

Draft

Sonoma County

Outdoor

Recreation Plan



Volume I: Outdoor Recreation Plan

County of Sonoma Board of Supervisors

Valerie Brown
Tim Smith
Paul L. Kelley
Mike Reilly
Michael Kerns, Chairman

Sponsoring Agencies

Sonoma County Regional Parks Department
Sonoma County Water Agency
Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District

March 2003

Acknowledgements

Former members of the Board of Supervisors
Ernie Carpenter, Jim Handerson, Mike Cale

Outdoor Recreation Plan Citizens Advisory Committee:

Dennis Murphy, Chair (SCAPOSD Advisory Committee)
Carl Jackson, (General Manager SCWA Appointee)
Pierre Joske, (General Manager SCAPOSD Appointee)
Hal Beck, (Director of Regional Parks Appointee)
Caryl Hart, (SCAPOSD Advisory Committee)
Ray Peterson, (Member of Sonoma County Farm Trails)
Mike Strunk, (Director Sonoma County Farm Bureau)
Eric Koenigshofer (County Parks Advisory Commission)
Arthur "Andy" Wick (County Parks Advisory Commission)
Alternate: Lex McCorey, (Executive Director, Sonoma County Farm Bureau)

Past members of the CAC

Judy James (Former Executive Director, Sonoma County Farm Bureau)
Philip Trowbridge (SCRP) (3/96-11/96)
Estelle Miller (SCRP) (12/96-3/97)
Jay Gamel (SCAPOSD) (3/96-3/97)
Dee Swanhuysen (SCRP) (3/96-10/98)

Project Sponsors:

Jim R. Angelo, Director, Sonoma County Regional Parks
Randy Poole, General Manager, Sonoma County Water Agency
Andrea Mackenzie, General Manager, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District

Sonoma County Regional Parks Project Staff:

Philip Sales, Park Planning & Design Administrator
Paul Curfman, Project Manager (1996-97)
Steven Ehret, Park Planner II

Technical Advisory Committee:

Philip Sales, Park Planning & Design Administrator, SCRIP
Andrea Mackenzie, SCAPOSD
Richard Rogers, Planner, PRMD
Renee Webber, SCWA

Consultants:

Nancy Dakin, Environmental Planner
David Woltering, Land Planning & Project Management Consultant

Dedication:

This Plan is dedicated to the memory of Julie Fisher

DRAFT: March 2003

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Executive Summary	i
	A. Plan Overview.....	i
	B. Highlights of the Plan.....	i
	C. Changes from the May 27, 1999 Draft Plan.....	iii
	D. Effectiveness of the Plan in meeting its defined purposes and goals	x
	E. Goals identified in the Introduction of the Plan	xii
I.	Introduction	1
	A. Vision of the Outdoor Recreation Plan.....	2
	B. The Sponsoring and Other Involved Agencies.....	3
	C. Purpose of The Plan.....	4
	D. Goals of the Outdoor Recreation Plan	5
	E. The Plan Preparation Process	5
	F. Relationship to the Sonoma County General Plan.....	7
	G. Relationship to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).....	9
	H. Organization of the Plan	9
II.	The Value of Recreation to Sonoma County	11
	A. Recreation in Sonoma County	12
	B. Economic Benefits of Recreation Activities.....	12
	C. Other Economic Benefits of Recreation Activities.....	15
	D. Farm Bureau Concerns Regarding Impacts of Recreation on Agriculture.....	17
III.	Recommended Policies	25
IV.	Parkland Classification and Inventory	35
	A. Parkland Classification	36
	B. Parkland Inventory.....	40
V.	Assessment of Parkland Needs	45
	A. Background on Parkland Needs Assessment Guidelines Used Previously in Sonoma County.....	46
	B. Overview of Future Parkland Needs and Priorities	48
	C. Quantitative Analysis.....	52
	D. Qualitative Analysis.....	67
VI.	Recommendations	77
	A. Introduction.....	78
	B. Trail Recommendations.....	78
	C. Parkland Recommendations.....	89

VII. Financing Options	119
A. Estimate of Likely Costs.....	120
B. Funding Sources	123
C. Financial Recommendations.....	129
VIII. References	131

List of Tables

Table 1:	Travel Spending and Related Impacts, 1993-1997.....	13
Table 2:	Outdoor Recreation Plan Classification Matrix.....	38
Table 3:	Classification of Sonoma County’s Regional Parks and Facilities by Parkland Type	39
Table 4:	Summary of Publicly Accessible Lands in Sonoma County (Acres)	40
Table 5:	Eleven County Average of Publicly Accessible Land.....	41
Table 6:	Sonoma County – Projected Population Growth (1990-2010).....	54
Table 7:	Population Projections by Age in Sonoma County (1990-2010)	54
Table 8:	Household and Family Characteristics in Sonoma County (1990-2010)	55
Table 9:	Defining Characteristics of Community and Neighborhood Parks	58
Table 10:	Estimated need for Community and Neighborhood Parks (2010).....	59
Table 11:	Defining Characteristics of the Sub-Categories of County Regional Parks	62
Table 12:	Acres of Regional Recreation Areas (Active)/Thousand Population by Park Planning Area (Incorporated and Unincorporated) of Sonoma County (2010 Projected Population).....	62
Table 13:	Acres of Regional Recreation Areas (Passive)/Thousand Population by Park Planning Area (Incorporated and Unincorporated) of Sonoma County (2010 Projected Population).....	63
Table 14:	Comparison of Existing and Proposed Trail Mileage with Other Counties	64
Table 15:	Comparison of Parkland Needs based on NRPA Formulas.....	65
Table 16:	Defining Characteristics of ‘Other Lands’	66
Table 17:	SRI Survey of Current Needs: Recreation Facilities Listed as “High Priority”	69
Table 18:	Trail Priorities	78
Table 19:	Proposed Trail Mileage Compared With Other Counties and Existing General Plan.	79
Table 20:	Priorities of the Evaluation of Parkland Needs.....	90
Table 21:	Outdoor Recreation Plan Recommendations for Addressing Parkland Needs by Population/Acreage Standards: Sonoma Coast, Planning Area 1.....	92
Table 22:	Outdoor Recreation Plan Recommendations for Addressing Parkland Needs by Population/Acreage Standards: North County, Planning Area 2.....	96
Table 23:	Outdoor Recreation Plan Recommendations for Addressing Parkland Needs by Population/Acreage Standards: Sebastopol/Lower Russian River, Planning Area 3	100
Table 24:	Outdoor Recreation Plan Recommendations for Addressing Parkland Needs by Population/Acreage Standards: Santa Rosa Plain, Planning Area 4.....	104
Table 25:	Outdoor Recreation Plan Recommendations for Addressing Parkland Needs by Population/Acreage Standards: South County, Planning Area 5.....	108

Table 26: Outdoor Recreation Plan Recommendations for Addressing Parkland Needs by Population/Acreage Standards: Sonoma Valley, Planning Area 6	113
Table 27: Estimated Acquisition and Development Costs by Facility Type	123
Table 28: Estimated Acquisition and Development Costs by Planning Document.....	123
Table 29: Estimated Annual Management Costs	124

List of Figures

Figure 1: Comparison with Past Plans	ii
Figure 2: Planning Process	8
Figure 3: Status of the Designated Outdoor Recreation Areas in the Open Space and Public Facilities Elements as Proposed by the 1989 General Plan	43
Figure 4: Sonoma County Population Density Map	53
Figure 5: Population Projections by Age in Sonoma County	56
Figure 6: Summary of Visitor Use Trends (1988/89 to 1996/97)	72
Figure 7: Annual Visitor Use by Park Facility Classification.....	73
Figure 8: Proposed Regional Recreation Areas & Community Parks	115
Figure 9: Proposed Regional Open Space Parks	116
Figure 10: Existing, Planned & Proposed Trail System.....	117
Figure 11: Proposed Federal, State, & Other Parks and Preserves	118

Executive Summary

A. Plan Overview

The primary purposes of the Outdoor Recreation Plan (Plan) are to facilitate cooperation and coordination among agencies in planning, acquiring, managing and funding outdoor recreation facilities in the unincorporated areas of Sonoma County, and to provide public access and recreation opportunities on public lands.

Sonoma County is divided into six planning areas for purposes of identifying recreation needs and preferences and the facilities to meet these needs and preferences. These six planning areas are based on Park Mitigation Fee areas. Traditional park planning guidelines have been used as a starting point for determining recreation needs, specifically planning areas that may be under-served by particular types of parks and other facilities. Community input gathered in a variety of forums, and input from members of the Citizens' Advisory Committee, have been used to identify preferences for outdoor recreation projects needed in each of the six planning areas.

The Plan is a ten-year plan extending from 2000 to 2010.

B. Highlights of the Plan

- ◆ Recommends increasing the number of County Open Space parks by eleven plus expanding five existing Open Space parks.
- ◆ Recommends increasing the number of County Regional Recreation Areas by twelve including six river access sites.
- ◆ Recommends increasing the number of County Community and Neighborhood parks by sixteen.
- ◆ Recommends increasing the number of Multi-Use Trails and Class 1 bikeways from 27 to 58, creating a county-wide network of multi-use trails consisting of 490 miles. This is in addition to the 275 miles of existing trails on public lands, some of which would be integrated into the trail system.
- ◆ Recommends increasing and expanding State parks within Sonoma County. This could total 10,000 acres.
- ◆ Recommends the creation of 6,500 acres of regional preserves with some managed public access, to be operated by local, state or federal agencies and non profit organizations.

PROPOSED PARK ACREAGE AND TRAIL MILES COMPARISON WITH PRIOR PLANS	Existing Parks 2001	General Plan Acreage or Miles (From EIR)	February 2003 Draft ORP
--	----------------------------	---	--------------------------------

Regional Parks (in acres)			
General Plan County Regional Parks (20 acres/1000)	N/A	8,369	N/A
ORP County Open Space Parks (15 acres/1000)	3,105	N/A	9,145
ORP County Regional Recreation Areas (5 acres/1000)	1,181	N/A	3,094
County Regional Parks Sub Total	4,286	8,369	12,239

Community & Neighborhood Parks (in acres)			
Unincorporated 5 acres per 1000 pop.			
County Parks in unincorporated areas (1)	37	113	409
School sites within unincorporated areas (2)	170	N/A	170
Other (3)	154	86	181
Sub Total (4)	361	199	760
Incorporated 5 acres per 1000 pop.			
Cities	881	1,136	1,180
School Sites within Cities and Towns (2)	735	N/A	736
County Parks in incorporated areas (5)	9	9	9
Other(3)	12	12	12
Sub Total (4)	1,637	1,157	1,937
Community and Neighborhood Parks Sub Total	1,998	1,355	2,697

- (1) The 1989 General Plan included the unincorporated areas in the south east and southwest of Santa Rosa and the area the future Town of Windsor. Since 1995 these areas have been incorporated and annexed and parks within them transferred to the City of Santa Rosa or Town of Windsor.
- (2) Although the 1989 General Plan EIR acknowledges the role of schools in providing recreation facilities it was not quantified in the EIR analysis.
- (3) Includes Non profits, Special Districts and Homeowners Associations properties with recreation facilities within the unincorporated areas.
- (4) Recommended totals may vary slightly from needs shown on Table 15 because of sub area variations
- (5) Arnold Field located within the City of Sonoma.

Other Lands (in acres)			
State Parks	31,604	31,361	41,604
Federal Parks (6)	14,852	19,915	14,865
Preserves with public access.	0	0	6,500
Other	124	365	484
Sub Total	46,580	51,641	63,453

(6) 1989 General Plan EIR included all of Lake Sonoma acreage as federal. However 5,050 acres is managed by DFG without public access.

Acreage Total	52,864	61,365	78,389
----------------------	---------------	---------------	---------------

Regional Trails in Unincorporated Areas (in miles) (7)			
Bicycle Trails	9.3	54.5	94.0
Multi use trails	22.0	94.1	396.3
Mileage Total	31.3	148.6	490.3

Figure 1
Comparison with Past Plans
Revised 3/03

C. Changes from the May 27, 1999 Draft Plan

On October 26 1999, the Board of Supervisors provided direction for the completion of the ORP, following the three policy workshops in August and September. The following are summaries of the changes between the May 27, 1999 Draft Plan and the Revised Draft Plan

1. Specific Changes Directed by the Board of Supervisors:

A. Regarding the question of how the draft Plan represents the purposes and goals envisioned by the Board of Supervisors, the direction given to staff was:

A.1.a Include a complete inventory of all county property with recreation potential. Include in the Draft Plan the buildout costs of recreation facilities on existing park property.

A complete inventory of all County property with recreation potential is included in Appendix 1: Inventory of Publicly Accessible Land in Sonoma County. Public lands studied includes land owned by the County of Sonoma, the Sonoma County Water Agency, the Bureau of Land Management, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the State of California, the incorporated cities within Sonoma County, School Districts, and non-profit groups operating public recreation facilities. Buildout costs of recreation facilities on existing park property have been included in the plan. These are in Appendix 7 and referenced in Chapter VII.

A.1.b To ensure that the Plan represents clear recommendations, highlighting those that are consistent with the 1989 General Plan and those that are not.

Outdoor Recreation Maps (Figures 8, 9, 10 and 11) also indicate which projects are included in the 1989 General Plan.

A.1.c To use the 20 acres per 1,000 population as stated in the 1989 General Plan in assessing regional recreational and open space park needs as the County's goal and to provide an analysis of this indicating what proportion of this acreage meets the active regional recreation area definition and which proportion meets the open space park definition. Define what constitutes an active regional recreation area versus a passive use open space park.

The 20-acre per 1,000 population standard, as stated in the 1989 General Plan in assessing regional recreational and open space park needs, has been stated as the County's goal in Chapter V. Of this 20 acre guideline, 5 acres per 1,000 population is the guideline for active regional park facilities and 15 acres per 1,000 is the guideline for passive open space parks. Definitions for active versus passive use open space parks are included in Chapter IV.

A.2. Regarding the question of how the draft Plan addresses the variety of outdoor recreation facilities that the Board envisioned, the direction given to staff was to strengthen the findings and recommendations contained in the Draft Plan Supplemental Information in Appendix 5 on Community and Neighborhood Parks and Recreational Facilities for Organized Sports by:

A.2.a Adding additional opportunities for community and neighborhood parks in the unincorporated areas.

Additional opportunities for Community and Neighborhood Parks in the unincorporated area of the county have been added to the Draft Plan in Chapter VI. This chapter contains the findings and analysis described in the May 27, 1999 Chapter X on Community and Neighborhood Parks and Recreational Facilities for Organized Sports. Over 380 additional acres of Community and Neighborhood Parks are proposed in the Plan. The ratio of 5 acres/1000 population was used to determine the needs.

A.2.b Identifying opportunities in locations close to cities where the County could cooperate jointly with cities and other recreation agencies in providing park facilities including areas for organized sports.

Additional parks with locations close to cities have been added. These include North Santa Rosa Regional Park and South Santa Rosa Regional Park and Community and Neighborhood parks near Healdsburg, Petaluma, Cotati, Sonoma, Sebastopol and Geyserville. These parks will serve residents in areas close to urban areas with facilities for organized sports. These are identified in the recommendations in Chapter VI and on Figure 8.

A.2.c Strengthening policy language on partnerships with schools and cities on developing joint park/school sites in the unincorporated areas of the County.

An overview of partnerships with schools was added to background information on community and neighborhood parks in Appendix 5. Policy language related to partnerships with schools and cities on developing joint park/school sites in the unincorporated areas of the County was added in Policy 5.1 a in Chapter III.

A.3. Regarding the question of how the draft Plan adequately addresses the policy issues necessary to implement the Plan, the direction given to staff was to:

A.3.a Strengthen language that the County will only acquire property for parks and trails from willing sellers on lands in agricultural land use categories as designated in the 1989 General Plan. Reaffirm the County's commitment to the policy of protection of agriculture.

General language regarding the County's commitment to agricultural preservation was added to Goal 1 in Chapter III. Specific policy language indicating that the County will only acquire property for parks and trails from willing sellers on lands in agricultural land use categories as designated in the 1989 General Plan was added to Policy 2.2 in Chapter III.

A.3.b Prepare draft policy language to encourage partnering with cities and other recreation providers to develop trail opportunities close to urban centers.

Policy 1.1b and Policy 5.1b were added to encourage partnering with cities and other recreation providers to develop trail opportunities close to urban centers.

A.4.1 Regarding the process, timeline and milestones for bringing the final draft of the Plan to the Board, the direction given to staff was to:

Agree with the timeline as presented but modify it to accommodate new items raised by the Board that may require further study or information. Timeline was modified to prepare additional information requested by the Board. In 2000 the Board directed staff to stop work on the Plan until Measure I was decided. In 2001, public meetings were held on the 2000 Draft Plan. In 2002, the Plan was updated to include new demographic information and cost information.

A.4.b Agree to the holding of the six addition public meetings to solicit public input on Draft Plan following incorporation of policy direction from the Board.

Six Public Workshops were conducted as part of the review of the Revised Draft Plan. Following those workshops, the 149 public comments were reviewed and discussed by the Citizens Advisory Committee. The Committee made further recommendations that are reflected in the 2003 Draft of the Plan.

A.4.c To identify the process for acquiring park properties, particularly those properties that might be considered opportunity purchases not called out in the General Plan.

The process for acquiring park properties, particularly those properties that might be considered opportunity purchases not called out in the General is addressed under Policy 1.2e.

A.4.d. Develop an estimate of costs for the acquisition, development and operation and maintenance of park projects included in the 1989 General Plan and comparable costs for the additional park facilities proposed in the Draft ORP.

Cost estimates for acquisition, development and operation and maintenance of park projects included in the 1989 General Plan and for the Draft ORP are included in Chapter VII.

A.5.a. Add trail connector across Sonoma Mountain.

A trail connector across Sonoma Mountain was added to the Plan Map, Figure 10.

A.5.b. Work with State Parks officials to expand the state parks in the County by at least 10,000 acres.

County staff contacted the State Parks Department regarding the Board of Supervisor's intention that State Parks in the County be expanded by at least 10,000 acres by the Yr. 2010. The State Park Department's focus and interest in property acquisition by State Parks in Sonoma County is to expand its existing land holdings by acquiring property from willing sellers that are contiguous with existing State Park lands. Acquisitions would be evaluated based on specific factors. These factors may include the protection and preservation of unique resources, potential threats to property adjacent to State Park property and property that would "round out" existing State Park boundaries. Acquisition priorities by State Parks are made on a statewide basis with recommendations from local State Park superintendents. State Parks has expressed interest in expanding the properties at the following locations: Jack London State Park, Annadel State Park, Sonoma Coast State Beach (Including the Willow Creek Valley), Salt Point State Park, Fort Ross State Historic Park and Austin Creek State Recreation Area. It is likely that State Parks working with other state agencies such as the Coastal Conservancy, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and non profits such as the Sonoma Land Trust could accomplish this goal.

A.5.c. Provide more analysis on public access opportunities to the Russian River.

Additional analysis on public access opportunities to the Russian River was summarized from the Russian River Public Access and Trespass Management Plan in Chapter V. A Summary of the analysis of sites in the Russian River Public Access and Trespass Management Plan is also included in Appendix 8.

B. Other Direction received on specific issues:

B.1. Provide additional analysis of recreational access opportunities on the Russian River.

See A.5.c above.

B.2. Address the issue of "Offers to Dedicate" for public access easements on the Sonoma Coast.

Policies 3.6a and 3.6b are included to address the acceptance by public agencies of Outstanding Offers to Dedicate (OTDs) of additional coastal access easements.

B.3. Review suggested language provided by the Citizens for the Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) and make recommendation and changes to the language in the policies section of the plan if appropriate.

Alternative policy language suggestions provided by CORP with the Citizen's Advisory Committee were reviewed; revisions were made.

B.4. Include the Kelly Road Trail proposal but provide more analysis on the specific ancillary facilities needed to implement this recommendation.

Since the development of the 1999 Draft Plan, the status regarding the Kelly Road project has changed. The road was sold by the U.S. Government to private

buyers. The buyers form a road maintenance association. The Plan recommends that if it is considered desirable to implement this proposal, the County obtain a trail easement along the private roadway. Use of the easement would require that parking areas be located at both ends of the road and that some minimal facilities such as public restrooms be installed at various locations. The trail might be seasonal and use could be regulated by permit. Further discussion and agreement would be needed to develop the trail.

B.5. Indicate needs of park acreage by park planning area, specifically noting those in the Second Supervisorial District.

Estimates for parkland needs for the Yr. 2010 for all park planning areas, including Park Planning Area 2, are included in Tables 10 through 15 in Chapter V. Recommendations for addressing the parkland needs identified for each Park Planning Area are included in Chapter VI in Tables 21 through 26.

