 6.5 acres

Location: Orchard Avenue between Crestview and Dennis Drive

Existing Features: Multipurpose field, four tennis courts, two playgrounds, basketball court, jogging and bike trails, picnic tables.

Proposed Facility Improvements: None. Implement new planting as proposed.

5. ALAMO CREEK PARK

Size: 9.5 acres

Location: Corner of Buck Avenue and Alamo Drive

Existing Features: Large native oak trees, jogging/exercise trail, picnic tables, 1/2 court basketball, 2 tennis courts, 2 playgrounds, multipurpose field areas, xeriscape demonstration garden, arboretum.

Proposed Facility Improvements: Replace plastic edging with steel on concrete headers. Keep eye on walnuts and prune or remove as necessary. Consider planting scheme for drainage channel and balance of adult stroll garden.

6. DOS CALLES PADAN PARK

Size: 6.7 acres

Location: Between Alonzo Road and Padan School Road

Existing Features: Two playground areas, basketball court, picnic tables, multipurpose field, jogging trail, movable sports field capability for soccer, baseball and fitness circuit.

Proposed Facility Improvements: Provide picnic shelters and replace wooden play equipment. Explore locating a neighborhood recreation center in the park.

- 7. ARCULUS C. HAWKINS PARK**
Size: 6 acres
Location: Summerfield Drive and Newport Circle
Existing Features: 3 acres multipurpose turf, large existing 300-year-old oak, 10-station exercise course, two playgrounds, picnic tables, two tennis courts, open turf with portable backstop, horseshoe pit, and basketball court.
Proposed Facility Improvements: Add picnic and barbecue areas. Study drainage problem and repair.
- 8. PATWIN PARK - Arbor Oaks Section**
Size: 3 acres
Location: Elmira and Leisure Town Road
Existing Features: Playground, picnic area, open turf area, large shade trees.
Proposed Facility Improvements: Add more trees, picnic tables, tot lot and perimeter planting. Landscape creek frontage among Arbor Oaks Drive.
- 9. PATWIN PARK - Lewis Homes Section**
Size: 5 acres
Location: Elmira and Leisure Town Road
Existing Features: Creek edge has large trees with native oaks, playground, picnic area, multipurpose field, basketball, volleyball.
Proposed Facility Improvements: Locate a Neighborhood Center at this site. Develop improvement plans with emphasis on tree planting and screening of the well.
- 10. WILLOWS PARK**
Size: 2 acres
Location: Ogden Way off Marshall Road
Existing Features: Picnic tables, one playground, basketball court, one-acre multipurpose field area.
Proposed Facility Improvements: None.
- 11. MEADOWLANDS PARK (turnkey park)**
Size: 11.5 acres (3.5 acres of school property and 8 acres City property)
Location: Vanden Road
Existing Features: Two playgrounds, one restroom, 6-acre multipurpose field area, picnic shelter, basketball court, off-street parking for 48 cars, Neighborhood Center.
Proposed Facility Improvements: None. Study irrigation problems and solve. Reduce or remove perimeter berm. Study grading problems and propose new grading to accommodate present uses, or new uses to accommodate grades.

12. **SOUTHWOOD PARK (to be built 1991-1992)**
Size: 4 acres
Location: Along Alamo Creek within residential area.
Existing Features (under construction): Basketball court, tot lot, playground, 6 picnic sites, fitness/exercise circuit, horseshoes and 3 acres of turf.
Proposed Facility Improvements: Add a public garden demonstrating low water use plantings.

13. **CITY HALL PARK**
Size: 1.5 acres
Location: City Hall on Walnut Street
Existing Features: Shade trees (many memorial trees), turf area with picnic tables, and bocce ball court.
Proposed Facility Improvements: Further develop barbecue and picnic facilities. Develop guidelines for memorial tree planting. Bocce ball expansion is contingent upon increased use and user funding.

NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL PARKS

1. **IRENE LARSEN BALL DIAMONDS**
Size: 4 acres
Location: Alamo Drive and Rosewood Lane
Existing Features: Two youth baseball diamonds with arch backstops, dugouts and bleachers on Solano County Office of Education grounds. City built diamonds and County/School district maintain them. There is also off street parking for 111 cars.
Proposed Facility Improvements: Upgrade fencing. Develop plan for more trees/shaded areas with picnic and tables. Study turf problem and repair irrigation if necessary.

2. **ALAMO SCHOOL PARK**
Size: 2.5 acres
Location: Orchard Avenue and Edgewood Drive
Existing Features: Site owned by Vacaville School District. Large multipurpose field area, one large playground area, picnic/barbecue area, 3 baseball backstops, Neighborhood Recreation Center.
Proposed Facility Improvements: Improve playground area. Special consideration should be given to planting and perimeter uses at field edge.

3. **CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL PARK**
Size: 8 acres (4.6 acres school property and 3.4 acres City property)
Location: Cambridge Drive and Nut Tree Drive

Existing Features: Developed by the City of Vacaville for neighborhood/community use. 960 sq. ft. Neighborhood Recreation Center, one playground, exercise course, multipurpose field area with portable backstops, picnic tables.

Proposed Facility Improvements: Implement planting improvements.

4. SIERRA VISTA SCHOOL PARK

Size: 8 acres

Location: Bel Air Drive off Alamo Drive

Existing Features: Developed by the City of Vacaville for neighborhood, community and school use. The Vacaville Unified School District maintains the entire 8-acre multipurpose field with a jogging path and an undeveloped playground area.

Proposed Facility Improvements: Install playground equipment and develop planting and irrigation improvement plans to augment dead and vandalized trees. Park is a potential site for a neighborhood recreation center.

5. FAIRMONT SCHOOL PARK

Size: 4 acres

Location: Corner of Tulare and Marshall Road

Existing Features: Large multipurpose field area, playground and a 960 sq. ft. Neighborhood Recreation Center.

Proposed Facility Improvements: Replace playground equipment. This park needs a plan for total redevelopment. Social issues should be studied and findings regarding reasons for park failure documented to reduce the potential for graffiti, vandalism and assaults.

6. HEMLOCK SCHOOL PARK

Size: 4 acres

Location: Eldridge and Hemlock Streets

Existing Features: Playground, multipurpose field, hardcourt area, exercise equipment, 2 ball fields

Proposed Facility Improvements: Replace fitness/exercise circuit, develop plan with new planting to integrate into neighboring walnut orchard. Prepare new park master plan when expanding park into expansion area (see Proposed Parks: Hemlock expansion).

7. BOULDER VALLEY PARK SITE (construction to begin by Fall 1991 with most construction during 1992-1993)

Size: 8 acres (3.6 acres of school property and 4.4 acres City property)

Location: Wrentham Drive

Existing Features: Undeveloped. Site is next to a recently constructed 8-acre elementary school site and a 7-acre Boulder Valley UOS.

Proposed Facility Improvements: Volleyball, Neighborhood Center, multipurpose field, 2 playgrounds, 2 tennis courts.

8. **COOPER SCHOOL PARK (developed as a turnkey park)**
Size: 6.62 acres
Location: Christine Drive, adjacent to new Cooper School
Existing Features: Multipurpose field, picnic tables, playground, full court basketball.
Proposed Facility Improvements: Neighborhood Center

9. **WILLIS JEPSON SOFTBALL**
Size: (on school property)
Location: 500 Elder Street
Existing Features: Lighted softball diamond on school property. City maintains irrigation and infield and school takes care of turf.
Proposed Facility Improvements: Improve parking and access to fields.

10. **RIDGEVIEW PARK SITE (undeveloped, a turnkey park)**
Size: 7 acres
Location: Ridgeview Subdivision
Existing Features: Undeveloped. Development of park will begin upon the completion of 800 homes. Plans include tot lot, older play equipment, full court basketball, multipurpose field, exercise/fitness circuit, parking for 40 cars, picnic shelter and restroom.
Proposed Facility Improvements: A Neighborhood Center could be located at this site.

PROPOSED PARKS

CITY PARKS

1. **CITY PARK AND FIELDS**
Size: 138 acres
Location: Along Allison Drive and Browns Valley Road adjacent to Allison Urban Open Space, central city area.
Setting: Open area with hills to west, surrounded by proposed residential and industrial park, Nut Tree Airport to east.
Proposed Features: Major city feature and recreation facility with: municipal golf course, Olympic swimming and diving complex, competition tennis with 8 courts, 4 baseball fields, 3 soccer fields, football, fitness/exercise circuit, playground, horseshoes, picnic and barbecue areas, gymnasium, basketball, handball, volleyball, Senior Center and Youth Center.

COMMUNITY PARKS

1. ELMIRA/LEISURETOWN PARK

Size: 25 acres

Location: Hawkins Road and Leisure Town Road

Setting: Located between proposed high school and junior high school, adjacent to residential areas

Proposed Features: Major joint use recreational facility with: fitness/exercise circuit, playground, neighborhood center, 2 baseball fields, 2 multi-purpose fields, gymnasium, basketball, and fitness circuit.

2. LAGUNA HILLS

Size: 25 acres

Location: Near California Drive, along I-80

Setting: Open meadow area surrounded with trees, nestled up against hills with freeway on opposite side.

Proposed Features: Passive park with individual and group picnic areas, fitness/exercise circuit, barbecue area, multipurpose field area, soccer, Hume Grove Interpretive Public Garden.

3. COMMUNITY CENTER PARK

Size: 12 acres (7 acres developed and 5 acres undeveloped)

Location: Alamo Drive and Crystal Lane

Existing Features: Building complex (20,000 sq. ft.) with Community Services Department, majority of City recreation programs, day care program, 8-lane 25-yard swimming pool, 4 lighted tennis courts, and parking for 200 cars. Adjacent 5-acre undeveloped Neighborhood Park.

Proposed Facility Improvements: Child Care Center, Youth Center, Neighborhood Center complex, picnic area, playground, and 25-yard lap swimming pool.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

1. LOWER LAGOON VALLEY

Size: 8 acres

Location: Southern end of Lagoon Valley area

Setting: New residential area, surrounded by hills.

Proposed Features: Playground, picnic area, multipurpose field, volleyball, fitness circuit, tennis, and basketball.

2. HEMLOCK EXPANSION

Size: 6 acres

Location: North of Hemlock Neighborhood School Park

Setting: Walnut orchard, surrounded by residential area
Proposed Features: Potential Neighborhood Center site, picnic areas, fitness/exercise circuit,

3. RICE-ALDRIDGE

Size: 6 acres

Location: North of Vaca Valley Parkway and west of Putah Canal.

Setting: New residential area

Proposed Features: Fitness/exercise circuit, picnic areas, playground, multipurpose field, tennis, and basketball.

4. FOXBORO VILLAGES PARK SITE (undeveloped, turnkey park)

Size: 6.5 acres

Location: Nut Tree Road

Existing Features: Undeveloped. Site is next to a proposed 7.5-acre elementary school site.

Proposed Facility Improvements: Multipurpose field, 2 tennis courts, basketball, tot lot, playground, Neighborhood Center, and parking for 47 cars.

NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL PARKS

1. GIBSON CREEK

Size: 6 acres

Location: East of I-505, along Gibson Creek and Leisure Town Road

Setting: New residential area, adjacent to new elementary school.

Proposed Features: Playground, multipurpose field, and basketball.

2. AKERLY

Size: 6 acres

Location: East of I-505, north of Vaca Valley Parkway on Leisure Town Road

Setting: New residential area, adjacent to new elementary school.

Proposed Features: Picnic area, playground, Neighborhood Center, multipurpose field, and youth baseball.

3. FRY ROAD

Size: 6 acres

Location: East of Leisure Town Road and north of Fry Road

Setting: New residential area, adjacent to new elementary school

Proposed Features: Picnic, playground, multipurpose field, basketball, tennis.

4. **VANDEN - EAST**
Size: 6 acres
Location: East of Vanden Road and west of Leisure Town Road
Setting: New residential area, adjacent to new elementary school
Proposed Features: Picnic area, playground, Neighborhood Center, and multipurpose field.
5. **VANDEN - WEST**
Size: 6 acres
Location: West of Vanden Road and east of Nut Tree Road
Setting: New residential area, adjacent to new elementary school
Proposed Features: Picnic area, playground, multipurpose field, and tennis.
6. **STONEGATE PARK (undeveloped, turnkey park)**
Size: 6 acres
Location: North of Ulatis Drive on Stonegate Drive
Existing Features: Park construction will be pursued in two phases with 2.5 acres in Phase 1 beginning in 1991, and remaining 2 acres in Phase 2 for 1992-1993. Facilities will include: large playground, tot lot, picnic area, portions of fitness circuit (to run through subdivision with beginning and end in park), multipurpose field with portable baseball backstop, full court basketball.
Proposed Facility Improvements: No additional improvements proposed.

OTHER FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS OR ADDITIONS

Will C. Wood High School - Work with the School District to develop a joint City/School swim facility.

Vacaville High School - Work with the School District to improve existing tennis courts for joint use by City and School.

Neighborhood Center - The City should evaluate the opportunity for rehabilitating an existing structure at Alamo Drive and Alamo Lane for use as a Neighborhood Center.

URBAN OPEN SPACE LANDS

Background

Open Space acquisition and preservation are important considerations within the Parks *Master Plan* as well as the overall City General Plan. Within the General Plan, the City has developed policies dealing in four broad areas as required in the State General Plan

Guidelines. These include: **Open Space for the Preservation of Natural Resources, Open Space for the Managed Production of Resources, Open Space for Outdoor Recreation, and Open Space for Public Health and Safety.** The General Plan also identifies one of the values of Open Space as its qualities as a visual resource. This is consistent with public opinion surveys regarding these lands, which strongly identifies with continuing open space as a buffer to continued growth pressure from new development.

Within each of these categories of Open Space is the implied distinction of permanent vs. transitional uses. In the permanent category are those lands dedicated to a passive use such as airport clear zones, lands designated as hazard zones or lands developed to passive recreational use such as trails or parklands. Lands which may be considered transitional are those currently lying fallow for future development potential or those in agriculture. Lands in agriculture, even those currently enrolled in the Williamson Act are subject to development pressure and should be considered candidates for future conversion of use.

Future Open Space

While the General Plan provides policy guidance for treatment of open space areas it does not establish priorities or suggest future funding options for the acquisition and maintenance of new open space areas. Given the residential and commercial/industrial growth that is anticipated within the City, it is important to begin developing the procedures and funding needed to protect and preserve the areas that will form future Open Space areas.

It is important to add that Open Space preservation, acquisition and protection does not necessarily demand municipal ownership of property. The police powers of the City allow a broad range of actions that can result in cooperative public/private protection of critical areas. The range includes such techniques as:

- Fee acquisition of lands**
 - Purchase with life tenancy**
 - Lease Purchase**
 - Purchase and Leaseback**
 - Trades or Transfers of Interest**
 - Tax Foreclosures**
 - Street Closing and Dedication of Easement**
 - Subdivision Dedications**
- Long term leases**
- Restrictive zoning controls**
 - Protective Zones**
 - Aesthetic Zones**
 - Agricultural Zoning**
 - Zoning for PUDs**
 - Slope restrictions**

- Acquisition and transfer of development rights
 - Compensable regulations
 - Purchase and Resale without previous rights
- Dedication of restrictive easements
 - Conservation Easements
 - Scenic Easements
 - Public Easements
- Property Tax Concessions
 - By Contract
 - Tax Exemptions
 - Tax Deductions for gifts

It is also important to stress that Open Space may possess attributes that call for the preservation of property for the purposes of maintaining a "view." Properties in this category may not be available for public access. This "existence value" may reflect a public desire for viewshed protection or other benefits, such as soil and watershed protection, as well as rangeland fire protection.

Setting Priorities

The conceptual design of Vacaville's Open Space system is defined in the General Plan. A system of an active urban open space has been selected, together with a distinct area that has community separation as its major purpose.

In special cases open space areas may lie outside normal or expected municipal boundaries. These special cases could include lands in adjacent but remote locations suitable for parks or camp development or land deemed necessary for future buffer zone protection. Additional justification can be found in the need to provide buffer zones not only for the urban area but for the agricultural land that may be in protected easements. Urban encroachment may bring more than simply growth pressure to agricultural areas. Many agricultural uses are impacted by the proximity of urban development through increased restriction on pesticide application or incursions of vandalism.

Timing of acquisition and regulation is critical since the value of properties subject to development pressure of influence typically only rises over time. Further, the increasing demands on public funds make acquisition even harder as price pressure increases. Within the General Plan, open space values have been expressed as goals and policies for the future. Using these as a framework, it is possible to develop a set of priorities for acquisition or regulation that would insure preservation even in the absence of current funding availability. A method of achieving this is illustrated by establishing a ranking or triage system to express these priorities.

Such a triage system would be administered by the Community Development Department and ultimately the municipal leadership. Based on the Open Space Guidelines of the General Plan and a thorough inventory of available lands, it would establish a broad time scale of acquisition and regulatory priorities.

The triage system examines land in light of three factors:

1. Lands already committed to development or whose land price has risen to such a level that it is impractical to acquire them in light of other opportunities (or limited budgets). This obviously excludes lands of special significance where acquisition or control in light of the public interest involved eliminates pre-existing financial limits.
2. Lands whose conversion is imminent or on which continuing development will exert tremendous pressure. These lands deserve to be treated in a current acquisition category and probably demand the highest use of fee acquisition techniques.
3. Lands whose conversion is probable but not until substantial future development takes place. These lands lend themselves well to the use of easements, long-term leases or option agreements. Since questions of condemnation are not as prevalent with regard to these properties, restrictive zoning also provides limited and temporary control over the land use.

The priorities also establish the temporal basis for valuation purposes. Funding programs and anticipated cost levels must be developed. In order to develop them, not only the priorities but the costs of acquisition (for land and for the development potential or the restrictive easements) must be estimated as well. A critical assumption in this analysis will be the assumption regarding the potential conversion time to alternative uses.

Sources of Funding

A more expansive treatment of funding for Parks, Recreation & Open Space is presented elsewhere in this Plan. Funding for Open Space provides unique opportunities and is discussed below. The financing plan for Open Space has four elements, some of which are unique to the Open Space program.

1. Offers of dedication of land by potential developers can be anticipated. It may be in the interest of a developer to offer as Open Space lands that may be undevelopable or that have only marginal development potential, during the time where land use entitlements for a larger piece of property are being negotiated.

2. In Vacaville, it may be entirely practical to consider a program wherein transferrable development rights can be bought and sold among private parties. For example, the owner of a parcel with limited development potential could agree to deed restrict the property in exchange for the right to transfer these limited number of development rights to another property. The original owner of these newly-created transferable development rights could then sell these rights (in a private marketplace transaction) to another landowner who could thereby achieve greater density than might otherwise be permitted.
3. An estimate has been made of to the extent to which Vacaville may have to preserve open space by outright purchase of fee title, after the potential for dedication and transfer of development rights has been realized fully. This estimate of cost was converted into a corresponding of a development impact fee for Open Space. Development impact fees for Open Space will be levied at the time of development, as with the development impact fees for other purposes that are being levied in Vacaville. Timing of the use of these impact fees will depend, in part, on opportunities to acquire Open Space under conditions favorable to the City.
4. Expansion of the use of the 1972 Lighting and Landscape Act to include open space acquisition and maintenance on a City-wide basis. Current use of the Act, although characterized as Open Space Maintenance is primarily for use in neighborhood and community park maintenance. (Actual ongoing maintenance issues are discussed in separate section.)

Each of these options could be used in conjunction with the actions and programs of neighboring jurisdictions and with the County of Solano. They demand co-ordination and ultimately, if successful, will demand a timely financial commitment.

Alternative Funding

It is possible to more fully involve the private sector in the issue of open space acquisition. Since the protection of open space also affects the potential enhancement of property values individuals within the community can be involved on a very personal level as well. This personal level can take the form of philanthropic contributions, volunteer time (especially in the area of trail maintenance), acquisition of development rights or land dedication in the form of easements, fee or in-lieu contributions by developers or business establishments.

Continuing Land Use Protection

Long term Open Space protection will involve the full use of the City police powers to regulate the use of those lands adjacent to or influencing these areas. It may be necessary

to provide restrictive easements or zoning in order to maintain the integrity of the zones designated for current Open Space or those anticipated for acquisition at a later date.

FUTURE URBAN OPEN SPACE

Urban Open Space (UOS) can be lands acquired and maintained by the Community Services Department or as viewscape preserves with neither physical public access or maintenance responsibilities. The Parks and Recreation Element identifies a series of Urban Open Space areas for preservation, protection, or inclusion in the City's Urban Open Space inventory. Development pressures or encroachment may endanger these areas. Most of these areas are hillsides and creek corridors providing habitat and establishing urban edges in conformance with policies in the General Plan's Land Use Element.

The General Plan designates six different major geographical areas for Urban Open Space preservation. These include:

1. ***OLD ROCKY RIDGE***

This area consists of approximately 750 acres, located between Browns Valley Road and Gibson Canyon Road, extending from Old Rocky peak on the south, north almost to Cantelow Road. Most of the acreage is located on relatively steep slopes. It is likely that the most northern 200 acres will be redesignated or eliminated from the General Plan. The City has already acquired approximately 300 of the remaining 535 acres for Open Space purposes. The remaining 235 acres is currently in private ownership. Preservation of the bulk of the privately owned land as Open Space will most likely occur during the development of the properties. Development is not projected to occur prior to 1996. Negotiations with one property owner are ongoing at this time.

2. ***ALAMO DRIVE RIDGE LINE***

This steep ridge is located south of Foothill Drive, east of Pleasant Valley Road, west of Alamo Drive and north of Interstate 80. The open space area targeted for preservation is located on the east side of the ridge line. Currently, the City owns approximately 7 acres of land in the area. Another 55 acres of hillside will come into public ownership with the recording of a final subdivision map. The remaining 260 acres may be preserved through dedication at the time of development or by public acquisition. Nearly all of this area is outside current city limits. Development of the area will be difficult and limited, due to the terrain. Development could start as soon as the next five years.

3. ***CALIFORNIA DRIVE RIDGE LINE***

This area extends from the top of the ridge south of I-80 to the Cement Hill area south of California Medical Facility. The bulk of the 775 acre area is a very steep hillside. Slightly over 350 acres are under state ownership and expected to remain

undeveloped. The remaining 325 acres consist of 75 acres and can be developed at urban densities, while the remaining 250 acres have very limited development potential. All of the area has been annexed to the City. Negotiations with property owners have been initiated for the purpose of preserving the hillside areas.

4. *LOWER LAGOON VALLEY*

The Lower Lagoon Valley contains both Open Space and Community Separator (buffer) areas. The Open Space consists of approximately 400 acres, all of which are in public ownership. This includes approximately 300 acres of hillside along the east side of the Valley and 100 acres adjacent to I-80, near the future alignment of California Drive (Laguna Meadows). The Community Separator includes the hills that divide Vacaville from Fairfield and then extends to flat lands located east and north of Travis Air Force Base. Presently, 300 acres of hillside have been dedicated to public ownership. Another 300 acres will be acquired when the residential areas of the Lower Lagoon Valley develop. This development will occur over the next 15 years. The remaining Buffer will be obtained through acquisition or development rights transfer.

5. *RIPARIAN WAYS*

The General Plan designates the major creeks for preservation as linkages between other land uses and the City's recreational and Open Space areas. At present, a number of segments have been secured. Alamo and Ulatis Creeks are the primary riparian ways designated. Future segments will be acquired at the time of development of the adjacent parcels, or they will be purchased.

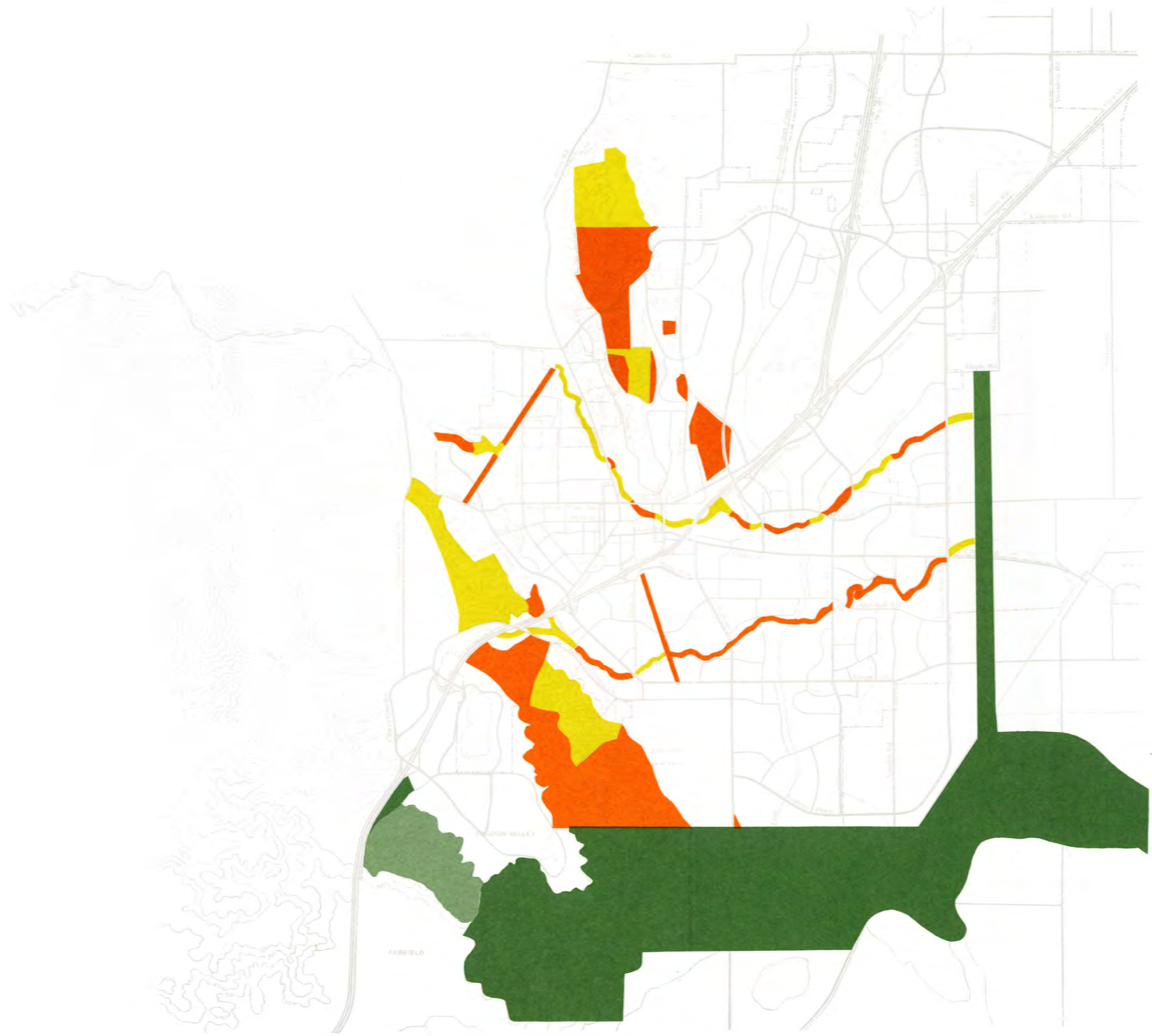
6. *UTILITY EASEMENTS*

The General Plan designates that where appropriate, the City should use transmission line easement to connect recreational and Open Space areas. The most prominent of these lines runs diagonally across the City from Browns Valley Road to Alamo Ridge line. Access rights shall be secured from the appropriate owners of utilities or landowners.

TRAILS AND BIKEWAYS

The popularity of walking, running, hiking, riding bicycles and riding horses has increased significantly in recent years. People appreciate these activities as healthful and enjoyable forms of recreation. The trend is especially evident in Vacaville where the pleasant natural environment offers a year-round invitation to trail enthusiasts.

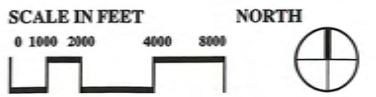
Public support for trail systems correlate with the findings of the *President's Commission on Americans Outdoors (January 1987)*. The national study finds that Americans enjoy swimming, walking, fishing, team sports and bicycling:



LEGEND

- CURRENT URBAN OPEN SPACE
- PLANNED URBAN OPEN SPACE
- CURRENT GREENBELT
- PLANNED GREENBELT

**OPEN SPACE
CITY OF VACAVILLE
Parks, Recreation &
Open Space Master Plan**



The move toward physically demanding activities is one of the more dramatic changes in participation patterns to have occurred since 1960. Many of these popular and fast growing activities take place in linear corridors — roads, rivers, sidewalks (1987).

The study also finds that of available public areas, people use local or community parks most often. The study recommends developing recreation facilities close to home, including trails, to keep pace with population growth. The report also recommends greenways for walking, running, horse and bicycle riding, and enjoying nature. These greenways will increase the value of individual parks by linking them together into a system that can be connected to other communities.

For Vacaville, the Parks and Recreation Element of the General Plan proposes long-range recommendations for an overall trail system to link neighborhoods to recreational resources in a comprehensive network of bikeways, hiking trails and equestrian paths. The Element categorizes trail types according to Hiking/Equestrian, Multipurpose, Creekway, Riparian Preserve and Trailhead. In addition, the Element includes a map of the trails system and a table describing each proposed section of the overall network.

During the recent development fee study, City staff discussed putting the completion of the bike trail system in the Public Facilities section, due to its relationship to transportation and grant funding.

The Community Services Department will coordinate the locations and installation priorities. There are six (6) bike trail projects, numbered according to City staff priorities, that will facilitate completion of missing bike trail sections that provide access to parks and public facilities, as well as access to surface street transportation links. (See project site maps.)

Trails

This *Master Plan* process evaluated the trails proposed within the General Plan according to the following criteria:

- Public need as expressed at workshops, in letters and in surveys.
- Needed connections between existing or proposed parks, open space and residential areas.
- Opportunities that are currently available (abandoned railroad rights of way, creek corridors, etc.).
- Existing use patterns (may not be officially designated routes).

The Trails and Bikeways Plan shows both existing and proposed off-street trails including trails along City creeks and through the Urban Open Space areas. This discussion revises

the General Plan definitions of trail types and summarizes the location of both existing and proposed trails as follows:

- **Hiking/Equestrian:** An unpaved path to be used primarily for hiking. Equestrian use will be evaluated in terms of environmental impact and the adequacy of right of way to allow for a bridle path. Existing trails, although not part of a trails plan, are located primarily in the undeveloped hills in and around Vacaville, in the Vaca Mountain Foothills, and along the ridges of the Cement and English hills. These trails provide access to the open grassy ridges with panoramic views of the surrounding area. These paths should provide access for emergency vehicles.

Proposed trails should eventually link up to trails from surrounding areas within Solano County and the City of Fairfield. These proposed trails go through the Lower Lagoon Valley UOS, Old Rocky UOS, and the proposed Alamo Drive Ridge Line UOS.

- **Multipurpose Path:** A paved path to accommodate a range of activities related to walking, running and bicycle riding. Existing multipurpose paths in the vicinity of Lagoon Valley also include bridle paths. Multipurpose paths should allow access for emergency vehicles. Multipurpose paths include the Creekway trail type as defined in the Parks and Recreation Element, and the Bikeway as defined in the Transportation Element for the Citywide Bikeways Plan. Existing paths follow portions of Ulatis and Alamo Creeks, a segment through the City owned portions of the Transmission Line in the northwest area of the City.

Proposed paths will connect existing creek paths along Ulatis Creek and Alamo Creek, follow portions of the abandoned railroad right of way to the south of I-80, parallel numerous major thoroughfares and circuit the Lower Lagoon Valley area.

