

5 PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

The provision of plentiful, well-designed, and well-maintained parks and recreation facilities significantly contributes to the quality of life in a community. Parks fulfill a number of important functions – they provide green “breathing” spaces within the city which promote healthy lifestyles; they provide children and families a place to play and explore; they provide areas for active sport uses and civic functions; and they provide areas for passive recreation and relaxation. Parks may also incorporate natural features and visual assets of the landscape, in addition to preserving habitat areas that are vital to the city's identity, history, and environmental health. Other recreational facilities such as special-purpose facilities, accessible open spaces, and trails fulfill specific community needs that formal developed parks typically cannot provide.

The Parks and Recreation Element is an optional element under State law. It contains goals and policies that strengthen the City’s commitment to providing a high level of parks and recreation facilities and services to Vacaville residents, and provides guidance for new development to incorporate additional recreational facilities as needed to maintain this level of service. These policies reflect the diversity of recreational needs historically desired by Vacaville residents, and attempt to provide flexibility in Vacaville’s parks and recreational services so as to appropriately respond when new recreational needs are desired by Vacaville’s changing population.

Background Information

Park Classifications

The City’s current inventory of parks and recreation facilities is classified into six basic categories:

- **Neighborhood Parks:** Smaller parks that are primarily intended to serve the recreation needs of residential areas within ½ mile (an approximate 10-minute walking distance) of the park. Park facilities are usually oriented towards the recreation needs of children and typically include a multipurpose playfield, a playground, and picnic facilities. When neighborhood parks are located adjacent to schools, they may also include a small recreation building, and are designed to support students at the nearby school. Existing neighborhood park sites generally range in size from 1 to 10 acres. However, new neighborhood parks should be designed within a 6- to 9-acre size range, depending upon the neighborhood park needs of the part of the city in which they are located.
- **Community Parks:** Mid-sized parks designed to provide major active-use recreational facilities such as lighted sports fields, sport courts, community buildings, swimming pools, spaces for community festivals, civic events, organized sports, and athletic competitions. Community parks should ideally also include areas for passive recreation including

walking paths with benches, shaded picnic areas, and preserved or created natural areas such as creeks, habitat areas, and unique landforms. Community parks often include appropriate support facilities such as parking areas, restroom buildings, and concession stands. Community parks generally range in size from 12 to 60 acres and are intended to serve the population living within a 1½-mile radius. A community park can also function as a neighborhood park for nearby residential areas.

- **Regional Park:** A large, nature-themed park that is focused on balancing the natural environment with related recreational activities. Lagoon Valley Park is the city’s only regional park and is designed to serve the city’s entire population and the greater Vacaville region. It includes a wide variety of passive recreation opportunities and amenities, including a 106-acre lake and open fields that are used for many large and regional events. The park is defined by its natural environment of hills, creeks, the lagoon, and the valley. It is intended to provide the public with access and use of these areas while sensitively preserving the habitat and natural environment for which the park is recognized. The historic Pena Adobe and its surrounding grounds are considered a sub-area of the park that provides additional space for group picnics and other events. The park provides trailheads and access to many acres of open space with miles of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails.
- **Accessible Open Space:** Land owned by the City of Vacaville (or other non-profit or public agency) that includes public access for limited recreational use and is maintained in a natural or non-intensive developed state. Publicly accessible open space includes lands of geologic, agricultural, ecologic, and scenic significance, and includes certain lands that are used jointly as creekways, drainages, detention basins, and other specific dual purposes. Accessible open space areas are made available to the public for self-guided and low-impact activities that typically include hiking, biking, horseback riding, bird watching, sky gazing, and nature appreciation. Accessible open space often includes developed nature trails that provide the public with defined access and utility of the open space while minimizing negative impacts to the environment. The Land Use Element includes a designation called “Public Open Space,” which includes both these accessible open space lands as well as undeveloped areas that are not made accessible to the public for reasons related to public safety or other special concerns. Open space related to biological resources, agricultural lands, cultural resources, and scenic resources is also addressed in the Conservation and Open Space Element. Open space related to public health and safety, including ridgelines and areas with steep slopes, is addressed in the Safety Element.
- **Special Purpose Facilities:** Buildings that house recreational programs and/or facilities targeted to meet the needs of a certain sector of the population or neighborhood. Most of these facilities are located within the boundaries of a park. However, others may be located on properties that are not owned by the City, but operated by the Community Services Department and/or under contract to the Department for its programs.

➤ **Bikeways, Multi-Use Trails, and Nature Trails**

Bikeways: Most of the city's paved, off-street bikeways are officially designated as off-street bike paths; however, they also function as multi-use trails and are appropriately shared with walkers, runners, skaters, and other non-motorized forms of transportation. Vacaville follows Caltrans definitions for its paved bikeways; therefore, these facilities are more completely defined and discussed in the Transportation Element. For both recreation and transportation purposes, it is important that bikeways provide logical connections to various destination points and make connections to regional bikeways that are outside of city limits. In some cases, a paved bikeway may be incorporated within a park (or accessible open space) as part of that individual facility's circulation plan.

Multi-Use Trails: In addition to the paved bike paths built to accommodate a broad range of recreational activities related to walking, running, and bicycle riding, there are a number of unpaved trails that do not qualify as formal bike paths, but they are used by bicyclists, pedestrians. Where appropriate, a multi-use path can include an adjacent but separate bridle path if the width of the right-of-way is sufficient to prevent conflict between bicyclists, pedestrians, and horseback riders. Some of these trails are not much more than informal dirt or gravel maintenance roads, but due to significant use by the public, they may be considered important recreational elements within a park or accessible open space.

Nature Trails: Nature trails are used by bicycle riders, hikers, and in many cases equestrians, but these unpaved trails tend to primarily serve recreational users who are interested in traversing challenging terrain. Because these trails are typically located in the steep and rugged environment of open space, they are discussed more thoroughly within the accessible open space component of this Element.

In addition, the local school districts own and operate a number of fields and specialized facilities that, in some cases, are made available for public use through policies set by the individual school district. The City recognizes the public ownership of these school facilities and has previously utilized a joint-use agreement with the Vacaville Unified School District to make a wider range of facilities available for the public's use. However, as of the publication of this General Plan, there is not currently an active joint-use agreement between the two agencies.