B.6. The goal of the Draft Plan is to offer a balance of recreational opportunities and recognizes that the inclusion of trails is important to the Draft Plan.

The goal of the Revised Draft Plan is to offer a balance of recreational opportunities and recognizes that inclusion of trails is important to the Draft Plan. This language has been added to Chapter III, Goal 1 and Objective 1.1.

Upon reviewing the testimony from the public meetings in 2001, the Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting #33 voted to add six additional trails to the draft plan. In addition some additional publicly owned former railroad right of way has been included.

B.7. Remove references in the Draft Plan to partnering with specific agencies on projects.

References in the May 27, 1999 Draft Plan to partnering with specific agencies on projects has been revised. The words “encourage” and “support” have been deleted as this language was deemed to indicate a level of support from the Board of Supervisors to specific projects which the Board had not taken any position on. The following language has been added to the section under “Other Lands.” This language was added to recognize projects within the unincorporated areas where federal, state, and other government and non-profit organizations have projects:

“The following projects are assumed to be implemented by other state, federal and local agencies. They are included in the plan as referenced because they are intended to protect habitat and/or contribute to public recreation in Sonoma County”.

B.8. Submit the Draft Plan to the County Planning Commission before bringing it back to the Board.

The process for reviewing the Plan includes its submission to the County Planning Commission before it is brought back to the Board.

2. Overview of Changes

Clarification Regarding the Plan's Commitment to Agricultural Preservation: The Introduction to Chapter 1 on page 1, the Vision of the Plan and Goal 1 in Chapter III were revised to emphasize the County's commitment to the preservation of agriculture and to clarify that land in agriculturally zoned areas of the County would not be condemned for parks or trails.

More Focus on Facilities for Organized Sports: Changes in the Plan reflect a concern for providing additional facilities for organized sports. Appendix 5 was added to provide an expanded discussion of Community and Neighborhood Parks based on the Supplemental Information: *Community and Neighborhood Parks and Recreational Facilities for Organized Sports (SCRIP, August 12, 1999)*. In addition, the Assessment of Parkland Need was revised to include an assessment of the estimated need for Community and Neighborhood Parks on a County-wide basis at a rate of 5 acres/1,000 population for the Year 2010 (Chapter V, Section C.2.a).

Location of Parks near Population Centers: A particular focus of this revised plan, is inclusion of a greater number of parks in proximity to population centers, particularly along the Highway 101 corridor. A number of Regional Parks and Community/Neighborhood Parks have been located within the urban separators between cities along the corridor including North Santa Rosa Regional Park, and South Santa Rosa Regional Park (Chapter VI and Figures 8 and 9).

Update of Parkland Projections: This revised Plan includes revised estimates of Parkland Needs for the Yr. 2010, based on population projections based on the 2000 Census and ABAG – Projections 2000 report (Chapter V).

Recommendations for Meeting Estimating Parkland Needs: The revised Draft Plan includes tables in Chapter VI for each park planning area indicating how estimated parkland needs would be met by the proposed plan.

3. Changes by Chapter

Chapter I: Introduction: Direction provided by the Sonoma County Supervisors at the Board Meeting of September 14, 1999 for further changes to the Plan was added to Section C1 of this Executive Summary.

Chapter II: The Value of Recreation to Sonoma County: No changes were made to this Chapter.

Chapter III: Recommended Policies: Policies were revised to clarify the Board's commitments to: (1) preserving agricultural land; (2) balancing recreational opportunities including trails; and, (3) encouraging the partnering with cities and schools for development of trails near urban centers, and joint use recreation sites. In addition, policies were revised to address some of

CORP's concerns regarding helping to remove constraints to acquiring and providing public access to trails and parks.

Chapter IV: Parkland Classification and Inventory: This Chapter was revised to refine the classification system as follows: (1) The Community and Neighborhood Park categories were combined; and, (2) River Access facilities and the majority of Coastal Campground facilities were moved from the Open Space Parks (Passive) to the Regional Recreation Areas (Active). The former Table 6: Summary by Planning Area and Providers of Publicly Accessible Land in Sonoma County was deleted, because this information already exists in a more complete and useful table in Appendix 1.

Chapter V: Parkland Needs Assessment: The Overview of Parkland Needs Assessment was updated to reflect revised parkland needs and moved forward to Section B of the Chapter. The demographic section (Section C1.) was revised to update the tables and text in accordance with the ABAG – Projections 2000 and the 2000 U.S. Census. The Assessment of Parkland Needs (Section C 2.) was revised to combine the needs assessments for Community and Neighborhood Parks. This section was also revised to be consistent with the ABAG - Projections 2000 report for the year 2010. Chapter V (Section C 2) was also revised to focus the analysis on the estimated parkland needs for the Yr. 2010, the horizon year of the Plan.

Chapter VI: Recommendations: This Chapter was revised to include tables showing how estimated needs are proposed to be met by the Plan. A description of the specific project recommendations is included for each Park Planning Area and a separate list of recommendations for trails.

Chapter VII: Financing Options: A revision of the likely financial costs of implementing the recommendations of the Plan and financing options for the ORP and the specific costs of projects has been prepared. This chapter has been revised to include new projects recommended by the CAC and updated cost information where available.

Chapter VIII: References: The list of references was updated.

Volume II - Appendices: In Appendix 1, the Inventory of Publicly Accessible Land in Sonoma County was revised to combine the Community and Neighborhood Park categories. In addition, some refinements in classification of facilities described in Chapter IV are reflected in this table. Background Information Relating to Parkland Needs Assessment which was not based on the ratio of population to acreage for: (a) Neighborhood Parks, (b) Community Parks, and, (c). Regional Recreation Areas (Active) was deleted. All revised information is in the Plan in Chapter V. The Visitor Analysis was also removed. Appendix 5 was added to include the supplemental information on community and neighborhood parks and partnerships with schools. Appendix 8 was added to include more information from “*The Russian River Public Access and Trespass Management Plan*” regarding the analysis of River Access sites along the Russian River. Appendix 9 was added to include correspondence received from Cities and other government entities and Appendix 10 was added to include letters from individuals and non government organizations on the May 27, 1999 Draft Plan. Appendix 11 was added to include meeting summaries, letters, and Regional Parks Department responses from the public meetings held during Spring/Summer 2001.

D. Effectiveness of the Plan in Meeting Defined Purposes and Goals

The Purposes of the Plan are identified in the Introduction, as follows:

- 1. To coordinate the efforts of the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (SCAPOS D) and the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA), State Parks, and other agencies in providing public access and recreation opportunities on public lands.*

The Agencies described above have cooperated in developing this Plan. As part of this process, they have assisted the Citizens Advisory Committee to develop priorities for acquisition for recreation facilities. They have also assisted the Citizens Advisory Committee to develop draft policies to help guide future interagency coordination of recreation projects.

- 2. To analyze and make recommendations concerning alternative funding mechanisms to maintain existing and support the future growth in the park and publicly accessible open space system.*

Appendix 7 identifies the likely cost of implementing the Plan and Chapter VII identifies funding mechanisms to maintain existing and support the future growth in the park and publicly accessible open space system.

- 3. To improve the ability of the Regional Parks Department, SCAPOS D, and SCWA to compete successfully for limited federal, state and private grant funding.*

The adoption of the Plan will enable those projects identified in the Plan to be eligible for grant funding opportunities. In addition it specifically identifies through a needs assessment process those projects which would be the priorities for the Regional Parks Department.

- 4. To provide a forum for public participation in the development of a Recreation Element in the next comprehensive update of the County General Plan.*

Development of this Plan involved an extensive public participation process including surveys, public workshops in all six Park Planning Areas, and the ongoing involvement and direction provided by the Citizens' Advisory Committee and policy direction provided by the Board of Supervisors at the Policy Workshops in August and September 1999. The public was instrumental in identifying park facility priorities at public workshops in 1996 and 1997 (See Appendix 4). The Citizens' Advisory Committee conducted an extensive Trails Evaluation in 1997 and 1998 (See Appendix 2). A survey of County Residents conducted in 1995 was used in the initial development of this Plan and was useful in identifying overall preferences and priorities for parkland facilities (See Appendix 3). Following hearings conducted by the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors, the Plan would be adopted and incorporated into the General Plan.

- 5. To establish a goal of an achievable ratio of public outdoor recreational acreage to population.*

Realistic ratios of public outdoor recreational acreage to population were developed for parkland categories where they were considered most applicable. These guidelines reflect those set in the 1989 General Plan Public Facilities Element, but with a clear distinction between Regional Recreation Areas and Open Space Parks. Achievable ratios are based on the following:

Community and Neighborhood Parks. These parks serve local recreational needs of the communities they serve. The standard of 5 acres/thousand population was used on a county wide basis. Since individual city general plans address their own needs within their jurisdiction, recommendations are made for those park facilities that would address the needs of residents of the unincorporated areas.

Regional Recreation Areas. These parks cater to more active recreation activities with higher impact including organized sports, campgrounds, boat launch facilities: 5 acres/thousand based on total county population.

Open Space Parks. These parks cater to more passive and more low impact recreation such as hiking, equestrian and mountain biking trails, nature study areas and areas of natural beauty: 15 acres/thousand based on total county population.

Ratios of recreational acreage to population were not considered useful planning tools for the categories of lands controlled by state, federal, and non profit agencies. These include such facilities as state parks, federal recreation areas, preserves operated by state, federal non profit and other governmental agencies, where the protection and management of specific natural or cultural resources guides priorities for acquisition.

Similarly the designation of trail corridors in the Plan does not reflect a specific ratio of population to trails miles but rather the reflection of desired routes for multi-use trails within the county to connect public lands. However, in order to benchmark the proposed trail system for Sonoma County, comparisons with other Bay Area counties are included in Chapter IV and Chapter V.

- 6. To define the role, relationship and responsibility of the participating agencies in working with public and private agencies involved in youth services.*

The planning process for the Plan provided a forum and opportunity for representatives of public and private agencies to provide input on the outdoor recreation needs of youth and the general population. Analysis of the need to provide additional recreation facilities for organized sports to serve local areas is contained in the plan. The Plan quantified future needs through a county wide needs assessment of Community and Neighborhood Park facilities that recognizes the role played by all public recreation providers including, cities, special districts, the public schools and the county.

The Plan is intended as a County planning tool, and as such acknowledges that individual City General Plans and the long range plans of Special Recreation Districts will provide specific guidance and goals for their jurisdictions. The Plan has made specific recommendations for the provision of those outdoor recreation facilities such as in the unincorporated areas. County policy recommendations include cooperative use arrangements with other recreation providers to satisfy these needs.

E. Goals identified in the Introduction of the Plan.

- 1. Develop a long-range strategy for acquisition and development of new parks, preserves, public access, and recreation facilities.*

Chapter VI describes priorities for the acquisition and development of new community parks, regional recreation areas, open space parks and trails. Also included are recommendations for other lands administered by federal, state, other government entities and non-profits.

- 2. Develop funding mechanisms for maintenance and management for these outdoor recreation facilities.*

Chapter VII describes the likely costs of implementing the plan. Contained in this chapter are some financial recommendations describing types of funding tools that could be used in developing financial strategies.

- 3. Prepare a baseline which quantifies the economic benefits of recreation to Sonoma County.*

Chapter II provides an overview of the economic benefits of recreation in Sonoma County. Table 1 in Chapter II also establishes an overall baseline developed by the California Department of Trade and Commerce, Division of Tourism, for Sonoma County.

- 4. Identify acquisition and development funding with identified projects in the Plan's sub-areas.*

Appendix 7 identifies costs of acquisition and development related to the implementation of the Plan by sub-area. Funding options and opportunities are identified in Chapter VII.

5. ***Improve communication, coordination and contracting between agencies involved in public access to, and recreation use of public lands.***

In the process of developing the Plan a number of agencies were contacted regarding recreation use of properties. An inventory of existing publicly accessible land was prepared as part of the Plan. This information is in Chapter IV. In addition the Plan has created considerable interest and volunteer efforts by groups and non-profits, such as Landpaths, to assist in efforts to lead hikes and other activities on lands with public easements.

6. ***Coordinate existing and proposed regional recreation and open space plans.***

In developing priorities for parkland acquisition, consideration was given to the existing County General Plan, existing Coastal Plans, the Russian River Public Access and Trespass Management Plan, the County Bicycle Plan and the recreation components of city general plans were all used to identify project needs and priorities.

7. ***Provide criteria and data on which to base future budgetary and financial decisions.***

Chapter VII and Appendix 7 set out the likely costs of implementing the recommendations of the Plan. The Plan recognizes the role of the County's Five Year Capital Improvement Plan as a method of setting priorities. In addition Chapter VI provides a list of criteria for considering specific proposed projects.

8. ***Review existing and/or establish policies for:***

In the process of developing the Plan many of the Recommended Policies in Chapter III address the following issues:

- i. Resource management***
- ii. Recreation activities***
- iii. Outdoor recreation planning policies***
- iv. Outdoor recreation classification by type***
- v. Operational policies***

9. ***Provide a County-Wide Needs Assessment.***

Chapter V consists of a County-Wide Needs Assessment. Agencies involved in preparing the Plan described the need for an overall 'Road Map' for park planning that balances the need for structure, clear process, flexibility and sound rationale.

- ◆ ***Structure:*** Parkland categories are analyzed by type, by community, and by park planning area in order to evaluate which areas are served adequately by which types of parks. This information provides baseline data that is then considered further in light of the circumstances and priorities of the residents in these areas as voiced in a variety of public forums.

- ◆ ***Clear Process:*** The Plan includes in Chapter V an analysis of estimated needs to prioritize projects. It also describes steps that are involved prior to planning specific particular trail alignment. It describes the process involved in acquiring and obtaining the necessary approvals for a project by the involved agencies.

- ◆ ***Flexibility:*** The Plan recognizes that unforeseen parkland acquisition opportunities may arise. Overall park planning and acquisition policies are included for providing direction on acquisitions that may not be listed as specific projects in the Plan text. This flexibility is particularly important for the Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District that relies on willing property owners.

- ◆ ***Rationale:*** The Plan sets forth a consistent program for park planning and acquisition that is consistent with the direction provided by the Board of Supervisors and balances, to the degree possible, the priorities of the Citizens Advisory Committee and the general public.

I. INTRODUCTION



This Outdoor Recreation Plan has been prepared to guide parkland planning, acquisition, improvements and management to meet the needs of Sonoma County through the year 2010. It also establishes a fundamental framework for agency coordination to meet parkland and recreation needs on a countywide basis. With the ten year anniversary of the Sonoma County General Plan and its anticipated update, and the establishment of the Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, the Board of Supervisors envisioned with this Plan an opportunity for County agencies to coordinate their recreation planning and funding efforts. Toward that end, this Plan identifies existing and future parkland and recreation needs, recommends specific projects that could address these needs, and identifies policies and financing options to assist with implementation of projects. This Plan also includes Plan Maps to assist with decision-making for future parkland acquisitions.

All acquisition and development of regional parkland and regional trail facilities is proposed within the overall context of the County's commitment to agricultural preservation and its long-term viability, and the County's respect for private property rights.

A. Vision of the Plan

We envision outdoor recreation facilities in Sonoma County that enhance the lives of all residents and visitors by providing quality experiences with excellent facilities and programs. We envision a Plan that reflects the community's ideas and priorities in protecting and gaining public access to many of Sonoma County's unique areas and resources. These ideas and priorities are documented in surveys, meetings, and public workshops that were conducted as part of this outdoor recreation planning process.

We envision recreation facilities that continue to contribute to Sonoma County's role as a major visitor destination. We envision outdoor recreation facilities that contribute to our local and regional economy, and help guide the County's ongoing development in a manner that protects Sonoma County's wide-range of natural and cultural resources. We envision outdoor recreation facilities and associated funding requirements that are well-coordinated by all recreation providers in Sonoma County.

We envision the ongoing development and management of recreation facilities that are well-designed, well-maintained, safe, and inviting for all users and all members of the community. We envision outdoor recreation facilities that meet the needs of people of all ages and all groups. We envision outdoor recreation facilities that provide a balance of facilities — from active youth-oriented sports fields to passive parks and hiking, biking and equestrian trails. We envision outdoor recreation facilities that respect the rights and desires of private property owners and that protect agricultural interests in the County. And, we envision outdoor recreation facilities that bring people together to share Sonoma County's natural and cultural heritage.



B. The Sponsoring and Other Involved Agencies

The following Sponsoring Agencies have worked together to prepare, review and fund this Plan in support of coordinated outdoor recreation planning for Sonoma County.

- ◆ **Sonoma County Regional Parks Department** (Regional Parks Department) is a department of Sonoma County established in 1967. It is charged with acquiring, developing and managing regional parks and trails and community parks in the unincorporated areas of the county.
- ◆ **Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District** (SCAPOSD) was established by Measure A, approved by the voters in 1990. It is funded by a 1/4 cent sales tax approved by the voters through Measure C. This sales tax generates approximately \$11.5 million/year. The purpose of the District is to preserve agricultural land use and open space. This purpose is accomplished primarily through the purchase of development rights from willing sellers, but may include the purchase of fee interests for public recreation. Since 1990, the District has acquired several properties in conjunction with local, county and state park and recreation agencies.
- ◆ **Sonoma County Water Agency** (SCWA) is a special district created by the California Legislature in 1949. The SCWA has the authority to produce and furnish surface water and groundwater for beneficial uses; to control floodwaters; to generate electricity; to treat and dispose of wastewater; and to provide recreational facilities in connection with the Agency's facilities. The SCWA owns almost 160 miles of flood control channels. Many of the flood control channels include maintenance roads on at least one side of a channel; some of these maintenance roads are already being used by the public as trails. The SCWA also owns several recreation sites in Sonoma County. These facilities include Spring Lake Park, Wohler Bridge Fishing Access (Maxwell Grove), Russian River access, and Brush Creek Reservoir, which contains the Rincon Valley Little League fields. Sonoma County Regional Parks provides operations services for Spring Lake Park and Wholer Bridge Fishing Access (Maxwell Grove).

Other Agencies involved in the development of the Plan include the following:

- ◆ **Permit and Resource Management Department (PRMD)** has worked with the Sponsoring Agencies on development of the Plan by participating on the Technical Advisory Committee and reviewing and commenting on drafts of the Plan to ensure its consistency with other plans and policies.
- ◆ **County Administrator's Office (CAO):** The CAO has provided input on the Plan's process to coordinate this effort, as needed, in relation to the Board of Supervisors. The CAO has also participated in reviewing and commenting on drafts of the Plan.

C. Purpose of the Plan

In July 1995, The Board of Supervisors acting concurrently as the Directors of the Sonoma County Water Agency and the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District directed the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department to develop a County Wide Outdoor Recreation Plan for Sonoma County. It is intended that the resulting Plan, guiding policies, maps and recommendations would be incorporated into the Sonoma County General Plan as an amendment, if directed by the County Board of Supervisors. The purpose of the Plan was:

1. To coordinate the efforts of the Regional Parks Department, SCAPOSD and SCWA, State Parks, and other agencies in providing public access and recreation opportunities on public lands.
2. To analyze and make recommendations concerning alternative funding mechanisms that would be used to maintain existing and support the future growth in the park and publicly accessible open space system.
3. To improve the ability of the Regional Parks Department, SCAPOSD, and SCWA to compete successfully for limited federal, state and private grant funding.
4. To provide a forum for public participation in the development of an Outdoor Recreation Plan that may be integrated into the existing Public Facilities and Open Space Elements in the next comprehensive update of the County General Plan.
5. To establish a goal of an achievable ratio of public outdoor recreational acreage to population.
6. To define the role, relationship and responsibility of the participating agencies in working with public and private agencies involved in youth services.

D. Goals of the Plan

The Goals of this Plan, as developed by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, include the following:

1. Develop a long-range strategy for acquisition and development of new parks, preserves, public access, and recreation facilities.
2. Develop funding mechanisms for maintenance and management for these outdoor recreation facilities.
3. Prepare a baseline which quantifies the economic benefits of recreation to Sonoma County.
4. Identify acquisition and development funding with identified projects in the Plan's sub-areas.
5. Improve communication, coordination and contracting between agencies involved in public access to, and recreation use of, public lands.
6. Coordinate existing and proposed regional recreation and open space plans.
7. Provide criteria and data on which to base future budgetary and financial decisions.
8. Review existing and/or establish policies for:
 - Resource management
 - Recreation activities
 - Outdoor recreation planning policies
 - Outdoor recreation classification by type
 - Operational policies
9. Provide a County-wide Needs Assessment.