- **Riparian Preserve:** A creek and related riparian habitat designated for preservation to protect fragile habitat areas from multipurpose paths. Low-impact hiking paths may be appropriate. At present, there are no designated riparian preserve trails, although many existing footpaths may follow these creek areas.

Proposed paths are in the northern areas of the City along Ulatis Creek north of Vaca Valley Road, and Gibson Canyon Creek south of Cantelow Road and east of I-505.

- **Trailhead:** A designated area for the beginning of a hiking/equestrian trail, marked by orientation signs, information on trail regulations and natural

history. Parking for bicycles and vehicles should be provided. Emergency vehicle access is required. Consideration should be given for emergency call boxes. Proposed trailheads are recommended off of California Drive near I-80, two access points within Lower Lagoon Valley, two access points to possible County open space trails off Cherry Glen Road and Gates Canyon Road, and an access point on either side of Vaca Valley Parkway near the proposed Norman UOS and the existing Glen Eagle UOS.

- *Fire Road/Fuel Break*: 30' wide area (usually along ridgelines) creating a fuel break and emergency vehicle access. These roads/recreation breaks can be used as links to other trail types as well as maintenance access for the overall trail system.

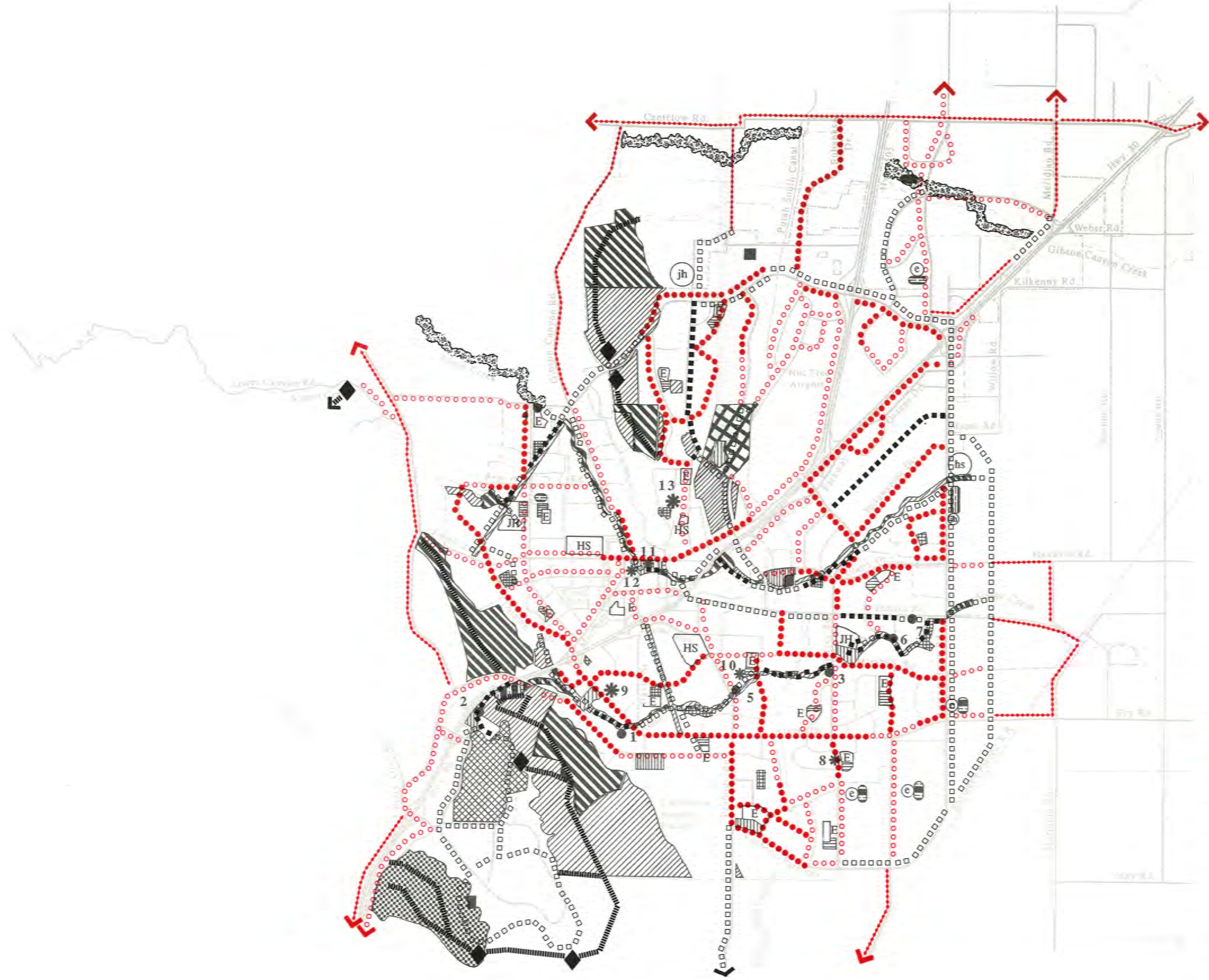
Bikeways

The goal of the Trails and Bikeways Plan is to provide a comprehensive system of bikeways to improve safety and encourage the use of bicycles as an alternative mode of transportation. Safety is the most important consideration. A well-designed system of bikeways will improve safety for bicyclists, motorists and pedestrians.








The plan recognizes three main types of bicyclists: people who cycle for utilitarian purposes (such as commuting or errands); recreational cyclists who ride for enjoyment or for fitness; and children for whom the bicycle is both transportation and recreation. The needs of these three groups are different.

People who bicycle for utilitarian purposes need convenient and direct routes. Secure bicycle parking is also important at destinations such as downtown, at places of employment and at shopping centers. Bicycle commuters have some special needs. They usually travel during hours of peak automobile use; therefore, commuter routes should preferably avoid busy roads. Some bicycle commuters use their bicycles all year and in all weather. This results in cycle use during bad weather and after dark. Most bicycle commuters are experienced cyclists and use proper safety equipment such as lights, reflective vests and helmets (a headlight and rear reflector are required by State law for bicycle use after dark). Few accidents are attributed to this group of bicyclists.

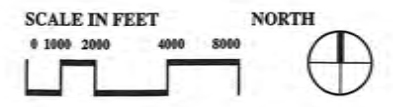
Recreational cyclists include people who ride bicycles for enjoyment and people who ride for fitness or sport. This group ranges from the family riding bicycles to the park, to touring cyclists riding around Lagoon Valley, to a club of racing cyclists on a 100-mile training ride before lunch. This is a diverse group, but some of their needs are similar. They all seek routes that are scenic and have a minimum of interference from automobiles. The family will look for routes with a minimum of traffic or off-street bike paths for safety reasons. Racers want a minimum of traffic to maintain high speeds. They almost always prefer to

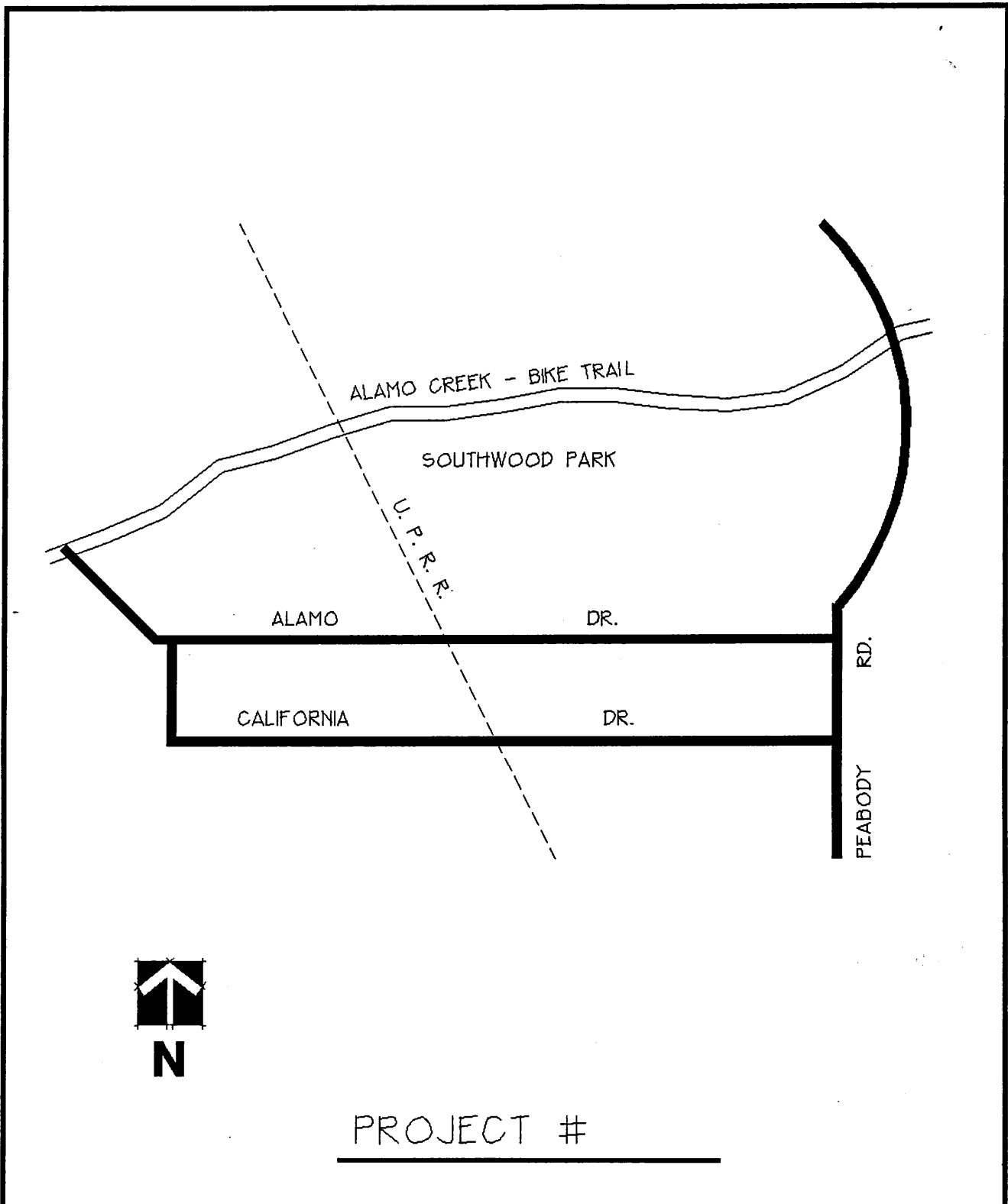


LEGEND

-  RIPARIAN PRESERVE
-  EXISTING MULTI-PURPOSE PATH (BIKE PATH)
-  PROPOSED MULTI-PURPOSE PATH (BIKE PATH)
-  EXISTING BIKE LANE
-  PROPOSED BIKE LANE
-  PROPOSED BIKE ROUTE
-  PROPOSED TRAILHEAD

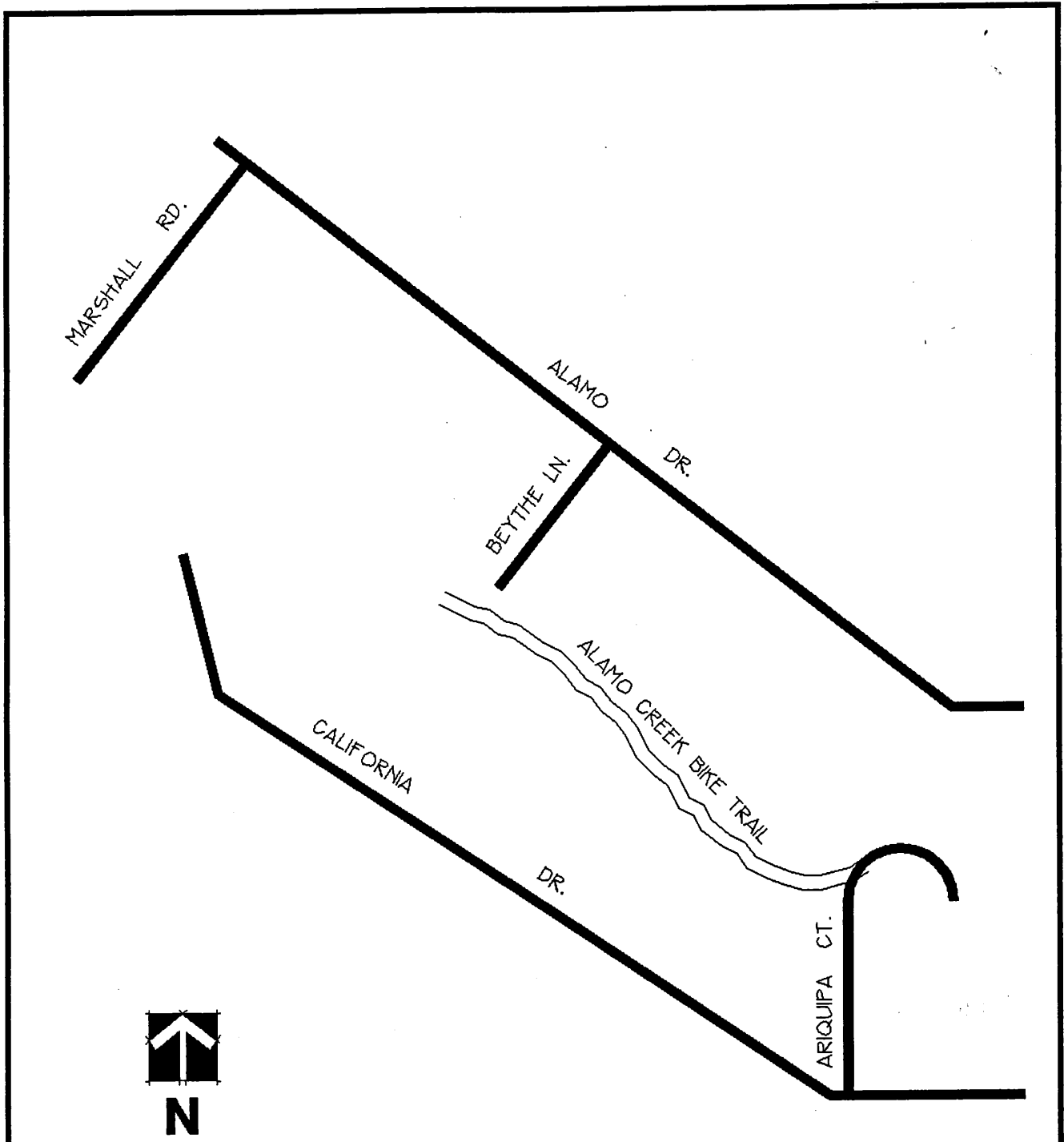
**TRAILS & BIKEWAYS
CITY OF VACAVILLE**
**Parks, Recreation &
Open Space Master Plan**





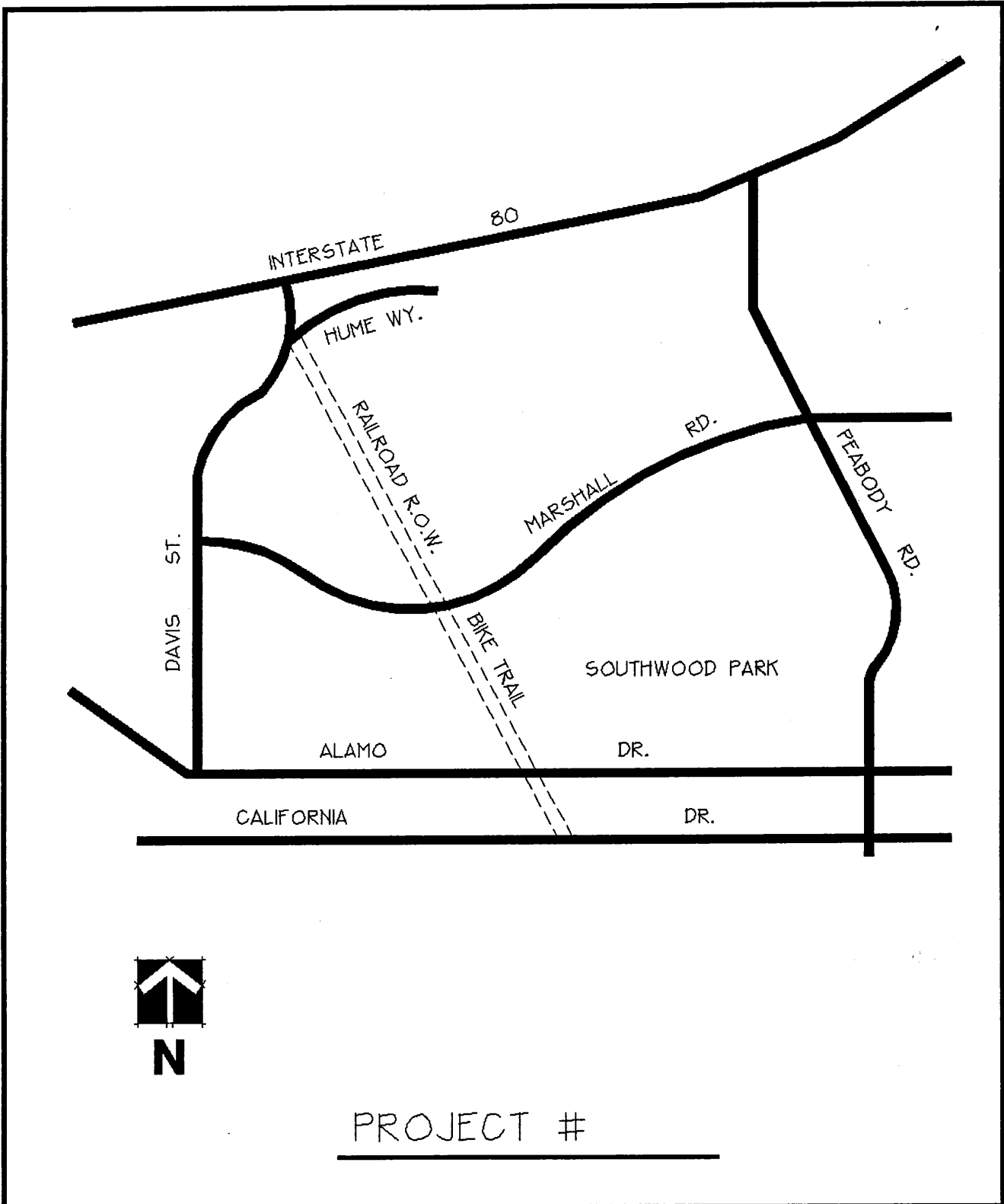
PROJECT # _____

CITY OF VACAVILLE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS	SITE MAP ALAMO CREEK BIKE TRAIL #1	DRAWN BY: JJ SCALE: NONE DATE: 4-20-92
		NO:



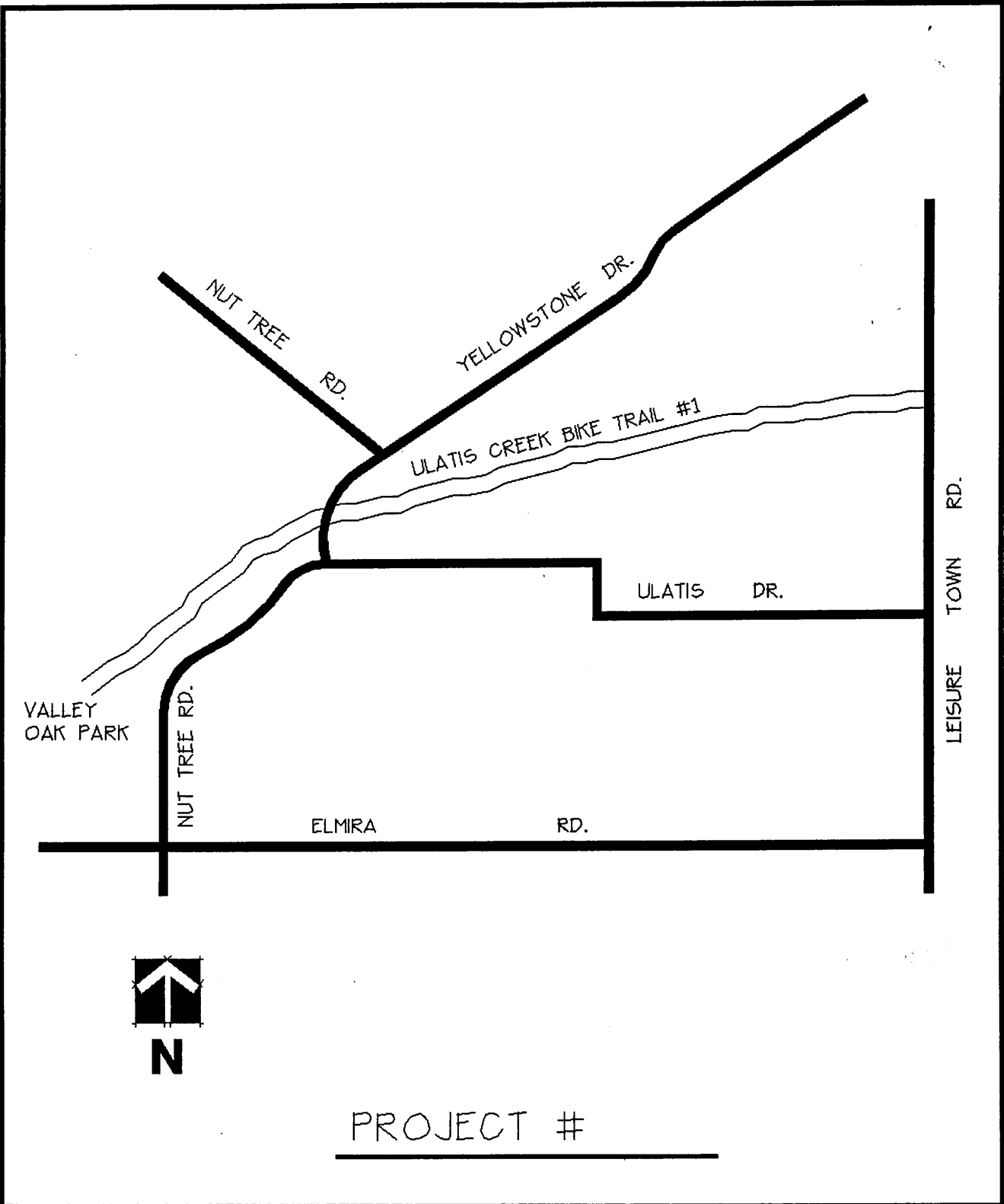
PROJECT # _____

CITY OF VACAVILLE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS	SITE MAP ALAMO CREEK BIKE TRAIL #2	DRAWN BY: JJ SCALE: NONE DATE: 4-20-92 NO:
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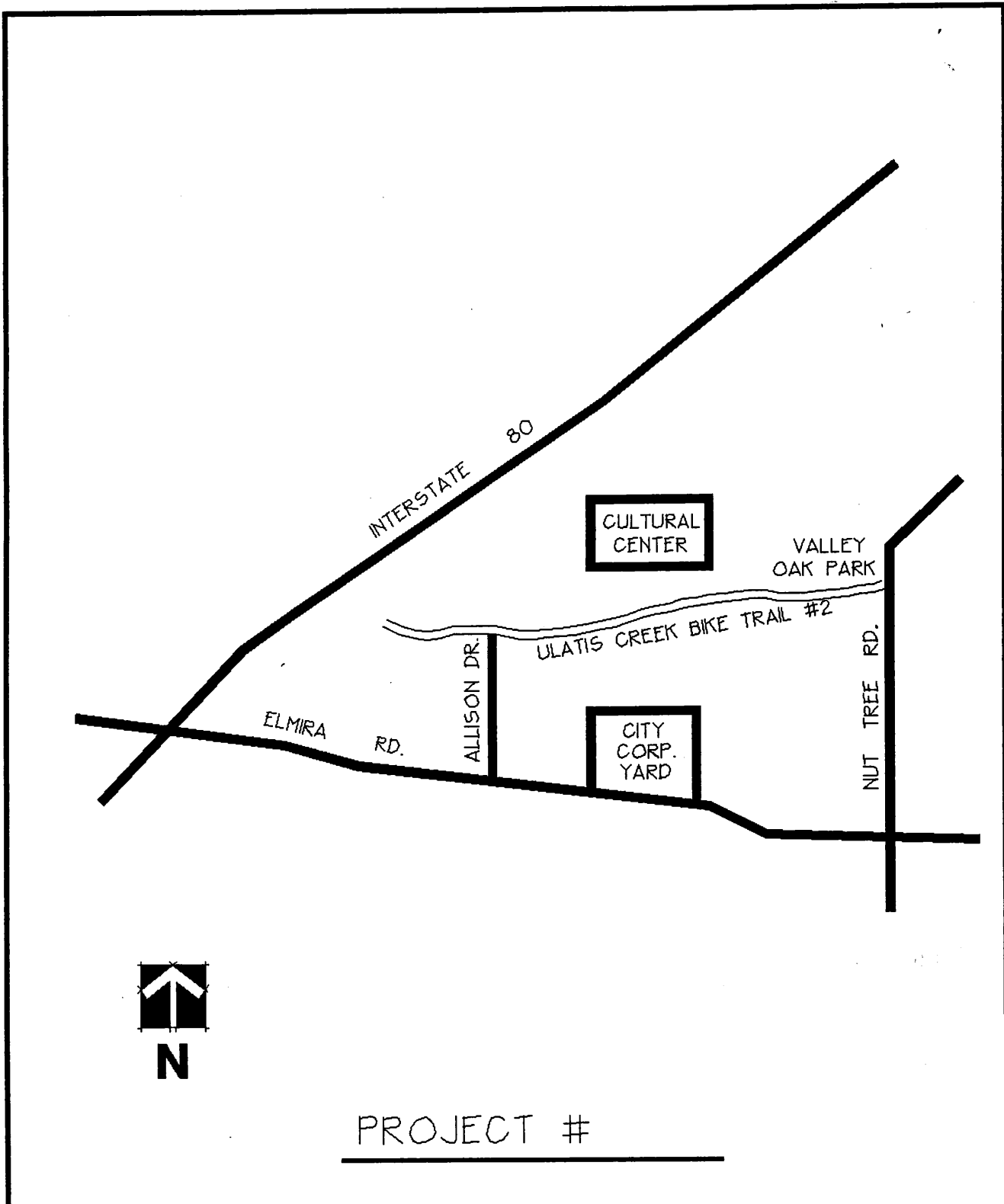


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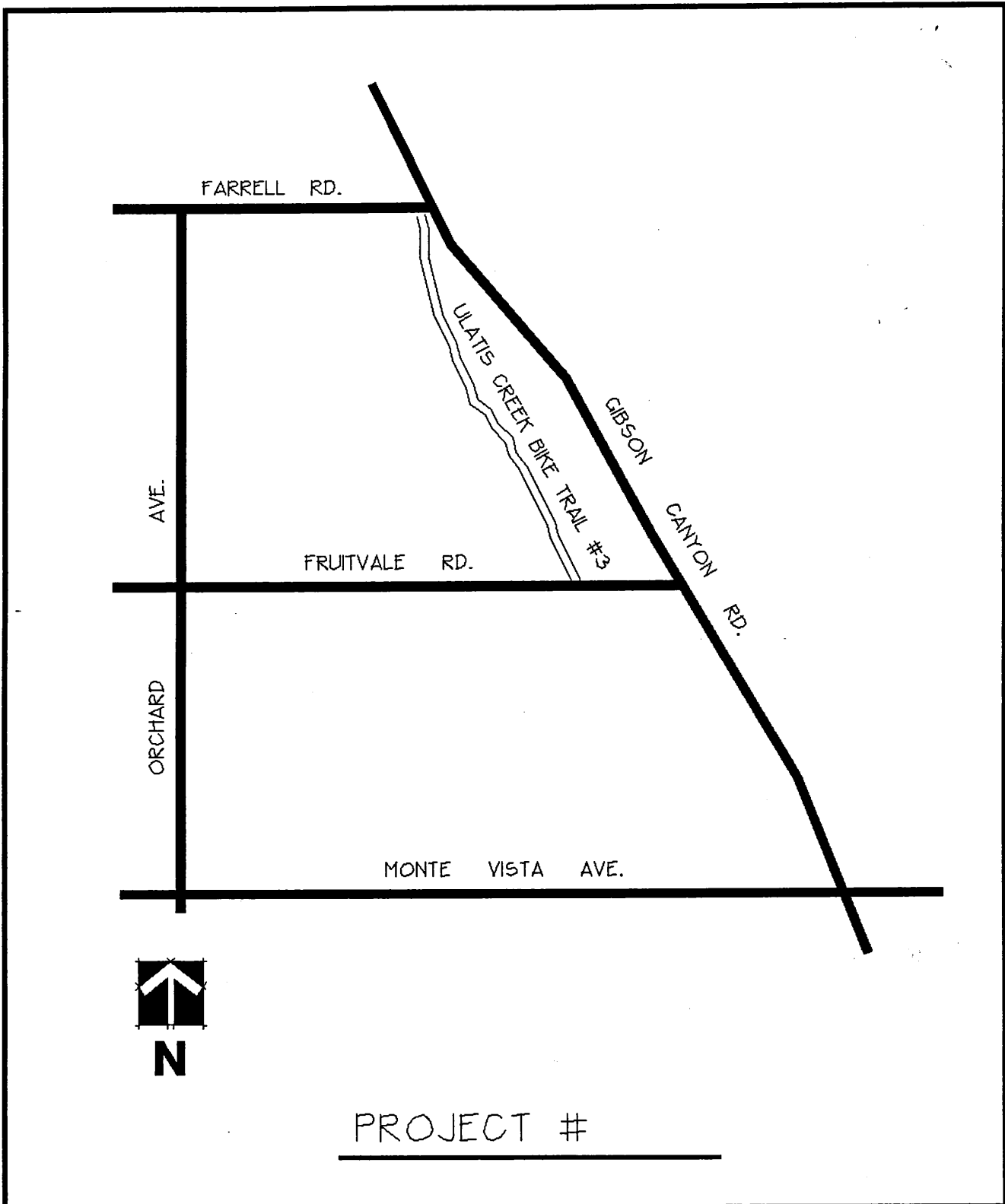
CITY OF VACAVILLE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS	SITE MAP RAILROAD R.O.W. BIKE TRAIL	DRAWN BY: JJ SCALE: NONE DATE: 4-20-92 NO:
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CITY OF VACAVILLE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS	SITE MAP ULATIS CREEK BIKE TRAIL #1	DRAWN BY: JJ SCALE: NONE DATE: 4-20-92
		NO:



CITY OF VACAVILLE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS	SITE MAP ULATIS CREEK BIKE TRAIL #2	DRAWN BY: JJ SCALE: NONE DATE: 4-20-92 NO:
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CITY OF VACAVILLE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS	SITE MAP ULATIS CREEK BIKE TRAIL #3	DRAWN BY: JJ SCALE: NONE DATE: 4-20-92 NO:
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cycle on roads where they can utilize the same right of way as motorists. Racers will usually not use bike paths because right of way must be yielded at driveways and cross streets, and pedestrians and slower bicyclists present a hazard.

Children present the greatest challenge in providing safe bikeways. They use bicycles both as transportation and as recreation. They lack the experience of operating a motor vehicle, which is valuable in learning to ride a bicycle safely. When young children learn to ride a bicycle, they are usually instructed to stay on the sidewalk. As children grow and ride faster, sidewalks become dangerous for cycling because of the many driveways, and because motorists do not expect bicycles to enter the street from sidewalks and from between parked cars. Education is the best way to increase safety. Bicycle safety programs in the City recreation programs and in the schools can be effective in reducing the number of accidents.