There are also many privately owned recreational facilities in Vacaville, such as golf courses; swim, tennis, and fitness clubs; ice skating and hockey rinks; bowling alleys; and equestrian centers. While recognizing the availability of the private recreational facilities, this Element focuses primarily on the City's provision of *public* park and recreation facilities.

Park Inventory

The locations of the city's parks are illustrated in Figure PR-1 (page 6), and a complete inventory of existing neighborhood, community, and regional parks are listed in Table PR-1 (page 7).

Accessible Open Space

The natural setting of the city is characterized by the ridges and hillsides west and south of the city, the agricultural valley lands to the north and east, and free-flowing creeks crossing through the city. As the city continues to grow, it is important to consider the impact urbanization can have on the accessible open space areas and to consider how to best preserve and enhance their character and uses. Policies in the Land Use Element express the City's vision for urban form and growth management. Policies in the Conservation and Open Space and Safety Elements help guide the protection of open spaces, particularly hillside and ridge areas.

Accessible open space includes natural landscapes that are essentially undeveloped, but suitable for passive recreational activities that do not require substantial facilities or improvements. This includes lands that are owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the City of Vacaville, or by some other public or non-profit entity, and are made accessible to the public for recreation, nature preservation, education, viewshed, and other open space purposes.

Figure PR-2 (page 11) illustrates the locations of the publicly accessible open space areas in Vacaville. Table PR-2 (page 12) lists their acreages.

Trails

Hiking, biking and walking are popular recreational activities for Vacaville residents. Trails provide an important recreational resource in-and-of themselves, but many trails also serve as a support facility in providing access between neighborhoods and important destinations, and in the case of paved trails, can also serve as part of the city's transportation network. Trail use is most often a self-directed recreational activity, but there is also a recognized trend toward increased use of trails by organized groups for special events.

As part of the effort to better serve the needs of Vacaville residents who choose to hike, bike, and walk for recreation, the City seeks to link the neighborhoods of the city to recreational resources in a comprehensive network of pedestrian facilities, bikeways, hiking trails, and multi-use trails, and to accommodate both bicycle and equestrian users wherever appropriate. Although it is a citywide system, each section of the trails system should relate to its immediate surroundings in design and function. Trails within the open spaces and hillsides are typically rustic and particularly conducive to hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding; by their nature (rugged, steep, and unpaved), most cannot be made to accommodate Americans with Disability Act (ADA) access. By contrast, most of the multi-use trails along the creekways, trails that provide linkages to neighborhood facilities, and those within developed parks are hard surfaced and designed for easy access for all. Most of these paved trails are designed to accommodate maintenance and emergency vehicles, and some also serve a dual purpose of providing maintenance vehicle access to city utilities such as sewer, water, and drainage facilities.

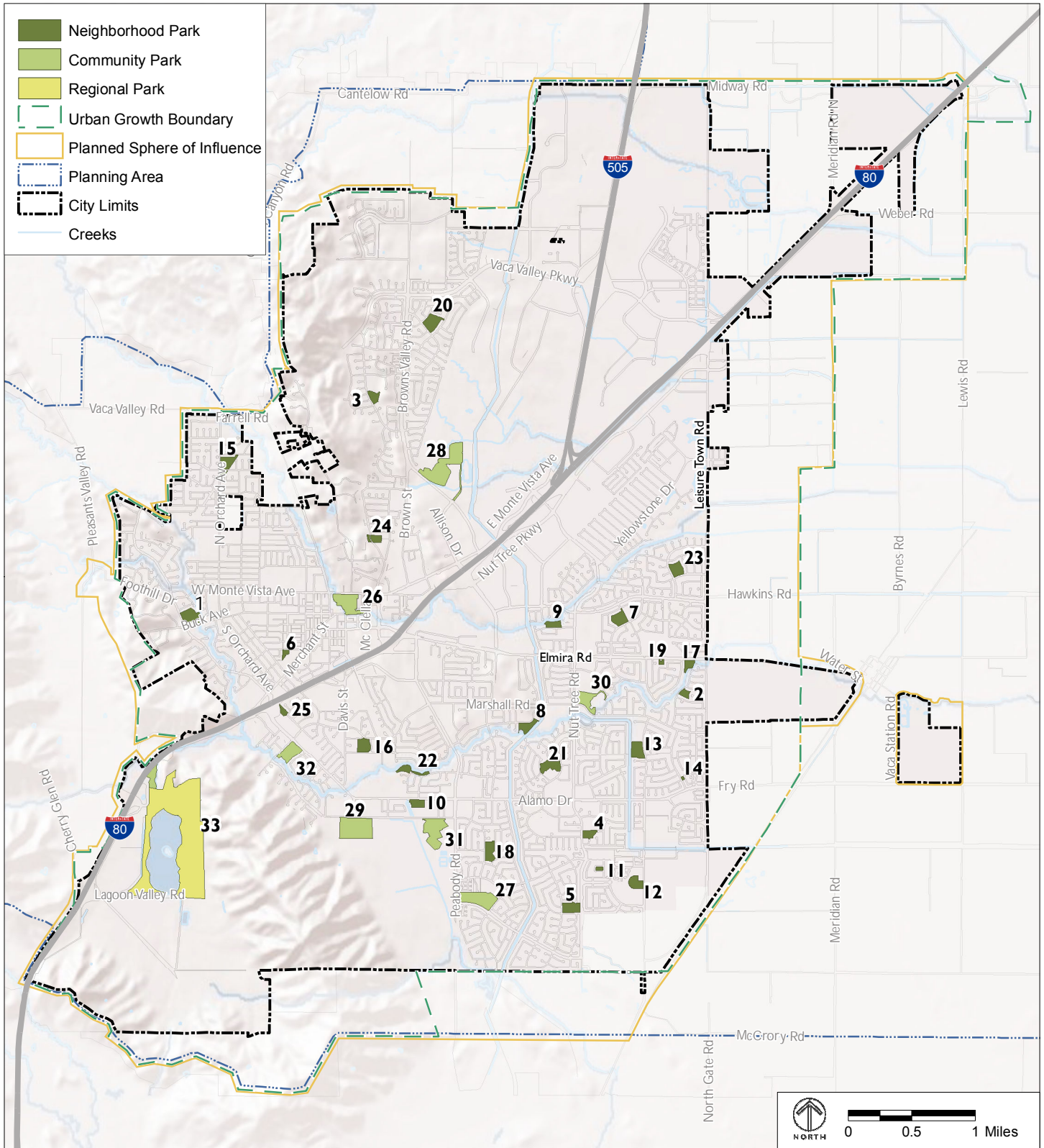
Trail definitions, the trail system, and the various types of trails are further outlined in the Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan, and are summarized under the Park Classifications in the Background Information section above.