E. The Plan Preparation Process

Several tools have been used in the preparation of the Plan including the following:

Surveys

Survey of Public Opinions, Attitudes and Priorities: In 1995, a Survey of Public Opinions, Attitudes and Priorities was conducted by Strategy Research Institute, Inc. (SRI). Six hundred residents of Sonoma County were interviewed by telephone. The results of that survey are summarized in Chapter V: Parkland Needs Assessment. The full report is included in Appendix 3.

Neighborhood Survey: In 1997, Sonoma County Regional Parks conducted a survey to evaluate the experience of residents living adjacent to existing County park and trail facilities. The Sonoma County Regional Parks mailed out 489 surveys to park neighbors at eight park facilities to determine attitudes, opinions and concerns about County park or trail facilities. The results of this survey are described in Chapter II: The Value of Recreation to Sonoma County: Benefits and Impacts and in

Appendix 6.

Visitor Trend Information: Over a nine year period, Sonoma County Regional Parks has collected information on visitor use of the parkland facilities that they operate. This data is summarized in Chapter V: Parkland Needs Assessment, Figure 7.

Citizens Advisory Committee

A Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was established by the Board of Supervisors in 1996 to act as an advisory body to the planning process. The Committee was originally composed of seven members. The Committee was expanded in 1997 to include two additional representatives from the agricultural community. The final Committee consisted of nine members and two alternates. Two members were selected from the Sonoma County Parks Commission, two from the Open Space Advisory Committee, two from the agricultural community, and one each nominated by the heads of the sponsoring agencies.

Discussions with the CAC have helped to balance the needs and desires of recreation advocates with the interests of landowners. The CAC has provided more than a thousand hours in time to help guide this plan.

Four workshops were sponsored by the CAC to focus on specific issues of concern brought forward by the Sonoma County Farm Bureau, associated with the acquisition, development and management of parks and trails. These workshops are summarized in Chapter 2: Value of Recreation and in Appendix 6.

- Public Safety Issues
- Agricultural Issues
- Insurance and Liability Issues
- Environmental Issues

Public Involvement Process

The initial Public Involvement Process included nine public workshops held around the county in 1996 where the public was invited to share ideas on outdoor recreation. Over three hundred participants attended the workshops, providing local knowledge and insights about outdoor recreation in their areas.

From 1996 to 1999, the Citizens Advisory Committee met thirty-one times in open public meetings to shape the preparation of the Draft Plan. In June 1999, the Draft Plan (1999) was reviewed by the CAC. In October 1999, the Board of Supervisors gave policy direction on the Draft Plan (1999) and requested that additional issues be addressed. A summary of the Board Policy direction can be found beginning on page iii. The Draft Plan was revised and presented to the CAC in July 2000.

Seven public meetings were held in the spring and early summer of 2001 to present the revised Draft Plan (2000). There were one hundred and forty nine comments made on the Draft Plan. These comments were presented to the CAC at two meetings in September and October 2001. The CAC

made final recommendations on the draft plan including the addition of six additional trails.

Throughout the process copies of the Draft Plan were made available to the public through libraries and the Regional Parks Department website.

Technical Advisory Committee

A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was established to address technical issues related to planning, forecasting and evaluating information for the Plan. The TAC included staff from each of the sponsoring agencies, and a representative from The Comprehensive Planning Division of the Permit and Resource Management Department. The TAC addressed planning related issues such as:

- Use of appropriate population statistics for the County.
- The Plan's relationship to the County General Plan.
- Criteria to assist in the evaluation of regional trails.
- Policies to help coordinate the activities of agencies involved in recreation.
- Environmental evaluation issues.

Geographic Information Systems

A Geographic Information System (GIS) was developed in conjunction this plan. GIS is a computer system of maps and data bases which helps to collect and organize data for interpretation.

The GIS established for the Plan uses Arc View software. The GIS Division of Sonoma County Information Systems Department (ISD) helped set up the system. The information is compatible with that developed in other departments including: Public Works, The Open Space District, The Agricultural Commissioners Office, and The Registrar of Voters.

The GIS also has been used to produce the maps in the planning process.

F. Relationship to the Sonoma County General Plan

The Open Space and Public Facilities Elements of the 1989 County General Plan govern the development of County parks and trails. Following hearings of the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors, the Plan recommendations would be incorporated into the General Plan through passage of a General Plan amendment as well as necessary amendments to Area Specific Plans and the Local Coastal Plans (LCP).

Figure 2: Planning Process

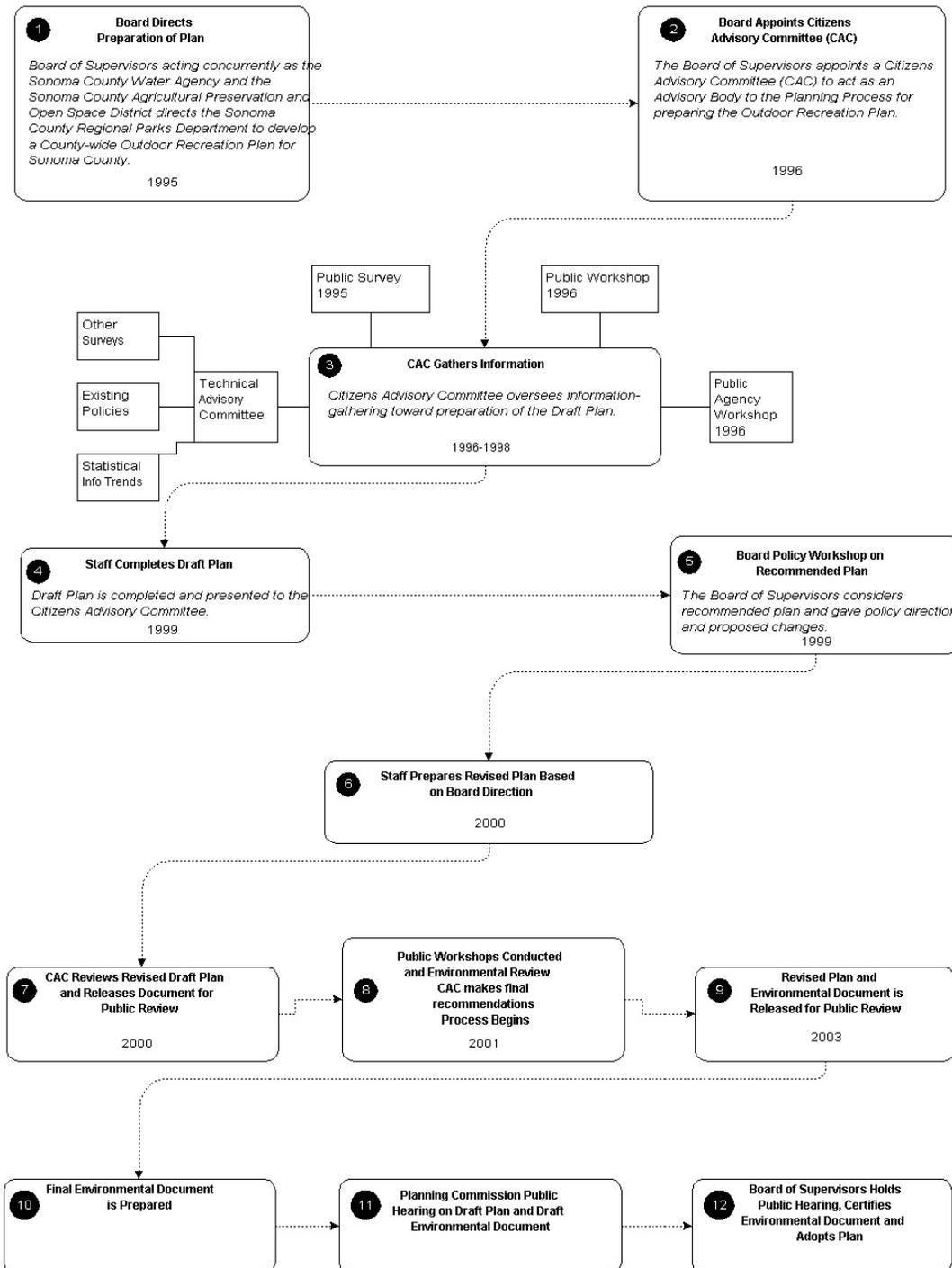


Figure 2
Planning Process
Sonoma County Outdoor Recreation Plan

s:\planning\outdoor\ORP\Charts and Figures\Board Direction Figure 2.vsd
(Visio Professional)

G. Relationship to the California Environmental Quality Act

This Plan is a broad planning document reflecting the goals and objectives for achieving a county-wide system of parks, preserves and trails, and to guide parkland planning, acquisition, improvements and management. An Initial Study, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), will determine the appropriate environmental document to be prepared for the Plan.

Implementation of specific projects identified within this Plan would require the preparation of individual project plans and subsequent CEQA compliance to evaluate those plans prior to developing specific parks, preserves and trails. The analysis of potential environmental impacts associated with developing parks, preserves and trails will be completed on a project-specific basis. This will also allow for an opportunity for public input on specific projects.

H. Organization of the Plan

This Plan responds to the goals that were adopted by the Board of Supervisors acting concurrently as the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Water Agency and the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District. The Plan is organized as follows:

- ◆ **Chapter I** provides an Introduction to the Plan;
- ◆ **Chapter II** describes the value and impacts of recreation to Sonoma County;
- ◆ **Chapter III** describes the policies that have been developed to coordinate and implement the Plan;
- ◆ **Chapter IV** classifies parkland by category and includes an inventory of all parkland in Sonoma County;
- ◆ **Chapter V** describes the Needs Assessment that was conducted to identify the types of parkland that are required and of interest to Sonoma County residents in the future;
- ◆ **Chapter VI** describes the specific recommendations of the Plan by Planning Area and includes the Outdoor Recreation Maps;
- ◆ **Chapter VII** describes the Financing Options required to implement the Plan; and,
- ◆ **Chapter VIII** lists the References used in developing the Plan.

The Appendices include the full text and graphics of the surveys, workshops, meetings, and other forums that have been conducted as part of the development of this Plan.

This page has been intentionally left blank

II. THE VALUE OF RECREATION TO SONOMA COUNTY: BENEFITS AND IMPACTS



Sonoma County has been a destination for regional visitors since the latter part of the nineteenth century. The hot springs of Sonoma Valley and the redwoods of the Russian River brought visitors from San Francisco and Oakland. The “Springs” area of Sonoma Valley once acted as the training camp for the Oakland Oaks and San Francisco Seals baseball teams. The Russian River has traditionally offered many private campgrounds and summer homes. To the nearly nine million people living in the Bay Area, Sonoma County’s “Wine Country” and its coastal areas continue to be favorite destinations for day trips and weekends.

Recreation use by both residents and visitors results in substantial economic benefit for the County. This Chapter describes a range of benefits as a means of developing an economic baseline for the contribution recreation makes to the economy. This Chapter also describes some of the conflicts and impacts that can result from recreation, particularly as it affects agricultural lands, and describes ideas for minimizing these conflicts.

A. Recreation in Sonoma County

Recreation opportunities contribute to the quality of life of the residents of Sonoma County. Within Sonoma County there are two State Park Districts, the United States Army Corps of Engineers Lake Sonoma Recreation Area, the County Regional Park System, five city park and recreation departments and three special park districts that together provide a variety of parklands for County residents as well as for visitors from outside the County.

The County is a major visitor destination. Currently, California is ranked as the number eight tourist destination in the world. Tourism and travel are growing twice the rate of the overall State economy. It is estimated that by the end of the decade, tourism will be one of the top three contributors to the California economy.¹

B. Economic Benefits of Outdoor Recreation Activities

Public recreation facilities such as the State Parks, County Regional Parks, and the Lake Sonoma Recreation Area are important to visitors to Sonoma County. It is estimated that these facilities combined, received 7.6 million visitors in 1997. In 1997, the value of visitors for Sonoma County was estimated to be about \$750 Million, of which approximately \$49 Million was tax revenue. In the same year, visitors accounted for nearly 9,500 new jobs (See Table 1).

Some examples of economic benefits of outdoor recreation activities are described below:

1. Camping

In the State of California's Outdoor Recreation Plan in 1993,² Camping emerged as the activity with the most public support.

According to the California Office of Economic Research, campers spent more than \$2 billion in 1990. The State Park system estimated in 1990/91 that visitors to their facilities alone contributed more than \$857 million to the state economy and in the process created 13,400 jobs. In the same period, it was estimated by the Planning and Conservation League that both private and public campgrounds in California were visited by more than 28 million people.

In 1996/97, Sonoma County Regional Parks with its five campgrounds and 265 campsites generated \$645,209 from 146,798 visitors. The State Parks operate five campgrounds with 337 campsites in Sonoma County and generated \$1.6 million.

In addition, there are opportunities for the private and the public sector to work cooperatively to stimulate the local economy and rejuvenate some recreation activities. The Russian River has for many decades been a major destination for summer camping. However, there has been a substantial decline in the number of campgrounds since the 1970s.

¹ California Department of Trade and Commerce, Division of Tourism.

² *State of California: Outdoor Recreation Plan*, California Department of Parks and Recreation (1993).

Table 1
Travel Spending and Related Impacts, 1993-1997
Sonoma County

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Travel Spending by Type of Business (\$000)					
Destination Spending	584,400	608,040	630,850	679,590	733,970
Accommodations	81,600	84,500	87,770	96,510	105,050
Eating, Drinking	93,830	101,080	104,960	113,560	123,030
Food Stores	42,480	48,690	50,380	53,620	57,490
Ground Transportation	124,170	126,580	131,250	140,720	151,730
Recreation	71,060	71,350	74,110	79,760	86,200
Retail Sales	171,240	175,850	182,370	195,420	210,480
Air Transportation	9,580	10,230	11,070	11,820	12,240
Travel Arrangement	3,330	3,350	3,610	3,930	3,540
Total Spending	597,310	621,630	645,520	695,340	749,760
Payroll Generated by Travel Spending (\$000)					
Total Payroll	103,290	107,580	111,680	120,810	129,380
Tax Revenues Generated by Travel Spending (\$000)					
Local Taxes	10,370	11,110	11,670	12,740	13,790
Transient Occupancy*	5,840	6,390	6,810	7,490	8,130
TOT (unincorporated areas only)	2,463	2,827	3,026	3,279	3,614
Sales Tax	4,530	4,710	4,870	5,250	5,670
State Taxes	27,760	28,860	30,740	32,730	35,200
Total Tax Receipts	38,140	39,960	42,420	45,470	48,990

* Transient Occupancy Taxes are reported by fiscal year; all other taxes are reported by calendar year. Total reflects funds collected by both Cities and County. Transient Occupancy Taxes indicated include both the County and the cities within Sonoma County. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

Source: California Department of Trade and Commerce, Division of Tourism; and, Dean Runyan Associates

A 1976 study of campgrounds along the Russian River between Jenner and Cloverdale by Sonoma County Regional Parks identified 23 campgrounds with 1,178 campsites.³ In 1994, a study by the Bay Area Open Space Council and augmented by a telephone survey by Regional Parks staff indicated that in 1994 there were only 14 campgrounds with 1,034 campsites.⁴ Some of this decline was due to changing recreation preferences with greater numbers of people traveling to Mexico, Hawaii and other destinations during that period and the smaller campgrounds had difficulty surviving financially. The public sector, by acquiring lands for public recreation and contracting with campground concessionaires to operate them, could help rejuvenate this part of the visitor and recreation economy.

2. Wildlife Watching

This activity includes bird and wildlife watching. According to the California Department of Fish and Game “The Economic Benefits of Watchable Wildlife Recreation,”⁵ there were 3.8 million visitors (non-residents) who traveled to parks, deserts, beaches and preserves to watch wildlife in California. The most popular wildlife subject was bird watching with almost 70 percent of all participants. In addition, 6.1 million residents of California participated in watching wildlife within a mile of their homes. The economic impacts of bird and wildlife watching are estimated to total \$2.1 billion statewide. These expenditures include equipment (off-road vehicles, photographic equipment, film developing), travel, refreshments, and memberships. According to that study \$148.6 million was contributed to State sales tax revenues by this activity.

Popular private and public bird watching areas within Sonoma County include the sloughs of the Sonoma Valley and Petaluma River areas operated by Fish and Game and privately through organizations such as “Ducks Unlimited.” The Bird Walk Coastal Access site with its excellent views of Doran Marsh in Bodega Bay was visited by more than 18,000 people in its first year of operation in 1996. A 1989 study states that birdwatchers contributed a total of \$27 million in wages and business income to California’s economy in 1987, based on a typical birdwatcher spending a modest estimate of \$13 per day.⁶ And, Bodega Bay has been designated as a “globally important birding area” according to information received from the Madrone Audobon Society of Sonoma County. Bodega Bay has become known to birdwatchers because of the large number and variety of birds that use this area.

3. Equestrians

Equestrians in Sonoma County have their roots deeply intertwined with the farm and ranch economy of the County. It is a major recreation activity. The 1998 Sonoma County Agricultural Crop Report includes data from a study prepared by the Economics Department of Sonoma State University. It indicated that there were more than 13,758 horses in Sonoma County in 1998. During that period, it was estimated that the “horse industry” contributed a total value of \$30,268,379 to the Sonoma County economy, of which \$3.3 million was spent more directly on the keeping of horses. The smaller value includes the costs of boarding and transporting horses, veterinarians, salaries and

3 “Recreation on the Russian River”, Sonoma County Regional Parks (1976)

4 “Campground Study”, the Bay Area Open Space Council (1994)

5 “The Economic Benefits of Watchable Wildlife Recreation,” California Department of Fish and Game (1991)

6 Economic Impacts of Protecting Rivers, Trails, and Greenway Corridors, U.S. national Park Service (1992)

wages of horse trainers, feed, breeding and clothing. The total value includes the actual value of the horses and improvements associated with housing the horses.

4. Trails

There are several well-documented studies of the economic benefits of trails, particularly regional trails. The University of Pennsylvania study⁷ prepared for the National Parks Service studied three Rail Trail projects in three states. This study provided examples of several economic benefits derived from the conversion of abandoned railroad corridors into trails.

In Sonoma County, it is anticipated that with the completion of the West County Trail, between Santa Rosa and Forestville (13 miles), 173,000 users will use the trail per year. The trail extends through the scenic Laguna de Santa Rosa and the fruit-growing areas of Sebastopol, Graton and Forestville. It is estimated that 25,000 of the users will be non-County residents. The completion of the trail is critical to attracting tourists who will be able to access the Russian River by bicycle, horse or hiking and avoid the busy major roads from Sebastopol and Santa Rosa. The proposed construction of Sebastopol's second motel on the route of the trail will be an additional economic benefit.

The average daily expenditure of users of rail to trail projects in the study prepared by the University of Pennsylvania ranged from \$6.86/day to \$15.18/day. Under this premise the West County Trail would generate between \$171,500/year to \$379,500/year for the local economy from users. It should be noted that the three trails that were studied were in locations that were not as scenic or as tourist-oriented as the trails in Sonoma County.

An earlier study of "Rail-Trail" projects in 1986 by Moran Wilkinson & Fremont estimated that the average bicycle tourist traveling as an individual will spend \$22.00/day if staying in a campground and up to \$60.00/day if staying in a motel. Under this premise that 25,000 of the users will be tourists, the West County Trail would generate between \$550,000/year to \$1.5 million/year for the local economy from tourism.

C. Other Economic Benefits of Recreation Activities

1. Incentives to Businesses to Relocate to Sonoma County

Eighty-seven percent of high technology firms desiring to relocate to Sonoma County cited the quality of life as the major advantage in selecting Sonoma County.⁸ Retention and development of the desirable aspects of the County's quality of life are important to maintain for existing residents as well as for future economic development.

⁷ "The Impacts of Rail Trails", The University of Pennsylvania (1992)

⁸ Sonoma County Economic Development Board, (1996).

2. Property Values

Since the development of the first public park, the real estate and development industry has recognized the financial benefit of offering green space and park-like settings to purchasers of homes. The idea of living next to or backing onto a green open space area that will never be developed is an attractive selling point. The real estate industry in Sonoma County continues to reflect that belief. This is evident in “for sale” ads that proclaim “*adjacent to park.*”

Nationally, several studies have quantified the benefit to real estate values. The University of Pennsylvania study⁹ determined that the majority of property owners and real estate professionals believed that the existence of a trail either had no effect or *had increased* the value of their property.

In 1997, Sonoma County Regional Parks conducted a “Park Survey Neighbor Survey”¹⁰ of property owners adjacent to seven of its park and trail facilities. To the question “How do you feel the park or trail had affected the quality of your neighborhood,” *67 percent believed that the park or trail had improved the neighborhood and 18percent said that there was no change to the quality of the neighborhood.* This is slightly less than the University of Pennsylvania study. However, unlike the University of Pennsylvania study, the Sonoma County Regional Parks study surveyed only adjacent property owners.