The *Master Plan* process evaluated the bikeways proposed within the Transportation Element of the General Plan according to the following criteria:

- Bikeways that link major destination points such as parks, schools or commercial areas.
- Bikeways offering safe and convenient through routes.
- Bikeways that provide recreation opportunities.

As mentioned in the Implementing Policies for Bikeways, and in conformance with the General Plan definitions, the City should follow the CalTrans Bikeway Guidelines for Bicycle Paths, Bike Lanes and Bike Routes to assure eligibility for state bikeway grants and to minimize liability claims. This Plan incorporates Bike Paths into the definition of Multipurpose Paths as shown on the Trails and Bikeways Plan.

- *Bike Path* - for the use of bicycles, separated from motor vehicle facilities by space or a physical barrier, can also be used for walking or running.
- *Bike Lane* - a restricted lane right of way designated for the exclusive or semi-exclusive use of bicycles.
- *Bike Route* - a shared right of way designated by signs placed on vertical posts or stenciled on the pavement.

Bike Paths (Multipurpose Paths)

Existing

At present, Vacaville has several existing bicycle paths (multipurpose paths) forming the primary framework for the proposed bikeway system. A primary bicycle path follows portions of Alamo Creek from Peabody Road to Elmira Road, with another disjointed section west of Alamo Road, providing the possibility for a major east-west link across the southern portion of the City. Other disjointed bicycle paths follow Ulatis Creek from I-80 to Nut Tree Road. A bicycle path runs from Nut Tree Road to Leisure Town Road, near Maple Road. West of California Drive a bicycle path leads to Lagoon Valley. In the

northwest area of the City, two bicycle path segments follow the transmission line easement. Another bicycle path parallels Browns Valley Parkway from Browns Street to Vaca Valley Parkway.

Proposed

New off-street bicycle paths are proposed for the following areas:

- Lower Lagoon Valley - all proposed new arterial streets.
- Sacramento Northern right of way from California Drive to I-80.
- Uncompleted sections of Alamo and Ulatis creekways.
- Elmira Road from Leisure Town Road to Depot Street.
- Vaca Valley Parkway and the Akerly loop.
- Allison Drive from Browns Valley Parkway to Elmira Road.
- South of Maple Road parallel to Leisure Town Road through the proposed Greenbelt buffer area.
- South from Foxboro Parkway on Peabody Road to connect to possible bicycle paths from Fairfield.

Bike Lanes

Existing

The City has pursued bike lanes with most new developments along major arterials. A major bike lane follows Alamo Drive from north of Foothill Drive to Vanden Road, almost making a complete north/south connection through the City. A major bike lane runs east from Alamo Drive to Leisure Town Road making an east/west connection. In this area south of I-80, other disjointed bike lane segments follow California Drive, Peabody Road, Foxboro Parkway, Ulatis Drive, Yellowstone Drive and Nut Tree Road. North of I-80 bicycle lanes have been more difficult to establish along older existing streets. Disjointed segments follow Monte Vista Avenue, Woodcrest and Wrentham Drives, Vaca Valley Parkway and Eubanks Drive.

Proposed

New bike lanes will support the above bike path framework and connect existing bike lane segments to link destinations and create desirable bicycling loops. Bike lanes are proposed to follow these major arterials:

- California Drive to Peabody Road
- Nut Tree Road from Elmira Road to Foxboro Parkway
- Peabody Road from Elmira Road to Alamo Drive
- Hume Way from I-80 to Berryessa Drive
- Vanden Road south from Alamo Drive
- Nut Tree Parkway paralleling I-80
- Cherry Glen Road
- Orchard Avenue from Merchant Street to Fruitvale Road

- Fruitvale Road to Gibson Canyon Road
- Monte Vista Avenue from Orchard Road to Gibson Canyon Road
- Buck Avenue from Orchard Road to Parker Street
- Gibson Canyon Road
- Brown Street from Monte Vista Avenue to Markham Avenue
- Allison Drive
- The developing area north of Nut Tree Airport to the east of the Putah Canal
- Monte Vista Avenue from Allison Drive north paralleling I-505 to Vaca Valley Parkway
- Major arterials in the developing area north of Vaca Valley Parkway and east of I-505

Bike Routes

At present the city of Vacaville does not have existing bike routes.

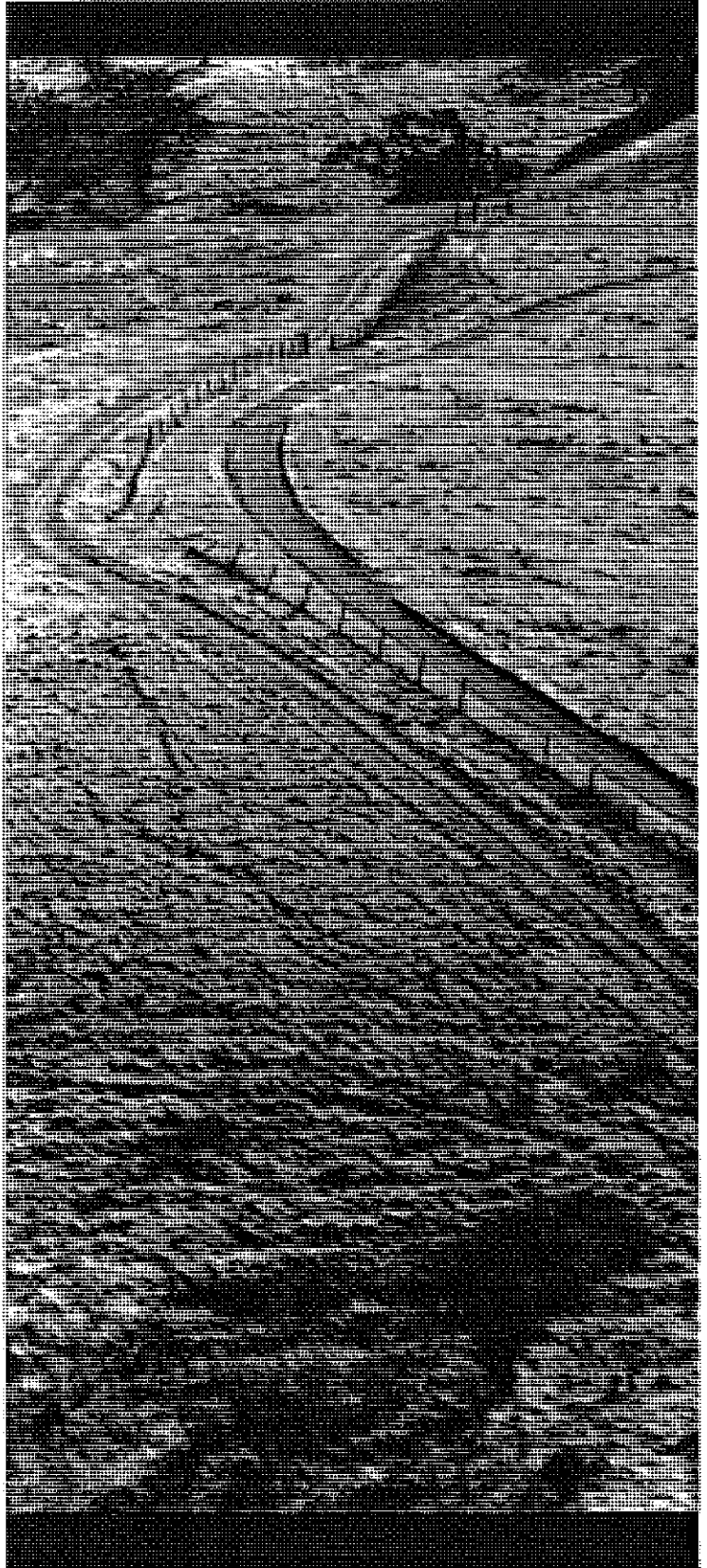
Proposed

Bike Routes are proposed along major streets that do not have adequate width to accommodate bike lanes but provide a desirable route or connection between bike paths or bike lanes. Bike Routes are proposed for the following streets:

- Vanden Road south from Foxboro Parkway to connect to the City of Fairfield
- Elmira Road east from Leisure Town Road to Meridian Road
- Alamo Drive east from Leisure Town Road to Meridian Road
- Meridian Road from Elmira Road to Alamo Drive
- Meridian Road North, north from I-80
- Gibson Canyon Road north from Vaca Valley Parkway to Cantelow Road
- Cantelow Road from east of I-80, crossing I-505 to west of Gibson Canyon Road
- Pleasant Valley Road from Cherry Glen Road north beyond Vaca Valley Road

With rapid regional growth, increased automobile use will bring greater problems of congestion and pollution. Encouraging and supporting bicycle use by implementing a comprehensive bicycle plan will work toward reducing potential problems associated with growth. Both bicycles and automobiles should be considered in planning, constructing and financing road improvement projects.

IMPLEMENTATION



Implementation

Priorities for Implementation of the *Plan*

The City of Vacaville intends to implement its *Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan* in approximately a twenty-year period from the date of adoption through the year 2010. The present chapter describes how the *Plan* will be implemented and how both existing deficiencies and new facilities will be financed. Discussions with staff, site visits and public input indicate the immediate need to improve several existing parks including:

- Andrews Park
- Trower Park
- Fairmont School Park
- William Keating Park

The City has also developed or approved plans for several park sites with approved budgets for the 1991-1992 or 1992-1993 fiscal year including:

- Allison Park
- Cultural Center
- Southwood Park
- Boulder Valley Park
- Cooper School Park
- Ridgeview Park

In general, priorities for the development of new recreation facilities can be determined from the surveys (both youth and community-wide), the series of public workshops, the population forecasts, and both the Programs and Recreation Facilities Inventory and Analysis (Chapters 7 and 8). More specifically, both the public attending the May 1, 1991 public workshop and Community Services staff when asked directly about priorities, ranked facility improvements. As a result of all of this input the following discussion, in order of priority, discusses recreational facility improvements in relation to the recommendations of the park development program for facility locations.

Priorities for new facilities to serve new development will be dictated, in part, by the places in Vacaville at which development actually occurs. For example, the adopted standard for baseball fields (one field per 3,350 residents) will be maintained. Construction of individual baseball fields will be located, in part, in response to the location where residential growth and development actually occur in Vacaville.

1. **Baseball/Softball Fields** - At present, Vacaville has a total of 21 softball and baseball fields, with four additional fields currently planned. Participation levels in baseball

and softball programs, the Community Workshop findings and discussions with City staff indicate that existing league programs are highly popular with deficiencies in ball fields and multipurpose fields. The Plan recommends adding 14 more fields at the following parks: proposed Allison City Park, proposed Hawkins Park, and Akerly Park. Multipurpose fields for practice are proposed for Foxboro Villages Park, Ridgeview Park, Laguna Hills and the William Keating Park expansion.

2. ***Volleyball Courts*** - Vacaville presently has four volleyball courts, including two indoor wood-floored courts at the Sports Center, one outdoor asphalt court at Patwin Park, and one outdoor dirt surfaced court at Peña Adobe Park. Although a strong demand for volleyball programs is not evident in analyzing existing programs, waiting lists, needs assessment or demographic projections, the *Master Plan* indicates that additional courts may stimulate increased participation. The Plan recommends three additional courts at the following parks: Boulder Valley Park, proposed Allison City Park, and proposed Lower Lagoon Valley park.
3. ***Basketball Courts*** - Vacaville has 14 full-court public basketball courts, including the indoor wood-floored court at the Georgie Duke Sports Center, with a demand of 10 courts (accounting for one planned full-court by 2010). Current participation in basketball leagues and special events, along with input from the community survey, youth survey and staff interviews indicate a need for additional courts. The *Parks Master Plan* recommends basketball courts at the following parks: Proposed Foxboro Villages, proposed Ridgeview Park, proposed Allison Park (indoor gym), proposed Elmira/Leisuretown Park (indoor gym), proposed Rice-Aldridge Park, proposed North Village Park, proposed Gibson Creek Park, proposed Akerly Park, and proposed Fry Road Park.
4. ***Multi-purpose Fields (Football/Soccer)*** - At present Vacaville operates 16 soccer/football fields, 13 at City owned parks and 3 at neighborhood school parks, quite adequate when compared to national standards. Vacaville has two designated football fields. According to the Youth Survey, soccer is a popular youth activity at several parks, including a favorite indoor activity at the Sports Center. In the Youth Survey, football was mentioned by those youth who have participated in City programs. The recommendation is to combine these fields under one designation (multi-purpose) resulting in 2010 a demand for 11 additional fields at the following parks: William Keating (multipurpose field on an 11-acre expansion site), John Arlington Park, proposed Allison City Park, proposed Elmira/Leisuretown Park, proposed Laguna Hills Park, Vanden East and West, Stonegate, Gibson Creek, N. Village, Rice-Aldridge, and Frye.
5. ***Swimming Pools*** - Vacaville has one public swimming pool with access to the Vacaville High School pool and memberships available at several private clubs that also offer swimming. Community workshop participants, City staff and the Vacaville Swim Club identified the need for additional swimming opportunities. The *Parks Master Plan*

recommends a 50 meter pool complex at the proposed City Park on the north side of I-80, a pool developed through joint use agreement with the School District at Will C. Wood High School, a 25-yard lap pool addition to the existing Community Center swimming pool.

6. **Lap Pool** - To be installed adjacent to the existing community pool at the Community Center park site. This 25-meter facility will accommodate adult and youth competitive and exercise swimming.
7. **Gymnasiums** - The Georgie Duke Sports Center is the only public gymnasium operated by the City of Vacaville offering programs in weight training, gymnastics, martial arts, basketball, etc. There are also three schools and four private gymnasiums serving the public. As an example, of existing need, 1,800 children are served by the City's gymnastics programs with nearly 100 children on waiting lists. Both City staff and the public (at workshops) mentioned the need for another gymnasium. The Parks *Master Plan* recommends an additional one gymnasium at the proposed Allison City Park. In addition, the plan acknowledges that the new Cultural Center will have multipurpose rooms which may accommodate gymnastics, martial arts, weight training and similar programming.
8. **Community Centers** - The 20,000 square foot Community Center on Alamo Drive is the only existing such City operated center. The City is currently building a second Community Center at the Cultural Center site. Recognizing that the existing Community Center is the location of about 40% of all City recreation programs along with strong community interest as expressed in the survey, workshops and by City staff the *Master Plan* recommends a minimum of one additional center by the year 2010.
9. **Tennis Courts** - Vacaville presently has 16 tennis courts, including four lighted courts at the Community Center with 12 other courts provided at neighborhood parks. Some interest for tennis was expressed in the Community Survey with workshop participants and City staff expressing a need for more courts. The *Master Plan* accounts for the availability of school courts, courts at private clubs, and the possibility for night lighting at existing courts thereby decreasing the apparent deficit. The *Master Plan* recommends the addition of four lighted tennis courts which might be appropriate at any of the following parks: Nelson Park, Foxboro Villages Park, proposed Allison City Park, proposed Lower Lagoon Valley Park, proposed Rice-Aldridge Park, or proposed Fry Road Park.
10. **Neighborhood Centers** - Vacaville currently has six Neighborhood Centers located at Trower, Cambridge, Fairmont, Alamo, Meadowlands, and Boulder Valley Parks. Vacaville has set a standard for Neighborhood Centers based on expressed community interest and need. The Community Survey indicates a preference for development of smaller, neighborhood-serving recreation centers and conversations with City staff indicate a need to decentralize recreation programs. The Vacaville Community Child

Care Needs Assessment (October 1990) supports the need for adding to the child care delivery system (see *Appendix* for Executive Summary). As mentioned in Chapter 1—Recreation Programs Inventory and Analysis, some needs are met through existing City child care programs such as the T.G.I. Fun Club, babysitting program and the City-run preschool. These factors combined with current use of the existing centers indicate a need for 4 to 8 additional Neighborhood Centers with possible locations at: John Arlington Park, Community Center Park, Patwin Park, Sierra Vista Park, Foxboro Villages Park, Cooper School Park, Ridgeview Park, Alamo Creek Park, proposed Hemlock Expansion, Vanden Park East, and proposed Akerly Park.

11. *Senior Centers* - The McBride Senior Center, associated with Andrews Park, is the only senior center in Vacaville. The consistent use of McBride, the aging population of Vacaville, and strong public input at the community workshops indicate a need for at least one additional senior center by 2010. The *Master Plan* proposes a possible site for an additional senior center at proposed Allison City Park.

Funding Mechanisms

Funding Demands

Funding parks, recreation facilities and open space through the life of this master plan and beyond depends on a mixture of foresight needed to anticipate and accommodate new demands and the ability to design flexible financing systems or programs that will continue to provide necessary revenues over time. The funding needed generally falls into the following categories:

Category	For New Residents	For Existing Population
Neighborhood Parks	Development Impact Fees	General Fund
Community Parks	Development Impact Fees	General Fund
Bikeways	Development Impact Fees	General Fund
Open Space and Trails	Land Dedication and Development Impact Fees	General Fund
New Programs	General Fund	General Fund
Special Programs	User Fees (Residents and Non-residents)	User Fees (Residents and Non-residents)

Tailoring Funding Needs and Sources

In general, the funding of parks and recreation facilities and programs is a constantly varying blend of general fund contributions, development impact fees and some defrayment for program costs by direct end users. As is clearly stated in the General Plan, an effort has been made to link facilities and their support as closely as possible to users. Thus, neighborhood parks are the responsibility of the neighborhoods in question, and community parks are the responsibility of the community as a whole. New residential developments are expected to dedicate land in combination with development impact fee payments for parks development. Programs which demand special services or for which a special facility is available are allowed to charge fees.

Because new development brings with it new demands for service, the City must constantly update its fees and charges schedules. Part of the basis for this update is the demand created by the new development. Since new development can trigger demand for new or updated facilities, responsibilities for additional funding may be directed to them. The level of funding sought, however, must reflect use or benefit received.

Findings Relating To Financing

The City of Vacaville is committed to implementing its *Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan* by the year 2010. Further, the City intends to operate and maintain its Parks, Recreation & Open Space facilities once they have been constructed. The fundamental principles of financing that the City of Vacaville has adopted are as follows:

- New capacity to serve new development should be financed from development impact fees or from other sources of financing directly related to growth and development (e.g., benefit assessments or Community Facilities Districts).
- Any improvement in Vacaville's standards for Parks, Recreation & Open Space services above the currently-adopted standards that are applicable Citywide, should be financed broadly. Broadly-based sources of financing include the Vacaville General Fund or other Citywide sources of financing that may be adopted in the future.
- The cost of recreation programs and of maintenance of the Parks and Open Space system should include a combination of broadly-based financing (e.g., the Vacaville General Fund) and charges levied against both residential and non-residential users.

Development impact fees (or other development-related charges) are key to implementing the *Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan*. The requirements for development-related charges are summarized, in part, in Government Code §66000 *et seq.*

The following paragraphs summarize the findings that were made before development impact fees were selected as a primary source of financing for the Parks, Recreation & Open Space program.

Facilities Affected By This Plan

In the case of the *Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan*, the type of facilities include parks, special parks facilities such as pools, tennis courts and gymnasiums, hiking, jogging and riding trails as well as City-wide or even regional open space facilities. Where extraordinary demands will be placed on elements of the system, as in specific neighborhoods where unique facilities are requested, the provision of these facilities and the upkeep and maintenance of them may necessitate the creation of a special funding district such as a maintenance district or an individual subdivision or a Mello-Roos CFD in order to avoid disproportionate demands that could be made on the General Fund.

The Source of Demand

Development fees are based on demand emanating from new or intensified levels of development. Here we have assumed only two categories of demand—residential and commercial/industrial and further assumed that there will only be two categories of facilities that satisfy the demand—community-wide (such as a community center or trail systems) and neighborhood (typified by small neighborhood parks). Programs that are either provided under the general fund of the City or paid for by direct user fees are excluded from these assumptions.

Residential

If history is any guide, new subdivisions or multifamily residents will make obvious and predictable demands on the parks and recreation facilities offered by the City of Vacaville. Thus, a new subdivider can be expected to provide parks facilities land on an accepted ratio (approximately 2.5 acres per 1,000 expected new population) either on the project site or in an approved cooperative agreement elsewhere. Where new community wide facilities have been identified, a per unit charge for acquisition or construction of new facilities (along with the appropriate escalator for inflation) may be charged.

Commercial/Industrial

These facilities are functionally different from residences in the sense that in and of themselves they do not place demands on parks and recreations facilities. Their employees can and do place such demands, however, based in part on whether or not they are resident in the area and on whether or not facilities are available for them at or near their place of employment. Current data suggest that between 40-50% of employees from new firms will be residents in the area. Of the resident population, we can assume that they will place no

extraordinary demands beyond those covered by the residential fees charged to new developers.

Of the remaining 50% of new workers, an evaluation of current use data that may be incomplete indicates that demands on physical facilities will be minimal. First, the work force is adult in nature; the majority of demand for physical facilities within the City is made by children or young people under 18 years of age. The work force does take advantage of facilities that offer picnic or traditional park facilities for walking, jogging or bicycling. Additional demands are made of trail systems as well. Surveys of other communities suggest additional demands of organized programs such as softball or baseball which in turn may translate to additional facilities demand. Since City policy will allow accommodation of residents in a priority for the establishment of teams in these areas, the imposition of non-resident program fees should be sufficient to cover extraordinary costs in this area.

Summary

The demand generated by commercial land uses for parks and open space is currently being studied. If commercial land uses are found to generate demand beyond that generated by residents, the decision to levy park and open space development impact fees only against residences will be reconsidered.

We have examined this expected demand (see *Demographics* section for projections) and have arrived at the following conclusions regarding future funding needs. Demands on parks and recreation facilities are generally stimulated by growth in residential subdivision activity within the City. This demand can be categorized in terms of programs and facilities (see *Programs and Facilities Analysis* within this document).

The demographic data suggest a user profile similar to the current resident within the City, albeit with a slightly smaller family size over time. Demands on the parks and recreation facilities, however, based on the user survey and the expected user characteristics should reflect the conclusions in the Recommended Recreation Facilities Standards table. Thus, the City can be expected to ask new development to contribute a proportionate share of the new neighborhood facilities they will demand, either in the form of actual facilities, in lieu contributions (continuation of the fee structure already in effect) or in the form of funding districts tailored to new subdivision boundaries.

Cost Estimate

Estimated facility costs were compiled in conjunction with the development impact fee study of 1992. The unit costs of these proposed facilities are subject to annual review to assess their adequacy in keeping up with inflation, current construction methods, and design standards. See chart on next page.

Table 3
PROJECT LIST & SOURCES OF FINANCING
Parks & Recreation Development Impact Fee

FACILITY	1. Number of Facilities	2. Unit Cost	3. Total	4. Park Development Impact Fee		6. Develop. Agreement or Dedication	7. State/Fed. Grants & Bonds	8. Other 4)	9. Notes
				Community Component	Neighborhood Component				
Regional Facilities									
Lagoon Valley Reg. Park									
Park Development			\$1,800,000			\$1,800,000			
Open Space Fencing			\$388,000			\$388,000			
City-wide Facilities									
City Park			\$5,000,000	\$1,955,000			\$2,500,000	\$545,000	(2) (3)
Senior Center			\$2,070,000	\$809,000			\$1,000,000	\$261,000	(2) (3)
Swimming Pool			\$2,308,000	\$2,308,000					(2)
Gymnasium			\$2,093,000	\$2,093,000					(2)
Community Parks and Community Facilities									
Laguna Hills Park			\$2,240,000	\$2,240,000					(2)
El Mira Leisure Park			\$2,055,000	\$2,055,000					(2)
Community Center			\$2,366,000	\$2,366,000					(2)
Lap Pool			\$887,000	\$887,000					(2)
Additions to Existing Community Parks:									
John Arlington Park			\$377,000	\$377,000					(2)
Keating Park			\$91,000	\$91,000					(2)
Nelson Park			\$378,000	\$378,000					(2)
Neighborhood Parks and Facilities									
Neighborhood Parks	10	\$1,249,000	\$12,490,000		\$12,490,000				(2)
Neighborhood Center (site built)	1	\$455,000	\$455,000		\$455,000				(2)
Neighborhood Center (modular)	3	\$68,000	\$204,000		\$204,000				(2)
Facilities for Individual and Organized Sports									
Baseball/Softball Fields (lighted)	8	\$432,000	\$3,456,000	\$3,456,000					(2)
Baseball/Softball Fields (w/o lights)	6	\$328,000	\$1,968,000	\$1,968,000					(2)
Football/Soccer Fields	11	\$116,000	\$1,276,000	\$1,276,000					(2)
Tennis Courts (lighted)	4	\$54,000	\$216,000	\$216,000					(2)
Tennis Courts (w/o lights)	6	\$30,000	\$180,000	\$180,000					(2)
Basketball Courts	10	\$36,000	\$360,000	\$360,000					(2)
Volleyball Courts	3	\$18,000	\$54,000	\$54,000					(2)
Other Facilities									
Hiking Trails			\$210,000				\$50,000	\$160,000	
Picnic Facilities			\$250,000					\$250,000	
Amphitheater			\$100,000				\$25,000	\$75,000	
Golf Course			\$7,000,000					\$7,000,000	(5)
Bandstand			\$60,000					\$60,000	
Youth Center			\$2,000,000			\$200,000	\$300,000	\$1,500,000	
Bocceball Court			\$7,000					\$7,000	
Arboretum			\$110,000				\$20,000	\$90,000	
Theme Playground			\$1,200,000					\$1,200,000	(5)
Outdoor Hockey			\$500,000					\$500,000	(5)
Croquet Center			\$400,000					\$400,000	
Radio Controlled Airplane Field			\$3,000					\$3,000	
Community Garden			\$20,000					\$20,000	
Open Space & Trails			\$400,000			\$400,000			
TOTAL			\$54,972,000	\$23,069,000	\$13,149,000	\$2,788,000	\$3,895,000	\$12,071,000	

Notes:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1) Dollar amounts are in January 1, 1992 dollars. | 4) See text for examples of "other." |
| 2) See Cost Detail sheet. | 5) Provided by concessionaire. |
| 3) Approximately 40% of project funded by Park Dev. Impact Fee | |

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LEVEL OF SERVICE

Park & Recreation Development Impact Fee

Rangename: @PARKS-STANDARD
 Park & Recreation Standards
 Park & Recreation Development Fee
 City of Vacaville

20-Jul-92
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Recreation Facility	Current Number Of Facilities	Required Number Of Facilities For Existing Development At The Recommended Level Of Service	Current Surplus (Deficit) Recommended Level Of Service	Current Level Of Service	Level Of Service 1 per Pop. In Planning Analysis	Added In 1992-2009 To Serve New Development To Serve Recommended Level Of Service	Recommended Level Of Service 1 per Pop.
Baseball/Softball Fields	21	21		3,400	3,400	13	2,750
Volleyball Courts	4	4		17,600	17,600	3	10,000
Basketball Courts	15	15		4,700	4,700	10	5,000
Football/Soccer Fields	17	17		4,100	4,100	11	4,000
Swimming Pools	1	1		70,500	70,500	1	32,000
Lap Pool	0	1	(1.0)	0	100,000	0	100,000
Gymnasiums	1	1		70,500	70,500	1	32,000
Community Centers	2	2		35,300	35,300	1	32,000
Tennis Courts	18	18		4,400	4,400	10	5,000
Neighborhood Center	8	8		11,600	11,800	4	13,000
Youth Center	0	1	(1.0)	0	100,000	1	100,000
Senior Center	1	1		70,500	70,500	1	64,000
Neighborhood Parks (In Acres)	126.5	141	(14.5)	600	500	92	500
Community Park (In Acres)	181.3	141	20.3	400	500	92	500
Additions to Community Park City Park	0	71	(71.0)	0	1,000	46	1,000

Totals

(67.2)

Population for Analysis	70,536
Population 1/1/90	63,889
Population 1/1/92 (Official State Est. No Group)	70,536
Population Added 1/1/92-7/1/92	769 Estimate From Vacaville Planning Department.
Population Added 1992/93-7/1/2010	45,816 71,305 60.9% 39.1%
Total Population, 1/1/10	117,121

Example: Football/Soccer Fields

	Population/Inventory	No. Served by Each Field	No. of fields
Current Standard	70,536/17	4,179	1 per 4,100 (Rounded)
Added Demand	+45,816/4100	= 11.17 fields	= 11 new fields required (Rounded)

Staged Capital Improvements Program Parks and Recreation Development Fee

Recreation Facility	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
CITY-WIDE FACILITIES							

City Park	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,955,000	\$0
Senior Center	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Swimming Pool	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Gymnasium	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
COMMUNITY PARKS AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES							

Laguna Hills Park	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,240,000	\$0	\$0
Elmira Leisure Park	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,055,000	\$0
Community Center	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Lap Pool	\$0	\$0	\$887,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
ADDITIONS TO EXISTING COMMUNITY PARKS							

John Arlington Park	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$377,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Keating Park	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Nelson Park	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND FACILITIES							

Neighborhood Parks	\$0	\$1,249,000	\$1,249,000	\$0	\$1,249,000	\$0	\$1,249,000
Neighborhood Center (Modular)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$68,000	\$0
Neighborhood Center (Site Built)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FACILITIES FOR INDIVIDUAL AND ORGANIZED SPORTS							

Baseball/Softball Fields	\$0	\$387,429	\$0	\$387,429	\$0	\$774,857	\$0
Football/Soccer Fields	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$232,000	\$0	\$0	\$232,000
Tennis Courts	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Basketball Courts	\$0	\$0	\$36,000	\$0	\$36,000	\$36,000	\$0
Volleyball Courts	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$18,000	\$0	\$0
<hr/>							
Annual Total	\$0	\$1,636,429	\$2,172,000	\$996,429	\$3,543,000	\$4,888,857	\$1,481,000
Cumulative Total	\$0	\$1,636,429	\$3,808,429	\$4,804,857	\$8,347,857	\$13,236,714	\$14,717,714

Source: Angus McDonald & Associates.

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Staged Capital Improvements Program Parks and Recreation Development Fee

(Continued)

Recreation Facility	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
CITY-WIDE FACILITIES							
City Park	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Senior Center	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$809,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Swimming Pool	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,308,000	\$0
Gymnasium	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,093,000	\$0
COMMUNITY PARKS AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES							
Laguna Hills Park	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Elmira Leisure Park	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Community Center	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,366,000	\$0
Lap Pool	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
ADDITIONS TO EXISTING COMMUNITY PARKS							
John Arlington Park	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Keating Park	\$0	\$91,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Nelson Park	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$378,000	\$0
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND FACILITIES							
Neighborhood Parks	\$0	\$1,249,000	\$0	\$1,249,000	\$0	\$1,249,000	\$0
Neighborhood Center (Modular)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$68,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Neighborhood Center (Site Built)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FACILITIES FOR INDIVIDUAL AND ORGANIZED SPORTS							
Baseball/Softball Fields	\$387,429	\$387,429	\$0	\$387,429	\$387,429	\$0	\$387,429
Football/Soccer Fields	\$0	\$116,000	\$0	\$116,000	\$0	\$116,000	\$0
Tennis Courts	\$0	\$158,400	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Basketball Courts	\$36,000	\$0	\$36,000	\$0	\$36,000	\$0	\$36,000
Volleyball Courts	\$0	\$18,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$18,000	\$0
Annual Total	\$423,429	\$2,019,829	\$36,000	\$2,629,429	\$423,429	\$8,528,000	\$423,429
Cumulative Total	\$15,141,143	\$17,160,971	\$17,196,971	\$19,826,400	\$20,249,829	\$28,777,829	\$29,201,257

Source: Angus McDonald & Associates.