- **Trailhead:** The beginning of a hiking/biking/equestrian trail. Trailheads typically include orientation signs giving distance mileage, information on trail use including safety hazards, and perhaps a natural history of the area. Trailheads are sometimes referred to as staging areas when they also provide appropriate parking areas, restroom facilities, and drinking water, and particularly when they include facilities for horse trailers and equestrian users.

Special Purpose Facilities

With the exception of the Mariposa and Trower Neighborhood Centers as noted below, Vacaville owns and operates the following special purpose facilities, the locations of which are shown in Figure PR-3 (page 13):

- **Three Oaks Community Center.** Includes a large assembly hall with a stage and dressing rooms, an activity room, a multi-purpose room, an arts and crafts room, a computer training room, and ample off-street parking.
- **Walter V. Graham Aquatics Center.** Includes two 35-foot waterslides, a 25-meter competition pool with 3 and 5-meter diving boards and diving blocks, a recreation pool, a children's splash play area, and an adjoining covered picnic area with barbeques and play area.
- **Georgie Duke Sports Facility.** Offers a gymnasium for basketball, ping pong, and badminton activities and a fully-equipped boxing room. Drop-in activities provided through the week include: 35+ basketball, adult/youth basketball, badminton, and adult boxing.
- **John A. McBride Center.** Provides flexible function spaces with a commercial kitchen and excellent accessibility. Programs for all ages, including programs for individuals 50 years of age and older. It includes on-going classes, bingo, and "drop-in" activities such as cards, billiards, and exercise classes.
- **Ulatis Community Center and Wedding Gardens.** A multi-purpose facility with dividable spaces, banquet seating capacity for 625 people, a commercial kitchen, patio areas, and a garden designed for weddings and other special occasions.
- **Vacaville Performing Arts Theater.** A state-of-the-art performing theater equipped with professional sound and lighting systems, a full orchestra pit with capacity for 32 musicians, a professional-height fly system capable of moving full-sized scenery, and two large dressing rooms.
- **Vacaville Recreation Center.** Equipped for gymnastics training and includes additional indoor space suitable for either a volleyball or basketball court. The facility is also available for rent and is used on occasion for community events. The building is leased from the adjacent privately-owned Vacaville Ice-Sports Facility.



Note: Park numbers on the map correspond to ID numbers in Table PR-1.

Source: City of Vacaville, 2010.

FIGURE PR-1
 PARK LOCATION MAP

TABLE PR-1 **PARK INVENTORY**

ID	Name	Location	Developed Acres
Neighborhood Parks			
1	Alamo Creek Park	Alamo Dr. at Buck Ave.	9.5
2	Arbor Oaks Park	Arbor Oaks Dr. at Leeward Ct.	2.5
3	Browns Valley Park	Wrentham Dr.	4.4
4	Cambridge Park	Nut Tree Rd. at Cambridge Dr.	3.4
5	Cannon Station Park	Nut Tree Rd. at Opal Way	6.6
6	City Hall Park	Walnut Ave. at City Hall	1.6
7	Cooper School Park	Christine Dr. at Notre Dame Dr.	6.6
8	Fairmont-Beelard Park	Beelard Dr. at Matthews Ct.	5.2
9	Hawkins Park	Summerfield Dr. at Newport Cir.	3.1
10	Larsen Park (Irene)	Alamo Dr. at Rosewood Dr.	4.3
11	Little Oak Park	Turnbridge St. at Salisbury Ct.	1.1
12	Magnolia Park (Phase 1)	Vanden Rd. and Cogburn Cir.	5.9
13	Meadowlands Park	Vanden Rd. at Bluebird Dr.	8.1
14	Normandy Meadows Park	Meadowlark Dr. at Chateau Cir.	0.3
15	North Orchard Park	Orchard Ave. at Crestview Dr.	7.9
16	Padan Park	Padan School Rd. and Marshall Rd.	6.5
17	Patwin Park	Elmira Rd. west of Leisure Town Rd.	4.7
18	Pheasant Country Park	Madison Ave. at Nancy Cir.	7.0
19	Pocket Park	Elmira Rd. east of Ralph Ave.	0.9
20	Ridgeview Park	Tipperary Dr. at Bluewater Dr.	7.3
21	Sierra Vista Park	West of Bel Air Dr. on Greenwich Cir.	4.2
22	Southwood Park	Southwood Dr. at Sherwood Ct.	3.8
23	Stonegate Park	Stonegate Dr. at Stonewood Dr.	6.0
24	Trower Park	Markham Ave. at Holly Ln.	4.0

TABLE PR-1 **PARK INVENTORY** (CONTINUED)

ID	Name	Location	Developed Acres
25	Willows Park	South of Catalina Ct. on Ogden Way	2.0
Community Parks			
26	Andrews Park	Monte Vista Ave. at School Rd.	17.9
27	Arlington Park (John)	505 Foxboro Pkwy. (at Peabody Rd.)	17.8
28	Centennial Park	501 Browns Valley Rd.	35.7
29	Keating Park (William)	California Dr. at Alamo Dr.	24.6
30	Nelson Park (Eleanor)	1800 Marshall Rd. (at Nut Tree Rd.)	13.0
31	Patch Park (Al)	1750 California Dr. at Peabody Rd.	19.0
32	Three Oaks Park	1100 Alamo Dr.	11.9
Regional Parks			
33	Lagoon Valley Regional Park	4627 Peña Adobe Rd.	314.0

Note: ID refers to the park's label in Figure PR-1.
 Source: City of Vacaville Community Services Department, 2012.