3. Parks Provide Positive Options that May Help Deter Juvenile Crime

According to the National Recreation and Park Association, the cost of incarcerating 700,000 juveniles through the justice system nationally cost taxpayers \$7.7 billion. The Sonoma County Probation Department estimates that it costs between \$23,000 to \$42,000/year to incarcerate a single juvenile.¹¹ Providing park and recreation facilities and programs for diversion and intervention would contribute to reducing costs associated with juvenile crime.

4. Health Benefits of Recreation

It has long been known that physical exercise is good for your health. The Surgeon General’s report, “Physical Activity and Health,”¹² determined that physical activity can help reduce cardiovascular disease, lower the risk of colon cancer, lower the risk of diabetes, lower the risk of osteoporosis, reduce the risk of obesity, and relieve symptoms of depression and anxiety. The report contains a Center for Disease Control 1991 study that determined that the most common form of exercise for all people over the age of 18 is walking (44.1 percent) This is far higher than many other activities such as aerobics (7.1 percent), swimming (6.5 percent), or riding a bicycle or exercise bicycle (15.4 percent). Outdoor recreation opportunities such as trails in parks and open space areas offer a way to meet the demand.

9 “The Impacts of Trails”, The University of Pennsylvania (1992)

10 Park Neighbor Survey, Sonoma County Regional Parks Department, (1997)

11 The Sonoma County Probation Department, personal communication between Lin Sontag and Philip Sales, March, (1998)

12 “Physical Activity and Health”, The United States Surgeon General (1992).

D. Farm Bureau Concerns Regarding Impacts of Recreation on Agriculture

The Sonoma County Farm Bureau has an important role in ensuring that agricultural interests are adequately protected. Sonoma County has a “Right to Farm Ordinance”¹³ that recognizes agriculture’s prominent role in the Sonoma County economy. Sonoma County still is predominantly agricultural with several different types of agricultural activity, ranging from dairy to viticulture, which contributed approximately \$453.5 million to the Sonoma County economy in 1998.¹⁴ Equestrian-related business generated over \$30 million.¹⁵ Recreational activities that could adversely affect agricultural interests are of concern to the Farm Bureau.

In February 1997, the Sonoma County Farm Bureau raised concerns about the impacts of public recreation, and trails in particular, on agriculture. Their concerns related primarily to issues such as: the impacts created by public recreation on wildland fires, public safety, orchard contamination, pesticide use conflicts, insurance and liability, and other environmental impacts. These issues are specifically identified in the Farm Bureau’s February 10, 1997 letter and its attachment entitled: “Farmers’ Concerns Regarding Trails on Agricultural Lands.” The letter and its attachment are included in Appendix 6.

As a result of the concerns raised by the Farm Bureau, four workshops were conducted as part of regularly scheduled the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). Regional Parks invited panelists, who were selected based on their respective area of expertise, to the workshops to discuss the issues and offer suggestions. This Appendix focuses on these workshops, and includes workshop summaries and background information. Many of the suggestions and solutions presented during the workshops were included in the development of the policy recommendations in the ORP, Chapter III – Recommended Policies.

Workshop Number 1 – Public Safety Issues (June 18, 1997)

Wildland Fire Issues

The Farm Bureau asked for information regarding the steps that could be taken to prevent fires from spreading from public trails onto adjacent private land. The Farm Bureau stated that most of the trails are in areas of high fire hazard, and that trail users may sleep overnight on the longer trails and would build campfires that could spread onto adjacent public land.

At the workshop, Regional Parks presented several informational items to the panel. These items included a California Department of Forestry (CDF) map that depicted major fires (greater than 100 acres) in Sonoma County since 1960, a summary of fire incident history in Sonoma County Regional Parks between 1990-1998, and a chart based on CDF data that illustrated the causes of fire and number of acres damaged by fire. The map was hand-drawn based on data collected from CDF. Based on the map, there appeared to be no correlation between wild land fires and proximity to parks. This map is available for review at the Regional Parks office. The fire incident history was developed from data collected relative to fire incidents at the various regional parks for the nine-year

13 Sonoma County Code, Chapter 30, Article II

14 Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office. April 1999. *Sonoma County Agricultural Crop Report 1998*.

15 Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office. April 1999. *Sonoma County Agricultural Crop Report 1998*

period of 1990 – 1998. The fire incident history revealed that the majority of fires in parks occurred in parking lots, usually either a trash can fire or barbecue or campfires. Regular staff patrolling had also prevented fires. The fire incident history summary is included in this Appendix. Two charts were created by Regional Parks based on data collected from CDF. The charts illustrate the Causes of Fire and Damage by Fire in Sonoma County in 1996. These charts illustrate that causes of fire, such as campfires and playing with fire, accounted for small numbers of fire causes and acreage burned. The primary cause of fire was equipment use, and electric power and equipment use accounted for largest amount of acres burned. The charts are included in Appendix 6.

The Sonoma County General Plan (General Plan) includes planning provisions regarding the issue of wildland fire. The California Department of Forestry (CDF) has mapped fire hazard severity and those areas designated as having a high or very high risk of wildland fire are included in the General Plan. Wildland fire hazard can result in areas having the combination of highly flammable fuel, dry weather, and steep slopes. As noted in the General Plan, “The highest hazard is found in mountainous areas with dry summers, plenty of fuel, and steep slopes” and that “Residences have increased the number of fires in hazardous rural areas.”¹⁶

Based on the proposed trails included in the ORP, less than one percent would be in the area designated as the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.¹⁷ Fire safety standards have been adopted by the County, including those of the Uniform Fire Code, National Fire Code, and the Uniform Building Code. The Sonoma County Regional Parks Department conforms to these requirements when designing all projects, including trails that would be adjacent to private land. The CDF is the agency responsible for wildland fire issues. Local fire departments are responsible for fire issues pertaining to structure fires in urbanized settings.

Overnight camping on trails would not be permitted unless camping was included in the overall development of a specific trail project. If an overnight camping were included in a specific trail project, an area would be designated for campers it would conform to all fire prevention standards and requirements.

Security Issues

The Farm Bureau suggested that public trails adjacent to private property would increase trespass, and possibly theft, vandalism, and burglary. The Farm Bureau stated that rural crimes of these sorts are rising. The Farm Bureau suggested that chain-link fencing, six feet in height, would assure that trail users remain on the public trail and prevent trespass onto adjacent, private land. The Farm Bureau asked for information regarding how the Sonoma County Sheriff’s Department and Regional Parks would patrol the trails to prevent crime and trespass onto adjacent, private land as well as how the Hours of Operation and other rules of use would be enforced.

At the workshop, Regional Parks presented several informational items to the panel. These items included a map that showed the areas where Sheriff Trespass Reports had been filed and a copy of the May 1997 “Neighbor Survey.”

¹⁶ Sonoma County General Plan, 1994. Page 255.

¹⁷ Nap AB6-49 dated March 11, 1998. Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone designated by California Department of Forestry.

The map was hand-drawn, and represented Trespass Reports filed by the Sonoma County Sheriff Department for 1995 – 1996. The Trespass Map was initiated by concerns regarding safety and property rights issues as they relate to Regional Park’s facilities. The goal of the map was to identify a relationship between trespassing and public lands. All calls to the Sheriff’s Department for trespassing for the year of 1997 were obtained from the Sonoma County Sheriff Department. A GIS-generated map (Appendix 6, Figure 6-2) illustrates that trespassing incidents around parks reflects the general crime rates of the surrounding communities. More importantly, the map suggests that trespassing is greatest *where no or a low level of public access is available*. In summary, the map shows no correlation between trespassing on private properties and public park facilities.

The “Neighbor Survey” documented existing park neighbors’ concerns and complaints. Serious crimes did not appear to be a major concern. Neighbors’ main concerns related to unleashed pets, dog excrement, noise, concerns about maintenance, cars parked near property, litter and loss of privacy. However, when asked the question whether the park or trail had improved their neighborhood, 67 percent reported that the trail had improved the neighborhood and 18 percent reported that there was no change.

Regional Parks considers public safety and security during the design phase of projects, including trails. For some projects, including trails, fencing may be included to enhance public safety and security. Fencing needs and design would be considered during the preliminary design phase for specific ORP projects. Regional Parks facilities, including trails, generally operate between sunrise and sunset and are patrolled by Regional Park Rangers as part of their regular duties. In addition to evaluating the facility for maintenance needs, the facilities are patrolled to protect against crime and vandalism and to enhance public safety. The Sonoma County Sheriff’s Department and city Police Departments, depending on a park’s County trail location, provide law enforcement support to the Regional Park Rangers when such assistance is requested. Violations of park hours are enforced.

Workshop Number 2 -- Agricultural Issues (July 16, 1997)

The Farm Bureau expressed concern regarding orchard contamination and the dangers to the public associated with pesticides. Regarding orchard contamination, the Farm Bureau stated that root rot could be easily transferred between orchards and offered an example of hiking in a creek from which orchard irrigation water is diverted as having the potential to spread root rot to a healthy irrigated orchard. The Farm Bureau stated that many orchards require vehicles and people entering the orchards to pass through a chemical foot-bath to kill root rot spores, and asked how this prevention technique would be applied and enforced on a trail. Regarding pesticide danger, the Farm Bureau stated that chemicals must be applied at critical times, within narrow time frames to be effective against a pest. The Farm Bureau asked how the County could protect trail users from the chemicals and how the County could protect farmers from liability.

The workshop panel discussed the importance of recognizing potential conflicts between users of recreation facilities and adjacent agricultural activities, particularly in regard to the use of spray and pesticides. It was noted that these activities already occur next to existing public lands, such as roads. In Sonoma County four million pounds of pesticides were applied to agricultural crops in 1996. However, three-quarters of these pesticides consisted of sulfur applied to wine grapes (35,000 acres of Sonoma County were in grape production in 1996). There is a trend to reduce the use of

chemical pesticides by both voluntary and state mandated restrictions.

The benefits of integrating recreational trails in agricultural areas were also discussed, including the potential increase in exposure that could benefit Sonoma County wineries. One of the panelists noted, for example, that Benzinger Vineyard and winery have been located next to Jack London State Park for years without experiencing problems. There was a concern, however, about how to “un-invite” the public if a trail or recreation facility resulted in problems.

Orchard Contamination

There are a variety of root rots that can affect agricultural crops, landscape vegetation, and native plants. Root rot can be caused by a variety of fungi that are sustained on buried wood, generally dead roots. The fungus generally invades healthy plants through direct contact with their roots. Unfortunately, plant mortality generally results. Most fungi that cause root diseases are continuously present in soil,¹⁸ although some root rot fungi can spread by air-borne spores. Air-borne spores, generally germinate when they contact a fresh cut, then spread through the plant to the root system. Recommended root rot preventative measures include proper preparation of planting site, planting of quality stock, and provision of appropriate cultural care, particularly in regard to irrigation. While it is possible to spread root rot causing fungi through various recreational activities, such as hiking and bicycling, it is unlikely given the mechanism of spread of the fungi themselves.

Pesticide Use

Pesticide use is regulated by county, state, and federal requirements. Pesticide licenses are required and must be renewed annually. A test must be passed to obtain a license. License renewal requires continuing education that is based on the type of pest control. In addition to the license, applicators must adhere to strict pesticide use requirements. These requirements are generally included on the label and include safe application procedures, suitable weather requirements, and applicable posting requirements.

Agricultural Buffers

Sonoma County requires an agricultural setback between certain agricultural land-use categories and non-agricultural land use, which is generally defined as a physical separation of 100 to 200 feet.¹⁹ Generally, the Sonoma County Agricultural Commission requires a 100-foot buffer between land extensive agricultural uses, such as pasture and grazing, and new building sites. A 200-foot buffer is generally required between land intensive agricultural uses, such as vineyards and orchards, and new building sites.²⁰ The buffer may be modified based upon topographic features, a substantial tree stand, watercourse, or similar existing natural or man-made feature. Modification of the buffer requirement would require a written recommendation by the Agricultural Commissioner and a

¹⁸ Dreistadt, Steve H. *Pests of Landscape Trees and Shrubs – An Integrated Pest Management Guide*. University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources Publication 3359. 1994.

¹⁹ Sonoma County Ordinance No. 4101, adopted November 7, 1989.

²⁰ Dakin, Nancy. *Buffers Required or Recommended Between Agricultural Land and Adjacent Uses Including Recreation Areas with Trails*. July 3, 2001. Page 3. (Entire report included in this Appendix.)

hearing by the advisory agency.²¹ A buffer is not required for the acquisition of a portion of a parcel that is devoted to an agricultural operation.²²

Sonoma County has a “Right to Farm” Ordinance, the purpose of which is to accomplish three primary goals: (1) limit the circumstances under which properly conducted agricultural operations on agricultural land can be considered a nuisance; (2) require notification to property owners, purchasers, residents, and other users of property adjacent to or near agricultural operations regarding the potential inconveniences or discomforts that could arise from properly conducted agricultural operations; and (3) advance the goals, objectives, policies, and implementation programs of the agricultural resources element of the Sonoma County General Plan.²³ The “Right to Farm” Ordinance describes the typical types of agricultural activities that could be considered a nuisance and provides language for the three different disclosures. Disclosures are required in the annual tax bill to all owners of real property within Sonoma County, as part of the development approval process for development proposed on or adjacent to agricultural land, and to buyers of real property under certain conditions. All three disclosures include subtle variations of the following language:

... inconvenience or discomfort arising from a properly conducted agricultural operation on agricultural land will not be considered a nuisance for purposes of the Sonoma County Code or County regulation, and that residents or users of nearby property should be prepared to accept such inconvenience or discomfort as a normal and necessary aspect of living in a county with a strong rural character and an active agricultural sector.

Regional Parks conducted research regarding policies of other cities regarding the used of buffers between agricultural and other land uses. The cities of Davis and Vacaville require agricultural buffers. The City of Davis requires a 100-foot wide agricultural buffer plus a 50-foot wide transitional area.²⁴ The buffer area is required adjacent to agricultural, greenbelt, or habitat areas. Permitted uses within the buffer area include native plants, native creeks and drainage swales, tree or hedge rows, drainage channels, storm retention ponds, railroad tracks and utility corridors, and some agricultural uses. The transition area is required adjacent to the buffer area. Permitted uses within the transition area may include bike paths, benches, lighting among other similar uses in addition to those uses permitted within the buffer area. Development of the transition area must be completed by the developer pursuant to a plan approved by the parks and community services director. The City of Vacaville requires a Greenbelt Buffer of 500 feet minimum between residential uses and agricultural areas. Permitted uses within the Greenbelt Buffer include public or private recreational facilities, storm-detention ponds, tree farms, wholesale nurseries, and other specified uses.²⁵

Regional Parks would consider potential conflict of use between existing agriculture and proposed recreation. Projects proposed under the ORP would be designed to minimize potential conflicts to the greatest extent possible. The ORP includes goals, objectives, and policies to address these concerns. They are included in the ORP, Chapter III – Recommended Policies.

21 Sonoma County Ordinance No. 4101, adopted November 7, 1989.

22 Sonoma County Ordinance No. 4101, adopted November 7, 1989.

23 Sonoma County Code, Section 30-20

24 City of Davis Ordinance No. 1823

25 City of Vacaville General Plan, page 28. December 1997.

Workshop Number 3 -- Insurance and Liability Issues (July 30, 1997)

The Farm Bureau expressed concern regarding the liability that could be incurred by a farmer adjacent to a trail from injuries sustained by recreationists. The Farm Bureau stated that many farming and ranching activities involve activities and conditions that could be considered dangerous, such as the use of heavy equipment, guard dogs, livestock, open trenches, farm dumps, and holes overgrown with vegetation. It appears that the Farm Bureau is concerned that should a recreationist trespass onto adjacent private property and become injured, that the property owner would not be adequately protected by law, such as Civil Code §846.

This workshop focused on liability and insurance issues relating to parks and trails. Regional Parks provided information and hand-outs on “Protecting the Landowner – A Common Sense Approach,” which is included in Appendix 6. The Sonoma County Risk Manager discussed the existing indemnification and legislative protections that private landowners already have. Hand-outs, including an Opinion by Daniel Lungren, Attorney General of the State of California and Assembly Bill No. 2291, were presented and are included in Appendix 6. Attorney Steve Butler presented a handout titled “Additional Liability Issues for Discussion,” which is also included in Appendix 6.

Panelists from the insurance industry stated that the location of a park or trail next to a property is not a factor in setting insurance rates. Insurance rates are based on several factors, the most significant of which is the number of claims; if an insurance company receives an exceptional number of claims for vandalism on a single property, for example, rates could increase. Claims filed as a result of trespassing are so low they are not even tracked. Most claims come from persons invited onto properties and are not trespassers.

Panelists from the insurance industry stated that should public entities indemnify landowners adjacent to trails and other public lands it would help insurance companies because public agencies and insurance companies would be interested in maintaining and operating the facilities in a manner that reduces risk exposure.

The Sonoma County Risk Manager stated that the State encourages recreation. The County Risk Manager said that after reviewing the history of insurance claims involving Regional Parks, that claims involving adjacent landowners were very low. Where a property owner entered into an easement or a license for trails on their property, the indemnification could be part of the agreement between the public agency and the property owner.

The current structure of the law provides significant protections for the landowner from personal liability. For example, Civil Code §846 protects private landowners from potential liability from those in recreational activities provided that the injured recreationist was not expressly invited onto the private property and that the private property owner did not willfully or maliciously intend to cause the injury. Public Resources Code 5075.5 protects property owners from actions resulting from or caused by trail users who trespass onto adjoining property and protects property owners from actions started on or taking place within the boundaries of the trail itself.

The County of Sonoma could indemnify private property owners for personal injury to trail users

when an easement over private property is obtained or when a trail is proposed adjacent to private property. This could provide an additional protection to landowners adjacent to Regional Park facilities, including trails. The question of indemnification is a policy issue that is outside of the jurisdiction of Regional Parks.

Workshop Number 4 -- Environmental Issues (August 13, 1997)

The concerns raised by the Farm Bureau regarding agricultural issues are disclosed in the attachment to their January 28, 1997 letter. In summary, the Farm Bureau expressed concern regarding the potential damage to wildlife habitat from the construction of proposed recreation facilities and their use. The Farm Bureau asked how the potential damage to wildlife would be prevented and monitored. The Farm Bureau recognized that while fencing would provide security and minimize trespass onto adjacent private property, it also could interrupt wildlife migration. The Farm Bureau also asked about the type and location of sanitation facilities and parking that would be provided.

At the workshop, Regional Parks provided an overview about the way in which the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) applies to the acquisition and development of parks and recreation facilities and the different levels of CEQA review were described.

Regional Parks projects must comply with CEQA. The purpose of CEQA is to provide a clear understanding of the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction, operation, and maintenance of a project for the decision-makers, responsible and trustee agencies, and the public. Compliance with CEQA requires a thorough assessment of potential environmental impacts in several resource categories and the provision of mitigation measures to avoid, reduce, or rectify potential environmental impacts that are identified in the analysis. This information is summarized in an appropriate environmental document. The different levels of review for CEQA were described, including Categorical Exemption, Mitigated Negative Declaration, and EIR. For example, purchase of land for open space easements, wildlife conservation projects and parks are covered under specific Categorical Exemptions under CEQA, as are many maintenance projects. If the project does not qualify for an exemption, Regional Parks prepares an Initial Study and the Sonoma County Environmental Review Committee (ERC) determines whether a Mitigated Negative Declaration or an EIR is the appropriate document. Development of a park or trail may involve preparation of a Mitigated Negative Declaration or even an EIR, depending on whether the individual project is deemed to have "significant adverse impacts."

During the preliminary design phase, Regional Parks considers a variety of facilities, including restrooms and parking. If environmental studies are needed, they are conducted during this preliminary design phase. Environmental studies may be required for biological resources, including wildlife and habitat. Environmental studies also may be required for cultural resources, geological resources, traffic, and noise. The information obtained in these studies is included in the environmental document, which is required pursuant to CEQA.

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) is a regulatory agency, and they require design review of possible project impacts on sensitive habitat areas. The CDFG often works with agencies when their interests related to habitat preservation coincide, for example, CDFG and Regional Parks worked together on a trail connection for a project through CDFG's property.

The County's Permit and Resource Management Department (PRMD) reviews all public and private

projects and makes General Plan consistency determinations. Certain General Plan land use designations also allow for the development of recreation facilities and a General Plan amendment is not required. Some recreational facility developments require General Plan amendments, which are considered by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors four times a year.

III. RECOMMENDED POLICIES



This chapter on recommended policies establishes a policy framework for this Outdoor Recreation Plan. This framework includes goals, objectives and related policies that are recommended for the successful implementation of this Plan. This policy framework was developed by the Citizens Advisory Committee based on the many discussions that occurred and the analysis that was completed as part of this project. Additional revisions were made based on policy direction provided by the Board of Supervisors and comments received from interested groups and individuals reviewing the Plan.