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Staged Capital Improvements Program Parks and Recreation Development Fee

(Continued)

Recreation Facility	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	Project Totals
CITY-WIDE FACILITIES					
City Park	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,955,000
Senior Center	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$809,000
Swimming Pool	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,308,000
Gymnasium	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,093,000
COMMUNITY PARKS AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES					
Laguna Hills Park	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,240,000
Elmira Leisure Park	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,055,000
Community Center	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,366,000
Lap Pool	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$887,000
ADDITIONS TO EXISTING COMMUNITY PARKS					
John Arlington Park	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$377,000
Keating Park	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$91,000
Nelson Park	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$378,000
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND FACILITIES					
Neighborhood Parks	\$1,249,000	\$0	\$1,249,000	\$1,249,000	\$12,490,000
Neighborhood Center (Modular)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$68,000	\$204,000
Neighborhood Center (Site Built)	\$0	\$455,000	\$0	\$0	\$455,000
FACILITIES FOR INDIVIDUAL AND ORGANIZED SPORTS					
Baseball/Softball Fields	\$387,429	\$387,429	\$387,429	\$774,857	\$5,424,000
Football/Soccer Fields	\$116,000	\$0	\$116,000	\$232,000	\$1,278,000
Tennis Courts	\$0	\$158,400	\$0	\$79,200	\$386,000
Basketball Courts	\$0	\$36,000	\$36,000	\$36,000	\$360,000
Volleyball Courts	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$54,000
Annual Total	\$1,752,429	\$1,036,829	\$1,788,429	\$2,439,057	\$36,218,000
Cumulative Total	\$30,953,686	\$31,990,514	\$33,778,943	\$36,218,000	

Source: Angus McDonald & Associates.

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Alternate Funding Sources

Traditional and non-traditional funding sources in addition to the Vacaville General Fund and development impact fees are available for consideration by the City.

State Grants

This is one of the most variable and volatile areas of future financing. Dependent on a combination of voter approved initiatives and State programming, grants are available to fund a broad combination of programs and facilities, often in combination with other public projects such as water facilities.

Most state grant programs require a local match of funds in combination with an adopted parks and recreation master plan. They tend to emphasize the importance of the contribution made by new development and reflect the need for a continuing 5 year capital improvements plan for parks facilities. The future of these grants is uncertain, depending in large measure on the fiscal health of the State. The major advocate for the continuation of these programs is the California Parks and Recreation Society which anticipates the sponsorship of new bond issues approximately every two to three years.

Federal Grants

Generally the grants available from the Federal Government have been derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. These funds are generally no longer available.

General Obligation Bonds

Cities may issue bonds with a 2/3 vote of the electorate to acquire, construct, or improve real property. The proceeds of these bonds may not be used for the purchase of equipment or to pay for maintenance and operations. Public improvements include community buildings, schools, parks, libraries and street and road improvements.

Mello-Roos Community Facilities Districts

Under the Mello-Roos Community Facilities District Act, the City may issue special tax bonds to finance various public improvements including the acquisition or construction of buildings, parks, schools, libraries and public utilities. They also allow for the use of funds for ongoing operations and maintenance of facilities. Funds for the repayment of the debt are derived from a tax rate fitted to the boundaries of the district. These facilities require a 2/3 vote of the electorate for passage. A Mello-Roos special tax can be approved by landowners, if the district is uninhabited.

Special Assessments

Assessment districts differ in from bond districts in the procedures used to develop a relationship between improvements and benefits received. Assessment Districts confirm their assessment and reflect the improvement through a lien against the land.

Funds raised must be used for a public purpose and must beneficially affect a defined and limited land area.

The total assessment may not exceed the cost and expense of the improvement and related bond financing.

The amount of the assessment on individual parcels must be proportional to the benefit received.

Improvements for which these assessments are levied are usually associated with infrastructure improvements.

Landscape and Lighting District Act of 1972

The purpose of this Act which is currently in Vacaville on a neighborhood by neighborhood basis, is to allow public agencies to raise funds for installing, maintaining and servicing public landscaping and lighting facilities. Funds can also be used to acquire land for parks, recreation facilities and open space lands. Parks or recreational improvements may also be installed including land preparation, lights, playground equipment, courts and public restrooms. The measure requires a vote of the City Council for enactment and is subject to majority protest provisions.

Development Agreements

The City may enter into negotiated agreements with developers. This can be used to advantage in order to allow creation of area specific improvements. Use of these agreements often entails waiving or modifying existing fees or exactions.

Creation of Local Trusts or Philanthropic Organizations

The City may pursue the development or creation of a locally based trust dedicated to parks or open space land acquisition. Variations include the possibility of neighborhood tree maintenance through local organizations and continuing trail maintenance by local civic organizations. The local trusts can raise funds, provide for volunteer contributions or act as the intermediary for land or easement dedication or land swaps.

Changes in the Fee Structure

Vacaville's standards reflect the use and potential demand of the current and projected population. They should be examined periodically, however, to reflect any changes in demand. This will necessitate the systematic accumulation of use statistics not only for facilities but for programs. We suggest that the City accumulate at least two years of data on usage prior to the establishment of a new parks and recreation facilities fee structure.

Current recreation program design within the City of Vacaville precludes non-resident program participation except in unique circumstances where resident demand allows extra enrollment. Program participation by non-residents is also reflected in higher user fees.

The most obvious demand area in the surveyed cities was for participant team sports such as softball or basketball, areas already impacted by excess demand in the City of Vacaville. This is generally handled through the creation of special non-resident fees for field rental. Additional demands may be placed on community facilities such as pools or the community center, but have not been measured as demand not covered by available fee structures.

A fee structure for non-resident recreation program participation may be developed in the future. This can be developed in conjunction with the data gathering efforts of the department in the future and should be tied to actual extra costs of providing service beyond the needs of the residents. This would also include a special fee schedule for the rental or usage of community facilities such as the Community Center by local business interests. Additional steps for the mitigation of non-resident demand could include:

1. Provision of trail facilities, bicycle or jogging paths either directly or in-lieu.
2. Provision on site of employee exercise facilities.
3. Provision of on-site parks or buffer facilities that provide passive recreation.

Maintenance

Establishing the Cost

Ongoing maintenance of facilities, either capital or land, is critical to their use potential and also in terms of containing costs into the future. That these costs are ongoing is evident by definition; they also tend to escalate over time as facilities age or use is intensified. This combined with the fact that maintenance is often a target for deferred funding in times of rising municipal costs and diminishing revenues makes them a particularly sensitive budget item. In comparison, they often reflect a small portion of a capital expenditure (especially when viewed on an initial or annual basis) and as a consequence may be overlooked when the question of the overall costs of new facilities are examined by a municipality.

Ongoing maintenance, however, represents a continuing and often increasing commitment of the municipality which will persist long after the capital facilities have been financed.

The analysis of maintenance costs has been divided into two sections - Neighborhood and Community Parks Facilities and Open Space Facilities. Neighborhood and Community Parks constitute a rather classical view of facilities including playing fields, restrooms, community center type buildings, picnic facilities, tennis courts, and swimming pools. The City of Vacaville currently funds the maintenance of these facilities through a combination of City-wide funding (the City General Fund) and neighborhood districts established through the use of the Landscape and Lighting District Act.

Ongoing maintenance of Open Space lands is a relatively new phenomena. Future parks and recreation activities will involve, at the very least, trail systems through or near Open Space lands and will necessitate the development of ongoing maintenance programs.

Parks and Recreation Facilities

Current maintenance practice as mentioned above concentrates on the upkeep of existing facilities in neighborhood and community parks and community maintained landscape facilities such as roadway medians. Shared facilities such as school district playing fields are maintained by the district maintaining ownership. In broad categories these include:

Land

- Mowing
- Watering
- Seeding/Overseeding
- Buffer Landscape Care

Facilities

- Pool maintenance
- Restroom Cleaning and Replenishment
- Community Facilities Upkeep and Repair
- Program Facilities Upkeep and Repair

Currently some parks within the City do not collect a sufficient annual assessment to cover actual costs. These maintenance costs are supplemented through the City General Fund (acct. 592). Custodial services are reflected under their own account number in the Parks budget.

Future Maintenance Costs

Several guidelines are available from other municipalities and recent experience in Vacaville with which to establish annual estimates of future costs. These include:

Parks	\$6,000/acre
Community Gardens	\$2,000/acre
Ongoing Pool Maintenance	\$150,000/year
Community Facilities	\$5.00/sq. ft.
(common area, meeting rooms, etc.)	
Median and Setback Landscaping	\$0.30/sq. ft.

1) Costs are in 1991/92 dollars and are subject to annual update.

The maintenance figures above account for labor and materials but do not cover replacement of capital facilities. It is not currently the practice of the City of Vacaville to provide for facilities replacement, a practice reinforced by the relatively recent construction of many of the facilities.

Open Space and Trails Facilities

By their very nature trail and passive open space facilities resist categorization of maintenance costs. Since some of these lands will remain in private ownership, the responsibilities will either be shared or delegated as the result of a limiting public/private agreement based on land use limitations. Where this occurs the public maintenance responsibility will be normally limited to fire suppression and rangeland fuel management.

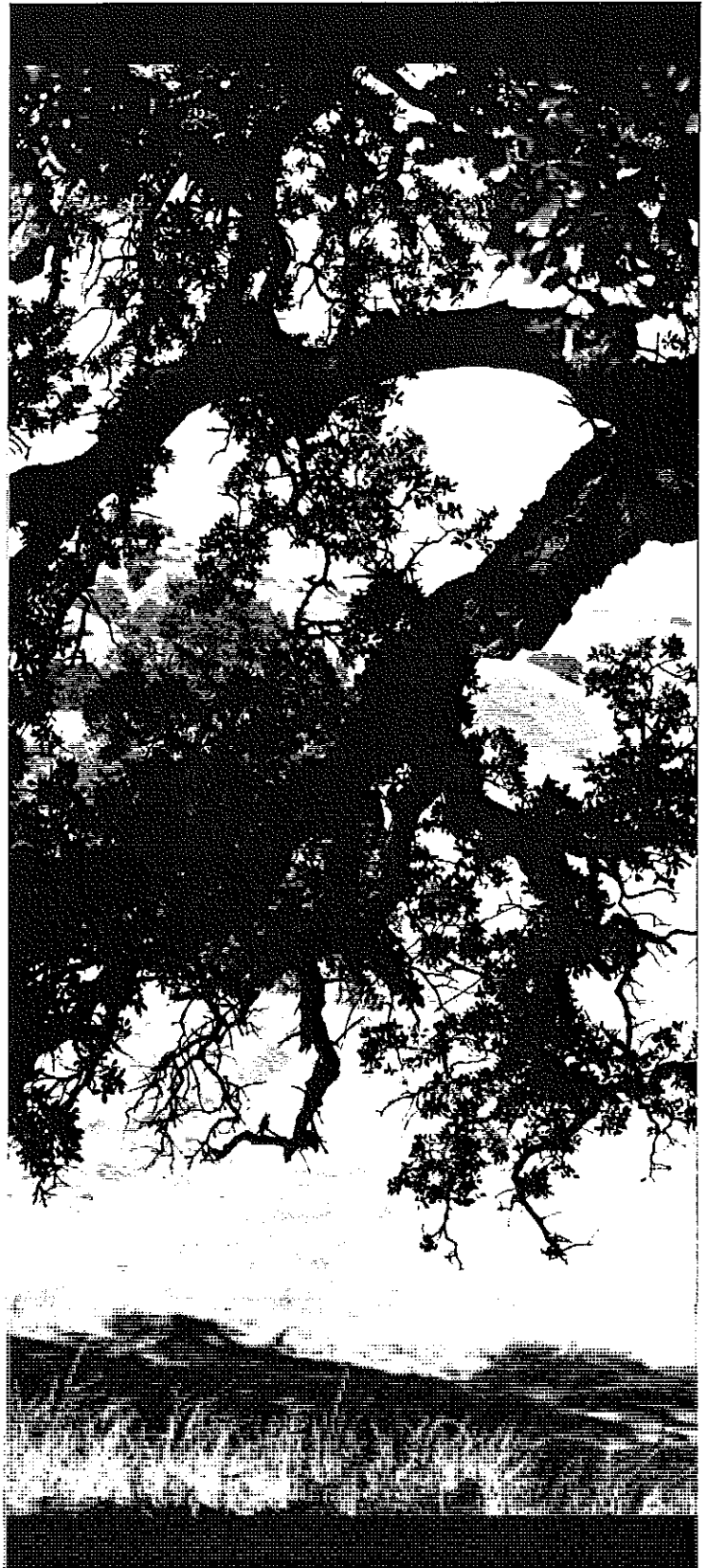
Maintaining hiking, jogging and equestrian trails is difficult to present on an average basis since trail design may vary widely. However, for non-surfaced trails requiring clearing and partial scraping we estimate that the costs will average \$2,000 per lineal mile annually. Associated rest areas or facilities are assumed to have a ten year useful life and to be maintained at rates approximately one half of those for improved facilities.

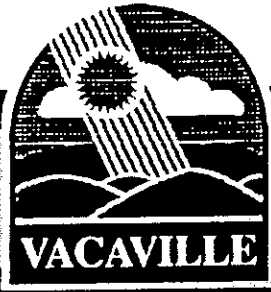
Future Funding

Currently the City maintains some facilities within its boundaries through an annual maintenance charge on a per household basis. This is supplemented by General Fund contributions. As development occurs the number of new neighborhoods utilizing maintenance districts will exceed 50% of the total. At this time, the City is contemplating the consolidation of district charges under the umbrella of a City-wide maintenance district.

Consolidation of maintenance districts, if it occurs, will be coordinated with parallel efforts to acquire or control the use of Open Space Lands and trail systems. This will allow a systematic maintenance schedule to be developed which can take into account the unique features of Open Space Lands and still result in cost efficient upkeep of facilities and improvements.

A P P E N D I X





PARK VISIONS 2000

PLANNING FOR A PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

For Your Information

The availability of City Park and Recreation facilities impacts your life in many ways. Did you know.....

- The current City population of 63,000 is expected to grow to 90,000 by the year 2,000, placing great demand on parks, recreation and open space?
- City group picnic facilities at Pena Adobe, Andrews Park and City Hall are booked 12 months in advance?
- Trower Neighborhood Center averaged 60 visitors a day this summer and increased to an average of 95 a day this Fall?
- The City has 250 adult softball teams?
- Little League had a waiting list this past summer?
- On some hot days this summer, children lined up on a stand by basis to get a chance to swim at the Community Pool?

- Some people wonder if we have enough room for senior programs, especially with an increasing elderly population?
- Some Vacaville schools may go to a year round school year decreasing the availability of school facilities and increasing the need for year round playground programs?

Master Plan Under Way

In order to address these issues, the City of Vacaville Community Services Department has contracted with Royston Hanamoto Alley and Abey, a landscape architecture and recreation planning firm, to prepare a Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.

The plan when adopted, will serve as a guide for orderly development of parks, recreational facilities, open space areas, and recreation programs.

Active participation by the public at

large, the Community Services Commission, the City Council, and City Staff will develop a flexible long range planning document. The master plan will address the following:

- Identify deficiencies in existing parks, recreation facilities, recreation programs.
- Assess community demand with workshops, a city-wide survey and a teen survey.
- Determine existing and future needs for parks and recreational facilities.
- Analyze opportunities for community open space.
- Develop an action plan with estimated costs and priorities for phasing.

The public is a vital member of the planning team. Your participation is requested at the community workshops to be held over the next few months. At our first meetings we need your help in identifying issues and concerns: what recreation opportunities are needed, what facilities you would like developed and how you perceive the future of your City parks and recreation.

You will have the opportunity to help formulate a preferred plan at a second workshop with the Community Services Commission early next year, and review the draft master plan at a third workshop, a joint meeting with the Community Services Commission and the City Council in the spring.

For Information Contact:

Robert Farrington
City Landscape Architect
Community Services Department
1100 Alamo Drive
Vacaville, CA 95687
(707) 449-5395

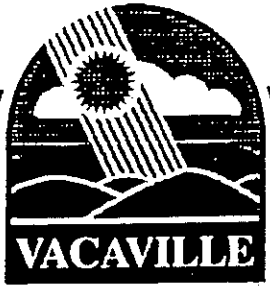
COMMUNITY MEETINGS:

Please join us in planning for Vacaville's Parks, Recreation and Open Space. For your convenience we have arranged three meeting times. The agenda will be the same for all three meetings. We hope you will be able to attend one of the following:

Monday November 19, 1990 11 a.m.
McBride Senior Center, 411 Kendal St.

Wednesday November 28, 1990 7 p.m.
Markham School, Markham Ave. and Brown St.

Tuesday December 4, 1990 7:30 p.m.
Vacaville Community Center, 1100 Alamo Dr.



PARK VISIONS 2000

PLANNING FOR A PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

For Your Information

The City of Vacaville Community Services Department has contracted with Royston Hanamoto Alley and Abey, a landscape architecture and recreation planning firm, to prepare a Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. Subconsultants are Moore Iacofano and Goltsman (MIG); and Walp and Moore.

The plan when adopted, will guide development of parks, recreational facilities, open space areas, and recreation programs. A preliminary aspect of the plan identifies *deficiencies* in existing parks, recreation facilities and programs and correlates this information to existing community *demand* in order to determine existing and future *needs*.

In assessing demand we conducted three community workshops late in the Fall, a youth survey in late November, and are now completing a Communitywide Survey

Community Workshops

On November 19 and 28, and December 4, 1990 the Planning Team held the first series of public involvement workshops. The discussion topic

addressed community recreation needs and desires, and goals for the future of Vacaville parks, open space and recreation programs.

Major issues included:

- Develop multi-use trail system.
- Link trails to parks, schools, open space.
- Use utility easements for trails.
- Connect bike trails throughout the City.
- Provide separate equestrian trails.
- Provide more open space.
- Preserve natural creek and hills.
- Increase trees and shrubs in all parks.
- Improve Vacaville Art League facility.
- Expand McBride Senior Center.
- Need amphitheater, festival grounds, concert/dance hall, miniature golf.
- Provide additional swimming pool.
- Provide more lighting on existing ballfields.
- Provide more adult softball fields.
- Install bocce ball courts in parks.
- Upgrade equipment at some parks.
- Add tennis, basketball, volleyball courts.
- Provide more restrooms and parking.
- Create a "gateway to Vacaville".
- Use volunteers in park improvements.
- Improve maintenance and security.

Youth Survey

From November 27 to December 3, 1990, MIG conducted a survey of 146 teenagers to identify the park and recreation needs of Vacaville youth and to determine how the City could improve recreation facilities and programs to better serve youth.

Major findings included:

- Youths hang out at malls (16%), movies (15%), friend's house (15%), parks (12%), and own house (8%).
- Youth socialize (27%), have fun (20%) and pursue sports (18%) with friends.
- When alone most youth are at home (65%), watch T.V., listen to music, read, or play sports.
- Youth recreate in average groups of 5.
- 37% of youth spend \$5-10 with friends.
- Most youth rely on parents and friends for transportation; 25% either walk or bicycle.
- Keating, Pena Adobe, Community Center/Pool, Andrews and Alamo Creek Parks are used most frequently.
- Big draws are baseball, waterslides, picnic areas, community pool and dances.
- Many parks are unknown to youth.
- Alamo Creek, Keating and North Orchard Parks are considered especially nice.
- Skating rink, dance club, baseball/football, and teen hang-outs are needed.
- 62% youth have used City programs.
- Youth want more places and activities.

Upcoming Public Meeting

At the upcoming public meeting with the Community Services Commission on February 6, we will be presenting more information on the results of the Community Workshops, the Youth Survey and the Community Survey (in-progress). We invite you to attend this meeting to update progress on the planning process.

The Planning Team will then develop alternatives at the next Community Workshop late in March. The alternatives will then be refined into a preliminary Master Plan for your review at a joint meeting with the Community Services Commission and the City Council in May. The final document will be presented in June.

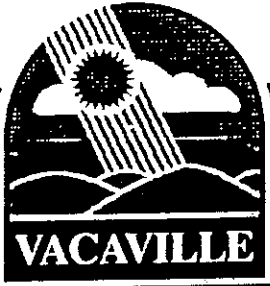
For Information Contact:

Robert Farrington
City Landscape Architect
Community Services Department
1100 Alamo Drive
Vacaville, CA 95687
(707) 449-5395

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING:

Please join us in planning for Vacaville's Parks, Recreation and Open Space. We will be providing a project update and summarizing the three community workshops, the Youth Survey, and the Community Survey.

Wednesday, February 6, 1991, 7 p.m.
Vacaville Community Center, Activity Room
1100 Alamo Drive



PARK VISIONS 2000

PLANNING FOR A PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

How would you like to

- swim competitively in an Olympic sized pool facility?
- play tennis in a statewide open?
- attend an outdoor summer concert in an amphitheater?
- send your child to an overnight scout camp facility?
- walk from your house to a local park along a beautiful creek trail?

.....all within Vacaville?

Vacaville Looks to the 21st Century

The City of Vacaville Community Services Department has contracted with **Royston Hanamoto Alley and Abey**, a landscape architecture and recreation planning firm, to prepare a Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. The plan when adopted, will guide development of parks, recreational facilities, open space areas, and recreation programs.

A preliminary aspect of the planning process identified *deficiencies* in existing parks and recreation facilities and correlated this information to existing community *demand*. The

Planning Team assessed demand by conducting three community workshops, a youth survey, and a Communitywide Survey. The results of this work was presented at the Community Services Meeting on Wednesday, February 6, 1991.

Since that date the Planning Team has prepared two additional reports. The **Recreation Programs** report identifies: recreation programs; the age group and number of people served; expressed needs; trends effecting program demand; and recommends future programs. The **Recreation Facilities** report inventories existing facilities; compares these facilities to National standards, selected similar communities and expressed community needs; and recommends facility standards for Vacaville. As an example, accounting for current use and projecting demand to the year 2000, the report recommends that Vacaville plan for 2-3 additional City swimming pools.

The results of these two reports have now been translated into a series of **Alternative Plans** for Vacaville's park system. If we need 2-3 new pools, where should they be located? Some of the highlights of these proposed plans include:

- A City wide Park with an Olympic pool and diving complex; a municipal golf course; lighted ballfields, competition tennis courts, and a gym.
- A Community Park along Leisure Town Rd. between a proposed junior high and high school with joint-use facilities including: swimming pool, gymnasium, ballfields.
- An amphitheater at the new Cultural Center.
- New ballfields on some of the existing detention basin sites.
- A passive rural park at one of the detention reservoir sites, for use as a daycamp/overnight camp and trail head to the open space system.
- Teen centers in association with community park or commercial areas, including the downtown area.
- Senior centers at two of the new community parks, developed in association with pre-school programs.
- Joint development of Lagoon Valley with the County to include facilities for regional festivals and fairs.

Upcoming Public Meeting

At the upcoming public meeting with the Community Services Commission on May 1, we will be presenting more information on the reports evaluating Recreation Programs and Facilities, along with reviewing a series of Alternatives for providing new parks and recreation facilities throughout the City. We invite you to attend this meeting to update progress on the planning process and to participate in choosing a direction for Vacaville's park and recreation system. These alternatives will then be refined into a preliminary Master Plan for your review at a joint meeting with the Community Services Commission and the City Council on June 11. The final document will be presented in July.

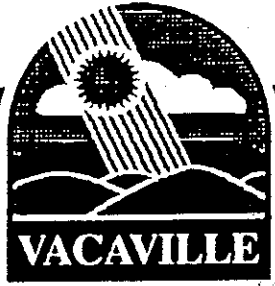
For Information Contact:

Robert Farrington
City Landscape Architect
Community Services Department
1100 Alamo Drive
Vacaville, CA 95687
(707) 449-5395

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING:

Please join us in planning for Vacaville's Parks, Recreation and Open Space. We will be providing a project update, summarizing the results of the Recreation Programs and Facilities Reports and presenting a series of Alternatives for parks and recreation facilities throughout the City.

Wednesday, May 1, 1991, 7 p.m.
Vacaville Community Center, Activity Room
1100 Alamo Drive



PARK VISIONS 2000

PLANNING FOR A PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Vacaville Looks to the 21st Century

If you are receiving this newsletter for the first time, the City of Vacaville Community Services Department has contracted with **Royston Hanamoto Alley and Abey**, a landscape architecture and recreation planning firm, to prepare a Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. The plan will guide development of parks, recreational facilities, open space areas, and recreation programs.

Initially the planning process identified *deficiencies* in existing parks and recreation facilities and correlated this information to existing community *demand*. We assessed demand by conducting three community workshops, a youth survey, and a communitywide survey. The results of this work was presented at the Community Services Meeting on Wednesday, February 6, 1991.

The Planning Team then prepared a **Recreation Programs** report assessing the availability of organized recreation activities and events in the community; and a **Recreation Facilities** report

inventorying existing facilities, comparing these facilities with National Recreation standards and recommending facility standards for Vacaville. The results of these two reports were used to develop preliminary alternatives for Vacaville's park system.

On May 1, 1990, a fourth Community Workshop was held to gather initial feedback from the community on the proposed park improvements. Thirty people attended the workshop in addition to the Community Service Commissioners. Workshop participants commented on the reports and the preliminary alternatives and indicated their top five priorities for recreation facility improvements.

Draft Master Plan

During the past month, the Planning Team developed a Draft Master Plan that summarizes work to date, recommends a series of policies to direct the overall program of the Plan, discusses a development program for both existing and proposed parks, and outlines implementing strategies with priorities and funding alternatives.

The Draft Master Plan recommends:

- Improvements to existing Neighborhood and Community Parks.
- A City Park to serve the entire City population as a centerpiece and outdoor recreational complex.
- Three new Community Parks between 20-25 acres located at three "gateway" locations to the City.
- New Neighborhood Parks and Neighborhood School Parks between 6-9 acres located within one half-mile of the park service area.
- Working with the County to pursue Lagoon Valley Park as a regional facility with urban recreation amenities.
- Developing a network of trails and bikeways to connect neighborhoods, parks, schools and other public facilities.
- Enhancing the visual character of Vacaville and providing opportunities for more passive recreation activities by acquiring specified Urban Open Space areas.

Upcoming Public Meeting

On June 18, we will present the Draft Master Plan to the City Council and the Community Services Commission. We invite you to attend this meeting to update progress on the planning process and to participate in reviewing the direction for Vacaville's park and recreation system. The final document will be presented to the City at a Community Services meeting on July 3 with approval by the City Council on July 9.

For Information:

Desk copies of the Draft Master Plan are available for review at:

- City Hall
650 Merchant Street
- Community Center
1100 Alamo Drive
- Vacaville Public Library
680 Merchant Street

Or Contact:

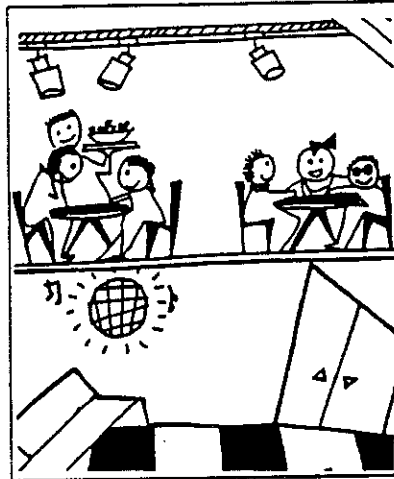
Robert Farrington, Landscape Architect
Community Services Department
(707) 449-5395

JOINT MEETING WITH CITY COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

Please join us in reviewing the Draft Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.

Tuesday, June 18, 1991, 7 p.m.

**Vacaville Community Center, Activity Room
1100 Alamo Drive**



City of Vacaville
Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Youth Survey Results

A Memorandum Prepared By

MOORE IACOFANO GOLTSMAN, INC.
1802 Fifth Street
Berkeley, CA 94710
415/845-7549

January, 1991

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Youth Survey Results

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the process and complete results of the Youth Survey. The purpose of this survey of 146 teenagers was to identify the park and recreation needs of Vacaville youth, and to determine how the City could improve recreation facilities and programs to better serve youth. The survey was part of a larger effort to assess community park and recreation needs and desires for future services and improvements.

The survey instrument was structured in four parts. The first part, "*Hang-Out*" Places, included seven questions about where teenagers recreate when alone and with friends, what they do, how many friends they hang out with, how much they usually spend when they go out and how they usually get around town.

The second part of the survey addressed *Use of Park Facilities and Recreation Programs*. This section included questions related to respondents' use of and activities in 24 specific parks and school recreation facilities. Open-ended questions asked respondents to identify places that they felt were especially nice or awful, and recreation programs or facilities that they want the City to provide. The last questions in this section asked about participation in City-sponsored recreation programs.

Part three of the survey instrument included two questions concerning *Other Youth Issues*. Respondents were asked why they think youth join gangs and what they think the City can do to make life better for youth in Vacaville.

The final part of the survey addressed *Background Information*. Questions were asked regarding the respondents length and location of residence, household size, racial or ethnic background, employment, age, gender and school enrollment.

Survey Development and Administration

The survey questions were developed by the consultant with input from City staff and Royston Hanamoto Alley and Abey. The survey instrument underwent several drafts and a pilot test before it was developed into its final form (see copy attached).

The survey distribution and administration plan was designed to reach a cross-section of Vacaville youth aged 12 to 18. Counselors at the two Vacaville middle schools (Willis Jepson and Vaca Pena) and the two high schools (Vacaville High and William Wood) each selected 10 students to comprise a survey administration team. The counselors selected students who represented the various groups or "cliques" on campus so that results would reflect a variety of youth opinions and needs. Approximately 40 youth were trained by the consultant (in four separate 1-hour trainings). Survey team members were instructed to interview 3 to 5 of their friends in person, using the survey instrument. All surveys were completed during the period from November 27 to December 3, 1990.

Survey Results

Major findings are summarized briefly below, followed by detailed results.

Major Findings

With a few exceptions, survey results indicate a diversity of responses from Vacaville youth. Because many survey questions were open-ended, allowing youth to respond in their own words, a variety of answers were given, with surprisingly little consensus.

When asked where they like to hang out with friends, respondents mentioned the *mall* (16%), *movies* (15%), and *my friend's house* (15%) in almost equal numbers. Various *parks* were also mentioned by respondents (12%). Although this percentage is not high, it is interesting to note that more youth hang out with friends at local parks than at their homes (8%). Respondents indicated that they like to *talk or socialize* (27%) or generally *hang out and have fun* (20%) when they are with their friends. *Sports and exercise* activities were also mentioned (18%).

According to survey results, the majority of youth like to be at *home* (65%) when they are alone, most of them in their room. Very few hang out alone at a *park* (5%). Most youth *watch television* (23%), *listen to music* (18%), or *read* (11%) when they are alone; however, some *play sports* (9%).

Vacaville youth recreate in groups of various sizes. The average or mean group size reported was 5 people, with a range from 2 to 22 and a median of 4 people.

Over a third (37%) of respondents said they spend approximately *five to ten dollars* when they go out with friends, although some spend less (28%) or more (36%). When asked how they usually get around town, many indicated that their *parents* (38%) or *friends* (21%) drive them. Nearly one quarter either *walk* (12%) or *bicycle* (12%).

Respondents were asked about their use of Vacaville parks. Results indicate that youth use the following parks most frequently: *Keating* (67%), *Pena Adobe* (54%), *Community Center/Pool* (45%), *Andrews/Ulatis* and *Alamo Creek* (42% each). *Baseball and softball* attract youth to *Keating Park*, the *waterslides* and *picnic areas* draw them to *Pena Adobe*, and the *community pool* and *dances* make the *Community Center* popular among youth. *Keating Park* is used several times a week by 31% of the 67% who indicated that they are users and the *Community Center* is used several times a week by 26% of the 45% who use it. Other parks, though not used by many respondents, are used frequently by users: *Willis Jepson Softball Park* is used several times a week by 50% and once a week by 24% of its users (34%); *Dos Calles Park* is used several times a week by 23% and once a week by 35% of the relatively small group of users (36%); and *Patwin Park* is used quite often by its few (24%) users.