- **Mariposa and Trower Neighborhood Centers.** The “Vacaville Neighborhood Boys and Girls Club” operates these city-owned facilities providing afterschool programming for kindergarten through twelfth grades, and drop-in recreation.

Recreational Programs

The City of Vacaville Parks and Recreation Department offers recreational programming for a wide range of ages and interests. Recreational programming is scheduled throughout the year and is advertised in the Events Guide, which is published three times per year. The Events Guide lists a variety of classes offered and upcoming community events. The following are some of the major programs offered by the Vacaville Parks and Recreation Department:

- **TGIF** – The Thank Goodness It’s Fun (TGIF) program is run by the Parks and Recreation Department and offers before and after school enrichment activities for children in kindergarten through 6th grade. Several TGIF facilities (temporary buildings) are located adjacent to elementary schools for family convenience.
- **Gymnastics** – The Community Services Department provides a wide array of gymnastics programs at the Vacaville Recreation Center located at 551 Davis Street.

- **Aquatics** – Various aquatic programs, such as swim lessons, diving, and water aerobics, take place at the Graham Aquatic Center.
- **Early Childhood Enrichment** – This program offers activities and classes for children ages 18 months to 5 years.
- **Youth Sports** – These sports programs are designed to introduce participants to a variety of traditional sports and focus on health and fitness. Camps, classes, and leagues are available.
- **Adult Sports and Fitness** – Instructional classes such as tennis, yoga, and martial arts are offered, as well as league volleyball, flag football, basketball, and softball.
- **Cultural Arts** – Music, dance, drama, painting, and drawing classes are offered, as well as a variety of camps.
- **Adult Services/Active Aging** – A variety of classes ranging from computer training to driver safety and foot care to Tai Chi are offered to adults at the McBride Center. A multitude of free services are also available, including legal consultation and health insurance counseling.
- **CreekWalk Concert Series** – A summer-long concert series featuring regional bands and local food vendors. Concerts take place every Friday night throughout the summer months and at Andrew Park in the heart of Downtown Vacaville.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Vacaville’s “Parks and Recreation Master Plan” guides the development of parks, recreation, and open space facilities throughout the city. The Master Plan describes the condition of parks and recreation facilities, proposes new facilities, and includes policies to implement the Plan. The Plan establishes park and facility development guidelines and includes policies for the development of new facilities, and for distributing these amenities throughout the city.

Planned Parks and Open Space

The City of Vacaville has identified locations for future parks in areas that are underserved and areas where future development is anticipated, as well as future open space. Table PR-3 (page 16) and Figure PR-4 (page 15) identify the planned parks and open space in Vacaville.