NOTE: The following are recommended policies that may form the basis of a General Plan Amendment. These recommended policies are advisory in nature. Reference to the existing General Plan policies, County Ordinances and State Government Codes within the following text is intended to provide background information for the draft policies.

GOAL 1: Develop a long-range strategy for acquisition and development of new parks, preserves, trails, public access, and related outdoor recreation facilities. Develop this strategy in a manner that is consistent with the County’s overall commitment to agricultural preservation and its long-term viability, and the County’s respect for private property rights. Ensure that the strategy provides for a balance of recreational opportunities, and recognizes the importance of trails.

Objective 1.1: Acquire sufficient land for new parks, preserves, trails and public access, and outdoor recreation facilities, hereafter referred to as outdoor recreation facilities, to meet the needs of County residents of and visitors to Sonoma County. Ensure the plan offers a balance of recreational opportunities; inclusion of trails is an important component of the Draft Plan.

Policy 1.1a: Acquisitions of land for parks, preserves, trails and related outdoor recreation facilities are desirable to occur in advance of growth and development in order to improve the quality of life of the residents of Sonoma County.

Policy 1.1b: Encourage partnering with cities and other recreation providers to develop trail opportunities close to urban centers.

Policy 1.1c: Recognize that lands acquired for outdoor recreation facilities contribute to the visitor serving businesses of Sonoma County and that lands acquired will enhance the economy of Sonoma County.

Objective 1.2: Identify locations for outdoor recreation facilities.

Policy 1.2a: The location of proposed parks, preserves, trails and related outdoor recreation facilities on the Outdoor Recreation Plan Map should be considered to be schematic only. In the case of the trail symbols, the intention is to reflect a point of departure and a point of arrival. Recreation facilities may be located on any suitable lands in the general vicinity of the mapped symbols.

Policy 1.2b: Notwithstanding the designations depicted on the General Plan’s Land Use and Open Space Maps, outdoor recreation facilities found consistent with the goals, objectives, policies, and maps of the General Plan’s Open Space Element shall be deemed consistent with any land use designation of the General Plan’s Land Use Map and deemed a permitted use in any zoning district. No General Plan amendment or rezoning shall be required prior to acquisition.

However, facilities involving public access, either immediately or in the future, shall require approval of a facility management plan (master plan) by the Board of Supervisors, following a public hearing and recommendation by the Planning Commission, prior to facility development and/or use. Pursuant to sections 65302(a) and 65860(a) of the California Government Code, PRMD shall amend the General Plan and zoning to depict the specific location of the approved outdoor recreation facility at the first convenient opportunity following Board of Supervisors approval of the facility management plan (master plan).

Policy 1.2c: The Plan generally identifies opportunities to link existing and proposed recreation facilities on publicly owned lands. Appropriate linkages on public property may include parks, maintenance roads along flood control channels in public ownership, navigable rivers, bikeways, existing rights of way, and other public lands.

Policy 1.2d: The Plan generally recommends avoiding the use of roads in developing trail alignments. Multi use trail alignments on or along roads are not considered a preferred option, except for Class II and III bikeways that are within the road right-of-way or in areas currently designated LIA, LEA, and DA until or unless there is specific interest or expressed consent expressed by a willing property owner/seller. If no other option is available, a trail may be designated on or beside a road only if the following criteria have been adequately addressed and the alignment approved by the Department of Transportation and Public Works.

- Traffic volumes are sufficiently low (number of cars per day)
- There are adequate sight distances for traveling vehicles
- There is adequate availability of right of way
- There are adequate shoulders for pedestrians and equestrians, and adequate separation of these users from vehicles
- There are adequate signs notifying motorists of pedestrians and equestrians

Policy 1.2e: Unforeseen Acquisition Opportunities. In the event that an opportunity arises for acquisition of property that is not depicted on the adopted maps of the Outdoor Recreation Plan, the agency proposing the acquisition shall conduct an analysis covering the following points:

1. The relationship of the unforeseen opportunity to the recreational needs identified in the Plan, including a discussion of how the unforeseen acquisition would meet those needs compared to facilities identified in the Plan.
2. An analysis of the “opportunity costs” of the unforeseen acquisition, including whether the proposed acquisition is intended to replace or supplement a facility identified in the Plan. This analysis may consider how the unforeseen opportunity may impact the acquisition of facilities identified in the Plan.

Objective 1.3: Provide for flexibility in locating trail corridors.

Policy 1.3a: Proposed trail alignments that connect desired points and generally follow the route shown on the Outdoor Recreation Plan will be considered consistent with the General Plan if the Outdoor Recreation Plan is adopted as a General Plan Amendment.

Policy 1.3b: Where a trail alignment is not predetermined by a relationship to established publicly owned corridors such as abandoned railroad rights-of-way, flood control channels, or similar facilities, the Board of Supervisors may direct the preparation of a study or a plan for the trail, taking into account, costs, a preliminary environmental assessment and any other factors it deems relevant to alignment and feasibility.

Policy 1.3c: Trail easements to be acquired should be wide enough to allow for creating buffer spaces between neighbors and the trail and to allow trails to provide a positive visitor experience and to minimize environmental damage.

Objective 1.4: Acquire land for recreation facilities.

Policy 1.4: The Outdoor Recreation Plan Map symbols for outdoor recreation facilities define general areas where it is recommended that the County consider:

- i) Agencies involved in land acquisition shall seek private landowners that are willing to sell land or interests in land for outdoor recreation facilities, when the Plan shows a need for such facilities.
- ii) Generally, where there are subdivisions of land generally in excess of fifty units, acquire land for outdoor recreation facilities in preference to payment of park mitigation fees whenever possible, as a condition of approval. Nothing shall prohibit the dedication and acceptance of

land for park and recreation purposes in subdivisions of fifty (50) parcels or less, where the subdivider proposes such dedication voluntarily and the land is acceptable to the County.

- iii) Consider requiring dedication in-fee or by easement for trails as a condition of approval of subdivisions in the vicinity of a proposed trail. There must be a need identified in the General Plan, as amended over time, or the project must block an existing access or result in the need for additional recreational opportunities.
- iv) The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors may also consider the dedication of land or the granting of easements for outdoor recreation facilities on the site of and as part of a development application in exchange for: a density bonus, clustering of parcels and/or flexibility in other design and improvement standards subject to any needed amendments to the General Plan.

Objective 1.5: Use existing infrastructure and minimize impacts on the environment of constructing access road improvements.

Policy 1.5: Give priority to proposed outdoor recreation facilities in locations that are accessed by existing or planned publicly maintained roads.

GOAL 2: Plan new outdoor recreation facilities to accommodate public recreation needs, while recognizing the rights of private property owners, the need for safety, and the requirements of environmental protection.

Objective 2.1: Trail routes will be located, designed and developed with sensitivity to their potential agricultural, environmental, recreational, and other impacts on adjacent lands and private property.

Policy 2.1a: During trail design, notify and coordinate with affected landowners to incorporate measures into trail design and related management policies to accommodate, to the extent possible, the privacy and security concerns of the landowner. Such measures could include, but are not limited to, fencing or barrier planting that discourages trespassing; signage; scheduling of maintenance; and patrol scheduling.

Policy 2.1b: Develop design guidelines for trails to address safety issues and minimize user conflicts. Prior to developing any new trail route for public use, consider design and management issues to ensure provision of an appropriate level of service necessary to provide for the safety and support of trail users and affected landowners. Design and management issues to be considered include, at a minimum, police and fire protection and the availability of parking and sanitary services in the vicinity.

Objective 2.2: Avoid significant adverse impacts to agriculture and support the County’s right to farm policy for agriculture.

Policy 2.2: The County will not acquire real property for parks or trails through condemnation where the subject land is in agricultural use or where it is reasonably feasible that the land could be put into agriculture. The County will only acquire property for parks and trails from willing sellers in agricultural land use categories as designated in the General Plan.

Trail routes shown on the Outdoor Recreation Plan Map in areas currently designated on the County General Plan Land Use Maps as “Land Intensive Agriculture”, “Land Extensive Agriculture” or “Diverse Agriculture” (LIA, LEA, and DA) shall not be required (including easements) or developed outside of County road right of way until or unless there is a specific interest or consent expressed by a willing property owner/seller.

The County shall provide a footnote on the Outdoor Recreation Plan Map that repeats the above policies relating to areas currently designated as Agriculture (LEA, LIA, and DA) on the County General Plan Land Use Map.

Objective 2.3: Indemnify adjacent property owners to provide assurance that they will not be liable for injuries by the public on adjacent trails.

Policy 2.3: The County indemnify all grantors of trail easements and other owners of lands immediately adjoining County trails from liability for injuries suffered by users of the adjoining trails or provide other mutually acceptable relief.

The indemnity will not apply to injuries caused by a landowner’s willful or malicious conduct. The indemnity will include the costs of defending the landowner against all liability claims brought by users of County trails as well as the costs of damage awards and other costs associated with such claims.

GOAL 3: Ensure coordination and cooperative efforts among public agencies, such as the Bureau of Land Management, State Parks, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Sonoma County Water Agency, and cities involved in public access to and recreational use of public lands.

Objective 3.1: Coordinate efforts with other public agencies that provide public access on publicly acquired land to acquire lands in fee or in easement for outdoor recreation facilities.

Policy 3.1: The County will coordinate efforts with other public agencies for the acquisition of new outdoor recreation facilities consistent with adopted plans and policies. Prior to the formal acceptance of property for outdoor

recreation facility purposes by the Board of Supervisors agencies shall coordinate efforts to address and resolve outstanding issues.

Objective 3.2: Encourage the land-banking of lands acquired for recreation where funds are not immediately available to develop and operate these properties for public use.

Policy 3.2: Properties acquired in-fee by the County or other agency for outdoor recreation may be land-banked and public use may be limited in part or entirely, as necessary, until the park and recreation departments develop management plans (master plans) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act and secure funding for development and operation and maintenance of the properties.

Objective 3.3: Encourage the use of publicly owned property to meet the needs of outdoor recreation.

Policy 3.3: Use existing public lands, such as surplus B.L.M. lands and the Sonoma County Water Agency's access roads along flood control channels, wherever appropriate to implement the recreation facilities proposed in the Plan.

Objective 3.4: Coordinate in the prioritization of acquisition and development of park and recreation projects.

Policy 3.4: The acquisition, planning and development of County recreation projects will be coordinated in the Sonoma County Five Year Capital Project Plan, which is updated and adopted by the Board on an annual basis.

Objective 3.5: Coordinate with the Permit and Resource Management Department to ensure that updates of the General Plan occur.

Policy 3.5: Agencies will ensure that the Permit and Resource Management Department is notified of proposed projects that may necessitate a County General Plan Amendment.

Objective 3.6: Coordinate with the Coastal Commission and the County Permit and Resource Management Department to ensure Outdoor Recreation Plan projects are implemented in a manner that supports the Coastal Plan and its recreation policies for the Sonoma County coastline.

Policy 3.6: Acquire easements for public accessways that otherwise would become unavailable for public use, consistent with the access plan within the Coastal Plan.

Objective 3.7: Coordinate with the Coastal Commission to accept Outstanding

Offers to Dedicate (OTDs) coastal access easements before they expire.

Policy 3.7a: Accept outstanding offers to dedicate coastal access areas in the vicinity of Stillwater Cove Regional Park before they expire.

Policy 3.7b: Encourage the State Parks Department to accept the Offers to Dedicate coastal access easements in the vicinity of Fort Ross State Park before they expire.

GOAL 4: Encourage private non-profit organizations to provide regular public access to, and recreational use of lands acquired with public funds.

Objective 4.1: To cooperate with non-profit organizations in managing lands for public access and recreation.

Policy 4.1: The County should cooperate with and seek the support of nonprofit organizations to effectively maximize financial opportunities, land acquisition and grant funding that would not otherwise be available to public agencies.

GOAL 5: Develop local funding mechanisms for maintenance and management of park facilities.

Objective 5.1: Encourage the joint use of recreation facilities in the unincorporated areas of the County with School Districts.

Policy 5.1a: Community and neighborhood parks fulfill specific needs of local communities in the unincorporated areas of the County. The County shall encourage community and neighborhood park development adjacent to elementary, junior and senior high schools to benefit from shared use of land and facilities. Joint-use programs with local school districts will be pursued, where feasible, to develop necessary agreements for cost-sharing arrangements.

Policy 5.1b: Recognize that on the edges of existing city boundaries that sufficient lands may exist that may be converted or developed to serve both the city and county residents. The County would entertain joint use agreements with cities to provide park and recreation facilities in these locations.

Objective 5.2: **To ensure that the long-term development and management costs of recreation facilities are supported by new funding.**

Policy 5.2: The County may consider using funding mechanisms such as zones of benefit for the purposes of funding park and recreation development, maintenance and operation costs.

This page has been intentionally left blank

IV. PARKLAND CLASSIFICATION AND INVENTORY



Sonoma County has a wide range of parklands that meet a variety of needs. Some of the parklands, while regional in terms of classification, are close to urban centers such as Spring Lake Park, and tend to meet the needs of the associated local population. Others parklands are designed to meet more region-wide use such as the regional park facilities at the Russian River and the campground facilities at the coast. This Chapter provides a classification and inventory of all of the parklands in the County. Descriptions of the various types of parks within the County are provided, and the parks are categorized based on how they best fit with these descriptions.

A. Parkland Classification

For purposes of categorizing existing parkland in this chapter, and assessing County parkland needs in Chapter V, County parklands have been classified as follows according to the categories below.¹ Inevitably, there is some overlap in these categories and a single facility can sometimes serve more than one type of need depending upon its function.



Community and Neighborhood Parks: Parks that contain play areas and equipment, playfields and paved surfaces for court games such as tennis and basketball. They are generally less than or equal to 25 acres in size and are located within a 30-minute drive from the populations they are designed to serve. Elementary, middle, and high schools are included in this category since they frequently meet the need for community and neighborhood parks.



Regional Recreation Areas (Active): These park areas serve regional needs with active uses such as swimming, tennis, boating, or other active sports. The facilities are more highly developed, such as interpretive facilities, picnic areas, play areas, turf-ed meadows, food concessions, camping facilities and equestrian facilities such as arenas. Generally, these Regional Recreation Areas are more highly developed facilities adjacent to urban areas. They are typically less than 200 acres in size. River access facilities, while generally smaller in size, are also included in this category. The majority of coastal campground facilities are included in this category.



Regional Open Space Parks (Passive)²: Regional Open Space Parks contain passive recreation as the dominant use, and have fewer developed facilities (e.g. parking lots, trail heads and restrooms). They are generally 200 acres in size, or larger, although there are some exceptions. Passive recreation includes hiking, mountain bike riding, horseback riding and picnicking. Regional Open Space Parks provide for public access, use and enjoyment. As larger facilities, they also play a greater role in preserving functioning ecosystems.

¹ It should be noted that when Federal and State parks and preserves are included, Sonoma County exceeds any available parkland standard; however, many of these lands are not open and available for public recreation.

² The term “Passive” is used to mean parks that are generally managed in their natural condition supporting recreation activities with minimal impact on the environment. It is recognized that many strenuous activities including jogging, hiking and mountain bike riding are conducted in these Regional Open Space Parks.



Trails: Trails are facilities which provide access to and opportunities to experience cultural and natural resource areas. Trails provide non-motorized access (generally pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian, multi-use, as designated for the particular trail segment). Trails may link communities, natural resource and cultural resource areas. Trails traverse a wide variety of terrain, ranging from urban streets to open rangelands, flood control channels, utility corridors, and former railroad rights-of-way.



Other Lands: Other Lands including State and Federal Parks and Preserves are areas with significant natural or cultural features and/or resources that merit preservation for public enjoyment and education. State and Federal Lands are generally preserved for residents and visitors to protect areas with scenic beauty or special habitat areas. They generally protect areas with National or State-wide significance and generally recreation is the dominant use. Essential features of a Preserve may be wilderness; scenic beauty; flora; fauna; or archaeological, historic, or geological resources. Other Lands vary in size depending on the resource(s) being protected. Generally, the size of a Preserve is determined by the characteristics, nature and needs of its special features. Parts of the Preserve may be accessible to the public on a limited basis, but recreation is not the dominant use.

Table 2

Outdoor Recreation Plan Parkland Classification Matrix

The following matrix summarizes the classification system described above for categorizing the many types of parkland in Sonoma County and identifies guidelines for meeting the needs of Sonoma County's population.

					Defining Characteristics
Community & Neighborhood Parks	5/1000 ³	< = 25 acres	Park Planning Area (Less than 30 min. drive) ⁴	Non-profit organizations, public schools, Cities, County Service Areas and Special Districts	Play areas, sports fields, and picnicking
Regional Recreation Area (Active)	5/1000	< 200 acres Also includes River Access sites providing access to public waterways (these sites may be considerably smaller)	Park Planning Area (Approx. 30 to 60 min. drive)	County	Generally, above 25 acres and where 10% of the area is devoted to developed recreation facilities (e.g., boat launching facilities, campgrounds, swimming beaches, play areas, sports fields)
Regional Open Space Parks (Passive)	None 15/1000	> = 200 acres	Regional	County	Resource management with public access
Trails	None	None	Regional	County, State	Located primarily outside of parkland areas
Other Lands including State and Federal Parks and Preserves	None	None	Federal, State and Regional	Federal, State, and non-profit agencies	State and Federal parks offer recreation to state-wide and nationally significant lands. Resource Management Areas offer limited access and recreation opportunities

* It is recognized that these acreages may vary depending on park location, topography or other natural features.

³ 5 acres/thousand was used in the 1989 General Plan for Community and Neighborhood Parks.

⁴ Community and Neighborhood Parks are evaluated by Park Planning Area because they frequently serve the wider planning area for sports leagues and other activities.

Table 3

Classification of Sonoma County’s Regional Parkland Facilities by Parkland Type

	Open Space Parks	Regional Recreation Area	Community and Neighborhood Parks	Trails
Arnold Field			X	
Crane Creek Regional Park	X			
Bird Walk Coastal Access				X
Doran Park		X		
Ernie Smith Park			X	
Foothill Regional Park	X			
Forestville River Access		X		
Gualala Regional Park		X		
Healdsburg Beach		X		
Helen Putnam Regional Park	X			
Hood Mountain Regional Park	X			
Hudeman Slough		X		
Joe Rodota Trail				X
Kenwood Plaza Park			X	
Larson Park			X	
Maddux Ranch Park			X	
Maxwell Farms Regional Park		X		
Moran Goodman Park			X	
Occidental Community Center			X	
Pinnacle Gulch Trail & Beach				X
Ragle Ranch Regional Park		X		
Sea Ranch Access Trails				X
Shaw Park			X	
Shiloh Regional Park	X			
Soda Springs Reserve	X			
Sonoma Valley Regional Park	X			
Spring Lake Park		X		
Steelhead Beach		X		
Stillwater Cove Regional Park		X		
Watson School Wayside Park			X	
West County Trail				X
Westside Park		X		
Wohler Bridge Fishing Access		X		

B. Parkland Inventory of Existing Conditions

To provide an overview of existing conditions, total publicly accessible open space land in Sonoma County provided by all entities including the state and federal governments is summarized in Table 4, below

Table 4
Summary of Publicly Accessible Lands in Sonoma County (Acres)

Planning Area	Federal	State	County*	Cities	Local Rec. Districts	School Districts	Others**	Total
Area 1: Sonoma Coast	0	12,727	549	0	6	12	0	13,294
Area 2: North County	14,615	1,588	1,134	87	7	88	0	17,519
Area 3: Sebastopol & Russian River	0	4,988	217	96	34	55	8	5,398
Area 4: Santa Rosa Plain	0	8,936	1,791	461	0	348	17	11,554
Area 5: South County	250	2,486	345	313	0	361	9	3,764
Area 6: Sonoma Valley	0	879	294	48	0	40	72	1,333
County Total	14,865	31,604	4,330	1,005	47	905	106	52,862

* Excludes land banked property and trail acreage. Current land-banked acreage is limited to 335 acres of recently acquired parkland. (This acreage consists of 85 acres at Sonoma Mountain and 250 acres of Stillwater Cove.) Trail corridors are calculated in miles.

** Includes Non profit Organizations and Homeowners Associations who provide recreation facilities.

Table 5 compares the amount of publicly accessible open space by population with ten other counties, indicating the amount of parks and publicly accessible open space. Acreage is expressed as a percentage of population. Acreage totals for publicly accessible (federal, state, county, and local) lands were derived from Greenbelt Alliance, 1992. The Bay Area's Public Lands: Database Compendium. Greenbelt Alliance, S.F., CA.