Several parks were unknown to respondents; in fact, over a third of the sample have never heard of the following Vacaville parks: *Pheasant Run Park*, *Trower Park*, *Trower Neighborhood Center*, *Willows*, *Valley Oak*, *Patwin*, and *Meadowlands*.

192 When asked if they consider any of the parks "*especially nice*," respondents mentioned

Alamo Creek Park most often (20%), followed by Keating Park (13%) and North Orchard Park (10%). Fairmont-Beelard Park was considered "especially awful" (24%), with some youth noting the presence of gangs, and the dirty condition of the park. Sierra Vista School Park (19%) and Willows Park (14%) were also mentioned.

Survey participants expressed a diversity of recreation needs and desires rather than a strong consensus for any one facility or program. Skating rink (16%) received the most mentions and included mentions about hockey; dancing or dance club (11%), baseball and softball (7%), football (6%), basketball (5%), and teen hang-outs (5%) were also mentioned. Many other facilities and programs were mentioned one or two times.

Sixty-two percent (62%) of the survey sample said they have participated in City recreation programs, most of them sports programs. Baseball (24%) was mentioned most often, followed by soccer (18%), basketball (16%), and softball (13%).

According to survey respondents, youth join gangs to be cool and popular, to fit in or belong, or because of peer pressure (37%). Boredom was also mentioned (24%).

One of the strongest findings was in response to the question: "What can the City do to make life better for youth?" Nearly one-half of respondents said create more places and activities for youth (48%).

Detailed Results

Detailed results appear below within an expanded version of the survey instrument. Unless otherwise indicated (n=#), the number of respondents for each question is equal to the total sample of 146. For open-ended questions, where more than one response was possible, results appear as a percentage of total mentions with the number of total mentions for that question in parentheses (TM=#).

"HANG-OUT" Places

1. Where do you like to hang out with your friends? (Please name up to 3 places)

Percentage of Total Mentions*		(TM = 331)	
16%	Mall	8%	Around town / In car
15%	Movies	7%	Fast food places
15%	My friend's house	5%	Schools
12%	Parks	14%	Other
8%	At home		

2. What do you usually do when you're hanging out with friends? (Please name up to 3 things)

Percentage of Total Mentions*		(TM = 322)	
27%	Talk	4%	Listen to music
20%	Hang out / Have fun	4%	Dance / Party
18%	Sports / Exercise	4%	Shop / Window shop
6%	Watch movies	13%	Other
4%	Eat / Drink		

* The percentage of total mentions is the "mention rate," or the number of times an item was mentioned divided by the total of all items mentioned for this particular question (TM = #). Generally, items with few mentions are grouped in the "Other" category.

3. *Where do you like to hang out alone? (Please name up to two places)*

Percentage of Total Mentions*		(TM = 190)	
65%	My House/My Room	4%	Cruising Around
7%	In a special Place	3%	Backyard
5%	A Park	16%	Other

4. *What do you usually do? (Please name two things)*

Percentage of Total Mentions*		(TM = 244)	
23%	Watch TV	7%	Talk on the phone
18%	Listen to Music	7%	Think
11%	Read	25%	Other
9%	Play Sports		

5. *When you go out with your friends, how many people are usually in the group?*

6%	2 people	11%	6 people
19%	3 people	6%	7 people
26%	4 people	13%	8 or more people
19%	5 people		

6. *How much do you usually spend when you go out? (Please check one)*

7%	Less than \$2	18%	\$10 - \$15
21%	\$2 - \$5	18%	More than \$15
37%	\$5 - \$10		

7. *How do you usually get around town? (Please check one)*

38%	Parent drives	12%	Bicycle
21%	A friend drives	12%	Walk
14%	I drive	3%	Other

* The percentage of total mentions is the "mention rate," or the number of times an item was mentioned divided by the total of all items mentioned for this particular question (TM = #). Generally, items with few mentions are grouped in the "Other" category.

Use of Park Facilities and Recreation Programs

Now I'd like to ask you about your use of the following parks:

8A1. Do you use Alamo Creek Park?

- 42% Yes
- 47% No
- 11% Never heard of it

8A2. How often?
(n = 61)

- 5% Several times a week
- 25% Once a week
- 38% Once or twice a month
- 32% Less than once a month

8A3. What do you do there?
% of Total Mentions* (246)

- 15% Volleyball
- 15% Play games
- 9% Tennis
- 9% Jog / Run
- 9% Hang out
- 43% Other

8B1. Do you use Andrews/ Ulatas Park (Georgie Duke Center)?

- 42% Yes
- 44% No
- 14% Never heard of it

8B2. How often?
(n = 61)

- 7% Several times a week
- 20% Once a week
- 22% Once or twice a month
- 52% Less than once a month

8B3. What do you do there?
% of Total Mentions* (122)

- 21% Spectator sports
- 15% Basketball
- 11% Run
- 9% Soccer
- 44% Other

8C1. Do you use the Community Center (City Pool)?

- 45% Yes
- 54% No
- 1% Never heard of it

8C2. How often?
(n = 66)

- 26% Several times a week
- 5% Once a week
- 15% Once or twice a month
- 55% Less than once a month

8C3. What do you do there?
% of Total Mentions* (174)

- 40% Swim
- 30% Dance
- 7% Picnic / BBQ
- 23% Other

8D1. Do you use Dos Calles Padan Park?

- 36% Yes
- 51% No
- 13% Never heard of it

8D2. How often?
(n = 53)

- 23% Several times a week
- 35% Once a week
- 17% Once or twice a month
- 25% Less than once a month

8D3. What do you do there?
% of Total Mentions* (146)

- 16% Soccer
- 14% Frisbee
- 12% Basketball
- 10% Picnic / BBQ
- 10% Jungle gym
- 38% Other

* The percentage of total mentions is the "mention rate," or the number of times an item was mentioned divided by the total of all items mentioned for this particular question (TM = #). Generally, items with few mentions are grouped in the "Other" category.

8E1. Do you use Fairmont/ Beelard Park?

40% Yes
50% No
10% Never heard of it

8E2. How often?
(n = 58)

20% Several times a week
7% Once a week
29% Once or twice a month
44% Less than once a month

8E3. What do you do there?
% of Total Mentions* (136)

24% Hang out
16% Soccer
13% Baseball / Softball
11% Basketball
11% Run / Jog
25% Other

8F1. Do you use Irene Larson Ball Diamonds?

20% Yes
64% No
16% Never heard of it

8F2. How often?
(n = 29)

13% Several times a week
10% Once a week
26% Once or twice a month
51% Less than once a month

8F3. What do you do there?
% of Total Mentions* (40)

55% Baseball / Softball
25% Spectator sports
5% Basketball
15% Other

8G1. Do you use Valley Oak Park (Nut Tree Landing)? (n = 10)

7% Yes
55% No
38% Never heard of it

8G2. How often?
(n = 10)

8% Several times a week
8% Once a week
58% Once or twice a month
25% Less than once a month

8G3. What do you do there?
% of Total Mentions* (17)

47% Picnic / BBQ
12% Bike riding
41% Other

8H1. Do you use Meadowlands Park (on Vandan Road)?

24% Yes
45% No
31% Never heard of it

8H2. How often?
(n = 35)

14% Several times a week
22% Once a week
17% Once or twice a month
47% Less than once a month

8H3. What do you do there?
% of Total Mentions* (47)

15% Soccer
15% Pick up friends
11% Hang out
11% Run / Jog
11% Basketball
37% Other

* The percentage of total mentions is the "mention rate," or the number of times an item was mentioned divided by the total of all items mentioned for this particular question (TM = #). Generally, items with few mentions are grouped in the "Other" category.

8I1. Do you use Nelson Park?

21% Yes
50% No
29% Never heard of it

**8I2. How often?
(n = 31)**

10% Several times a week
10% Once a week
27% Once or twice a month
53% Less than once a month

**8I3. What do you do there?
% of Total Mentions* (45)**

49% Baseball / Softball
20% Spectator sports
13% Listen to music
4% Soccer
14% Other

8J1. Do you use North Orchard Park?

38% Yes
46% No
16% Never heard of it

**8J2. How often?
(n = 55)**

21% Several times a week
16% Once a week
23% Once or twice a month
39% Less than once a month

**8J3. What do you do there?
% of Total Mentions* (78)**

14% Basketball
13% Football
12% Jungle gym
9% Tennis
8% Hang out
44% Other

8K1. Do you use Patwin Park (Arbor Oaks)?

24% Yes
42% No
34% Never heard of it

**8K2. How often?
(n = 35)**

28% Several times a week
14% Once a week
19% Once or twice a month
39% Less than once a month

**8K3. What do you do there?
% of Total Mentions* (55)**

29% Volleyball
16% Think
13% Bike riding
9% Basketball
33% Other

8L1. Do you use Pena Adobe Park?

54% Yes
41% No
5% Never heard of it

**8L2. How often?
(n = 79)**

8% Several times a week
18% Once a week
30% Once or twice a month
44% Less than once a month

**8L3. What do you do there?
% of Total Mentions* (124)**

34% Water slides
16% Picnic / BBQ
9% Bike riding
6% Go-carts
6% Remote control cars
29% Other

* The percentage of total mentions is the "mention rate," or the number of times an item was mentioned divided by the total of all items mentioned for this particular question (TM = #). Generally, items with few mentions are grouped in the "Other" category.

8M1. Do you use Pheasant Run Park (Country Village)?

3% Yes
40% No
57% Never heard of it

8M2. How often?

(Insufficient data)

8M3. What do you do there?

(Insufficient data)

8N1. Do you use Trower Park?

4% Yes
40% No
56% Never heard of it

8N2. How often?

(Insufficient data)

8N3. What do you do there?

(Insufficient data)

8O1. Do you use Trower Neighborhood Center?

1% Yes
45% No
54% Never heard of it

8O2. How often?

(Insufficient data)

8O3. What do you do there?

(Insufficient data)

8P1. Do you use Keating Park?

67% Yes
28% No
5% Never heard of it

8P2. How often?
(n = 98)

31% Several times a week
18% Once a week
15% Once or twice a month
36% Less than once a month

8P3. What do you do there?
% of Total Mentions* (138)

50% Baseball / Softball
15% Spectator sports
12% Football
23% Other

* The percentage of total mentions is the "mention rate," or the number of times an item was mentioned divided by the total of all items mentioned for this particular question (TM = #). Generally, items with few mentions are grouped in the "Other" category.

8Q1. Do you use Willis Jepson Softball Park?

34% Yes
62% No
4% Never heard of it

8Q2. How often?
(n = 50)

50% Several times a week
24% Once a week
16% Once or twice a month
10% Less than once a month

8Q3. What do you do there?
% of Total Mentions* (55)

39% Baseball / Softball
31% Exercise (P.E.)
7% Run / Jog

8R1. Do you use Willows Park?

11% Yes
51% No
38% Never heard of it

8R2. How often?
(n = 16)

12% Several times a week
35% Once a week
18% Once or twice a month
35% Less than once a month

8R3. What do you do there?
% of Total Mentions* (25)

28% Frisbee
12% Basketball
12% Hang out
8% Bike riding
8% Baby sit
8% Hike
24% Other

School Parks

8S1. Do you use Alamo School Park?

23% Yes
73% No
4% Never heard of it

8S2. How often?
(n = 34)

9% Several times a week
24% Once a week
29% Once or twice a month
38% Less than once a month

8S3. What do you do there?
% of Total Mentions* (41)

22% Soccer
15% Baseball / Softball
10% Football
10% Basketball
43% Other

8T1. Do you use Cambridge School Park?

8% Yes
77% No
14% Never heard of it

8T2. How often?
(n = 12)

0% Several times a week
23% Once a week
23% Once or twice a month
54% Less than once a month

8T3. What do you do there?
% of Total Mentions* (14)

14% Baseball / Softball
14% Football
14% Basketball
14% Tether Ball
14% Hang out
30% Other

* The percentage of total mentions is the "mention rate," or the number of times an item was mentioned divided by the total of all items mentioned for this particular question (TM = #). Generally, items with few mentions are grouped in the "Other" category.

8U1. Do you use Fairmont School Park?

25% Yes
70% No
5% Never heard of it

**8U2. How often?
(n = 37)**

13% Several times a week
19% Once a week
38% Once or twice a month
30% Less than once a month

**8U3. What do you do there?
% of Total Mentions* (46)**

30% Basketball
11% Soccer
11% Pick up friend
11% Baby sit
11% Football
9% Hang out
17% Other

8V1. Do you use Fairmont School Playground?

13% Yes
81% No
6% Never heard of it

**8V2. How often?
(n = 19)**

20% Several times a week
25% Once a week
30% Once or twice a month
25% Less than once a month

**8V3. What do you do there?
% of Total Mentions* (22)**

32% Basketball
14% Hang out
14% Baby sit
9% Pick up friend
9% Jungle gym
22% Other

8W1. Do you use Hemlock School Park?

17% Yes
76% No
7% Never heard of it

**8W2. How often?
(n = 25)**

15% Several times a week
23% Once a week
12% Once or twice a month
50% Less than once a month

**8W3. What do you do there?
% of Total Mentions* (24)**

29% Baseball / Softball
13% Basketball
13% Special Programs
8% Bike riding
8% Baby sit
8% Play games
21% Other

8X1. Do you use Sierra Vista School Park?

29% Yes
65% No
6% Never heard of it

**8X2. How often?
(n = 42)**

15% Several times a week
24% Once a week
32% Once or twice a month
29% Less than once a month

**8X3. What do you do there?
% of Total Mentions* (44)**

34% Soccer
9% Baseball / Softball
9% Basketball
7% Football
7% Play games
7% Use swingsets
27% Other

* The percentage of total mentions is the "mention rate," or the number of times an item was mentioned divided by the total of all items mentioned for this particular question (TM = #). Generally, items with few mentions are grouped in the "Other" category.

9. Was there any place we've just been discussing, that you think is an especially nice place?

Percentage of Total Mentions*		(TM = 106)	
20%	Alamo Creek Park	8%	Meadowlands Park
13%	Keating Park	8%	Fairmont/Beelard Park
10%	North Orchard Park	8%	Patwin Park
9%	Georgie Duke Center	24%	Other

10. Was there any place we've just discussed, that you consider especially awful?

Percentage of Total Mentions*		(TM = 74)	
24%	Fairmont/Beelard Park	7%	Georgie Duke Center
19%	Sierra Vista School Park	7%	Keating Park
14%	Willows Park	29%	Other

11. Are there any recreation programs or facilities that you want the City to provide? (Please name up to three things)

Percentage of Total Mentions*		(TM = 153)	
16%	Skating Rink	5%	Teen Hang-outs
11%	Dancing/Dance Club	3%	Swimming Pools
7%	Baseball/Softball	3%	Skateboard Park
6%	Football	3%	Recreation Center
5%	Basketball	59%	Other

12. Have you participated in any City recreation programs?

62% Yes
38% No

12A. [If Yes:] Which ones? (List below)

Percentage of Total Mentions*		(TM = 142)	
24%	Baseball	8%	Football
18%	Soccer	5%	Gymnastics
16%	Basketball	16%	Other
13%	Softball	(Note: some respondents considered Little League a City-sponsored program).	

* The percentage of total mentions is the "mention rate," or the number of times an item was mentioned divided by the total of all items mentioned for this particular question (TM = #). Generally, items with few mentions are grouped in the "Other" category.

Other Youth Issues

Now I have a few general questions about youth:

13. Why do you think youth join gangs?

- Percentage of Total Mentions* (TM = 143)
- 37% So they can be cool and popular/ To fit in or belong/ Peer pressure
 - 24% Don't have anything to do / Bored / Not enough affordable places to go
 - 10% Protection / They are scared / They are insecure
 - 6% To get back at parents / Problems at home / Lack of care
 - 5% They are stupid and foolish
 - 4% Nowhere else to go / Life is bad / They want to die
 - 14% Other

14. What do you think the City can do to make life better for youth in Vacaville?

- Percentage of Total Mentions* (TM = 120)
- 48% Create more places and activities for teens
 - 9% Offer more sports and sport facilities
 - 7% Provide cool dance clubs for teens
 - 5% Stop gangs
 - 31% Other

Background Information

To finish up, I have a few background questions:

15. How long have you lived in Vacaville?

- 6% 0 - 1 year
 - 37% 2 - 5 years
 - 22% 6 - 10 years
 - 30% 11 - 15 years
 - 6% 16 - 20 years
- Mean: 8 years
Range: 1-19 years

16. Please show me on the map generally where you live now:

- 15% Area 1 (See map Attached)
- 34% Area 2
- 41% Area 3
- 10% Area 4

202 * The percentage of total mentions is the "mention rate," or the number of times an item was mentioned divided by the total of all items mentioned for this particular question (TM = #). Generally, items with few mentions are grouped in the "Other" category.

17. How many people live at home with you, including yourself?

4%	2 people	Mean: 4.34 people Range: 2-10 people
18%	3 people	
42%	4 people	
23%	5 people	
8%	6 people	
1%	7 people	
4%	8 or more people	

18. What is your racial or ethnic background?

4%	Black
68%	White
13%	Hispanic
4%	Asian/Pacific Islander
1%	Native American
9%	Multi-racial
1%	Other

19. What school do you go to?

29%	Willis Jepson Middle School
25%	William Wood High School
22%	Vacaville High School
22%	Vaca Pena Middle School
1%	Elm High School
1%	Country High School

20. Do you have a paid job?

45%	Yes
55%	No

[If Yes:] 20A. What is your job?

Percentage of Total Mentions*		(TM = 64)	
47%	Baby sit	6%	Work at parent's office
9%	Mow lawn	5%	Cook
9%	Clerk / Salesperson	3%	Work for the City
8%	Cashier	7%	Other
6%	Waitress / Waiter		

* The percentage of total mentions is the "mention rate," or the number of times an item was mentioned divided by the total of all items mentioned for this particular question (TM = #). Generally, items with few mentions are grouped in the "Other" category.

21. How old are you?

12% 11 and 12 years old
29% 13 years old
13% 14 years old
15% 15 years old
13% 16 years old
13% 17 years old
5% 18 and 19 years old

Mean age: 14.5 years
Range: 11-19 years

22. [By Observation]

50% Male
50% Female

RESIDENT ATTITUDES TOWARD PARKS AND RECREATION
In the
CITY of VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA

**OBSERVATIONS OF A SURVEY OF
300 RANDOMLY SELECTED VACAVILLE HOUSEHOLDS**

CONDUCTED FOR
CITY OF VACAVILLE
Department of Community Services
and
ROYSTON HANAMOTO ALLEY & ABEY
Landscape Architects & Planners

January 1991

Bernard Walp
Public Opinion Research

Michal C. Moore
Economic Analysis

400 Montgomery Street, Ste. 300 ■ San Francisco 94104-1211 ■ (415) 394-7005

Respondent's gender:

MALE ----- 50%
FEMALE ----- 50%

DATE OF INTERVIEW: Thursday, 10 January 1991 ----- 1%
Friday, 11 January 1991 ----- 28%
Saturday, 12 January 1991 ----- 17%
Sunday, 13 January 1991 ----- 17%
Monday, 14 January 1991 ----- 36%

1. Introduction

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm calling
for American Opinion Research.

Have I reached the _____ household?

We are working on a brief PUBLIC OPINION POLL of Vacaville
residents. We are not selling anything, I will not ask you for a
contribution, and your responses are confidential. Do you have
several minutes for me to ask your opinions on some of these
issues?

2. Qualification

First, how many years have you lived in Vacaville?
1 to 4 years --- 29%
5 to 14 years -- 37%
15 to 77 years - 33%

Are you 18 years of age or older? ----- YES

3. About Vacaville

I'd like to read you several qualities about Vacaville, and have you grade the city, just like in school: A, B, C, D, or F. "A" means excellent, and "F" means total failure. Based on what you know, how would you grade the community as a whole on . . .

NB: To spread bias that could arise from sequencing, these 15 items were asked in different order in different interviews.

	A	B	C	D	F	?
The condition of streets and sidewalks	9%	35%	39%	10%	6%	1%
The way your tax dollars are managed	4%	29%	37%	9%	5%	16%
Preventing crime	10%	47%	28%	8%	2%	6%
Creating a healthy business climate	13%	41%	28%	11%	3%	3%
Providing a good environment to raise a family	19%	49%	22%	6%	1%	2%
Vacaville's image to outsiders.	12%	43%	32%	5%	0%	7%
Opportunities for parks and recreation	15%	33%	35%	10%	2%	4%
The attractiveness of the neighborhoods	11%	49%	33%	4%	0%	3%
Scenic views of nature and wildlife	10%	32%	35%	13%	4%	6%
Our friendliness to each other	15%	49%	28%	5%	1%	1%
Ease of getting around town from place to place to place	9%	34%	33%	15%	8%	2%
The availability of open-space lands	11%	29%	36%	14%	3%	6%
The quality of schools for children	14%	35%	27%	6%	1%	17%
The quality of the air	19%	50%	24%	2%	2%	2%
Opportunities for young people	4%	23%	39%	15%	7%	13%

It is interesting to note the higher number of "don't know" responses regarding schools and tax dollars.

Seasonal considerations possibly are responsible for the relatively high ranking for air quality.

Vacaville residents rank the community highly well for its human qualities: the business climate, the good environment for raising a family, and "our friendliness to each other."

4. Open-ended probe: The most important local problem

As we begin a new year, and look toward the twenty-first century, is there any one local issue or concern in Vacaville, that you believe really needs the most attention from City Hall?

NB: Verbatim responses were recorded, and classified as follows:

Growth & planning issues -----	26%
Crime, gangs and drugs -----	13%
Streets, traffic and transportation --	12%
The needs of youth -----	8%
Schools -----	5%
Environmental issues -----	4%
Business, jobs and the economy -----	4%
Water and drought issues -----	3%
Library needs -----	2%
Miscellaneous -----	5%
dk/na -----	16%

5. Ranking of spending priorities

I'm going to read you a few things that city government does in Vacaville. As I name each item, please tell me whether you think the city should spend more on it, or spend less, or if you think spending is about right. If you have no opinion, that's okay too.

NB: To spread bias that could arise from sequencing, these 14 items were asked in different order in different interviews.

	<u>City should SPEND MORE</u>	<u>City should SPEND LESS</u>	<u>Spending's ABOUT RIGHT</u>	<u>dk/na</u>
Encouraging commuters to use car pools	49%	6%	30%	15%
Law enforcement	51%	4%	41%	4%
Protect wildlife habitats	37%	7%	35%	21%
Child care	44%	6%	27%	24%
Senior citizen programs	39%	4%	43%	14%
Purchasing land to preserve open space	48%	9%	30%	14%
Developing athletic fields and courts	39%	10%	41%	10%
Improving the bus system	36%	6%	43%	15%
Planting and maintaining trees	49%	7%	39%	5%
Counseling school children on the dangers of drug abuse	57%	4%	29%	10%
Developing places for camping, fishing and water sports	36%	15%	37%	11%
Building trails for hikers, bicycles and horses	44%	12%	33%	11%
Encouraging the people to recycle their garbage	80%	1%	15%	3%
Developing new neighborhood parks and playgrounds	46%	5%	41%	8%

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Note the difference between attitudes toward athletic fields & courts and parks & playgrounds, on the one hand, and tree planting, trails, recycling and car-pooling.

6. Personal Activity Patterns

Now the rest of my questions will be used to help Vacaville develop its new Master Plan for Parks and Recreation.

First, would you say you are an active, above average user of parks and recreation facilities in Vacaville, or about average, or below average user of city parks and recreation facilities?

ACTIVE, ABOVE AVERAGE -	16%
Average -----	45%
BELOW AVERAGE -----	39%

Would you say that parks and recreation are more important to you than they are to the average citizen, or less important, or about the same?

MORE important ---	26%
ABOUT THE SAME ---	49%
LESS important ---	23%
dk/na -----	2%

Newer residents were more likely to answer "more important" (33% of residents under 5 years). Only 22% of those residing at least 15 years answered this way. Fully two-thirds of those over age 69 responded "less important."

Now I'd like to run through a selected list of leisure activities you may or may not engage in. Regardless of WHERE you do it, I'd like to know which of these activities you have participated in at least 5 times during the last year:

	<u>Do Now</u>	<u>Wish I Could do More (*)</u>
Tennis	14%	3%
Exercise walking	71%	6%
Flower arrangement	14%	1%
Baseball	18%	1%
Softball	25%	3%
Painting or drawing	13%	0%
Ballet	3%	0%
Judo	3%	0%
Boxing	0%	0%
Gymnastics	5%	0%
Volleyball	15%	0%
Hobby arts & crafts	34%	2%
Bowling	25%	2%
Target shooting	11%	2%
Archery	3%	1%
Jogging or running	35%	3%
Hiking	35%	2%
Basketball	19%	0%
Swimming	43%	3%
Fishing	32%	3%
Hunting	11%	0%
Bicycling	48%	8%
Bingo	8%	0%
Watching local sports games in Vacaville	32%	0%
Boating	23%	0%
Aerobics	17%	0%
Racquetball	13%	0%
Horseback riding	5%	2%
Outdoor photography	21%	1%
Bird watching	13%	0%
Sunbathing	20%	0%
Golf	20%	3%

The dominant activity pattern among Vacaville residents is that of self-directed, less organized activities such as cycling, exercise walking, swimming and bicycling.

Most of these activities declined with increasing age. Those which declined the least with age were exercise walking, painting/drawing, hobby arts and crafts, and hiking.

A number of activities were especially prevalent among respondents who felt they held parks and recreation more important than average: Softball, jogging/running, swimming, fishing, and cycling. The one negative correlation was "hobby arts and crafts."

Softball is popular among working people (38%).

(*) . . . was there anything on that list that you'd do MORE of, if you felt there were adequate opportunities in Vacaville?

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The two bigger opportunities for improvement, in the public's opinion, are cycling and exercise walking. (Among those who consider themselves more active than average users, fully 22% thought improved cycling opportunities would lead them to become more active.

Was there any pastime of yours, or recreation activity you're involved in, that I didn't mention just now?

NB: Verbatim responses were recorded, and classified as follows:

Various outdoor activities	-----	11%
Various indoor activities	-----	7%
dk/na	-----	82%

There were surprisingly few responses here. Of the two general classes, both decline with age.

7. Types of Places

Here's a list of 7 kinds of PLACES that might be found in Vacaville. As I read each one, please tell me whether you think city planners should give it TOP PRIORITY, MEDIUM PRIORITY, or LOW PRIORITY:

NB: To spread bias that could arise from sequencing, these 7 items were asked in different order in different interviews.

Here's the first one:

	<u>TOP</u>	<u>MEDIUM</u>	<u>LOW</u>	<u>dk/na</u>
Places for children under 12	53%	33%	6%	8%
Places for peacefulness and tranquility	31%	48%	16%	5%
Places to dine and socialize	23%	51%	22%	4%
Places for teenagers and young adults	71%	20%	3%	5%
Places to walk and run	37%	47%	12%	5%
Places to picnic and play volleyball	29%	54%	11%	6%
Places for indoor sports and exercise	25%	51%	18%	6%

Here is another case of clearly stated preference for (1) places for youth; and (2) less structured, more individualized pastimes. It would appear that Vacaville citizens place a high value on access to places that allow a variety of activities, at the users' whim. "Peacefulness and tranquility" did not score as highly on this relative scale as they have in other communities surveyed.

8. Policy questions

As Vacaville makes its plans for the future, there has been some discussion about the size and location of new facilities. SOME PEOPLE think new facilities should be large, regional centers that would serve people from all over town. OTHER PEOPLE think that there should be mostly small, neighborhood centers nearer to many people's homes.

What do you think: would you favor	LARGE, REGIONAL	----	37%
large, regional recreation centers, or	SMALL, NEIGHBORHOOD		52%
smaller, neighborhood centers?	dk/na	---	11%

Interestingly, there were no statistically significant departures from this pattern among any identified respondent subgroup.

n = 300

Some citizens have asked the City to build more trails for horses, hikers and bicycles. If more trails are to be developed, would you rather see trails for getting around town from place to place, or trails that go out into the countryside?

GET AROUND TOWN -- 39%
OUT to COUNTRYSIDE 41%
dk/na -- 20%

Renters and respondents under age 40 expressed a preference for trails that take one into the countryside.

Currently, the City of Vacaville has a tree-planting program along residential streets, but it is left up to the property owner to take care of the trees. Some people have suggested that the city become much more active with trees.

If there were an election today, would you vote FOR or AGAINST a proposition to double the number of trees the City plants every year, and have the city maintain those trees, and charge every property owner 15 dollars a year to pay for it?

Vote FOR ----- 53%
Vote AGAINST ----- 34%
dk/na - 13%

A 53:34 ratio is no "mandate." A strong campaign would have to be waged to get a "yes" vote for such an assessment; a two-thirds vote is probably out of the question at this time.

Sentiment in favor was stronger among renters, the 18-29 and 50-59 age group, and respondents who thought they hold parks and recreation more important than does the average citizen.

Opposition is spirited among respondents over age 69. Support drops off as length of residency increases.

Vacaville has a complex system for charging for park maintenance. Up until the Nineteen Seventies, the general property tax provided for all park maintenance. With more recent subdivisions, the city created assessment districts whereby different neighborhoods paid a fee for park maintenance in their area. Today this has resulted in about half the residents paying a yearly assessment fee -- of different amounts in different neighborhoods. The other half pay no special yearly fee.

Some people now suggest that the city replace the current system and instead assess every Vacaville household the same fee. With this change, some people would pay more than they do now; and others would pay less, but everyone would pay the same as everyone else.

What do you think: should the city of Vacaville replace the current system of many districts with one single district, or should things stay the way they are now?

REPLACE -----	34%
STAY -----	43%
dk/na ----	23%

Opposition is stronger among below-average park and recreation facility users, those believing they hold parks and recreation less important than the average citizen, and voters over age 39. Voters under age 40 support the change.

9. Soap box

Before we wind up: if you could make the Vacaville parks and community service people do one thing, what would that be?

NB: Verbatim responses were recorded, and classified as follows:

Do better job of maintaining and protecting parks	15%
Build more facilities & parks -----	12%
Target more programs & activities to youth -----	10%
More trails for biking & jogging -----	3%
Miscellaneous -----	18%
dk/na -----	43%

10. Demographics

And now we finish with several questions for statistical purposes. . .

First, can you tell me your age?

UNDER 20 -----	3%
20-29 -----	11%
30-39 -----	22%
40-49 -----	25%
50-59 -----	16%
60-69 -----	11%
70 or OLDER -----	11%
dk/na/refused -	2%

n = 300

Are there children under 18 in your home? YES ----- 44%
 NO ----- 56%

Do you OWN or RENT the home where you currently live? OWN ----- 82%
 RENT ----- 17%
 dk/na/other - 1%

Do you have a job outside the home? YES ----- 58%
 NO ----- 41%
 dk/na ----- 0%

ZIP code: 95687 ----- 52%
 95688 ----- 48%

Time interview completed: 9 am ----- 2% 3 pm ----- 0%
 10 am ----- 6% 4 pm ----- 0%
 11 am ----- 7% 5 pm ----- 7%
 [nearest hour] Noon ----- 7% 6 pm ----- 22%
 1 pm ----- 9% 7 pm ----- 16%
 2 pm ----- 4% 8 pm ----- 18%
 9 pm ----- 2%

A decorative border of stylized flowers and leaves surrounds the text. The border consists of a top horizontal line with flowers, two vertical lines with flowers, and a bottom horizontal line with flowers.