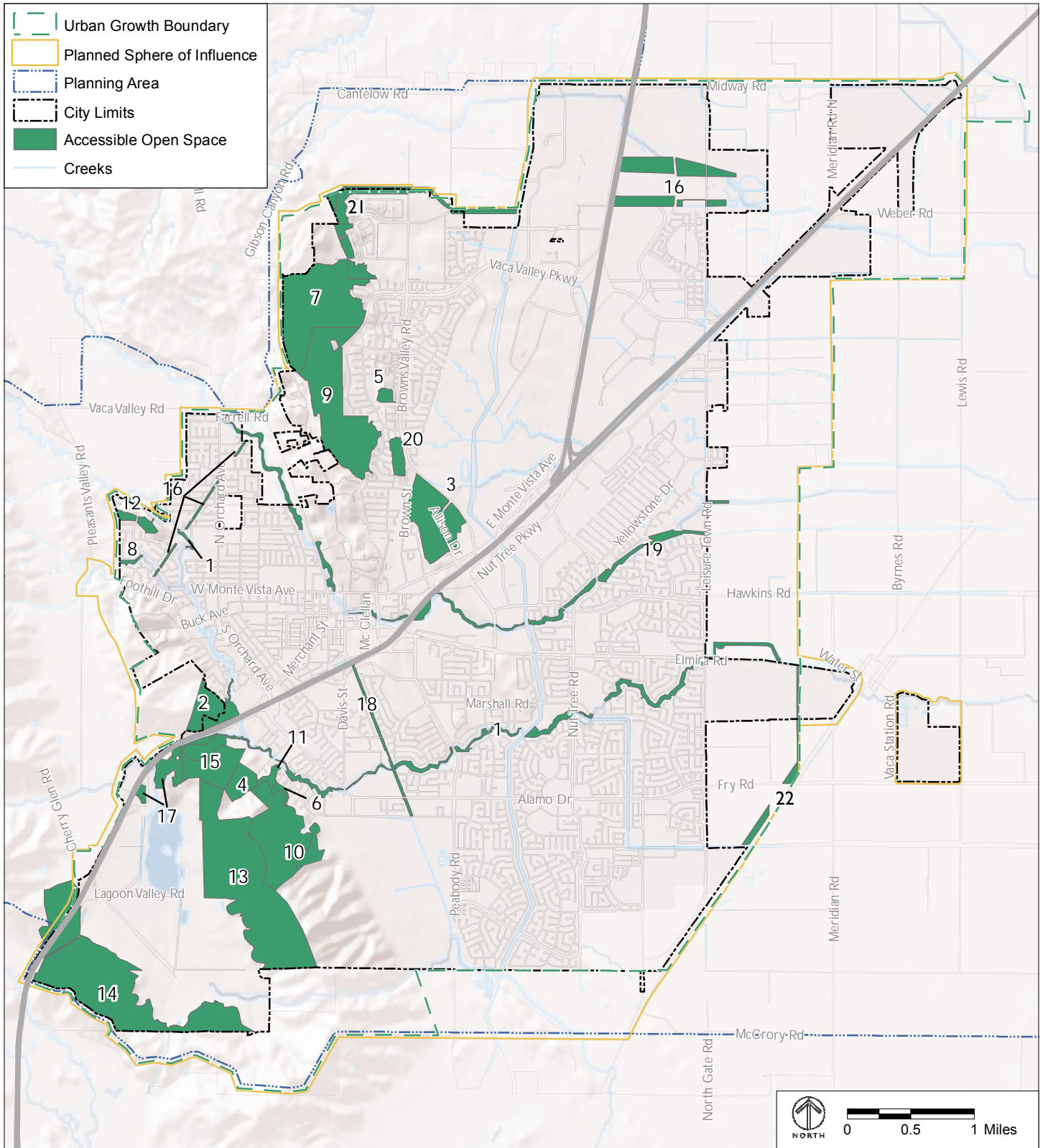
Park Funding

Funding for the acquisition and development of parks is derived primarily from park development impact fees as authorized under the Mitigation Fee Act (Govt. code 66000), and in some cases by Mello Roos Community Facilities Districts, and grants. However, Action PR-A1.3 directs the City to adopt a Quimby Ordinance, which will also provide funding for park acquisition. Operation of the City’s parks, including programs, staff, and other operations, is provided by the Community Services Department and funded through the City’s General Fund and user fees. Maintenance of all City parks and recreation facilities is provided by the Public Works Department and funded

primarily through the General Fund and numerous maintenance districts as authorized by the Lighting and Landscaping Act of 1972.

Equitable Parks and Recreation System

Not all residents and neighborhoods have equal access to parks and recreation facilities. Ensuring parks are equitably distributed and accessible helps promote physical activity and community health for all Vacaville residents. Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000) mandates the General Plan incorporate community health by promoting physical activity, access to public facilities, and prioritizing investments and improvements in underserved communities. Both the General Plan and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan address this by identifying areas underserved by parks and recreation facilities, and identifies opportunities for new facilities, and barriers that should be removed. An equitable park and recreation parks system also provides safe opportunities and access for youth, seniors, and people of all abilities.



Note: Open space numbers on the map correspond to ID numbers in Table PR-2

Source: City of Vacaville, 2010 and 2015.

FIGURE PR-2
 ACCESSIBLE OPEN SPACE LOCATION MAP

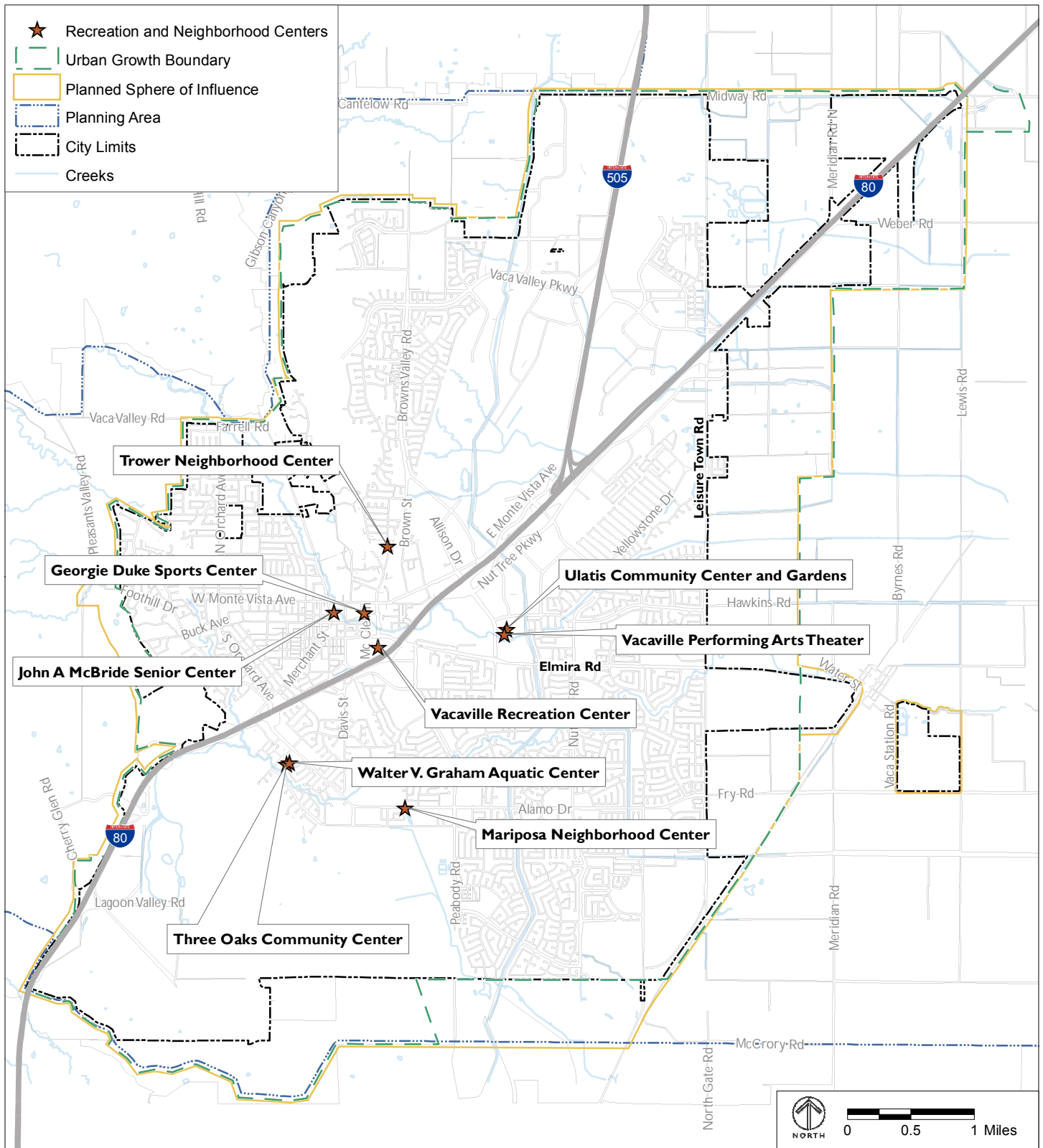
CITY OF VACAVILLE
VACAVILLE GENERAL PLAN
PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

TABLE PR-2 ACCESSIBLE OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

ID	Name	Approximate Acreage
1	Alamo Creek Open Space & Bike Trail	84
2	Alamo Terrace Open Space	47
3	Allison Open Space	74
4	Alpine Open Space	30
5	Browns Valley Open Space	25
6	California Drive Open Space	4
7	Caliguiri Park & Preserve Open Space	238
8	Foothill Open Space	60
9	Glen Eagle Open Space	264
10	Gonzales Open Space	172
11	Hidden Oaks Open Space	9
12	Hidden Valley Open Space	14
13	Lagoon Valley Eastern Hills Open Space	422
14	Lagoon Valley Southern Hills Open Space	310
15	Laguna Hills Open Space	100
16	PG&E Open Space	102
17	Pena Adobe Open Space	50
18	Southside Bike Trail Open Space	15
19	Ulatis Creek Open Space	83
20	Woodcrest Open Space	7
21	Cheyenne Open Space	70
22	East of Leisure Town Road Agricultural Buffer/Open Space	24

Note: ID refers to the open space label in Figure PR-2.
Source: City of Vacaville Community Services Department, 2012.