Table 5
Eleven County Average of Accessible Land

County	Total County Land (Acres)	Accessible Land* (Acres)	2000 Population**	Acres of Accessible Land (Per 1000 Population)
Lake	861,198	377,768	58,309	6478.73
Mendocino	2,244,907	392,634	86,265	4551.49
Marin	344,300	141,280	247,289	571.32
Napa	508,900	51,037	124,279	410.66
Sonoma	1,042,500	52,862	458,614	116.11
Santa Clara	854,200	135,640	1,682,585	80.61
Contra Costa	480,000	71,031	948,816	74.86
Solano	546,800	23,178	394,542	58.75
San Mateo	285,339	41,519	707,161	58.71
Alameda	488,700	44,750	1,443,741	31.00
San Francisco	297,600	5,893	776,733	7.59
Eleven County Average				1130.82

* All accessible land numbers, except Sonoma, Mendocino, Lake Counties are from Greenbelt Alliance, 1992. The Bay Area's Public Lands: Database Compendium. Greenbelt Alliance, S.F., CA. Mendocino County accessible acreage 1993 Mendocino County General Plan

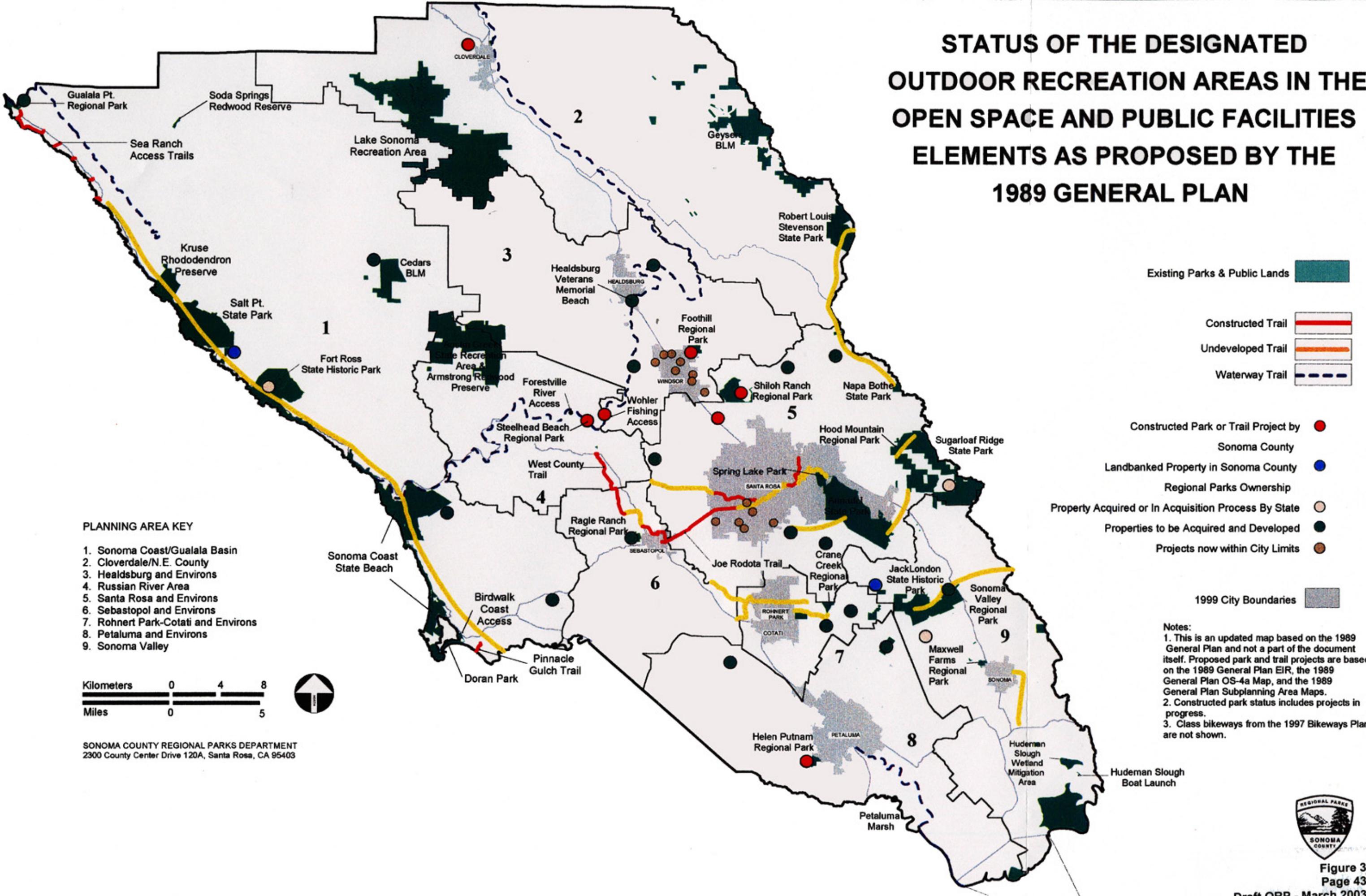
** Population data from 2000 Census

All existing regional parklands are depicted in Figure 3.

- (a) **Community and Neighborhood Parks:** Community and Neighborhood Parks in Sonoma County are depicted by the six Park Planning Areas. Total existing acreage of Community and Neighborhood Parks is 1,998 acres. Community and Neighborhood Park acreage includes the play equipment of Elementary Schools, and the playfields of High Schools and Middle Schools. These school play areas and fields frequently serve as Community and Neighborhood Park facilities during non-school hours. For a complete inventory of Community and Neighborhood Parks, see Appendix 1.
- (b) **Regional Recreation Areas (Active):** Sonoma County Regional Parks (SCRP) operates and maintains nine Regional Recreation Areas containing a total of 1181 acres. The largest Regional Recreation Areas consist of Ragle Ranch in Planning Area 3 and Spring Lake Park in Planning Area 4. For a complete inventory of Regional Recreation Areas, see Appendix 1.
- (c) **Regional Open Space Parks (Passive):** Sonoma County Regional Parks operates and maintains 9 Regional Open Space Parks with a total acreage of 3,105. For a complete inventory of Regional Open Space Parks, see Appendix 1.
- (d) **Trails:** Sonoma County has four regional trails that are located outside of parkland areas. These include the Pinnacle Gulch Trail, the Bird Walk Coastal Access and the Sea Ranch Access Trails in Planning Area 1; and the West County Trail and the Joe Rodota Trail in Planning Areas 3 and 4.
- (e) **Other Lands:** There are a total of 46,469 acres of Other Lands including State and Federal Parks and Preserves in Sonoma County. The majority of the Preserves are under the jurisdiction of the Federal and State government. The largest of the Preserves consists of Lake Sonoma and the adjacent wildlife area in Planning Area 2, which is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Sonoma County is covered by two State Parks Districts. These are the Silverado District based in southern Sonoma County and covering the area up to Santa Rosa, and the Mendocino District which covers the coastal area of Sonoma County and inland to the Armstrong Woods State Recreation area. The focus and interest of park acquisition by State Parks in Sonoma County is to expand its existing land holdings by acquiring properties from willing sellers of properties contiguous with existing State Parks. Specific acquisitions would be evaluated based on many factors including but not limited to; the protection and preservation of unique resources, potential threats to land being acquired, such as development and where logging would remove environmentally significant trees, and where acquisitions would “round out” existing park boundaries. Acquisition priorities by State Parks are made on a statewide basis with recommendations from local State Park district superintendents. Interest by State Parks has been expressed to expand Jack London State Park, Annadel State Park, the Sonoma Coast Beaches, Salt Point State Park, Fort Ross State Park, Austin Creek State Recreation Area and Willow Creek State Park. For a complete inventory of Other Lands, see Appendix 1.

Figure 3: Existing Regional Parkland Facilities Map
(Fold-out map double sided)

STATUS OF THE DESIGNATED OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS IN THE OPEN SPACE AND PUBLIC FACILITIES ELEMENTS AS PROPOSED BY THE 1989 GENERAL PLAN



V. PARKLAND NEEDS ASSESSMENT



This Parkland Needs Assessment uses both quantitative guidelines and qualitative public input as a way of identifying parkland needs. It uses the quantitative guidelines that have been used traditionally in park planning as a guide for parkland requirements and then uses qualitative tools to identify the types of facilities to be added to the County Regional Park system. By combining quantitative and qualitative approaches to assessing parkland needs, Sonoma County's special resources can be better considered. This Parkland Needs Assessment documents current acreage based on traditional national guidelines and then considers a variety of qualitative tools, including input from surveys, workshops and other forums to fine-tune the needs assessment based on local experience and priorities.

A. Background on Parkland Needs Assessment Guidelines Used Previously in Sonoma County

A variety of guidelines for determining “parkland needs assessment” are used by different jurisdictions. Generally, guidelines relate to the “number of acres per thousand population” for different types of parkland. The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA, 1983) Guidelines have been among the most commonly used guidelines over the last two decades, and, therefore, are described below as a starting point for developing useful and relevant guidelines for park planning in Sonoma County.

NRPA Guidelines (1983): The recommended guideline for Neighborhood Parks is 1-2 acres/thousand population located within 1/4 to 1/2 mile radius serving a population of up to 5,000. The recommended guideline for Community Parks is 5-8 acres per thousand population. It is assumed that community parks serve several neighborhoods within a 1-2 mile radius. The recommended guideline for Regional/Metropolitan Parks¹ is 5 - 10 acres/thousand population serving several communities within a 1 hour driving distance. No acreage guidelines are provided for Regional Park Reserves.²

Historically, a number of different guidelines have been used for purposes of parkland planning in Sonoma County, as described below:

1964 "Recreation Plan 1985": The 1964 Plan, looking forward 21 years, and referred to as the "Recreation Plan 1985", recommended a standard of 15 acres per 1,000 population.

1978 General Plan: The 1978 Sonoma County General Plan established a standard of 20 acres of regional parkland per 1,000 population.

1989 General Plan: The Sonoma County General Plan used a guideline of 20 acres/1,000 population for regional parks, and 5 acres/thousand for community and neighborhood parks.

The 1989 General Plan included 3 parkland categories: Neighborhood Parks (2.5 acres/thousand population within 1/2 mile); Community Parks (2.5 acres/thousand within 30 minute drive of population); Regional Parks (20 acres/thousand population within 30 - 60 minutes of population) Total Guideline: 25 acres/thousand population. State and federal lands were counted towards meeting some of this need.

NRPA Guidelines, 1996: In its recent *Park, Recreation and Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*, (NRPA, 1996) there has been a general shift away from quantifying all, or at least some types, of recreation facilities, as described in the following passage from these guidelines:

"A community is encouraged to work with citizens to acquire and appropriately protect and manage a complementary open space system. The open space system

¹This category is generally comparable to the Regional Recreation Areas (Active) as defined in this Outdoor Recreation Plan.

²Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, National Recreation and Parks Association, 1987 Printing, pp. 56-57.

cannot and should not be equated with a numerical standard of any kind. This approach is both impractical and counterproductive. There is no number of acres of floodplain or wetlands that every community should have in order to meet a national standard. Rather, a community should, through the strategic planning process, develop open space policies that reflect the unique resources of the community and could be the basis for the open space system. This kind of system responds to landscape as well as the desires of its citizens. If, for example, the community is rich in forest landscape land laced with creeks and streams, then these lands provide a unique setting for outdoor recreation opportunities not found, for example, in a dry desert climate.”

“Natural or open lands with environmental significance cannot be included in a land- based standard because these lands have limited capability for recreational use beyond desirable and limited passive recreation and interpretation and environmental education. But, they should not be perceived as surplus or reserve lands that can be encroached upon and pressed into service when decision-makers feel the pinch of land cost escalation, coupled with an unwillingness to reach into the public purse to acquire suitable and well located lands to meet pressing recreational needs.”

“It is recommended that a community inventory its land and water resource base, determine the pattern of these resources, their complexity and suitability for various levels of passive or ecological based leisure pursuits, then address the preservation and protection of such open lands from an environmental as well as recreation policy driven program.”

Balanced Approach to Assessing Parkland Needs: As a result of this shift in the focus on quantifying some types of parkland, the Sponsoring and other Involved Agencies of the Plan chose to balance quantitative and qualitative factors in developing the Parkland Needs Assessment for the Sonoma County Plan.

This section (Section A) provides background on parkland needs assessment guidelines that have been used previously in Sonoma County. Section B provides an overview of the quantitative and qualitative findings of the Parkland Needs Analysis. Section C assesses parkland needs using traditional parkland guidelines. In this analysis, quantitative guidelines are viewed as being applicable to Community and Neighborhood Parks, Regional Recreation Areas (Active), Open Space Parks (Passive), but are considered to be less applicable to Regional Preserves and other open space lands such as publicly accessible lands acquired by the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District. Section D, Qualitative Analysis, describes public preferences, opinions, ideas and concerns to fine-tune the parkland needs analysis to ensure that it is tailored to the particular circumstances of Sonoma County and to the preferences of its residents and visitors.

B. Overview of Future Parkland Needs Assessment and Priorities

Demographic trends indicate that population growth slowed to about 17 percent between 1990 and 2000. Most of that growth occurred inside city spheres of influence, in conformance with goals related to city-centered growth. Growth in the unincorporated areas outside city spheres of influence of Sonoma County has been relatively slow; the population increased from 146,796 persons in 1990 to 150,565 in 2000, but is expected to decrease to 142,500 by 2010, due to annexations in the Southwest and Southeast Santa Rosa areas.

The average age of the California population is expected to increase. Many seniors, however, are remaining active and their participation in outdoor recreation is not expected to decline. New facilities will need to address the needs of the 45-64 and above 65 age groups. Household income in Sonoma County is broadly distributed across income categories, particularly from \$20,000 to \$74,999. Outdoor recreation facilities need to address the user needs of all income categories.

The percentage increase in visitor use for all types of outdoor recreation has increased much faster than the increase in County population during the same period. This indicates that the latent demand factor for outdoor recreation facilities exceeds the annual population growth. User trends also indicate relatively high levels of visitor use of Sonoma County Regional Park facilities; total visitor use to all County owned and operated outdoor recreation facilities increased 66 percent from 1,562,148 in 1988/89 to 2,599,619 in 1996/97. Total visitor use in all categories has increased, with the highest increases on Regional Trails from 4.2 percent to 12.1 percent of total visitors and Open Space Parks, from 7.5 percent to 12.7 percent of total visitors in the nine year period studied.

Public perception is that the County should balance the needs for active and passive recreation. With few exceptions, where a regional park is close to a city boundary, most existing County regional parks have twin goals of recreation and natural resource management and protection. Public desires indicate that in the future acquisition and development of County park facilities, the emphasis should focus on open space, trails, and other forms of passive recreation. These recreation facility desires and needs were expressed in the 1995 SRI Survey of county residents and at every public workshop held during 1996. The 1997 State of California survey also reflected the same needs and priorities statewide.

1. Community and Neighborhood Park Needs

According to quantitative findings, there is a need for additional community and neighborhood parks in all six Park Planning Areas with Park Planning Areas 2, 3, 4 and 5 showing the greatest need. Year 2010 projections show a need for an additional 160 acres in Park Planning Area 2, an additional 141 acres in Park Planning Area 3, an additional 238 acres in Park Planning Area 4, and an additional 118 acres in Park Planning Area 5.

These estimated needs could be addressed through existing park and recreation districts expanding their existing facilities and/or adding new facilities, or developing benefit assessment districts. Other recommendations include working cooperatively with school districts to develop joint school/park sites to offer Community and Neighborhood Park facilities.

Because populations are relatively spread out in the unincorporated areas, and a relatively small amount of growth is projected in the unincorporated areas, this Plan suggests that the focus for providing Community and Neighborhood Parks should be in cities, to encourage city-centered growth, and in those unincorporated communities where there is enough population to support the need. Considering qualitative information provided at the Public Workshops, the strongest interest in Community and Neighborhood Parks was voiced by participants at the Bodega Bay Workshop in Park Planning Area 1. Participants favored development of a Community Park with athletic fields, playgrounds, and a bluff-top nature center. At the public workshop in Healdsburg in Park Planning Area 2, participants also voiced an interest in development of a Community Park with ballfields. In Park Planning Area 5: South County, participants favored a range of facilities from a bicycle moto-cross (BMX) racetrack and sports complex to a nature center. Public Workshop participants in Sonoma Valley in Park Planning Area 6 favored development of swimming facilities in Agua Caliente and at the High School. In other Planning Areas, in the “ten dot” survey that was conducted as part of the Public Workshops, athletic fields and other Community Park-type facilities did not rank in priority within the first five types of facilities that were given priority. Accessible open space, regional trails, bicycle lanes, equestrian facilities, and camping areas, tended to be of greater interest to participants.

2. Regional Recreation Areas (Active)

The relatively low increase in visitor use of Regional Recreation Areas (Active) over the period studied under the trends indicates a lower latent demand. However, the high levels of use per acre and the variety of recreation facilities that can be accommodated justify the continued need for these facilities. These facilities should be ideally located close to urban service areas. It is suggested that existing parks fulfilling the needs of regional recreation areas be expanded to meet increased demand, and that additional facilities be located close to urban centers. The Board of Supervisors has indicated that community separators may provide opportunities for accommodating regional active facilities.

Review of Regional Recreation Areas (Active) in comparison to the guidelines developed for the Plan (5 acres/1,000 population) indicate that there is an estimated need for Regional Recreation Areas in five out of the six Park Planning Areas. Only Park Planning Area 1 meets the estimated need. Park Planning Areas 4, the Santa Rosa Plain and 5: South County, have the largest estimated need of Regional Recreation Areas (Active); for the Yr. 2010, estimated parkland needs for Regional Recreation Areas (Active) and Park Planning Areas 4 and 5 are 744 and 710 acres, respectively.

Some active facilities were mentioned at Public Workshops conducted in 1996. In Park Planning Area 5: South County, participants favored a range of facilities from a bicycle moto-cross (BMX) racetrack and sports complex to a nature center. A bicycle moto-cross racetrack and nature center, could be developed as part of a Community Park. A sports complex (as opposed to more limited sports fields) would generally be provided as part of a Regional Recreation Area (Active).

In addition, as indicated in the Parkland Classification (Chapter IV), river access needs expressed through the Russian River Trespass Management Plan indicate that a number of small public canoe and boat launching sites would be desirable both to provide access and reduce trespass on private land. Although these sites are small in total acreage, the potential exists to combine recreation with other goals such as watershed management. An example includes Steelhead Beach Regional Park where a previously degraded site is being restored and improved for public use, benefiting both the recreation users and the watershed.³

This Plan recommends that Regional Recreation Areas be added to all Park Planning Areas except Park Planning Area 1 which is projected to meet its estimated need. The Plan recommends that priority be given to Park Planning Areas 4 and 5 where the need, based on the quantitative assessment, is the greatest. Park Planning Areas 2 and 6 also show a need for these facilities. As indicated in the Parkland Classification in Chapter IV, the majority of coastal parks are included within the Regional Recreation Areas category (where facilities are mostly active). Coastal Campground parks generally cater to visitors from the inland portions of the County and visitors from out of the County. It is recommended that existing county park facilities expand and link up with existing State park facilities to expand the park experience available to residents and visitors.

3. Regional Open Space Parks (Passive)

Quantitative guidelines indicate a need for Passive Regional Recreation Areas in 4 out of the 6 Park Planning Areas. Only Areas 1 and 2 are currently meeting the estimated need. However, the lands out in the coastal areas have some of highest scenic value, so some open space parks are recommended in these areas, even through they are projected to meet their estimated needs. Projections for the Yr. 2010 indicate a need for 1,772 additional Open Space Park acres in Park Planning Area 4, and 1,784 additional acres in Park Planning Area 5. Park Planning Areas 3 and 6 also show substantial estimated need with 740 and 530 additional acres identified, respectively.