CITY OF VACAVILLE

CREEKWAYS POLICY

PARK PLANNING DIVISION

**RECEIVED
RHAA**

217

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CREEKWAYS STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The City of Vacaville considers the creeks and their adjoining setbacks to be a natural resource that is both a conduit of water runoff and a natural habitat. The City recognizes that these natural conduits can also serve as transportation links for bikes and pedestrians; sources of active and passive recreation; as well as open space corridors that preserve this City's quality of life.

PROPOSED CREEKWAYS POLICY PLAN

I. Public Access

A. Development - Creekside development shall provide and improve public access using the following guidelines and standards:

1. The creek setback is determined by measuring 40' back from that stable top of bank. The stable top of bank is determined by measuring from the toe of slope within the creek to the top of bank at a 2:1 slope. A soils engineer may be required to determine the stability of the bank material.
2. Wherever possible place public streets parallel or adjacent to creeks with a 40' setback from stable top of bank.
3. All creek bank and channel frontage along a project shall be cleaned to the extent that construction and other unsightly debris be removed. A site inspection with the developer and City staff shall be required for compliance during the planning stage and prior to final Council acceptance.
4. Erosion damaged creek banks are to be stabilized and/or repaired to the extent that natural vegetation can be re-established. Methods of stabilization shall be:
 - a. Rock rip-rap
 - b. Precast, interlocking blocks with planting pockets
 - c. Wired brush wattling (Willow or Cottonwood cuttings bundled and buried into the creek bank for rooting)
 - d. Gabions (wire baskets filled with rocks)
5. Bike trails shall be required as necessary to link up with existing as well as proposed adjacent public trails. See detail #1 for specification requirements.
6. Multi-use prefabricated bridges may be required to link trail sections. If such a connection is required, see detail #2 for specification requirements.
7. Vehicular restrictive devices on trails shall consist of removable bollards (detail #3) and/or bar gates (detail #4).
8. Lighting of access points on streets or cul-de-sacs shall be accomplished with standard street light luminaries placed to illuminate both the street and the trail point of entry.

9. Automatically irrigated landscaping may be required in situations that need screening or barriers. Examples: private property privacy protection, separately between trails and streets, directional protection of public facilities or environmentally sensitive areas. See Section 2 "Ornamental Vegetation" for a list of acceptable plants for such purposes.
 10. Bike trail rest areas may be required at key intersections of major arterials, creek crossings, adjacent park sites, key natural features or vistas, or prescribed distances (example: every 1/2 mile). Amenities required at these rests are:
 - a. Picnic tables - detail #5 (minimum 2)
 - b. Informational kiosk - detail #8
 - c. Potable water point of connection and sump drain - detail 9.
 - d. Regulatory sign posts - detail #7
- B. Transportation - The City shall develop a 10 year plan to systematically complete a bike trail system along Alamo Creek and Ulatis Creek. This system would be coordinated with on-street bike lanes, controlled intersections, bike rests, and bus stops to improve access to schools and other public facilities, as well as commercial centers. Criteria for developing a section of trail would be as follows:
1. Available funds and land.
 2. Population access needs such as: the number of public and commercial facilities in a given area.
- C. Recreation
1. Parks - Wherever a creek fronts on a City park the creek will be considered part of that parks designed use.
 2. Creek Pedestrian Trails - Near appropriate public facilities (i.e. parks, community centers, libraries, and schools), interpretive nature as well as walking trails could extend the use of those facilities.
 3. Creekway Bike Trails - Exercise and facilitates access to other recreation activities.
 4. Quiet Relaxation - Placement of benches and picnic tables will allow passive activities such as reading, wild life observation, and personal reflection.
- D. Privacy Protection of Residential Property Adjoining Creeks - Initiate a creekway patrol program that would have a police ranger powers. This person could serve as a deterrent to illegal activities in creeks as well as discouraging incidental harassment of private property. Where the design option exists, the City will strive to locate all trails as far away from private property as site conditions allow. Design constraints are:

1. Preservation of desirable existing vegetation.
2. Existing and proposed grades.
3. Size of the setback.
4. Location of a stable top of bank or erosion potential.

New Development privacy protection options will be as follows in order of priority:

1. Raise building pads above setback grades.
2. Construct a six foot solid fence on private property to separate it from the public creek setback.
3. Plant naturalizing vegetation screening on the private drainage basins adjacent to the private fence.

Existing development privacy protection options will be as follows in order of priority:

1. On elevated grade situations where grading will cause damage to existing vegetation. Allow property owners height variances for extending their fences above the six foot limitation.
2. Plant naturalizing vegetation screens adjacent to the fence on the public setback.
3. Raise existing fence heights 2 feet through a variance.
4. Restrict or divert public access in such a way that will not hinder the designed use, public safety use, or enjoyment of the area.

E. Public Awareness and Participation - The City would construct a directional/informational kiosk system at key trail/street intersections and bike rests. A self-guided or ranger interpretive walk could be facilitated by kiosks or recreation programming.

II. Open Space and Drainage Management

A. Flood Control - The creeks are the primary conduit for storm water, public access, as well as recreation facilities must not hinder that function. Cooperation with Public Works on design, use, and maintenance is extremely important.

B. Erosion Control - The City should annually fund a significant amount to restore or protect eroded creek banks. Repairs would be to protect public facilities only. Types of repairs would vary according to the situation but options used in the past are:

1. Large rock rip-rap.
2. Precast, interlocking concrete blocks with planting pockets.

3. Wired brush wattling. (Willow or Cottonwood cuttings bundled and buried into the creek bank for rooting)
4. Gabions. (Wire baskets filled with rock)
5. Protected re-vegetation.

The City Public Works Department and City Landscape Architect would also provide technical information for private property owners on these methods.

- C. Vegetation Management Policy - To maintain and protect ornamental and native plants, in the creeks, that prevent erosion, provide food and cover for wildlife, protect privacy, and promote the heritage and quality of life of Vacaville.

1. Native vegetation should be managed to protect the oak woodland/riparian species of a woody character that affords bank/erosion protection as well as shelter and food for wildlife. The soft herbaceous plant life affords wind and water erosion protection but also creates a high fire potential. Native plant maintenance is defined as facilitating and protecting the natural processes that support the continuation of plant species and communities. The creeks should be mapped and plant distribution recorded to prevent the reduction of our native plants. Such a map or survey could be a multi-year project through a wetland preservation grant or college student project. With such a study we can plan re-vegetation projects in conjunction with erosion repair. We can also plan to replace plants after fires or if certain species start to die off. We could also do some age studies on our oak trees to plan for a systematic reforestation project in highly visible public areas such as: Andrews Park, Community Center, and Japson Junior High School.

WOODY PLANTS

Live Oak	Willow
Valley Oak	California Bay
Box Elder	Elderberry
White Alder	Toyon
Wild Rose	Walnut
Fremonts Cottonwood	Buckeye

HERBACEOUS

Wild Oats	Horsetail
California Poppy	Wild Rye Grass
Lupine	Monkey Flower

2. Ornamental vegetation could be introduced along street/creek frontages and in areas requiring visual screening of private property. However, we must pick plant material that shall be of a low water use or xeriscape character. Examples:

Baccaris	Acacia
Ceanothus	Silverberry
Bottle Brush	Buckwheat
Gooseberry	Flannel Bush
Juniper	Grevillea
Coprosma	Oleander
Rock Rose	Plumbago
Red Bud	Rosemary
Cotoneaster	Salvia
Manzanita	

3. "Weed" abatement for fire prevention shall be accomplished through mowing or trimming in 90% of the creekway setbacks. In only 10% of those areas will the City use a non-residual herbicide such as 'Round-Up' or 'Rodeo'. Any herbicide use would be in strict compliance with both state pest control and fish and game regulations.
4. Plant debris removal will be selective to prevent high fire fuel build up yet allow for natural food, shelter, and soil nutrient accumulations for plant and animal community preservation. Utilizing CMF Community Service Crews, supplemented by contractual equipment as needed, the City will organize a systematic clean up of our creekways.

DESIGN REVIEW AND POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

A. Departmental Responsibilities:

1. Parks and Recreation - Review all creekway policy factors as they pertain to proposed improvements in or adjacent to City maintained creeks. Coordinates all creekway maintenance landscaping, and bike trail development with Public Works. Coordinates all weed abatement and designed fire vehicle access with Fire. Advises property owners on bank stabilization planting.
2. Community Development - Provide coordination of the creekway policy with subdivision design standards and provision outlined in the General Plan.
3. Police - Provide input on security standards and coordination of a ranger/officer patrol program.
4. Fire - Provide input on natural vegetation fuel level concerns, fire break and weed abatement requirements, and emergency vehicle access.
5. Public Works - Consults with the Parks and Recreation Department on all proposed creek improvements that could affect the natural riparian habitat or recreational use of the creekways. Advises property owners on bank stabilization techniques.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Child care need and demand in America has been steadily growing in recent years. This fact is directly related to family economic stability and parallels statistics on female employment. Female heads of household with young children have historically depended on child care as an essential support service for financial survival. More recently, two parent families are finding it necessary to have two incomes in order to maintain an acceptable standard of living. Child care can not only support family economic stability, but it can also provide important developmental and educational services to the child.

- National Overview of Families and Children

The following facts published by the National Child Care Campaign, New York, NY, highlight child care needs on a national basis:

- By 1995 two out of three preschoolers and four out of five school-age children will have mothers in the work force.
- Fewer than 10% of American households fit the mold of the "traditional" American Family, in which the mother stays home to care for the children and the father is the sole breadwinner.
- Half of all American children can expect to live in a single parent family at some point before they reach 18.
- In 1988, 54.7 million women worked outside the home, accounting for 45% of the total labor force. By 2000, it is expected that 66.8 million will work outside the home, accounting for 47% of the labor force.
- Nearly two-thirds of all mothers in the work force are single, widowed, divorced, separated, or have husbands who earn less than \$15,000 a year.
- Women with infants make up the fastest growing group in the labor force. As of 1988, 51% of all new mothers were working or looking for work before their babies' first birthday, 60% more than the previous decade.

- Overview of Child Care Needs in Vacaville

Vacaville's child care population (0-14 yrs.) is approximately 16,590. National studies suggest that 50 - 70% of child care age children have working mothers. Applying these figures to Vacaville, there is a need for child care services for approximately 10,446 children. Since studies also show that approximately half of this population will be served by informal, unregulated arrangements such as care by siblings, relatives and "extended family", Vacaville currently needs a child care delivery system with a capacity of approximately 5,223 slots.

TABLE 1
VACAVILLE POPULATION 0 - 14 Years Old

Age Group	% of Total Child Population	# of Children by Ages 1990	% of Working Mothers	# of Children Needing Care	# Slots Needed
0 - 2	20%	3,305	50%	1,652	826
3 - 4	13%	2,247	60%	1,348	674
5 - 9	34%	5,618	65%	3,652	1,826
10 - 14	33%	5,420	70%	3,794	1,897
TOTALS		16,590		10,446	5,223

Parents need child care services in a variety of combinations. Both part time and full time services are needed. Whereas many part day programs are not defined as child care, they often provide partial solutions to child care problems. Parent participation programs address the educational needs of the parents as well as children and are an important component of comprehensive day care and child development services. Full day care, however, is essential to many families. Fragmented child care arrangements derived from a composite of services can be exhausting to the parent and the child. Communities need a composite of child care and child development services to match the individual needs of families. The foundation of such a system must include an adequate base of full time care options.

An adequate community child care system must also address the needs of special populations. Children with disabling conditions, mildly ill children, multi-lingual and non-English speaking children are a few of the special populations to be considered in planning for a comprehensive child care delivery system.

The educational and developmental value of quality child care is undisputed but the demand is driven by employment trends. In 1980, 52.6% of the Vacaville labor force was female. That percentage has been growing over the past ten years. In the last five years, 1985-'90, jobs in Vacaville increased by 6,700. The next five years, 1990-'95 will see an increase of 6,300 jobs followed by an increase of 7,700 jobs in the period of 1995-2000. For the Bay Area, as a whole, it is estimated that two-thirds of the expanding work force will be female.

Child care demand may increase in the future not only in response to the labor force but also in response to institutional changes. For instance should the public schools go to a year-around schedule with staggered short breaks for children, the need and demand

for school age child care would increase and require a different pattern of service.

- Supply

Vacaville has approximately 1,722 slots of licensed care available. This includes 1,014 slots in centers (600 full time and 227 part time preschool and 187 school age) and 708 slots in family day care homes as registered with Solano Family and Children's Services. Additional licensed family day care homes may exist in Vacaville but this information is considered confidential by the California Community Licensing Department and is not included in this report. Numbers of licensed, but unregistered family day care homes are assumed to be insignificant. Records relevant to licensed care are in constant flux and all programs do not operate at licensed capacity. Figures are, therefore, not absolute and may vary by 10 - 20% at any time from published records.

In addition to licensed child care services a number of part day child and youth development programs serve Vacaville children. This includes the T.G.I. Fun Clubs of the City's Community Services Department which serve approximately 160 school age children; the City's preschool, Jump and Grow and Children's Corner, programs which serve 154 children; and two private schools which provide after school services to approximately 135 students. These City and private school sponsored programs as well as other community recreation and enrichment programs contribute to the composite of child care arrangements made by working parents.

Unlicensed care in homes is not quantifiable. However, it can be assumed that the difference in identified services and the estimated need for care is the approximate number of children in unlicensed, unregulated "informal" care arrangements. In Vacaville this can be estimated to be approximately 8,646 children.

In Vacaville the population of children ages 0 - 14 with working mothers is estimated to be 10,446. Assuming that half of these children (ie. 5,223) would remain in unregulated care regardless of the supply, it can also be estimated that an equal number would use licensed care if it were available and affordable.

- Licensed Care

The licensed child care supply in Vacaville is in the form of centers, and family day care homes. Community Care Licensing of the State of California reports a total of 14 centers in Vacaville with a total licensed capacity of 1,014 slots. Solano Family and Children's Services currently has 96 licensed family day care homes registered for information and referral participation. Table 2 on the next page defines these services.

TABLE 2
Licensed Child Care in Vacaville

Number	Type of Service	Licensed Capacity (Totals)
14	Child Care Centers (Serving from 15-164 children each)	1,014*
22	Large Family Day Care Homes (Each serving up to 12 children)	264**
74	Small Family Day Care Homes (Each serving up to 6 children)	444**
TOTAL		1,722

* This figure includes 227 licensed slots which serve a total of approximately 439 children part time. This includes 36 Head Start slots which serve two shifts of children in three and a half hour sessions and church sponsored program with a licensed capacity of 82 serving approximately 313 children part time. The 187 school age children included in this number are also served part time. Full time service included in this figure is for 64 infants and 536 preschoolers.

** Dialogue contacts with these homes which are registered with Solano Family and Children's Services indicate family care tends to serve less than licensed capacity and serves a fluctuating combinations of full time and part time children.

For more details see p. 28, Child Care Supply and Exhibit A, Appendix, page 67.

This assessment included a survey of parents who had recently requested assistance in finding child care from Solano Family and Children's Services. Of the parents responding to the survey, 47.6% reported use of licensed care (ie. 35.3% indicated they used licensed family day care and 12.3% indicated use of licensed center care.)

Vacaville follows the historical pattern of California in focusing upon children of preschool age. All Vacaville centers allot most of their licensed capacity to this age group. What is atypical is the degree to which part day programs remain a major service pattern in Vacaville. This is probably a reflection of the large number of two parent families with preschool children where the wife remains at home at least part time.

- Unlicensed Care

As noted previously, half of all working mothers will make informal, unregulated child care arrangements regardless of the available child care delivery system. This includes a variety of arrangements with relatives and friends.

Of parents responding to the survey 52% reported use of unlicensed care. This included:

- Relative in child's own home	6.7%
- Older sibling	1.5%
- Non-relative in child's home	9.9%
- Relative outside child's own home	7.1%
- Non-relative outside child's home	21.8%
- Other	5.1%

The quantity of unlicensed care can only be estimated. Several general guides give us an approximation of its extent. National studies indicate that 70 - 90 percent of family day care is unlicensed. Using the 96 registered homes cited above as a base we might assume that 320 - 960 unlicensed homes exist in Vacaville. Much unlicensed family day care is illegal. A category of care not covered by licensing is care provided in the home of the child. Often this type of care is provided by relatives, friends and neighbors. The care of children outside the home where no more than two children are in care is also exempt from licensing.

Parents also meet child care needs by using a variety of services which are not defined as child care and do not come within the authority of Community Care Licensing. This includes City sponsored recreation programs and after school services provided by private schools.

- Cost of Care:

The cost of child care has been steadily increasing in recent years. Nationally child care ranks fourth in family expenses after food, shelter and taxes. In Vacaville the average weekly cost for full time licensed care is \$73 per week for a 3-4 year old child. Part time care cost varies with the number of days and ranges from \$21-\$34 a day.

No figures exist on the cost of unlicensed, unregulated care. It can be assumed that out-of-home unlicensed care is less expensive than licensed care while in-home care by a non-relative is likely to be more expensive. Parents responding to the survey reported an average cost \$56.80 per week for care. This figure which is lower than the average for licensed care reflects the fact that half of the respondents use unlicensed, unregulated care with the highest category being care by a non-relative outside of the child's home.

Infant/toddler care (for children 0-2 years old) is available at only two licensed centers. Children are admitted at six weeks of age and the cost is an average of \$107 a week. School age care is offered by one third of the licensed child care programs. Costs range around \$60. a week for before and after school care including transportation.

**TABLE 3
CHILD CARE RATES (AVERAGE) IN VACAVILLE
WEEKLY RATES**

	Lowest	Average	Highest
INFANTS/TODDLERS	\$55.	\$78.	\$115.
PRESCHOOL	\$50.	\$73.	\$100.
SCHOOL AGE	\$25.	\$58.	\$100.

Source: Solano Family and Children's Services. September, 1990.

- Need for Subsidy

Low income families can not afford the cost of care. Even middle income families have difficulty affording licensed care. Subsidized child care is scarce. The State of California estimates that only one out of eight eligible children can find subsidized child care.

In Vacaville only twenty-nine children receive reduced cost child care in programs subsidized by the California Department of Education, Child Development Division. A small number of additional families secure short term child care assistance while in employment and training programs run by the County Department of Social Services (GAIN). Seventy-two children receive federal funded Head Start services with no fee. The program is for three and a half hours per day per child. This child development program is not defined as child care but may meet part day care needs of some families.

Many families need reduced cost services but this is not the only form of subsidy needed. To develop a delivery system of quality, affordable child care in Vacaville, support elements of the system need subsidy regardless of the family income of individual client families. Research, planning, information, referral, technical assistance, training systems and capitalization are expenses in the child care delivery system beyond the scope of parent fees for service. These support systems must be subsidized for a community to have an adequate supply of services.

As employment opportunities increase in Vacaville, the impact on child care will be dramatic. Not only will the increasing job market take women in greater numbers into the work force, but women now caring for children in licensed and unlicensed "family day care homes" will find more profitable jobs in the work place thereby reducing the child care supply.

- Financing Child Care

Parent fees are the major source for child care financing. 229
Vacaville parents pay 96.6% of the cost of the local licensed

child care delivery system. This is an unusual pattern. In most communities 30 - 40% of the child care delivery system is subsidized by public and private funds. Funding options are discussed in this report and augmented with information in the Appendix.

Vacaville has no centers fully subsidized by the California Department of Education, no United Way funded child care programs and very few voucher payment slots. Subsidy is needed for reduced fees for eligible families.

The limited subsidy available to Vacaville parents for child care includes assistance from the State Department of Education through the Alternative Payment Program and short term assistance for child care for mothers participating in GAIN, an employment and training program. Additionally the City of Vacaville subsidizes recreation programs and Head Start is funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services. These programs which are not classified as child care never-the-less assist families in meeting child care needs.

The rising demand for child care not only calls for increased funding for service delivery including subsidy/scholarships for low income families and financing for facilities development but also calls for improvement of child care support services. Such services include information and referral to parents seeking care, information to providers regarding requirement, technical assistance to providers in the area of program and business management, staff training, public education and coordination of all elements of the child care delivery system.

Assuming a need for 5,223 child care slots in Vacaville at an average cost of \$70 per week. The annual cost would be approximately \$19,000,000. Vacaville parents currently pay approximately \$6,000,000 a year for child care. A conservative goal would be to mobilize resources to subsidize one-fourth of the annual total cost or \$4,750,000. Without subsidy child care spaces will not increase for families who can not afford to pay the full cost. Subsidy is needed not only to reduce fees but to strengthen the delivery system. This would require new public/private partnerships, public education and an aggressive long-range fund raising strategy.

- Summary and Conclusions

Vacaville is a rapidly growing community where the supply of child care services has not kept pace with the need. The need will continue to increase, but the supply is not likely to increase proportionately without community stimulation and support for child care planning and program development.

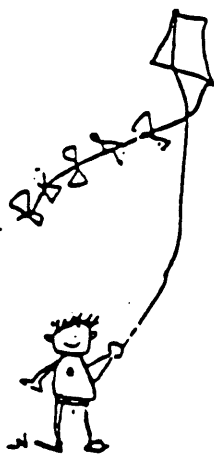
Population trends combined with employment trends indicate that child care will be an expanding issue in Vacaville. The supply

currently meets only one-fourth of the estimated need. The gap between supply and demand will predictably increase unless realistic plans are made to stimulate and support an adequate child care delivery system in Vacaville.

Nearby communities as well as cities across the State and Nation have developed programs which provide models for evaluation. Examples are cited in this report. Vacaville, however, has its unique needs, options and resources.

Child care is a very good investment with positive immediate and long range economic impact. It is directly related to family economic stability and job productivity as well as to child development goals. When businesses, governments and families join forces to expand and improve child care services, the results are impressive.

Vacaville faces a challenge and opportunity to make child care a priority of the '90s. Pro child care policies and programs contribute to the quality of life not only for individual families but for the community as a whole.



Trail and Bikeway Standards
May 29, 1991

Introduction

The General Plan, both in the Parks and Recreation Element and the Transportation Element, outlines the proposed routes for trails and bikeways. The Policies section of this Parks Master Plan outlines Guiding Policies and Implementing Policies for trails and bikeways. The Development section of this Plan describes trail and bikeway types along with proposed routes.

This section on design guidelines will assist the City in implementing the trails and

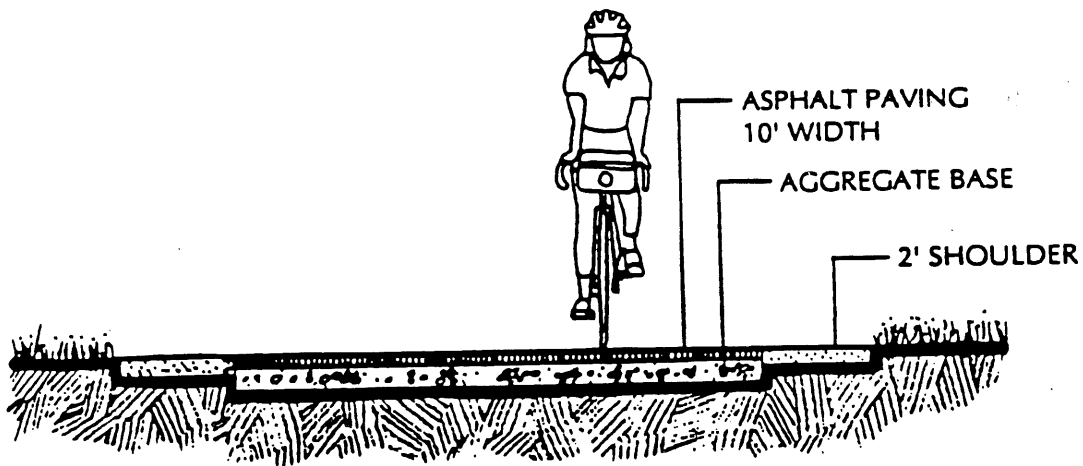
bikeway program by establishing standards for new trail or bikeway development.

The standards are based on safety considerations, accessibility for all users, and overall appearance of the system.

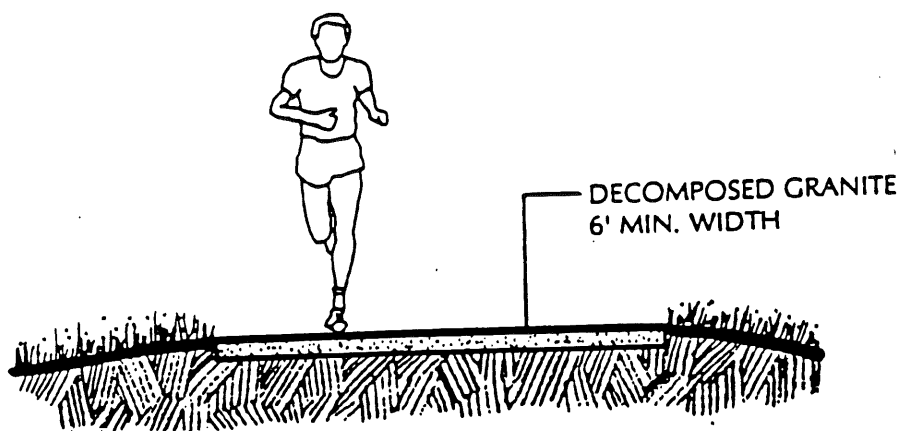
Types Of Trails:

Three major trail types are discussed in this section: multipurpose paths, improved trails, and hiking/equestrian trails.

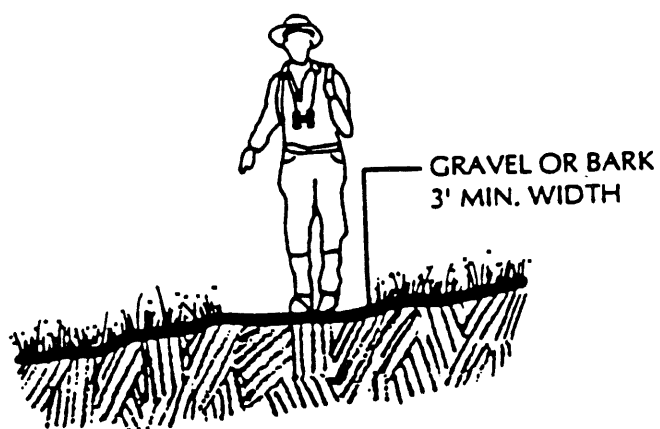
MULTIPURPOSE PATH



IMPROVED TRAIL



HIKING/EQUESTRIAN TRAIL



Multipurpose Path

The multipurpose path will serve pedestrians, bicyclists, and in some cases, equestrians. These trails will be the spine of the City trail system and be the primary trail type in the more developed areas of Vacaville. On trails where bicyclists are permitted, paved trails should be at least 8' wide. Where possible, paved trails will provide access for disabled persons. Trail barriers and slopes can be designed to permit passage by persons in wheelchairs.

Preferred Standards:

Minimum width	10.0'
Vertical clearance	8.5'
Horizontal clearance	14.0'
Maximum cross slope	2%
Maximum grade	5%
Recommended surface	Asphalt

Improved Trail

Improved trails will have soft surfaces such as decomposed granite. These trails may be built as a temporary first phase of a paved trail or as a permanent trail that does not require hard paving.

Preferred Standards:

Minimum width	6.0'
Vertical clearance	7.0'
Horizontal clearance	8.0'
Maximum cross slope	2%
Maximum grade	5%
Recommended surface	Decomposed granite

Hiking/Equestrian Trail

These trails will provide access to Urban Open Space areas in Vacaville, including undeveloped areas and ridges. Whenever

possible, hiking/equestrian trails will utilize existing fire roads, other unpaved roads or trails. Hiking/Equestrian trails may be as narrow as 3' to as wide as a fire road. They may serve pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrians depending on permitted uses.

Preferred Standards:

Minimum width	3.0'
Vertical clearance	7.0'
Horizontal clearance	6.0'
Maximum cross slope	3%
Maximum grade	10%
Recommended surface	Gravel or bark

Types of Bikeways:

Bikeways will improve the safety and convenience of bicycling in Vacaville by encouraging the use of bicycles as an alternative to the automobile. The bikeways in this plan conform to standards and designations established by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Each class of bikeway has its appropriate application. Detailed descriptions of each bikeway and its applications can be found in the bikeway planning and design section of the *California Highway Design Manual*.

Bike Path (Multipurpose Path)

Bike paths are separated from roads by distance or barriers. Cross traffic by motor vehicles should be minimized. Bike paths can offer opportunities not provided by the road system. They can provide recreational opportunities or serve as desirable commuter routes.

Two way bicycle paths should be a minimum of 8' wide. Bike paths are usually shared with pedestrians and if pedestrian use is expected to be significant, the path should be greater than 8', preferably 12' wide. Where equestrians are expected, a separate facility should be provided. A yellow centerline stripe may be used to separate opposite directions of travel. A centerline stripe is particularly beneficial to bicycle commuters who may use unlighted bike paths after dark.

Bike Lane

This bikeway is a lane on a road that is reserved for bicycles. The bike lane provides increased safety for bicyclists and motorists. The lane is painted with pavement lines and

markings and is signed. Lane markings increase bicyclists' confidence that motorists will not stray into their path of travel. Likewise, motorists are less apt to swerve toward opposing traffic in making sure not to hit bicyclists.

Bike lanes are one-way, with a lane provided on each side of the roadway. They are located between the travel lane and the edge of paving or, if parking is permitted, between the travel lane and the parking lane. Bike lanes are never placed between the parking lane and the curb because of the danger of opening car doors and reduced visibility at intersections. Lanes are 4' minimum width or 5' minimum width if parking is permitted. Bike lanes provide safety for bicyclists in high traffic areas.

Bike Route

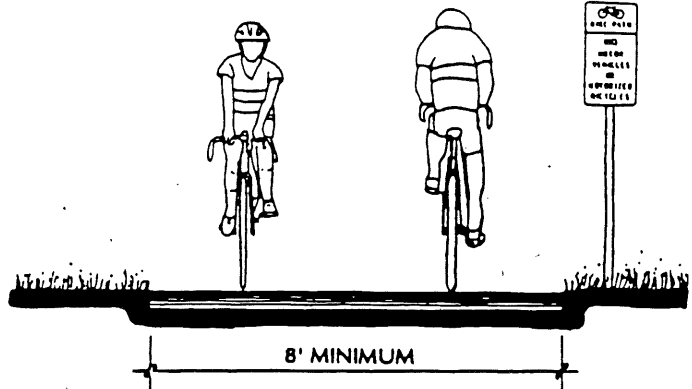
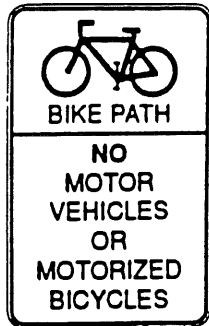
Bike routes share existing roads and can provide continuity to other bikeways or designate preferred routes through high traffic areas. There is no separate lane. Bike routes are established by placing Bike Route signs along roadways. Signs direct the cyclist and warn motorists of the presence of bicyclists.

Since bicycles are permitted on all roads, the decision to sign the route should be based on several factors including the advisability of encouraging bicycle travel on the route. Other factors include providing through and direct routes in bicycle demand corridors and connecting discontinuous segments of bike lanes.