The maintenance of the newer neighborhood parks is funded partially by individual Lighting and Landscaping Maintenance Assessment Districts (LLMADs) and augmented by the General Fund. Maintenance of the remaining neighborhood parks, as well as the community parks and Lagoon Valley Regional Park, is provided primarily from the General Fund.



Note: This figure corresponds with the special purpose facilities identified on page PR-5.

Source: City of Vacaville, 2010.

FIGURE PR-3
 SPECIAL PURPOSE FACILITIES

Park Standards

Park standards provide a means to measure how much park land should be set aside for recreational use as the city develops. This section establishes the acreage, size, and service area standards for neighborhood, community, and regional parks. No standards are established for the provision of trails and open space. However, the Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan includes standards for certain special purpose facilities and individual recreation facilities.

Park Acreage per Population

The City's park acreage standards are simple ratios of the City's total desired number of developed park acres, divided by the total population of the city (less those living in the prisons' group housing facilities). The overall standard of providing 4.5 acres of developed parkland per thousand people reflects a minimum goal to maintain this important quality of life component as the city's population increases through the years.

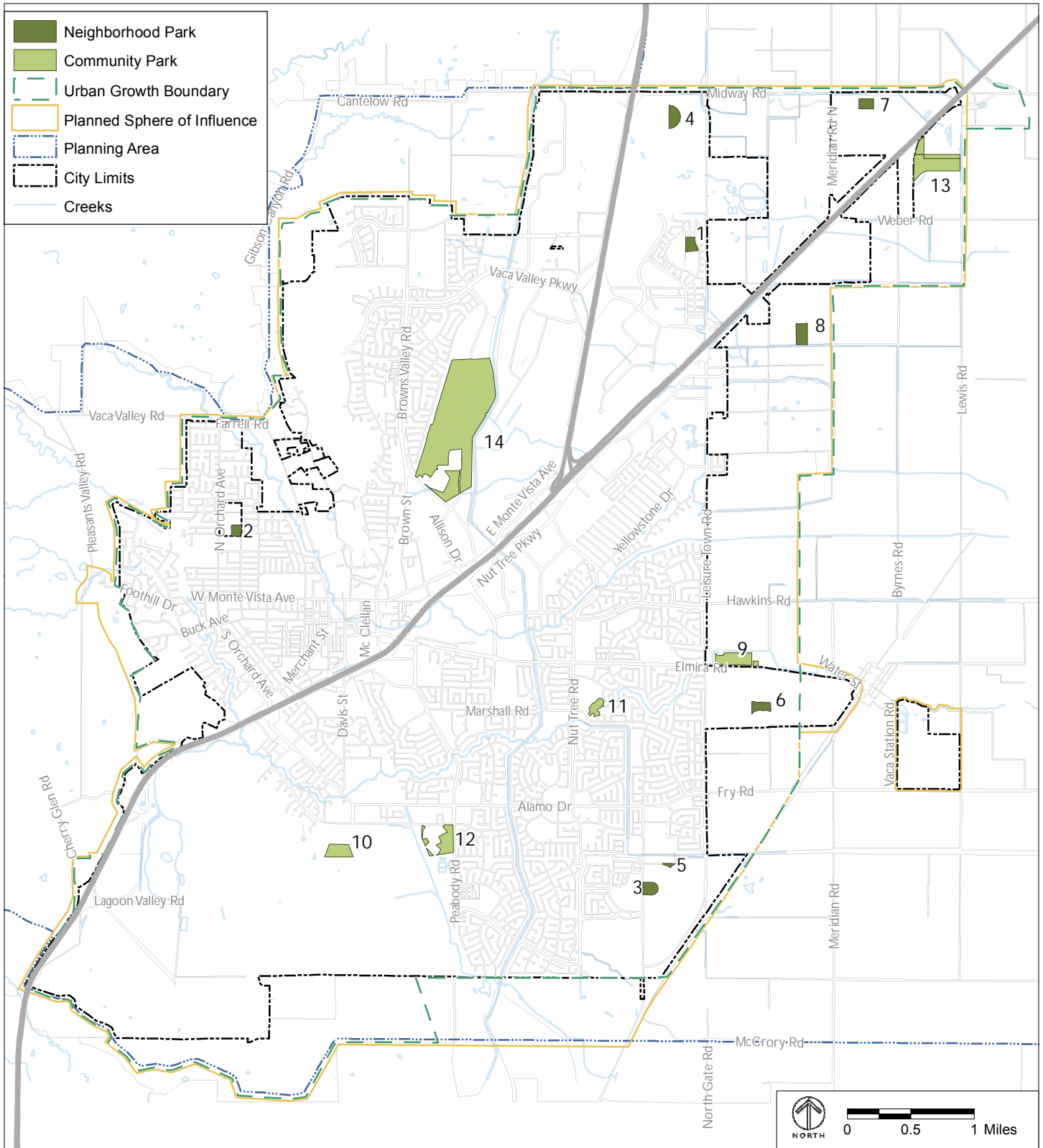
The City's standard of 4.5 acres of developed parkland per thousand residents was established in 1992. As indicated below, this park acreage standard is further divided into the park categories of neighborhood, community, and regional parklands, which are described earlier in this Element:

- Neighborhood Park: 1.8 acres per 1,000 people
- Community Park: 1.7 acres per 1,000 people
- Regional Park: 1.0 acre per 1,000 people
- Total: 4.5 acres per 1,000 people

Park Size

The following park size standards provide efficiencies in programming and maintenance:

- New neighborhood parks must be a minimum of 6 acres in size, and can be as large as 9 acres as needed to serve the local service area. New neighborhood parks less than 6 acres may be approved in infill areas where there is a documented shortfall of parkland.
- New community parks must be a minimum of 10 acres in size, and may be up to 40 acres as needed to serve the planned service area. Centennial Park is a notable exception to this size standard in that it is intended to ultimately include all 265 acres and serve the entire city.
- Lagoon Valley Regional Park is the city's only regional park at slightly over 300 acres. The City does not anticipate adding any new regional parks within the planning period of this General Plan.