As summarized in the SRI Survey, the 1996 Public Workshops and the 1996 Agency Conference all support greater focus on Regional Open Space (Passive). Workshop participants in all six Park Planning Areas strongly favored greater public access to open space areas. Participants at the Agency Conference also voiced strong interest in future acquisitions related to Accessible Open Space and Regional Trails. Under Accessible Open Space, they included: Regional Parks, General Plan Community Separators, Sonoma County Water Agency Flood Control Channels, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District land, and river and bay areas. An increase in regional open space in all Park Planning Areas is therefore recommended under this plan,

³ The Russian River Public Access and Trespass Management Study was prepared for the State Coastal Conservancy in 1995. As part of this Study, a total of eighteen publicly-owned sites in Sonoma County and nine sites in Mendocino County were surveyed, analyzed and ranked for their suitability as public access and recreation sites along the Russian River. One of the purposes of the Study was to divide the Russian River into manageable units or reaches for canoeing and other recreation purposes. Three sites were identified for “immediate” implementation including Steelhead Beach and Preston Bridge in Sonoma County and Comminsky Station Road in Mendocino County. The Public Access and Trespass Management Study indicated that there is a critical need to address access and trespass issues in the Alexander Valley area and recommends that Sonoma County focus on the Alexander Valley Area in its Outdoor Recreation Plan. In particular, the Study recommends the addition of several public access points between the proposed Preston Bridge site near Cloverdale, and Healdsburg. Four of the six sites recommended in the Public Access and Management Study are included in this Outdoor Recreation Plan (See Chapter VI).

with the greatest emphasis in Park Planning Areas 4 and 5 where the estimated need is the greatest. This would also provide options for siting the trail system as proposed under this Plan. In addition to new Regional Open Space Parks, it is suggested that some existing regional parks be expanded.

The very strong interest in Regional Open Space Parks expressed in all workshops and surveys is reflected in the recommendations of this Plan (See Chapter VI).

4. Trails

The Plan proposes a trail network for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians that links public lands, the County's nine cities and the unincorporated communities throughout Sonoma County. The trail network incorporates routes proposed in the 1989 General Plan and the Bikeways Plan.

Trail use on trails outside of parks increased substantially between 1988/89 and 1996/97. The popularity of existing trails reinforces the results of the surveys. The Public Workshops reinforced the strong interest in trails in all planning areas. Participants in the Agency Conference also voiced an interest in acquisitions related to regional trails. Under regional trails, agency participants included: greenways; multi-use trails; commuter trails; and trails which would connect parks and communities.

To fully evaluate the many ideas for trails suggested at the Public Workshops, a trail "needs" evaluation process was developed as part of this plan. Suggested trail ideas from participants at the Public Workshops were mapped. A trail evaluation system was developed by the Technical Advisory Committee and reviewed the Citizens Advisory Committee. After extensive review, these suggested trail ideas were consolidated into 635 miles of trail corridors that were then evaluated by criteria. The Citizens Advisory Committee reviewed all trail locations and descriptions at its meetings between August 1997 and May 1998. (See the Trail Evaluation in Appendix 2).

In addition, in the process of developing cost estimates for trails, individual trail corridors were more fully evaluated. For areas that have been heavily subdivided and/or where the location of separated trails may not be practical, it was assumed, at least as an alternative, that portions of the trails alignments could be located on low-volume roads.

5. Other Lands

The Plan did not use any type of quantitative guideline to evaluate Other Lands that include Federal and State Parks and Preserves. The State of California owns and manages State Parks in the County that provide recreation opportunities for residents and visitors. The Federal government also has holdings in Sonoma County including Lake Sonoma, under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and a portion of San Pablo Bay, under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Preserves in Sonoma County are generally under the jurisdiction of the State Department of Fish and Game. Other Lands are generally acquired to protect resources, so an acreage per population guideline was not considered a useful planning tool.

The Board of Supervisors expressed the intention for the County to increase Federal and State parks within the County by 10,000 acres by the Yr. 2010. Recent acquisitions at the Sequeria (Red Hill)

property (900 acres) and the McCormick Ranch (1364 acres) indicate a willingness by the State to acquire local lands in highly scenic areas.

The focus and interest of property acquisition by State Parks in Sonoma County is to expand its existing land holdings by acquiring property from willing sellers that are contiguous with existing State Park lands. Acquisitions would be evaluated based on specific factors. These factors may include the protection and preservation of unique resources, potential threats to property adjacent to State Park property and property that would “round out” existing State Park boundaries. Acquisition priorities by State Parks are made on a statewide basis with recommendations from local State Park Superintendents. State Parks has expressed interest in expanding the properties at the following units: Jack London State Park, Annadel State Park, Sonoma Coast State Beach (including the Willow Creek Valley), Salt Point State Park, Fort Ross State Historic Park and Austin Creek State Recreation Area⁴.

C. Quantitative Analysis

1. Demographic Considerations

a. Population Growth.

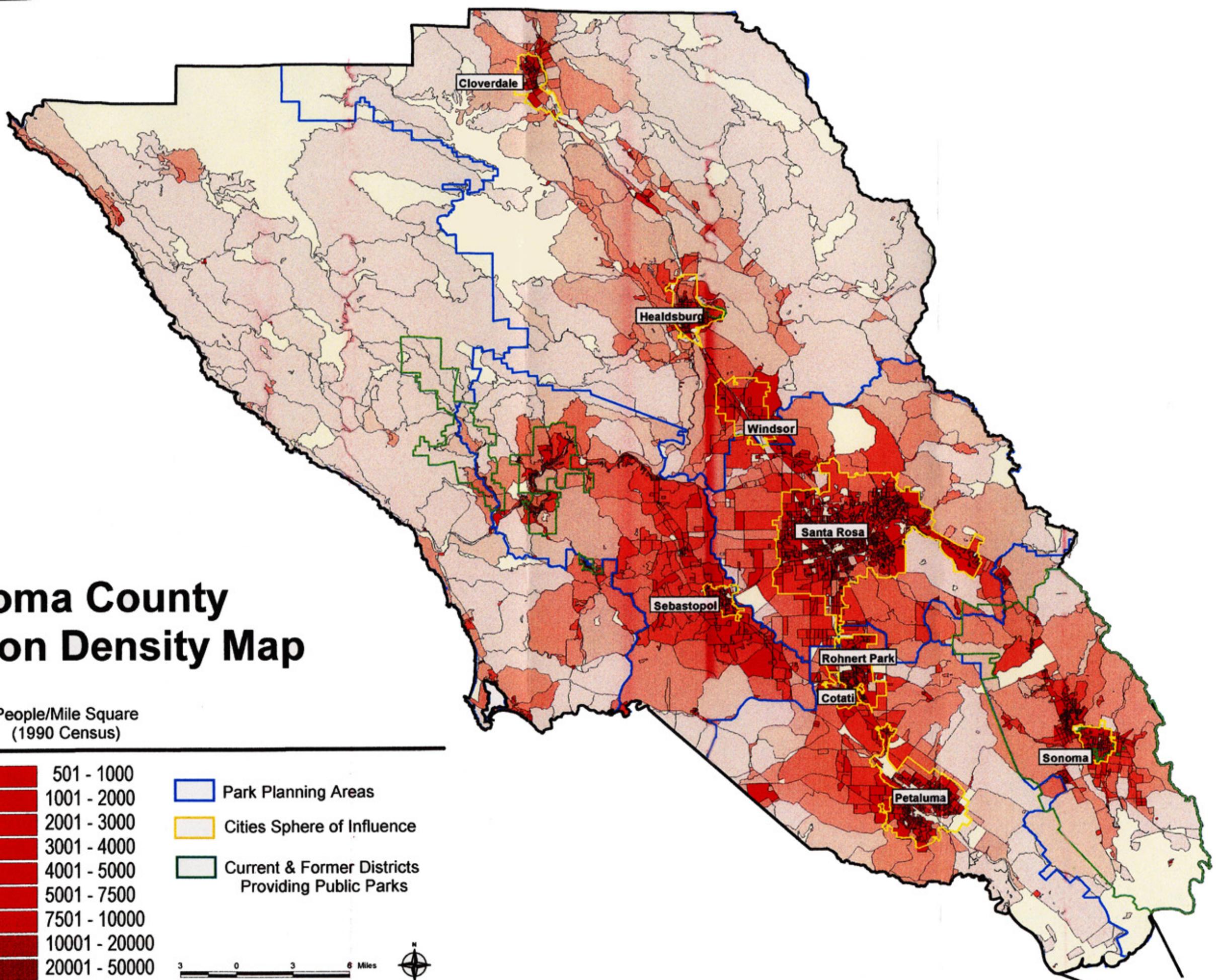
During the decade prior to 1990, Sonoma County’s population increased by about 30 percent, or 88,500 people. The County’s growth rate slowed to about 18 percent for the period between 1990 and 2000. Thereafter, through the year 2010, it is projected that the growth rate will be 16 percent. The total population increase anticipated in the County from 2000 through 2010 is 70,392 persons. Most of that growth will occur inside spheres of influence (SOIs) and in specific communities such as Windsor and Santa Rosa. There will be a net decline in the unincorporated areas outside of the SOIs, due to annexations by cities, predominantly the City of Santa Rosa.

b. Population Density

The population distribution in Sonoma County reflects the adopted policies in the General Plan. The General Plan encourages city-centered growth. This is reflected in the urban areas along the Highway 101 corridor, Sonoma Valley area and Sebastopol area. Analysis of population density is available as a tool to locate facilities meant to serve specific populations, such as Community and Neighborhood Parks in the unincorporated areas and Regional Recreation Areas that might serve populations of both the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County. (See Sonoma County Population Map, Figure 4).

⁴ Letter of April 21, 2000 from Robert R. La Belle, District Superintendent State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation to Philip Sales, Sonoma County Regional Parks Department.

Sonoma County Population Density Map



Legend

People/Mile Square
(1990 Census)

0 or No Data	501 - 1000
1 - 10	1001 - 2000
11 - 20	2001 - 3000
21 - 30	3001 - 4000
31 - 40	4001 - 5000
41 - 50	5001 - 7500
51 - 100	7501 - 10000
101 - 200	10001 - 20000
201 - 500	20001 - 50000

- Park Planning Areas
- Cities Sphere of Influence
- Current & Former Districts Providing Public Parks

3 0 3 6 Miles



**Table 6
Sonoma County - Projected Population Growth (1990 - 2010)**

			2010**
Unincorporated Areas, outside of City Spheres of Influence.	146,796	150,565	142,500 (1)
Incorporated Areas	241,426	308,049	387,200
Sonoma County Totals	388,222	458,614	529,700

* Source: US Census 1990 and 2000

** Source: Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Projections 2000.

(1) The reduction in the population of the Unincorporated Area reflects the assumption that by 2010 the Roseland Area and other unincorporated areas in Southwest Santa Rosa will be annexed to the City of Santa Rosa.

c. Age

The average age of the California population is expected to increase. And, "...there is evidence that older Californians these days are continuing their interests in outdoor recreation longer than their predecessors. As a result, we may not experience a decline in participation in outdoor recreation as the average age of the state's population increases."⁵

**Table 7
Population Projections by Age in Sonoma County (1990 - 2010)**

	0-4	5-17	18-44	45-64	65+
1990* 388,222	7.3 percent 28,319	17.4 percent 67,457	44.1 percent 171,062	17.8 percent 69,249	13.4 percent 52,135
2000* 458,614	6 percent 27,597	18.4 percent 84,556	38.1 percent 174,509	24.9 percent 113,975	12.6 percent 57,977
2010** 529,700	6.2 percent 33,100	19.2 percent 101,200	32.4 percent 171,700	27.8 percent 147,600	14.4 percent 76,100

* Source: US Census 1990 and 2000

** Source: Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Projections 2000

There is a trend towards an older population in terms of percentage during the period of 1990 through 2010. Substantial percentage and population increases are expected in the age groups of 45-64 and 65+.

⁵State of California - The Resources Agency, Department of Parks and Recreation, California Outdoor Recreation Plan - 1988, pp. 15-19.

In 1990, the combined age groups of 45-64 and 65+ represented 31.2 percent of the total population of Sonoma County. In 2000 this had increased to 37.5 percent while in 2010 it is projected that their combined age groups will comprise 42.2 percent of the total population.

Based on the anticipated shift to an older population in Sonoma County, parkland and recreation planning should assure appropriate land acquisition and facility improvements to meet the needs of an aging population (See Figure 5).

d. Income Distribution

The 1982 Needs Analysis conducted by the State of California anticipated that upper-income groups would increase at a faster rate than the overall population, and the lower-income groups would increase at a slower rate, while the middle-income groups would remain the same. However, rather than the predicted large increase in upper income people, the State is experiencing the reverse: It is the lower income group that is increasing, and this group is predicted to continue to grow steadily in the years immediately ahead. The size of the upper income group is leveling off. The middle income group is declining, and expectations now are that the percentage of the population in this group will continue to decrease.

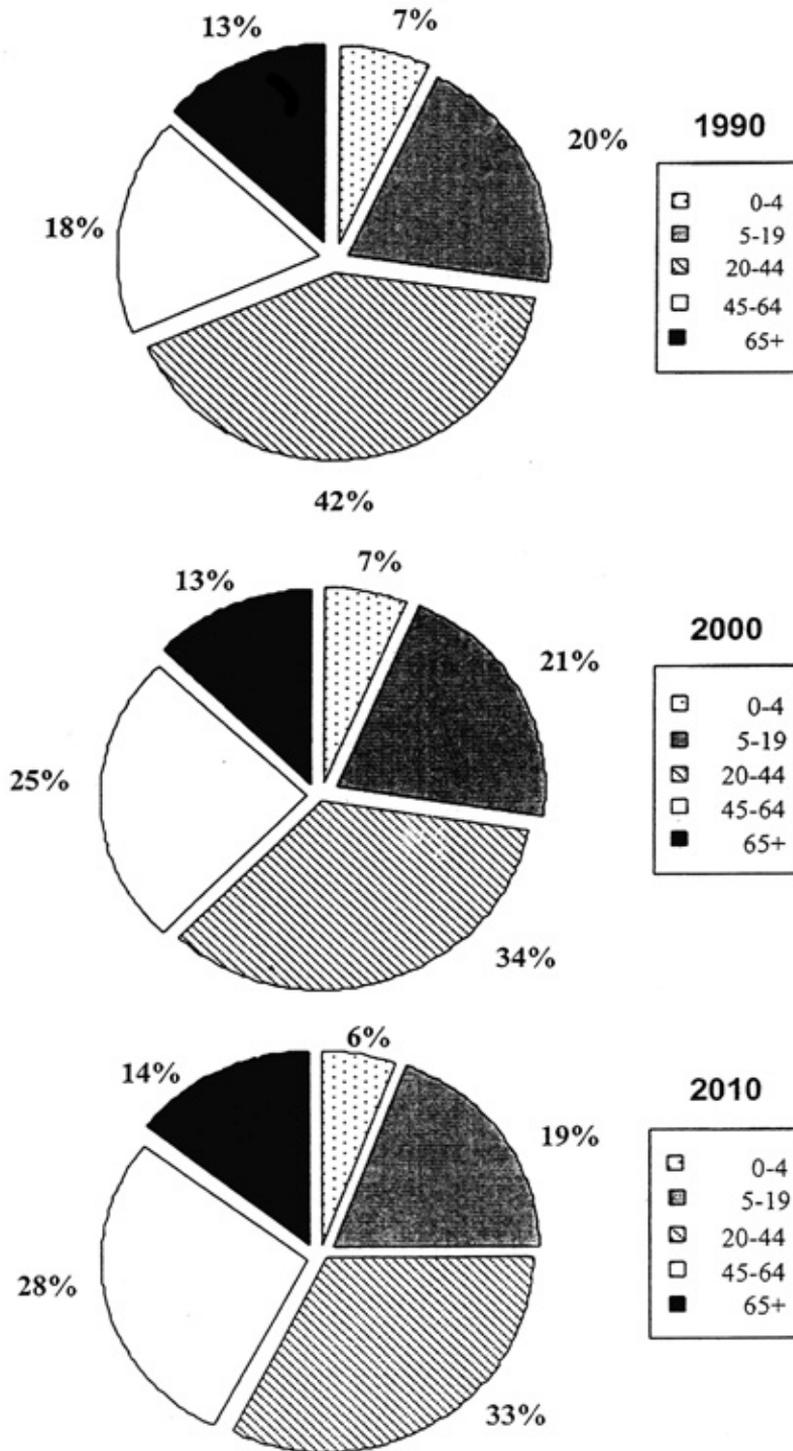
**Table 8
Household and Family Characteristics in Sonoma County (1990-2010)**

					2010
Number of Households	149,011	161,000	171,520	185,000	197,710
Average No. of Persons Per Household	2.55	2.55	2.61	2.67	2.64
Average Household Income (In Constant 1995 Dollars)	\$55,317	\$58,100	\$64,100	\$69,000	\$75,000
Household Population	380,558	410,500	447,700	493,900	521,900

Source: Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Projections 2000

Approximately 48,699 new households will be added in Sonoma County from 1990 through 2010. Actual household size is not expected to change substantially from 2.55 in 1990; a small increase to a peak of 2.67 is expected in 2005, with a gradual decline to 2.64 in 2010. A 30 percent increase in average household income in constant 2000 dollars is expected (\$55,300 vs. \$72,000) from 1990 through 2010. A total household population growth of 141,339 is expected between 1990 and 2010. This household population growth indicates an increased demand for park and recreation facilities within the overall County. The location and composition of this increased population will be factors in determining the actual types of parks and recreation facilities needed.

Population Projections by Age in Sonoma County



2. Assessment of Parkland Needs Using Quantitative Guidelines (Yr. 2010)

a. Community and Neighborhood Parks.

(1) **Definition:** *Community and Neighborhood parks* are generally less than or equal to 25 acres in size and are located within approximately a 30-minute driving distance of the communities they serve. For the purposes of this Plan, this distance is associated with the six individual Park Planning Areas. Community and neighborhood parks generally contain play equipment and sports fields such as baseball diamonds, soccer fields and basketball courts. Because of the greater focus on play areas and sports fields, elementary, middle and high school play equipment areas and sports fields are included in the analysis of community and neighborhood parks. "...high schools often have extensive facilities for field sports. All schools have classrooms, and often gymnasiums, that can be used for recreation programs when school is not in season."⁶ As described in Chapter 3.0 many school districts and park and recreation districts have joint use agreements in place to allow for public use of school facilities.

While there are some distinctions between community and neighborhood parks, there is a lot of overlap in the facilities provided. Many of the cities in Sonoma County group community and neighborhood parks into a single category with a goal of providing approximately 3-5 acres/thousand people. Because of the overlap existing in many jurisdictions, this Plan combines the two categories for assessing parkland needs. The defining characteristics of community and neighborhood parks are described in Table 9 below:

(2) **Primary Providers of Community and Neighborhood Parks:** Community and neighborhood parks in the unincorporated areas of Sonoma County are provided by local recreation and park districts, non-profit groups, County Service Areas, non-profit groups and the County Regional Parks Department. Only parks that are open to the public are included in this analysis of parkland need. The local recreation and park districts in Sonoma County include the Monte Rio Recreation District, the Russian River Recreation District, the Camp Meeker Recreation and Park District, the Dell Rio Woods Recreation and Park District, and the Cazadero Recreation and Park District. School play areas and sports fields are included in the tabulation of community and neighborhood parks because they are open to the public and serve some of the local need for these facilities.

Within the incorporated areas of the County, city or town park and recreation departments and planning and building departments are the primary providers of community and neighborhood parks. Schools also meet a portion of this need in the incorporated areas.

Historically, Sonoma County Regional Parks (SCR) has had a limited role in providing community and neighborhood parks (see Appendix 5).

⁶California Outdoor Recreation Plan - 1998, p. 75.

(3) Demographic Information Relevant for Community and Neighborhood Parks: Neighborhood Parks are used most intensively by families with young children living in close proximity (particularly within walking distance) to neighborhood parks. Senior citizens are also frequent users of neighborhood parks when they are within walking distance of their residences. Community Parks, with their active play fields, are used primarily by families with school-age children and adults participating in sports leagues.

(4) Acreage of Community and Neighborhood Parks in Comparison with the Plan Acreage Guidelines - 2010 (derived from the NRPA Guidelines):

(5) Findings Related to Community and Neighborhood Parks - 2010: Based on the acreage goal of 5 acres/thousand people, for the year 2010, all of the six Park Planning Areas show a need for Community and Neighborhood Parks. Park Planning Area 4 shows the greatest projected need for Community and Neighborhood Park facilities. This includes both the City of Santa Rosa and the unincorporated area.

**Table 9
Defining Characteristics of Community and Neighborhood Parks**

					Defining Characteristics
Community and Neighborhood Park	5/1000	<=25 acres	Within 30 minute drive for community and regional parks	County; Special Districts, public schools, County Service Areas, non-profit groups, Cities	Play equipment, sports fields and picnicking

For purposes of estimating need for community and neighborhood parks, this Plan uses an acreage guideline of 5/1000 for the entire County including the incorporated areas.

Table 10 estimates parkland needs for the Year 2010 for Community and Neighborhood Parks.