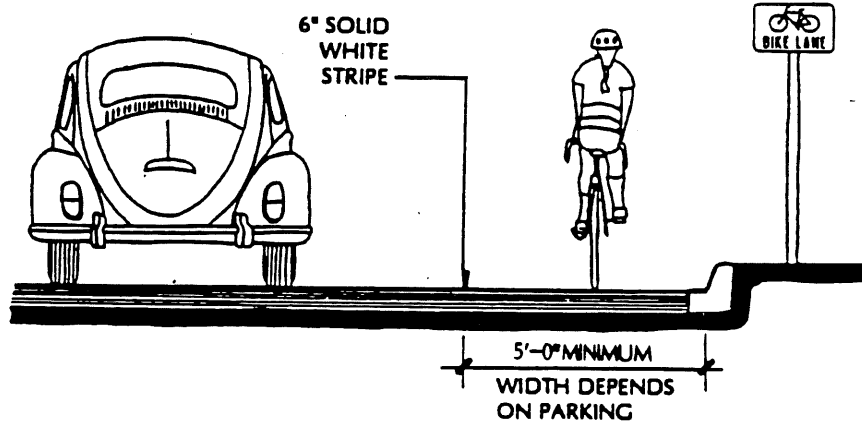
Bicycle Parking

Adequate and secure bicycle parking will encourage bicycling as an alternative to the automobile for commuting and utility trips.

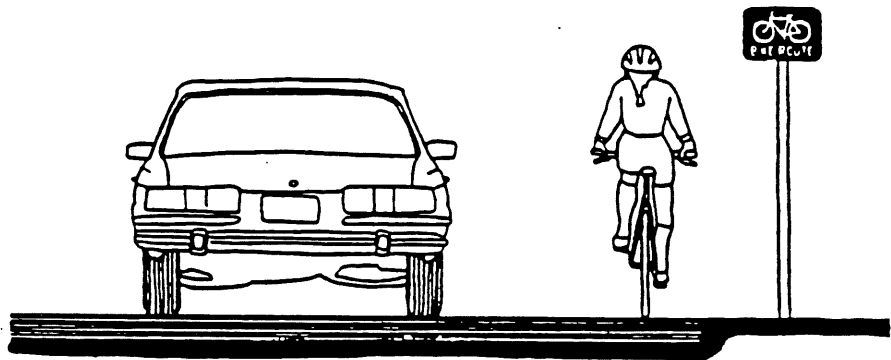
BIKE PATH



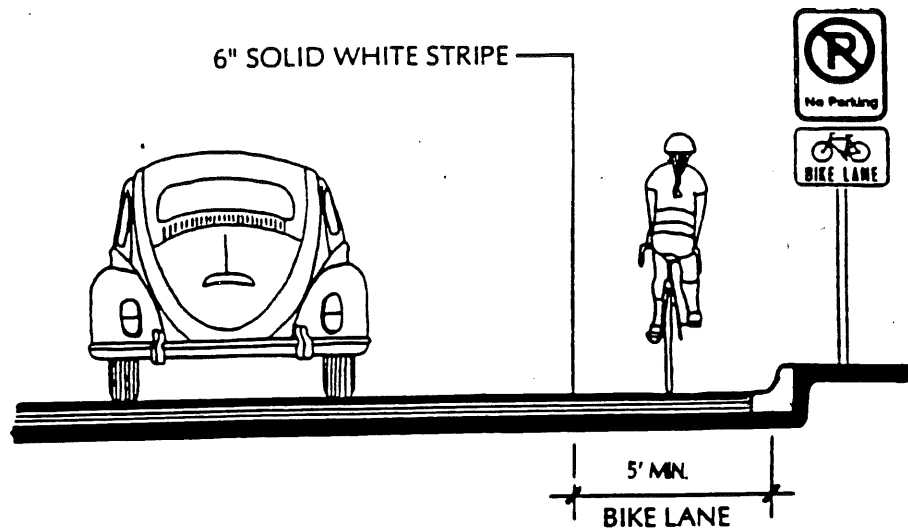
BIKE LANE



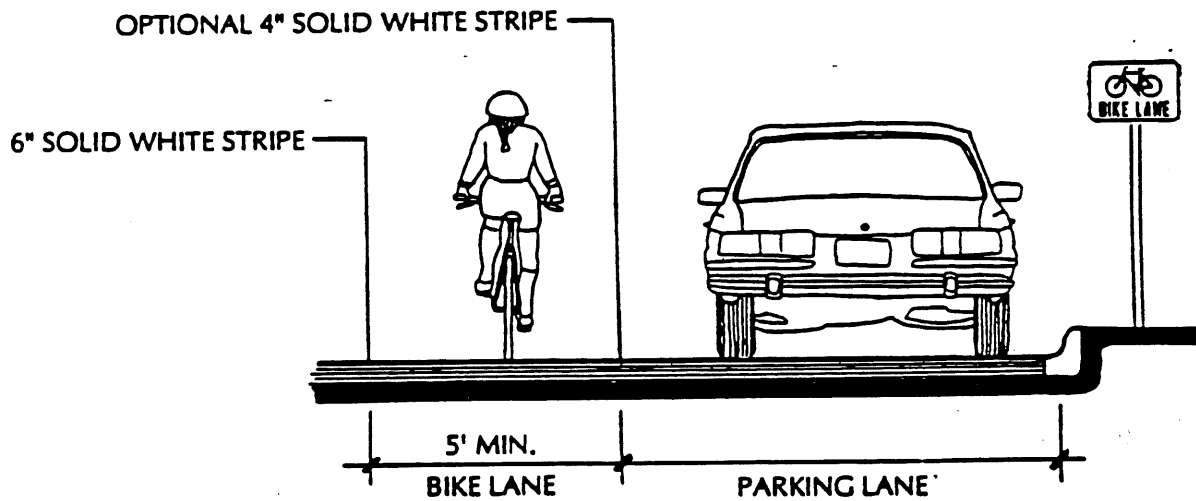
BIKE ROUTE



BIKE LANE WITHOUT PARKING LANE



BIKE LANE WITH PARKING LANE



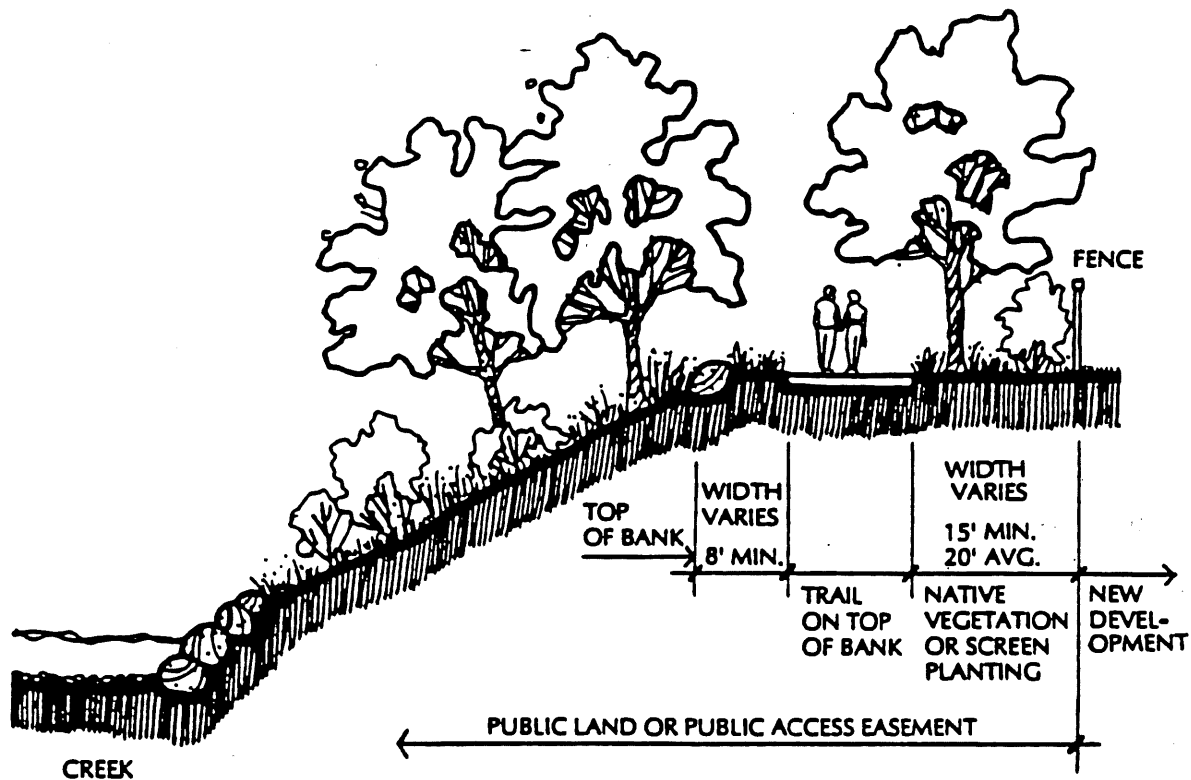
Bicycle parking should be located in the downtown shopping district, at commuter park and ride lots, at public transit access points, and at centers of employment. Racks should be located in areas of high visibility to reduce the possibility of theft.

Creek Trail Guidelines

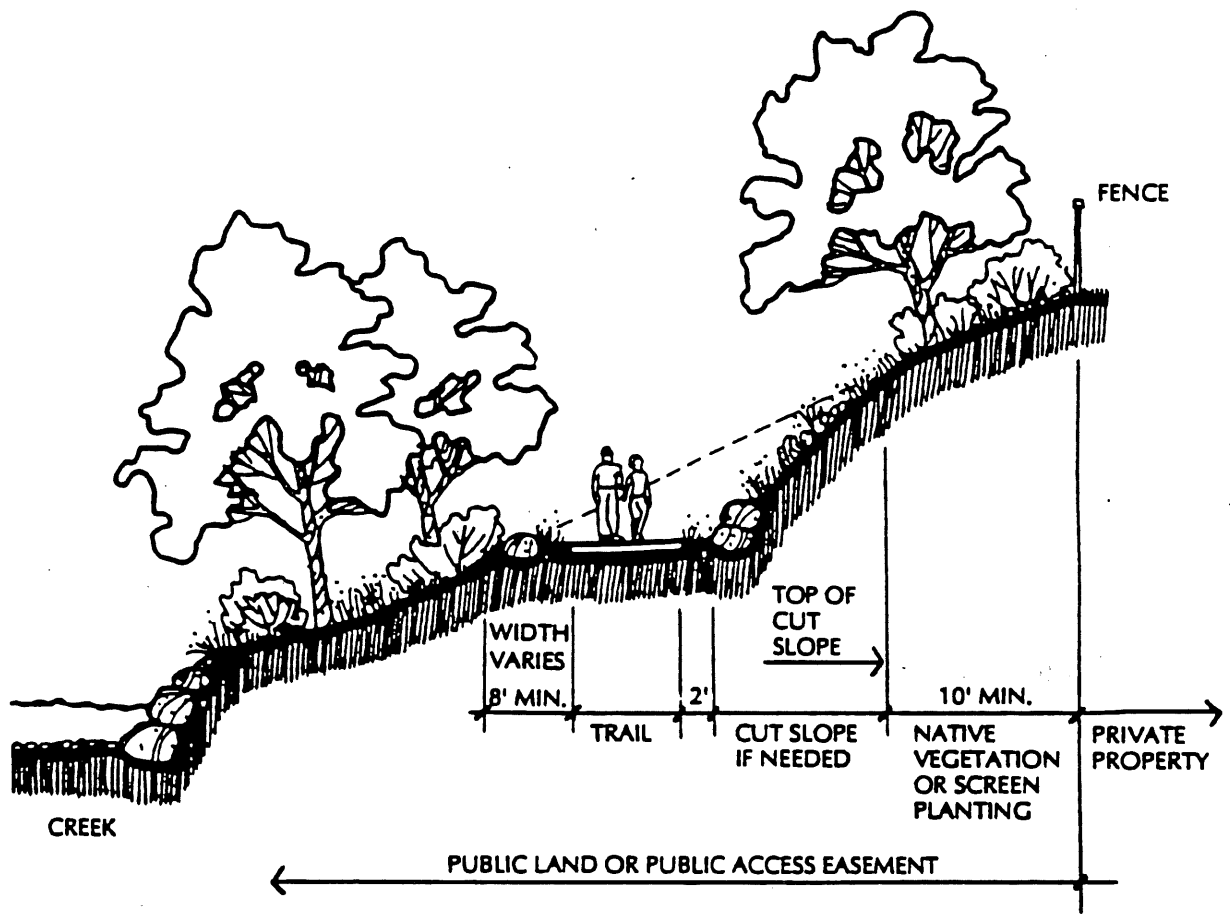
Creek trail guidelines have been established to aid in planning new trails. The guidelines help in planning safe trails for users and maintaining security and privacy for property owners adjacent to trails.

There are trail guidelines for two basic situations: trails at proposed new developments and trails at existing developed property. In the first situation, trails can be included in

the development planning process. This can result in safe trails with good access and minimize potential conflicts with the planned land use. Guidelines for trails at existing private property will seek to provide safe access and maintain privacy and security of neighbors. This will be accomplished by the use of setbacks and screening vegetation.



TRAIL GUIDELINES AT PROPOSED NEW DEVELOPMENTS



TRAIL GUIDELINES AT EXISTING DEVELOPED PROPERTY

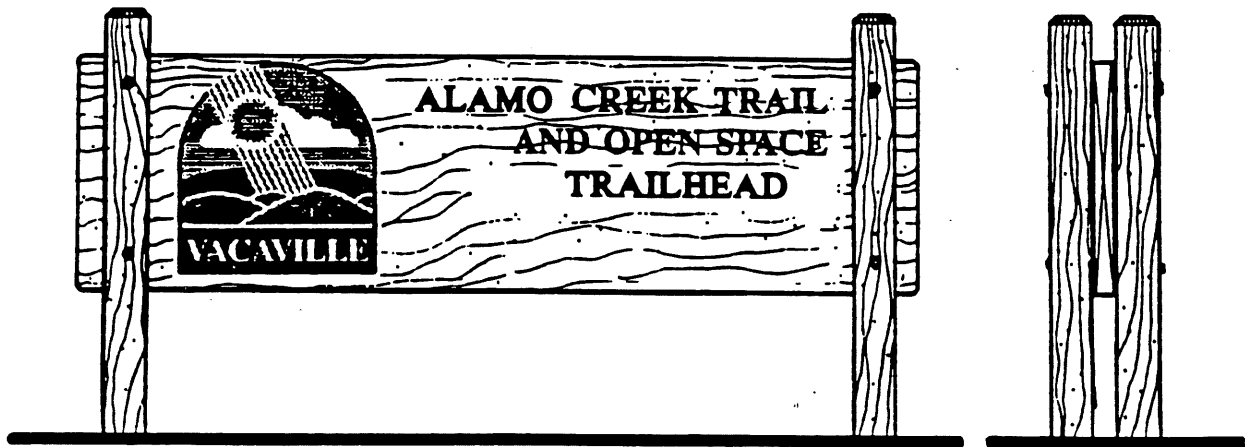
Trailheads

Trailheads provide parking and other facilities for trail users. A trailhead may provide, in addition to automobile parking, parking for vehicles with horse trailers, bicycle parking, restrooms, a drinking fountain, a public telephone, a water trough, hitching post for horses, and a trailhead sign with a map of the trail system. Trailheads providing access to hiking/equestrian trails should contain equestrian facilities where possible. A trailhead may be part of an existing facility, such as a park or school, and contain only a trail sign. Agreements with the school district should be pursued to permit the use of portions of existing school parking lots as trailheads. Where possible, this agreement may also permit use of restroom facilities.

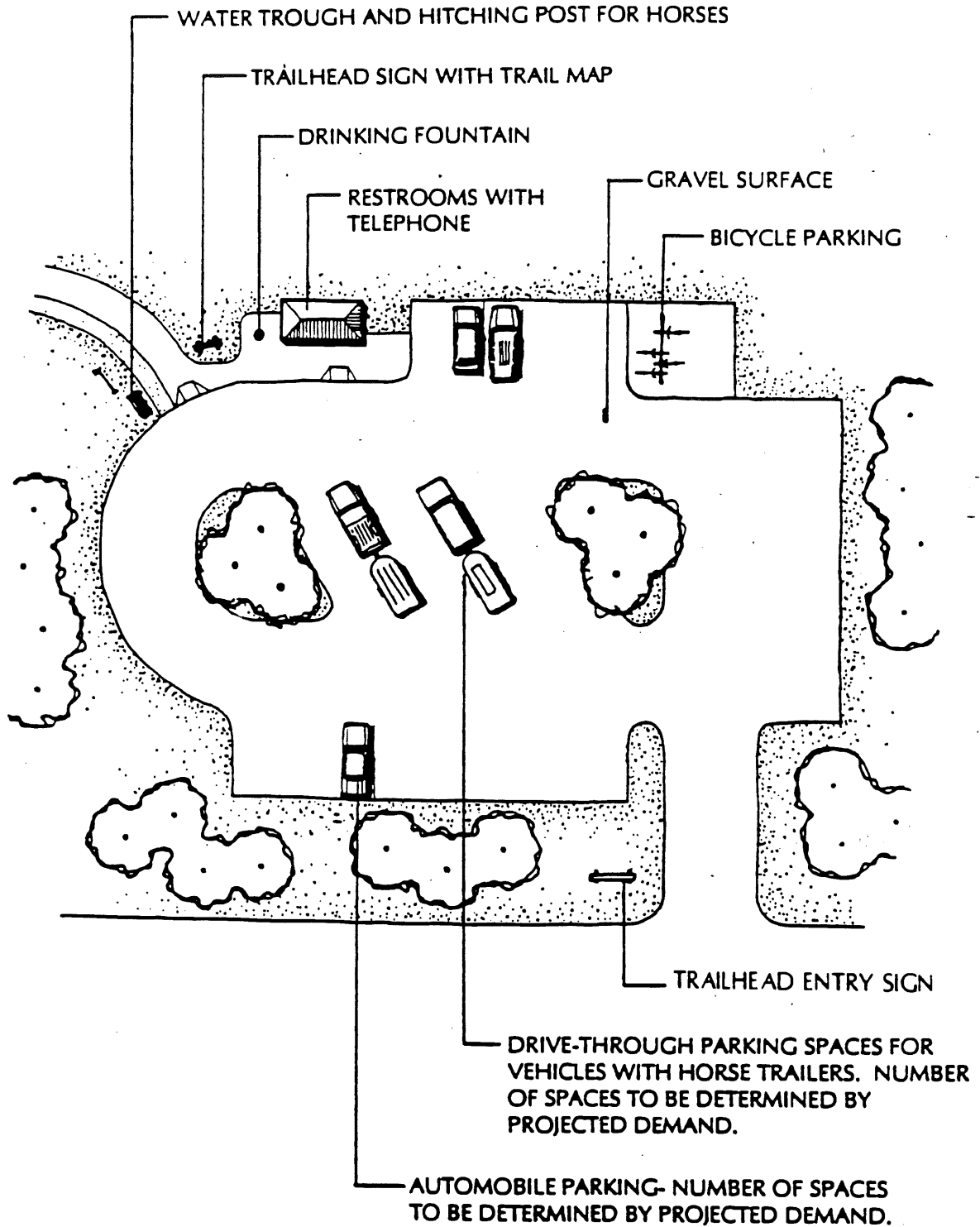
Trailheads should be located at trail end points and at key access points along the trail. The number of parking spaces should be determined by projected demand and by the permitted uses planned for a trail.

There are two types of trailheads discussed in this plan: trailheads with equestrian facilities and standard trailheads. A standard trailhead will provide automobile and bicycle parking, and a trailhead sign with map. Restrooms and a drinking fountain may also be provided depending on need and availability of utilities. Restrooms can be portable self-contained toilets, pit toilets, or flush toilets in restrooms with running water.

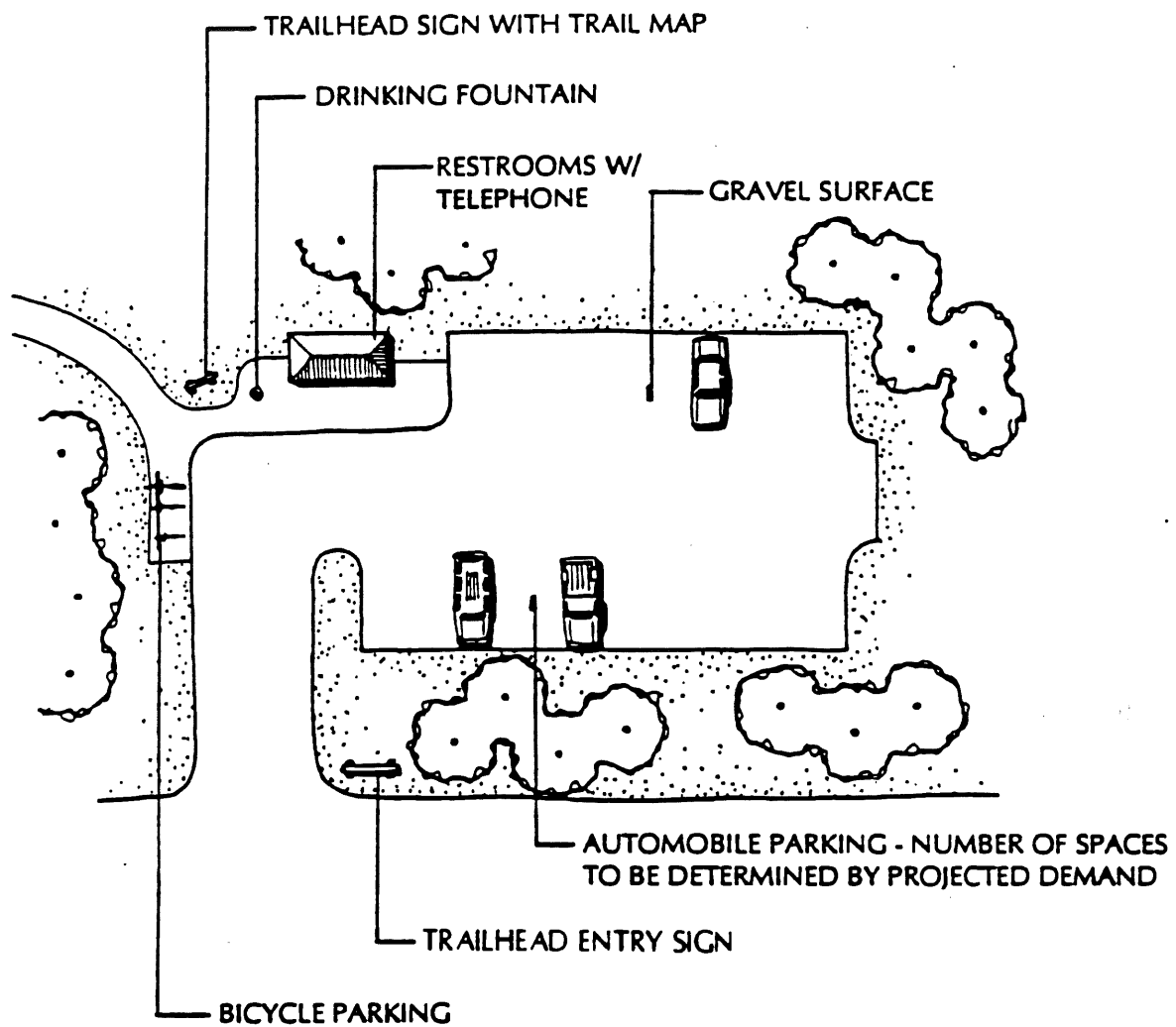
TYPICAL TRAILHEAD SIGN



TYPICAL TRAILHEAD WITH EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES



TYPICAL TRAILHEAD WITHOUT EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES



Signs

Access Signs.

The first stage of signing for the City Trails System will direct users to access points. This will include signs for parks and trailheads. These signs should be visible from major roads.

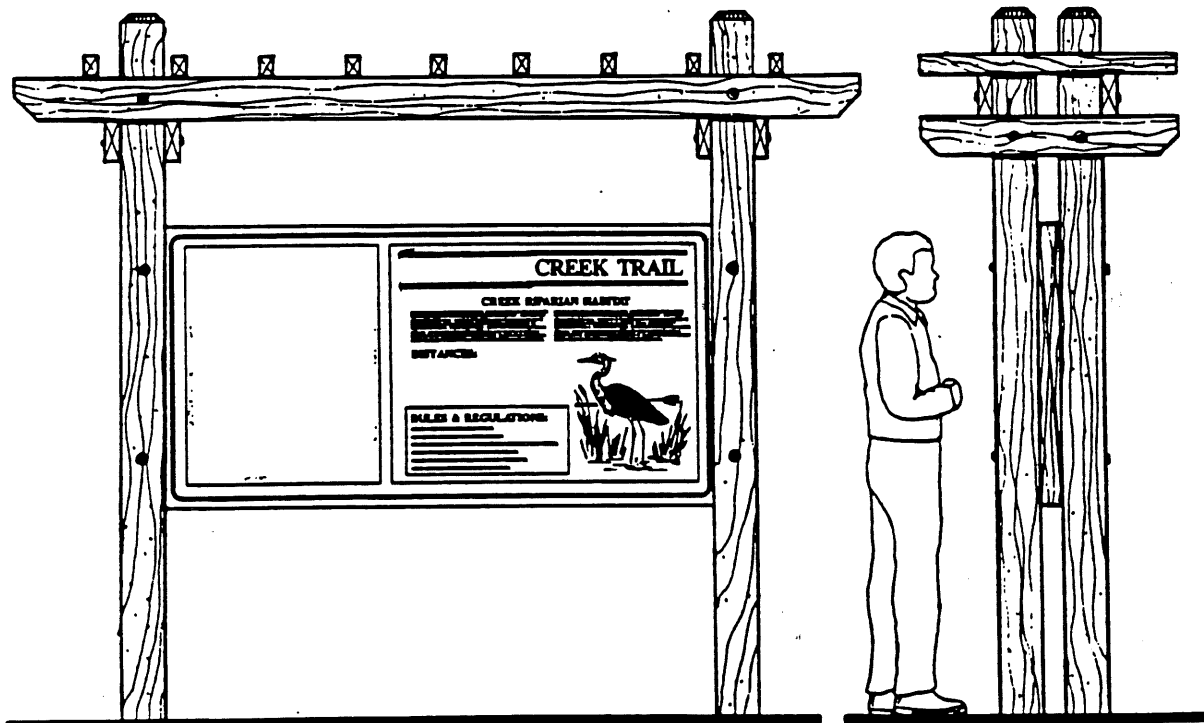
Trailhead Signs.

The next stage of signing will be trailhead and trail access point signs. Important trailheads should include the following items: a map of the particular trail or the trail system, destinations and distances, permitted uses on the trail, regulations regarding the land to be accessed, information on hazards such as poison oak or high water during storms, and

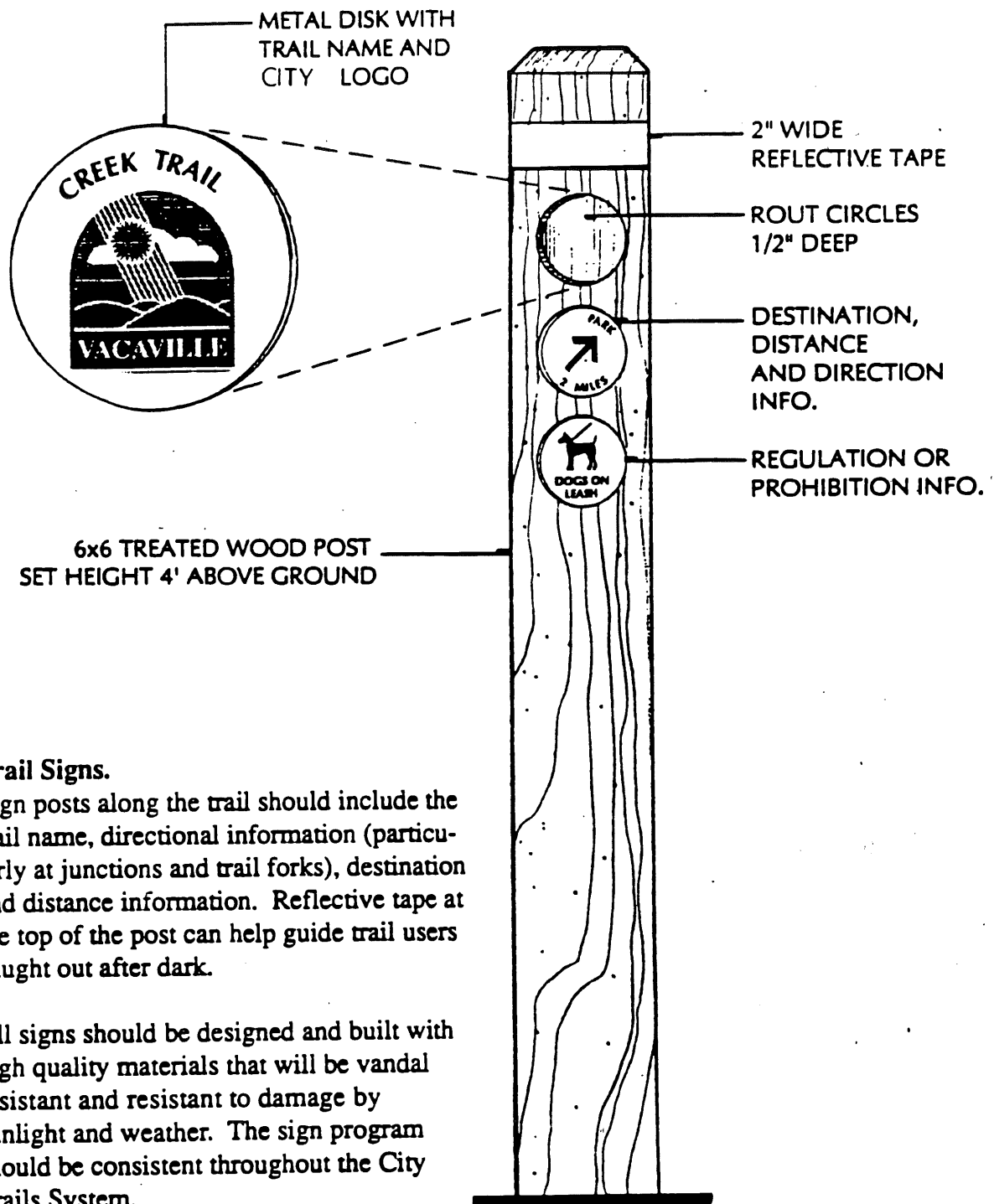
information on trail conditions and access for disabled persons. The sign may also contain interpretive information on points of historic significance or on the natural history of areas through which the trail passes.

Minor access points along a trail, such as at street crossings, should have signs that provide information regarding regulations, permitted and prohibited trail uses, and hazard warnings. The trail sign post illustrated can provide some of this information and be incorporated into the bollard barrier layout. Reflective tape on the post will illuminate the barriers at night.

TYPICAL TRAILHEAD SIGN



TRAIL SIGN POST



Trail Signs.

Sign posts along the trail should include the trail name, directional information (particularly at junctions and trail forks), destination and distance information. Reflective tape at the top of the post can help guide trail users caught out after dark.

All signs should be designed and built with high quality materials that will be vandal resistant and resistant to damage by sunlight and weather. The sign program should be consistent throughout the City Trails System.

Bikeway Signs.

Bikeway signs warn and regulate bicycle traffic. These include both on-street traffic signs and trail signs. On-street signs include bike lane and bike route signs, lane and pavement markings, and bicycle crossing signs. On-street signs will also warn motorists of the presence of bicyclists.

Bicycle trail signs will warn and regulate bicycle traffic on trails. These signs will warn bicyclists of trail hazards, street crossings, and post speed restrictions.