Note: Park numbers on the map correspond to ID numbers in Table PR-3

Source: City of Vacaville, 2010 and 2015.

FIGURE PR-4
 PLANNED PARKS

TABLE PR-3 PLANNED PARKS

ID	Name	Location	Acres
Neighborhood Parks			
1	Corderos Park	1100 Parkside Dr. (North Village)	7.2
2	Fruitvale Park	South of Fruitvale Rd.	6.0
3	Magnolia Park (Phase 2) (Southtown)	Vanden Rd. and Cogburn Cir.	6.9
4	North Village AP-2	East of North Village Pkwy.	TBD
5	Redbud Park (Southtown)	Northeast of Magnolia Park	1.3
6	East of Leisure Town Road Park	East of Leisure Town Road Growth Area	6.0
7	Northeast Area Park - North	Northeast Growth Area	6.0
8	Northeast Area Park – South	Northeast Growth Area	9.0
Community Parks			
9	Elmira Park	Elmira Rd. east of Leisure Town Rd.	17.0
10	Keating Park (expansion)	California Dr. and Alamo Dr.	21.0
11	Nelson Park (Eleanor) (expansion)	Nut Tree Rd. and Marshall Rd.	6.0
12	Patch Park (Al) (expansion)	1750 California Dr. (west of Peabody Rd).	15.0
13	Northeast Area Park	Northeast Growth Area	36.0
14	Centennial Park	501 Brown's Valley Rd.	265.1

Notes: ID refers to the park or open space label in Figure PR-4. Since these parks are not yet built, final names may be different.
Source: City of Vacaville Community Services Department, 2012.

Park Service Areas

For analysis purposes, the service area standard is represented as a radius drawn around a neighborhood or community park, rather than as travel time; although significant barriers to transportation, such as freeways and canals, should be taken into consideration. All residential areas of the city should be served by a neighborhood and a community park within the service area standards provided below; although, a community park may serve the residents within ½ mile as their neighborhood park. There is no service area standard for regional parks because Lagoon Valley Regional Park serves the greater Vacaville region and it is expected that most users will need to travel a distance to access the park.

- Neighborhood Park: ½ mile maximum (approximately a 10-minute walk)
- Community Park: 1½ miles maximum

Recreational Facilities

The Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan specifies long-range facility standards and programming recommendations for all the listed parks. Service ratios are provided for a variety of specific recreation facilities, including gymnasias, tennis courts, baseball/softball fields, golf courses, and community centers, among others. Additionally, the Master Plan makes general recommendations for the provision of programming based on education, demographic, and recreation trends. Since the Master Plan was approved in 1992, many of the listed recommendations have been accomplished, a number of planned facilities have been constructed, and trends and other changes in recreational activities suggest that this document should be updated to better reflect the current recreational needs of the city's residents.

Goals, Policies, and Actions

Goal PR-1	Develop and maintain a high-quality public park system that provides varied recreational opportunities for city residents, workers, and visitors.
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Policies

- Policy PR-P1.1 Provide new parks according to the standards established in this Element to ensure adequate distribution, size, and access.
- Policy PR-P1.2 Provide neighborhood parks to serve the unique recreational, cultural, and educational needs of Vacaville's diverse neighborhoods. Design new neighborhood parks to have a unique character, appeal to children, and avoid standardized, programmatic designs.
- Policy PR-P1.3 Provide community parks to encompass a range of uses, including active high-investment (e.g. gymnasiums and swimming pools), active low-investment (e.g. playfields and picnic facilities), and passive recreational facilities (e.g. natural areas suitable for quiet reflection). Community parks shall serve large portions of the city by providing facilities suitable for recreational and cultural activities beyond those supplied by neighborhood parks.
- Policy PR-P1.4 Maintain, improve, and preserve Vacaville's Lagoon Valley Regional Park to serve the region with a variety of nature-oriented and passive recreational opportunities.
- Policy PR-P1.5 Support and encourage the location of special use recreation facilities, such as community gardens, dog parks, and skate parks, on available park or other public lands, where compatible with the existing and planned uses of surrounding properties.

- Policy PR-P1.6 Make provisions for seniors and people with disabilities to freely access and utilize parks and recreational facilities, according to local, State, and federal codes.
- Policy PR-P1.7 Encourage the development of private and commercial recreational facilities at appropriate locations. However, private recreational facilities shall not count towards the park standards established in this Element.
- Policy PR-P1.8 Make designated open spaces more accessible to the public with a linked park and trail system that takes advantage of surrounding open space.
- Policy PR-P1.9 Consider community health issues as they are related to the equitable provision of desirable public amenities such as parks, recreational facilities, community gardens, and other beneficial uses that improve the quality of life.

Actions

- Action PR-A1.1 Update the Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan to include a broader description of desired park facilities and allow staff the flexibility to include the facilities desired by the public, and continue to implement this Master Plan.
- Action PR-A1.2 Provide additional trails and facilities where they are feasible and appropriate. Connect the trails system to the bikeways system wherever feasible and appropriate.
- Action PR-A1.3 Implement a Quimby Ordinance requiring that park provision be considered and incorporated in the subdivision process.

Goal PR-2	Ensure that new development is responsible for providing new parks and recreation facilities in accordance with the City's park and recreation standards and for providing its fair share of neighborhood park maintenance costs.
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Policies

- Policy PR-P2.1 All parks and recreation facilities required by the park standards in this Element shall be publicly owned, operated, and maintained, except as otherwise allowed by the Quimby Act.
- Policy PR-P2.2 New parks and recreation facilities shall be funded, at least in part, by fees paid by new development, or as turn-key facilities with new development, as described in Policy PR-P2.5.