BIKE PATH SIGNS



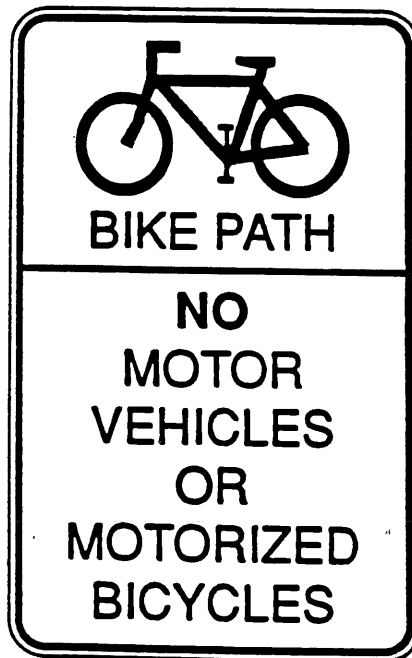
BIKEWAY SIGNS



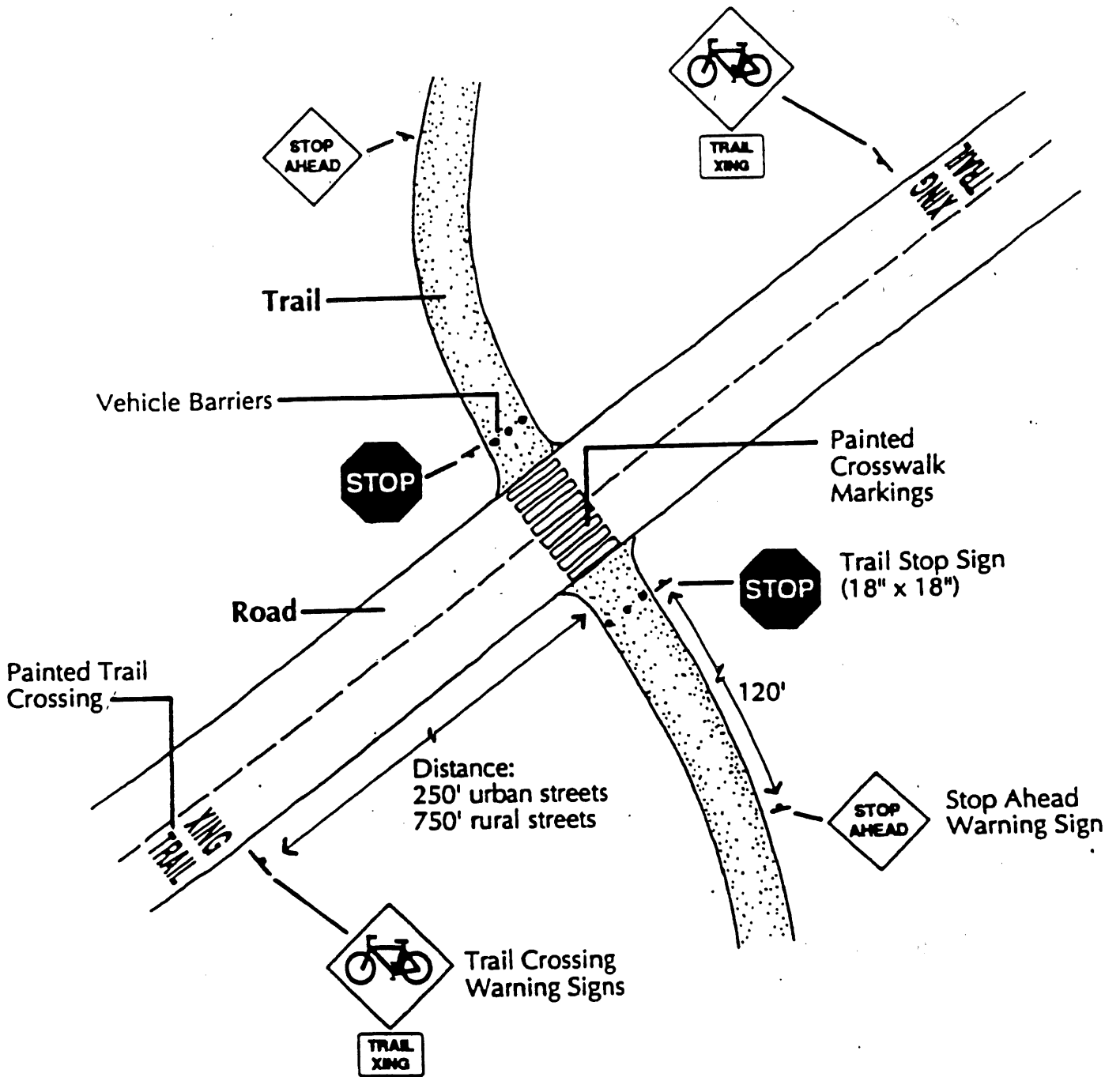
BICYCLE ROUTE SIGN



BICYCLE LANE SIGN



BICYCLE PATH SIGN



Typical Road / Trail Crossing

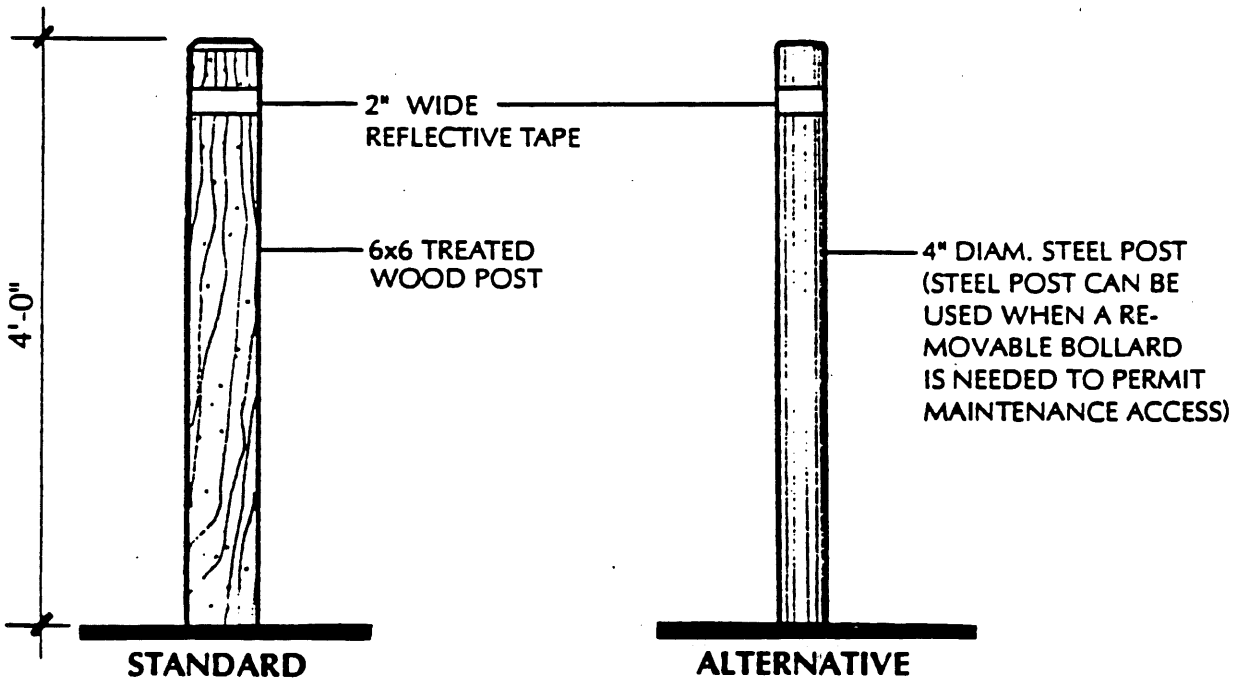
From: CALTRANS STANDARDS

Trail Structures

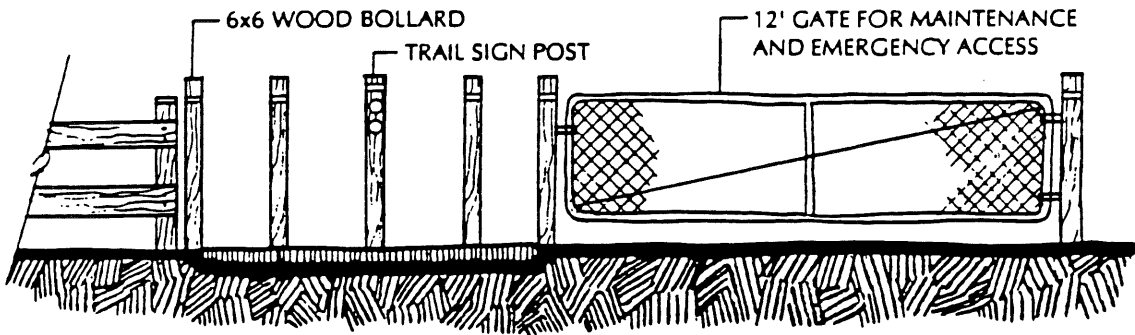
Bollards and Entry Structure

Entry structures using bollards are placed at trail access points to separate the trail from motor vehicles and to slow bicycles as they approach street crossings. A gate may be provided where service access is needed. The diagonal layout of bollards will make the space between the bollards appear narrower, slowing bicyclists and deterring motorcyclists from entering the trail. The bollards are spaced to provide access by people using wheelchairs. A trail sign post can be incorporated into the bollard layout.

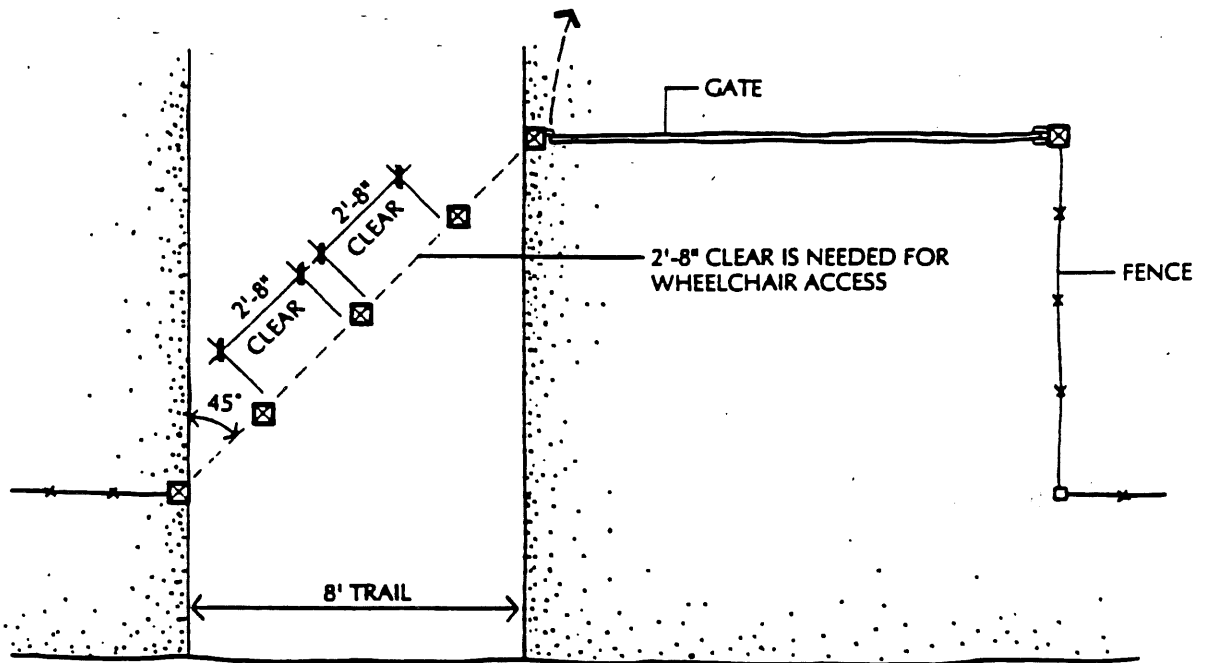
BOLLARDS



TRAIL ENTRY STRUCTURE



ELEVATION



PLAN

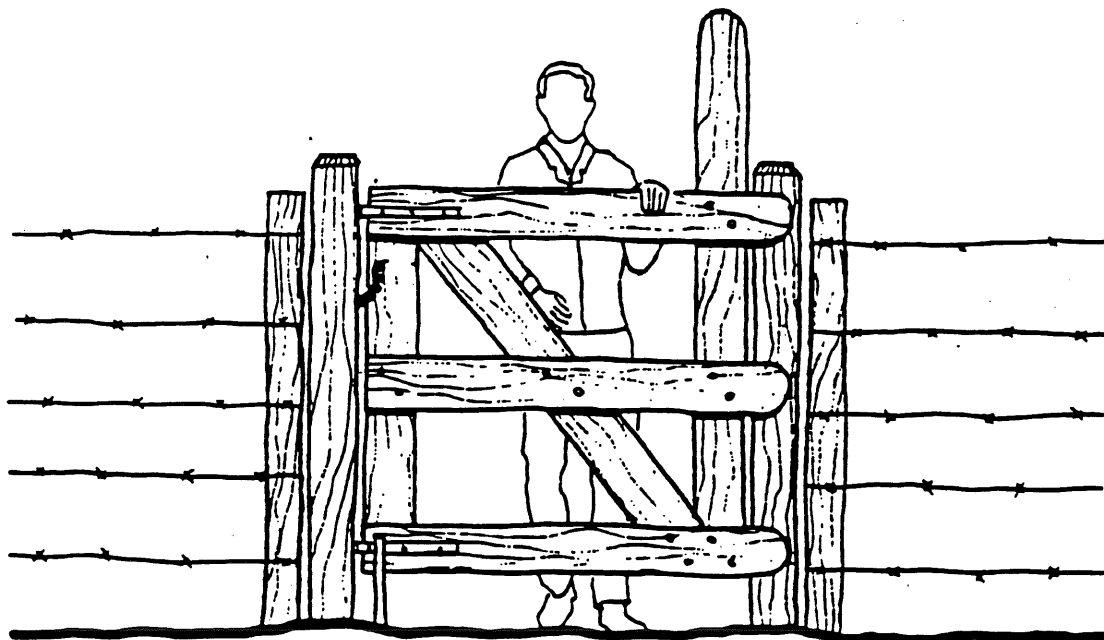
Self Closing Trail Gate

A self closing trail gate with latch should be used on hiking/equestrian trails where livestock are present and stiles are not appropriate.

Motorcycle Barrier

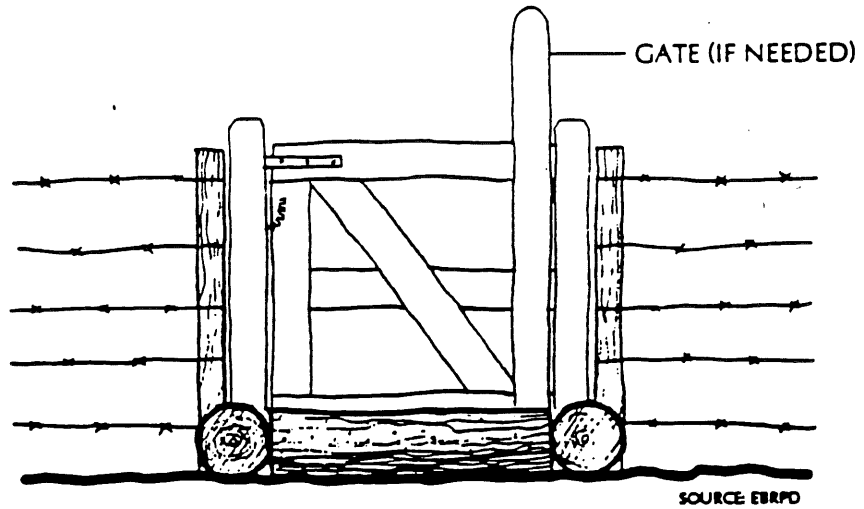
This barrier made of logs can be placed at open-space trail access points to prevent access by motorcycles, but allow hikers, equestrians and mountain bicyclists to pass. This barrier should not be used on paved trails, bicycle paths, or on open space trails accessible to persons using wheelchairs.

SELF CLOSING TRAIL GATE

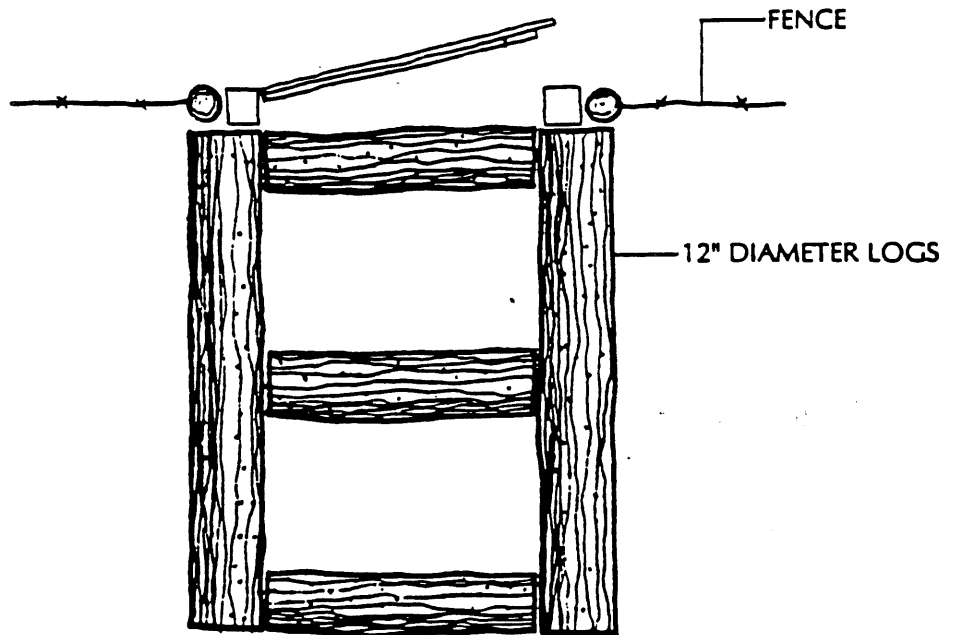


SOURCE: EIRPO

MOTORCYCLE BARRIER



ELEVATION



PLAN

Bridges

Bridges will be required wherever trails cross creeks. Crossings can utilize pre-fabricated bridges made from self-weathering steel with wood decks. Openings between railings should be 6" maximum. On bridges with equestrian use, railings should be 54" high.

Hiking Stiles

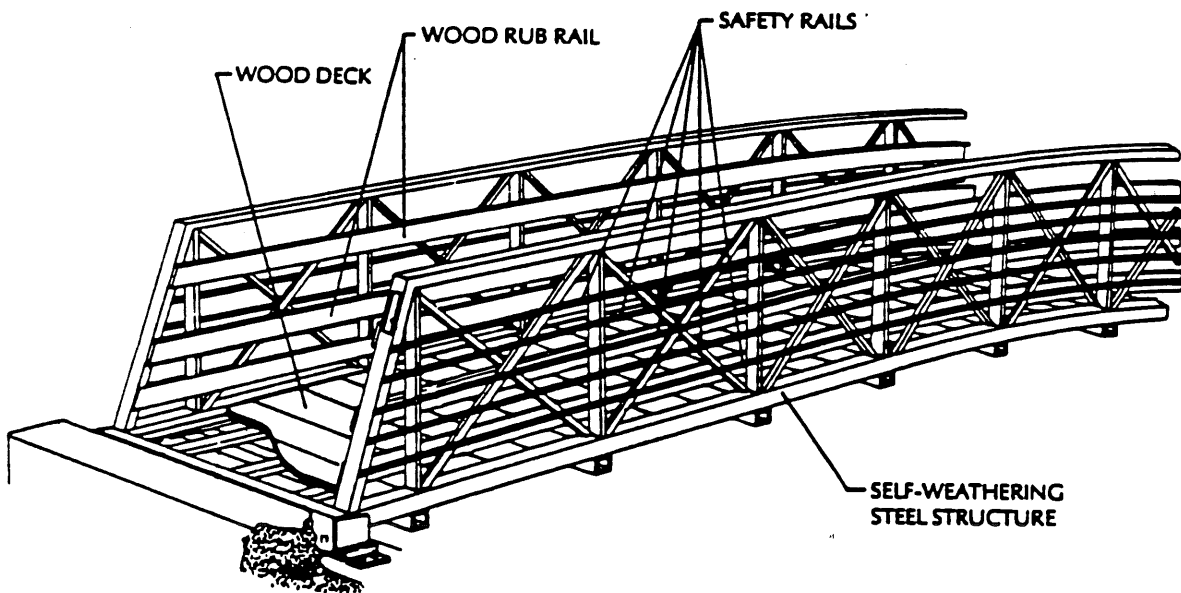
Hiking/equestrian trails may travel through fenced grazing or cultivated land. Stiles allow hikers to pass over or through fences without damaging them and without using gates that people may neglect to close. Stiles also prevent passage by motorcycles and equestrians on trails that prohibit those

uses. Stiles should not be used on trails accessible to persons using wheelchairs.

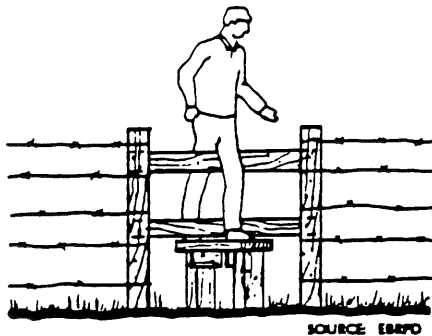
Trail Fences and Screen Fences

Fencing may be necessary on some trails to prevent trail users from trespassing on adjacent lands, to contain grazing animals, or to protect the user from dangerous areas. In areas where private residences are passed, privacy may be a concern. Screen fences should be used to maintain privacy of residents. Screen fences can be made of wood, concrete block or chain link if combined with vine planting. Fences used to contain livestock should minimize the use of gates that people may neglect to close. Hiking stiles should be used when possible.

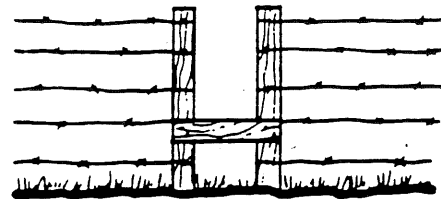
TRAIL BRIDGE



STEP-OVER HIKING STILES

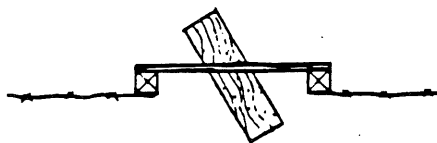


SOURCE ERFD



SOURCE ERFD

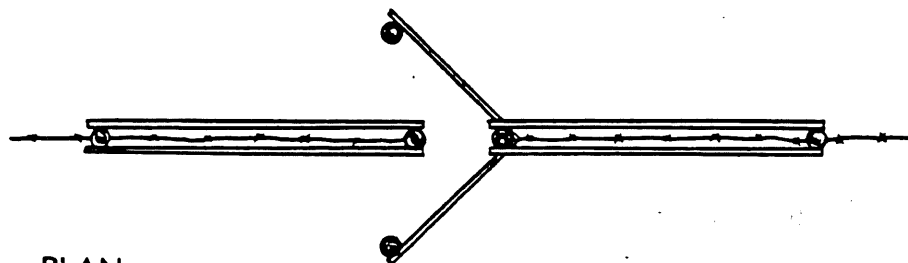
ELEVATIONS



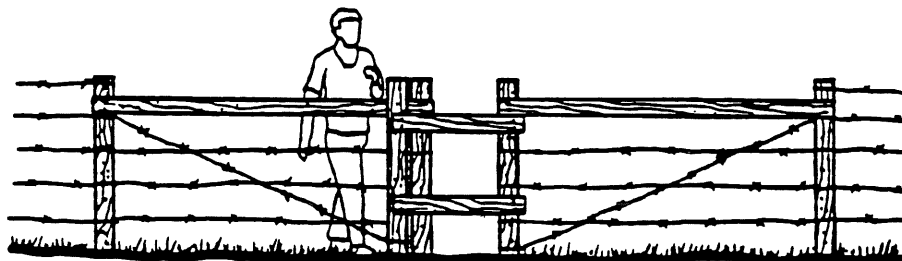
PLANS



WALK-THROUGH HIKING STILE



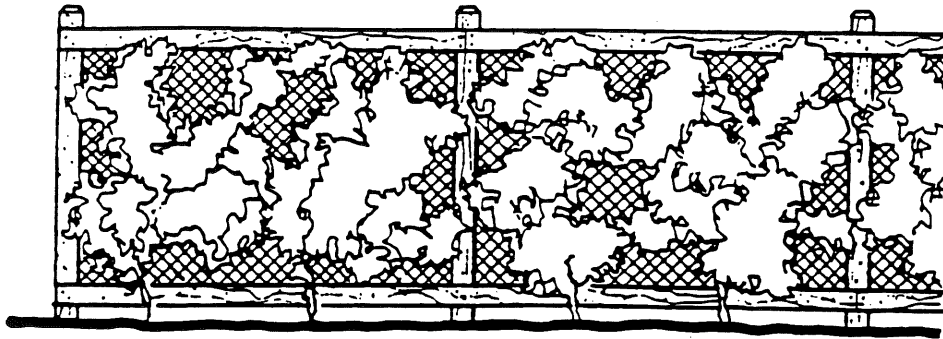
PLAN



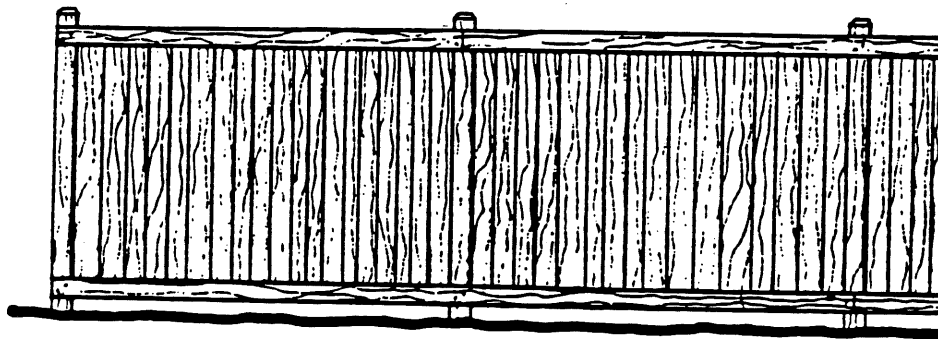
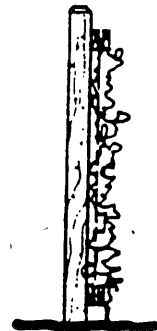
SOURCE ERFD

ELEVATION

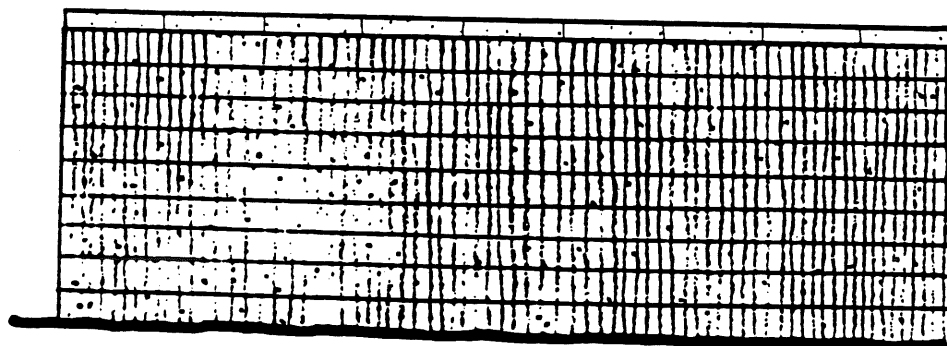
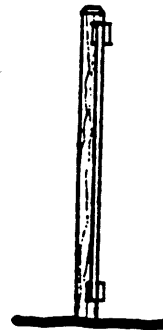
SCREEN FENCES



WOOD AND CHAIN LINK WITH VINE PLANTING

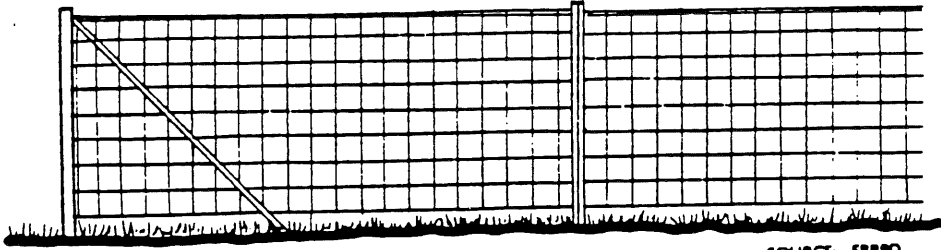


SOLID WOOD FENCE



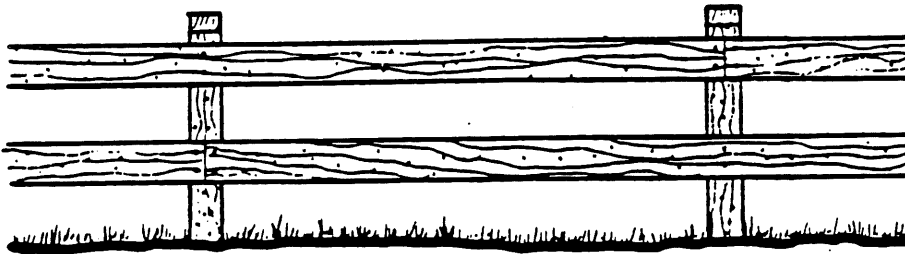
SPLIT FACE CONCRETE BLOCK

TRAIL FENCES



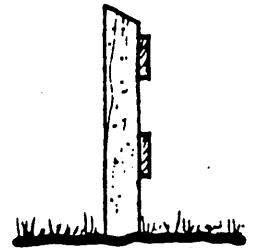
WOVEN FIELD FENCE

SOURCE EBRPO



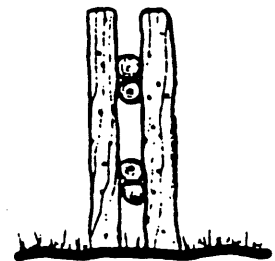
TWO RAIL FENCE

SOURCE EBRPO



LOG FENCE

SOURCE EBRPO



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Acknowledgments

City Council

David A. Fleming, Mayor
Pauline Clancy, Council Member
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Community Services Department

Jim E. Ball, Community Services Director
Ron Mikalis, Parks and Recreation Manager
Robert Farrington, Park Planner, Landscape Architect
Rollie Simons, Park Superintendent
Stewart Smith, Recreation Supervisor
Dave Rose, Recreation Supervisor

City Manager's Office

John Thompson, City Manager
David Van Kirk, Assistant City Manager
Michael Palombo, Economic Development Coordinator
Laurie Decker, Management Assistant

Community Development Department

Greg Werner, Director
Scott Sexton, City Planner
David Hubble, Senior Planner, Project Manager (Lagoon Valley)
Maureen Traut, Senior Planner
Robert Macaulay, Associate Planner
Mabel Bialik, Associate Planner

Fire Department

Pete Marino, Division Chief, Fire Marshall

Police Department

Paula Watson, Truancy Control and Gang Specialist

Mike Cook, Special Assistant to the Chief

Public Works Department

Paul Hom, Deputy Director

Consultant Team

Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey

Asa Hanamoto, Principal

Laura J. Lafler, Associate, Project Manager

Robert Waer, Graphics

Herma Kraft, Graphs, Report Layout

Barrie Stebbings, Typesetting

Moore Iacofano and Goltsman

Daniel Iacofano

Susan Goltsman

Carolyn Verheyen

Jim Oswald

Walp & Moore

Bernard Walp, Principal

Michal Moore, Principal

Angus McDonald & Associates

Angus N. McDonald

Geoffrey M. Richman

C. Robin Gurse