- Policy PR-P2.3 Require that proponents of large projects subject to Specific Plans and/or Development Agreements work with City staff early in the planning process to ensure that the project includes an adequate amount of developed parkland to satisfy the City's standards.
- Policy PR-P2.4 Require all residential developers, including apartment builders, to provide sufficient parks and other recreational facilities to meet the standards established by the Parks & Recreation Master Plan by dedicating land and/or paying in-lieu fees for land acquisition, and by paying Park Development Impact Fees for the construction of new facilities.
- Policy PR-P2.5 Encourage development of turn-key neighborhood parks, which are completed in conjunction with development of a new subdivision, rather than payment of impact fees.
- Policy PR-P2.6 Work with residential developers to ensure that parks and recreational facilities planned to serve new development will be available concurrently with need.
- Policy PR-P2.7 Encourage new non-residential development that would bring workers to Vacaville to incorporate park and recreation facilities into the project design.
- Policy PR-P2.8 Ensure that all new residential development will either annex into or set up a new park maintenance district in accordance with the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972.

Actions

- Action PR-A2.1 Adjust park impact fees to reflect a more accurate cost of developing parkland based on real development costs. Include an adjustment factor for the cost of responding to changing requirements, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, playground safety standards, CEQA requirements, and new building technology that combats vandalism (e.g. concrete tables and video surveillance systems).

Goal PR-3	Locate new parks to maximize safety, site efficiency, public safety, and convenient public access.
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Policies

- Policy PR-P3.1 Locate new neighborhood parks adjacent to new elementary schools where possible. Whenever possible, work with the school district to design both the park and school to maximize the benefits for the public.
- Policy PR-P3.2 Prohibit new neighborhood parks adjacent to arterial streets.
- Policy PR-P3.3 Wherever possible, site new parks and recreation facilities to promote pedestrian and bicycle access and prevent the need to cross major roadways.
- Policy PR-P3.4 Locate parks and recreation facilities to take advantage of natural features, adjoining open space, trail access, lands that may be jointly-used for recreation purposes, *land use buffers* (i.e. areas of open space or low-intensity uses between potentially conflicting land uses), urban separators, and easements.

Actions

- Action PR-A3.1 Coordinate with public safety staff in the design of parks and in the development of standards for park design. Incorporate these standards into the Update to the City's Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

Goal PR-4	Provide and maintain parks that reflect, preserve, and respect Vacaville's natural setting and the public's investment in each facility.
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Policies

- Policy PR-P4.1 Provide the public with clear signage regarding appropriate usage of parks, open space, trails, and other recreational facilities. Ensure that park regulations and local laws are appropriate and enforceable.
- Policy PR-P4.2 Promote the environmental and recreational qualities of Lagoon Valley Regional Park through outreach to Vacaville residents and employees, as well as to the greater Vacaville region.
- Policy PR-P4.3 Develop and follow operations policies to prevent the degradation or despoilment of the City's parklands through inappropriate uses.

- Policy PR-P4.4 Preserve and enhance the natural areas and biotic resources within parks, such as riparian corridors, wildlife habitat, and oak woodlands. Integrate these resources into the recreational experience in ways that emphasize their importance and enjoyment to park users, such as providing trails, viewing platforms, and interpretive signage.

Goal PR-5 Engage in coordinated and cooperative park planning efforts.

Policies

- Policy PR-P5.1 Involve interested members of the public, other public agencies, and private organizations in park and recreational facility planning.
- Policy PR-P5.2 Work with the local school district to design parks located adjacent to schools to maximize the public benefits of both the park and school.
- Policy PR-P5.3 Cooperate with special districts, Solano County, the State, and other agencies that provide recreational facilities to ensure that Vacaville residents have access to recreational facilities outside of those that can be provided by the City.
- Policy PR-P5.4 In the event that local school districts decide to sell surplus property, the City shall consider acquiring the land for use as a public park or other recreational facility, subject to available funding, local park needs and the suitability of the site.

Actions

- Action PR-A5.1 Strive to establish a joint-use agreement with Vacaville Unified School District and seek additional opportunities to partner for expanding resident access to shared parks and recreational facilities.
- Action PR-A5.2 Pursue support from federal, state, and private sources to assist with acquisition, design, , construction, and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities in underserved areas.

Goal PR-6 Provide parks and recreational programs that promote and support physical activity and a healthy lifestyle in Vacaville.

Policies

- Policy PR-P6.1 Encourage public and private providers of recreational activities in Vacaville to collaborate with Solano County Public Health and other public health agencies

to design healthy recreation programs that incorporate physical activity and healthy eating.

Policy PR-P6.2 Design parks to ensure that Vacaville continues to provide a combination of both active and passive recreational opportunities for all age levels, including walking, jogging, organized team sports, and informal group sports.

Policy PR-P6.3 Expand opportunities for visual and performing arts as well as programs and events that provide entertainment, such as concerts.

Policy PR-P6.4 Promote physical activity, mental health, healthy eating, and other healthy lifestyle habits in recreational programming.

Actions

Action PR-A6.1 Conduct a review of park and recreation facilities to identify ways that they could be utilized to promote healthy lifestyles and activities for all age levels, including diet, exercise, and mental well-being.

Action PR-A6.2 Expand collaboration with other entities where opportunities exist to provide more therapeutic recreation programs for residents with special needs.

Goal PR-7	Provide a parks and recreation system that is accessible to youth, seniors, and people of all abilities.
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Policies

Policy PR-P7.1 Expand recreation programs for youth and teens, including sports and fitness, outdoor activity and excursions, and arts education.

Policy PR-P7.2 Expand opportunities for youth to be involved in planning recreation programs, services, and events for youth.

Policy PR-P7.3 Identify and remove barriers to accessibility to older parks and recreation facilities.

Policy PR-P7.4 Prioritize provision and improvements of parks and recreation facilities in low-income areas that lack parks and recreation facilities or have substandard facilities.