Table 10
Estimated Need for Community and Neighborhood Parks (2010)

				Estimated Need Yr. 2010
Camp Meeker Park and Rec. District*	940	5	5	0
Cazadero CSA Com Park*	Less than 200	1	1	0
Sea Ranch PUD	1,374	Homeowners	–	0
Bodega Harbor PUD	1,200	Homeowners	–	0
Other Unincorporated Areas including Bodega Bay and Occidental	6,350	14	32	18
		20		
Del Rio Woods Park and Rec. District*	243	7	1	0
Rural North East including Geyserville	7,100	12	36	24
Rural Healdsburg/Windsor	7,957	2	40	38
City of Cloverdale*	8,200	31	41	10
City of Healdsburg*	13,400	45	67	22
Town of Windsor*	30,200	85	151	66
Total – Planning Area 2	67,100	182		
Russian River Park and Rec. District including Guerneville	7,309	9	36	27
Monte Rio Park and Rec. District	2,302	26	12	0
Other Unincorporated including Graton and Forestville	30,489	42	152	110
City of Sebastopol*	9,200	43	46	3
Total – Planning Area 3	49,300	120		

⁷ The total number of Community and Neighborhood Parks indicated includes School District play fields as inventoried in Appendix A: Inventory of Publicly Accessible Land In Sonoma County. These numbers, therefore, may vary from totals listed in City General Plan and other planning documents.

Table 10, continued

				Estimated Need Yr. 2010
Unincorporated	26,600	80	133	53
City of Santa Rosa*	188,200	758	941	183
<i>Total – Planning Area 4</i>	214,800	838		
Rural Cotati	5,800	4	29	25
Rural Petaluma	11,900	32	60	28
City of Rohnert Park*	52,400	207	262	55
City of Cotati*	9,200	42	46	4
City of Petaluma*	62,600	348	313	0
<i>Total – Park Planning Area 5</i>	141,900	633		
Temelec PUD	1,832	43	8	0
Kenwood	1,550	5	7	2
Unincorporated Areas including Glen Ellen, Boyes Hot Springs, El Verano, Fetters Hot Springs	29,518	79	148	69
City of Sonoma*	13,800	78	69	0
<i>Total – Planning Area 6</i>	46,700	205		
County Total	529,700	1,998		

⁷ The total number of Community and Neighborhood Parks indicated includes School District play fields as inventoried in Appendix A: Inventory of Publicly Accessible Land In Sonoma County. These numbers, therefore, may vary from totals listed in City General Plan and other planning documents.

b. Regional Park Lands

(1) Definition: *Regional Parks* provide opportunities for a broad range of recreational activities. The County has an overall goal of providing 20 acres of regional parkland for every 1,000 residents. For purposes of assessing parkland needs, regional parks are broken down further into two subcategories as listed below and further described in greater detail in Parkland Classification in Chapter IV:

Regional Recreation Areas (Active): Regional Recreation Areas are generally less than 200 acres in size and are located within a 30-60 minute drive of the population centers they serve. River Access facilities provide access to waterways; generally smaller in size, they are also included in this category. In addition, the majority of the Coastal Campground facilities are included in this category. For purposes of assessing parkland needs for this Plan, a guideline of 5 acres/thousand population is used for active regional recreation areas.

Regional Open Space Parks (Passive⁸): Regional Open Space areas are generally greater than or equal to 200 acres in size. They feature more passive recreation opportunities such as hiking, bicycling and wildlife observation. They are operated by the County. For purposes of assessing parkland needs for this Plan, a guideline of 15 acres/thousand population is used for passive regional recreation areas. The size of the passive regional recreation facilities is generally determined by the resources that they protect rather than facility-driven needs for specific population centers. As larger facilities, they play a greater role in preserving functioning ecosystems in the larger biophysical landscape. As these larger parks are joined, they also help to preserve wildlife corridors. Passive public use of these areas is consistent with preserving the resources and allowing for a wide range of recreation opportunities including, but not limited to hiking, biking, running, horseback riding and wildlife observation.

(2) Sonoma County Regional Park's Role: Sonoma County Regional Park's primary mission is acquiring and managing regional parkland, both active and passive, that is accessible for public use.

(3) Demographics: Regional Recreation Areas (Active) are used extensively by the 18-44 age group and their children.⁹ Regional Recreation Areas (Passive/Open Space Parks) are used by a wide cross section of the population.

(4) Acreage Tabulation for Regional Recreation Areas: Table 12 estimates the need for Regional Recreation Areas in the Yr. 2010.

⁸ The term "Passive" is used to mean parks that are generally managed in their natural condition supporting recreation activities with minimal impact on the environment. It is recognized that many strenuous activities including jogging, hiking and mountain bike riding are conducted in these Regional Open Space Parks.

⁹ California State Parks, Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California, March 1998.

Table 11

Defining Characteristics of the Sub-Categories of County Regional Parks

					Differentiating Factors
Regional Recreation Areas (active)	5/1000	< 200 acres	Park Planning Area (30 – 60 min drive)	County	Generally, above 25 acres and where 10 percent of the area is devoted to active recreation facilities (e.g., boat launching facilities, campgrounds, swimming beaches, play areas, sports fields)
Regional Open Space Parks (passive)	15 acres/1000	> 200 acres	Regional	County	Resource management with public access

(5) Findings Related to Regional Recreation Areas (Active) - 2010: According to the acreage guideline of 5 acres/1000 population used in this Plan for Regional Recreation Areas (Active), for the Yr. 2010, Park Planning Areas 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 all show a need for additional facilities. The greatest needs are projected for Park Planning Areas 4 and 5 with 744 and 710 additional acres needed, respectively.

Table 12

Acres of Regional Recreation Areas (Active)/Thousand Population by Park Planning Area (Incorporated and Unincorporated) of Sonoma County (2010 Projected Population)

					Recommended in Draft ORP
Park Planning Area 1	9,900	461	50	0*	0
Park Planning Area 2	67,100	81	336	255	319
Park Planning Area 3	49,300	217	247	30	30
Park Planning Area 4	214,800	330	1,074	744	750
Park Planning Area 5	141,900	0	710	710	700
Park Planning Area 6	46,700	90	234	144	114
County Total	529,700	1,179	2,651	1,883	1913

Source: ABAG Projections 2000.

* Park Planning Area #1 already meets its need for Regional Recreation Areas

(6) Findings Related to Regional Recreation Areas (Passive) - 2010: According the acreage guideline used in this Plan of 15 acres/1000 population, for the Yr. 2010, four out of the six Park Planning Areas show a need for additional Regional Recreation Areas (Passive). The greatest needs are projected for Park Planning Areas 4 and 5 with 1,772 and 1,784 acres, respectively. Table 13

estimates parkland need for Regional Recreation Areas (Passive) for the Yr. 2010.

Table 13

Acres of Regional Recreation Areas (Passive)/Thousand Population by Park Planning Area (Incorporated and Unincorporated) of Sonoma County (2010 Projected Population)

					Recommended in Draft ORP
Park Planning Area 1	9,900	86	149	63	435
Park Planning Area 2	67,100	1,053	1,007	0*	725
Park Planning Area 3	49,300	0	740	740	740
Park Planning Area 4	214,800	1,450	3,222	1,772	1800
Park Planning Area 5	141,900	345	2,129	1,784	1800
Park Planning Area 6	46,700	171	701	530	540
County Total	529,700	3,105	7,948	4,889	6040

Source: ABAG Projections 2000.

(8) Overall Findings Related to Regional Recreation Areas and Open Space Parks: Park Planning Areas 4 and 5, with the largest concentrations of population in the County, show the greatest need for additional regional parkland, both passive and active.

c. Trails

(1) Definition: Trails are facilities that provide a passage through cultural and natural resource areas. Trails provide non-motorized access (generally, pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian, multi-use, as designated for the particular trail segment). Trails may link communities, natural resource and cultural resource areas. These calculations are based on miles, not acreage.

(2) Primary Providers of Trails: Sonoma County, the State of California, and the Federal Government provide trails on publicly owned lands. Cities also provide trails within incorporated areas.

(3) Sonoma County Regional Park’s Role: Sonoma County Regional Parks actively works to acquire and manage trail facilities and is charged under the General Plan for responsibility for acquiring, developing and maintaining Class 1 bicycle trails in the unincorporated areas.

(4) Findings: Sonoma County Regional Parks actively works to implement and manage regional trails, class I bikeways and coastal public access. Quantitative guidelines per population have not been developed for trails as a category. See Section D of this Needs Assessment for an overview of the evaluation that was conducted of proposed trail segments. See also the 1997 Trails Evaluation in Appendix 2.

Table 14 describes trail mileage and population statistics in other Bay Area counties provides a “bench mark” for regional trail planning.

**Table 14
Comparison of Existing and Proposed Trail Mileage With Other Counties**

Planning Document	Proposed Trail Mileage	Population 2010	Regional Trail miles per 1000 Population
Marin County Trails Plan (1994)	722 miles*	267,900	2.69 miles
East Bay Regional Parks’ Master Plan (1995)- Includes Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.	1410 miles*	1,615,900	0.52 miles
San Mateo County’s Trail Plan (2001)	307 miles	779,700	0.39 miles
Santa Clara County’s Trail Plan (1997)	535 miles	1,919,000	0.28 miles
1989 Sonoma County General Plan**	148.6 miles	529,700	0.28 miles

* This number includes all proposed and existing trails within parks as well as regional trails. No individual break out of figures was available.

** This number does not include the three waterway trails.

Table 15
Comparison of Parkland Needs based on NRPA Formulas

Table 15 provides a comparison of existing needs for parkland and estimated needs for the year 2010, the horizon year for the Plan.

PARKLAND NEEDS 2000-2010 (Based on National Recreation and Park Association Formulas)	Existing Parks 1999	2000 Parkland needs based on Formulas	Deficit 2000	2010 Parkland needs based on Formulas	Deficit 2010
County Regional Parks					
County Open Space Parks (15 acres/1000)	3,105	6,716	3,611	7,948	4,843
County Regional Recreation Areas (5 acres/1000)	1,181	2,389	1,208	2,651	1,470
Total	4,286	9,104	4,818	10,599	6,313
Community & Neighborhood Parks 5 acres/1000					
Unincorporated Areas					
County Parks (1)	37				
School sites within Unincorporated Areas (2)	170				
Other (3)	154				
Sub Total (4)	361	649	288	760	399
Incorporated Areas					
Cities	881				
School Sites within Cities and Towns (2)	735				
County Parks in incorporated areas (5)	9				
Other(3)	12				
Sub Total (4)	1,637	1,628	-9	1,937	300
Total Incorporated and Unincorporated Areas	1,998	2,277	279	2,697	699

- (1) The 1989 General Plan included the unincorporated areas in the south east and southwest of Santa Rosa and the area the future Town of Windsor. Since 1995 these areas have been incorporated and annexed and parks within them transferred to the City of Santa Rosa or Town of Windsor.
- (2) Although the 1989 General Plan EIR acknowledges the role of schools in providing recreation facilities it was not quantified in the EIR analysis.
- (3) Includes Non profits, Special Districts and Homeowners Associations properties with recreation facilities within the unincorporated areas.
- (4) Recommended totals may vary slightly from needs shown on Table 15 because of sub area variations
- (5) Arnold Field located within the City of Sonoma.

Table 15 provides a comparison of existing needs for parkland and estimated needs for the year 2010, the horizon year for the plan.

Revised 3/2003

d. Other Lands

Definition: Other Lands including State and Federal Parks and Preserves are areas with significant natural or cultural features and/or resources that merit preservation for public enjoyment and education. Many of these areas represent areas of National or State-wide significance. Essential features of a Preserve may be wilderness; scenic beauty; flora; fauna; archaeological, historic (cultural) or geological resources. Preserves help to protect environmentally sensitive habitat areas or other special features. Recreational use of these areas is often a secondary objective; access may be limited entirely, or may be limited to specified trails or areas.

A guideline of acreage per thousand population is not considered a useful tool for planning and acquisition of these areas, and, therefore, has not been used in this Plan. Similar to the passive regional recreation areas, the preserves are a critical component for preserving portions of the biophysical landscape. In some cases, they preserve some of the most sensitive habitat areas.

(2) Sonoma County Regional Park’s Role: Sonoma County Regional Parks does not become involved in the acquisition and management of Other Lands including Preserves. The State and Federal governments and non-profit groups are generally responsible for acquiring and managing these areas.

(3) Primary Providers of Other Lands: As indicated above, the State and Federal governments and non-profit groups are generally responsible for provision of Other Lands.

(4) Demographics: Due to their more limited access, use of Other Lands is not tied closely to demographics.

(5) Findings: Sonoma County has a total of 46,469 acres of Other Lands. The majority of these lands are under the jurisdiction of the federal and state government. Quantitative findings do not apply to Other Lands since guidelines have not been used that relate to acreage/population. However, a general interest in accessible open space lands has been voiced at all public meetings and forums, as described in Section D of this Parkland Needs Assessment. This Plan recognizes that acquisition of Other Lands would be implemented by other agencies and would protect natural habitat and contribute to public recreation in Sonoma County.

**Table 16
Defining Characteristics of ‘Other Lands’**

					Differentiating Factors
State and Federal Parks	N/A	No minimum or maximum	State and National use	State and Federal Agencies	Protection of lands of State-wide and National importance
Preserves	N/A	The size is dictated by the resource being protected.	Bio-regional	State and Federal Agencies, non-profit groups	Lands with biological or cultural importance

D. Qualitative Analysis

This Plan is a “Citizens Plan” that has been summarized by the Sonoma County Recreation and Parks Department staff with the assistance, review, and support of other Sponsoring and Involved Agencies. A key goal of this Plan is to reflect the community's ideas and priorities in developing and managing outdoor recreational facilities and in protecting and gaining access to many of Sonoma County's unique areas and resources, while still protecting agricultural interests in the County.

To accomplish this goal of developing a Plan that reflects the priorities of Sonoma County residents and visitors, an extensive public involvement process has been conducted that incorporates the following tools: (1) a Strategy Research Institute (SRI) survey of County residents regarding park and recreation facilities; (2) a Statewide Survey of Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California conducted by the California Department of Parks and Recreation; (3) Sonoma County Visitor Trend Information; (4) public workshops conducted in Sonoma County's six Park Planning Areas; and, (5) an Agency Conference.

Qualitative Analysis: This range of tools (surveys, public meetings, workshops, forums, and committees) is referred to as qualitative information, because much of it provides information on priorities, opinions, and concerns of County residents, visitors and the larger State population. While some of the results of the surveys provide percentage breakdowns on opinions and priorities, the range of tools together do not provide a numerical or scientific method for determining parkland needs. Rather, the information is used to identify priorities and concerns by community, by Park Planning Area, and/or by County to help guide the acquisition and management of outdoor recreation facilities in a manner that reflects the priorities of County residents and other visitors.

1. SRI Survey (1995)

In 1995, Sonoma County Regional Parks contracted with Strategy Research Inc (SRI) to conduct a survey of public opinions, attitudes and priorities of Sonoma County residents regarding park and recreation facilities.

According to the survey results, Sonoma County residents are highly satisfied with the quality of the regional parks and facilities within the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department's jurisdiction, as well as with the manner in which they are being managed. There is also a consensus among County residents that they want more park and recreation facilities.

The "High Priority" needs (those mentioned by more than 50 percent of county residents) were passive (as opposed to active) recreation and park facilities. These include open space, hiking, trails, nature centers and regional trails. When asked to choose between passive and active park facilities, or between developed or undeveloped parks, the predominant responses favor passive but developed parks and recreation facilities. Almost half (48 percent) prefer passive parks; while 20 percent prefer active parks. Thirty-two percent (32 percent) say they prefer a combination of the two types of parks. As might be expected, residents of household with children are more inclined to prefer active

parks and developed recreation areas compared to households without children. A balance of “active” and “passive” parks is therefore recommended in this Plan.

Over 80 percent of Sonoma County regional park use is with friends or family rather than in organized sports activities. It should be noted that this does not mean that other recreation facilities are unimportant; it merely indicates that County residents assume that cities and school districts provide those more active types of facilities. Many constituents remain sensitive to the need to maintain a balance between these alternatives.

Sonoma County residents support the expansion of the County's trails and park system. Seventy-five percent (75 percent) of respondents were in favor of spending additional monies to maintain and develop new trails and parks acquired through the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (SCAPOS).

Residents were asked how they judged the current need for a variety of recreation facilities that could or might be added to the Regional Parks system. Results of the Countywide Survey documenting priorities for new facilities are depicted in Appendix 3. The activities were ranked as either “high priority” to be added as soon as possible, or “medium priority”, if and when the budget allows.

Additional specific findings from the SRI Survey include the following:

- Residents support funding for increased access to lands acquired in fee by the Open Space District (75 percent) and maintenance roads along the Water Agency flood control channels (64 percent) where they can be used as trails.
- Seventy-three percent (73 percent) agree that public parks and recreation facilities are important community resources that help keep our youth out of trouble. In addition, 73 percent agree that recreation programs for youth should be a high priority within the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department.
- Residents want additional parkland facilities: Sonoma County residents favor the expansion of the County's walking trails systems, particularly along the maintenance roads along county flood channels (64 percent favor); furthermore, they favor spending additional monies to acquire and maintain new regional parklands through the Open Space District (75 percent favor).
- Residents indicate support for financing improved and additional outdoor park and recreation facilities. They are willing to pay additional taxes and/or assessments for expanding and maintaining County park and recreation facilities. It is likely that an assessment of between \$10-20 per year per household could be initiated with little resistance from the community-at-large.
- Residents also want more restrooms and more playground areas for children.

Table 17
SRI Survey of Current Needs: Recreation Facilities Listed as "High Priority"

<input type="checkbox"/>	more unimproved natural open space	58 percent
<input type="checkbox"/>	more hiking trails within parks	57 percent
<input type="checkbox"/>	more nature study centers	53 percent
<input type="checkbox"/>	more regional trails	52 percent
<input type="checkbox"/>	more restrooms in parks	52 percent
<input type="checkbox"/>	more playground areas for children	52 percent
<input type="checkbox"/>	more picnic areas	44 percent
<input type="checkbox"/>	more camping areas	42 percent
<input type="checkbox"/>	more swimming facilities	41 percent
<input type="checkbox"/>	more athletic fields	30 percent
<input type="checkbox"/>	more boating/water sport facilities	26 percent
<input type="checkbox"/>	more mountain bike trails	24 percent
<input type="checkbox"/>	more equestrian facilities	21 percent
<input type="checkbox"/>	more tennis courts	20 percent

2. State-Wide Survey on Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California (1997)

Sonoma County is one of California's major visitor destinations. To obtain a wider perspective on public preferences for outdoor recreation facilities, a State-wide survey conducted by the California Recreation and Parks Department in 1997 was reviewed as part of the Plan planning process. The statewide survey sought to determine public attitudes, opinions and values with respect to recreation in California as well as what sort of demand existed and at what level of participation for forty-three types of outdoor recreation activities. A summary of key findings from that survey are presented below:

Among Californians the activities with the most public support were:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Camping in developed sites with tent or vehicle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Trail hiking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | General nature study/wildlife viewing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Visiting museums and historic sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Use of play equipment, tot lots |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Walking (Recreational) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Picnicking in developed sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Camping in primitive areas/backpacking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Use of open grass or turf areas for unstructured activities (games) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Visiting zoos and arboretums |

Among Californians, the highest ranked of the most important activities were:

- Walking (Recreational)
- Camping in developed sites with tent or vehicle
- Trail hiking
- Visiting museums and historic sites
- General nature study/wildlife viewing
- Use of open grass or turf areas for unstructured activities (games)
- Camping in primitive areas/backpacking
- Use of play equipment, tot lots
- Beach activities (sunning and games)
- Freshwater fishing

Public support for unmet demand:

The following nine activities ranked as the top priorities in the survey based on a combination of public support for funding and needs based on unmet demand:

- Walking (Recreational)
- Trail hiking
- Camping in developed sites with tent or vehicle
- Camping in primitive areas/backpacking
- General nature study/wildlife viewing
- Use of open grass or turf areas for unstructured activities (games)
- Picnicking in developed sites
- Visiting museums and historic sites
- Visiting zoos and arboretums

3. Trends in Use Patterns -- Sonoma County Regional Parks

An additional tool for assessing parkland needs in this Plan is visitor use information that has been collected by the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department (SCRPD). Analysis of trends is based on SCRPD's statistics for visitor use extending from 1988/89 to 1996/97.

a. Overall Trends in Use

Over the nine-year period studied, several significant user trends appeared among recreation visitors to facilities operated by the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department (see Figure 6). During this period the following occurred:

- **Visitor Use:** Total visitor use to all county owned and operated outdoor recreation facilities increased 66 percent from 1,562,148 in 1988/89 to 2,599,619 in 1996/97.
- **County Population:** The County population increased 10.28 percent during the same time period.¹⁰
- **Acreage:** The total acreage of regional parks outdoor recreation facilities has increased from 2,890 in 1988/89 to 4,313 in 1996/97. The increase was 49 percent. This includes acreage for land banked properties and trails.

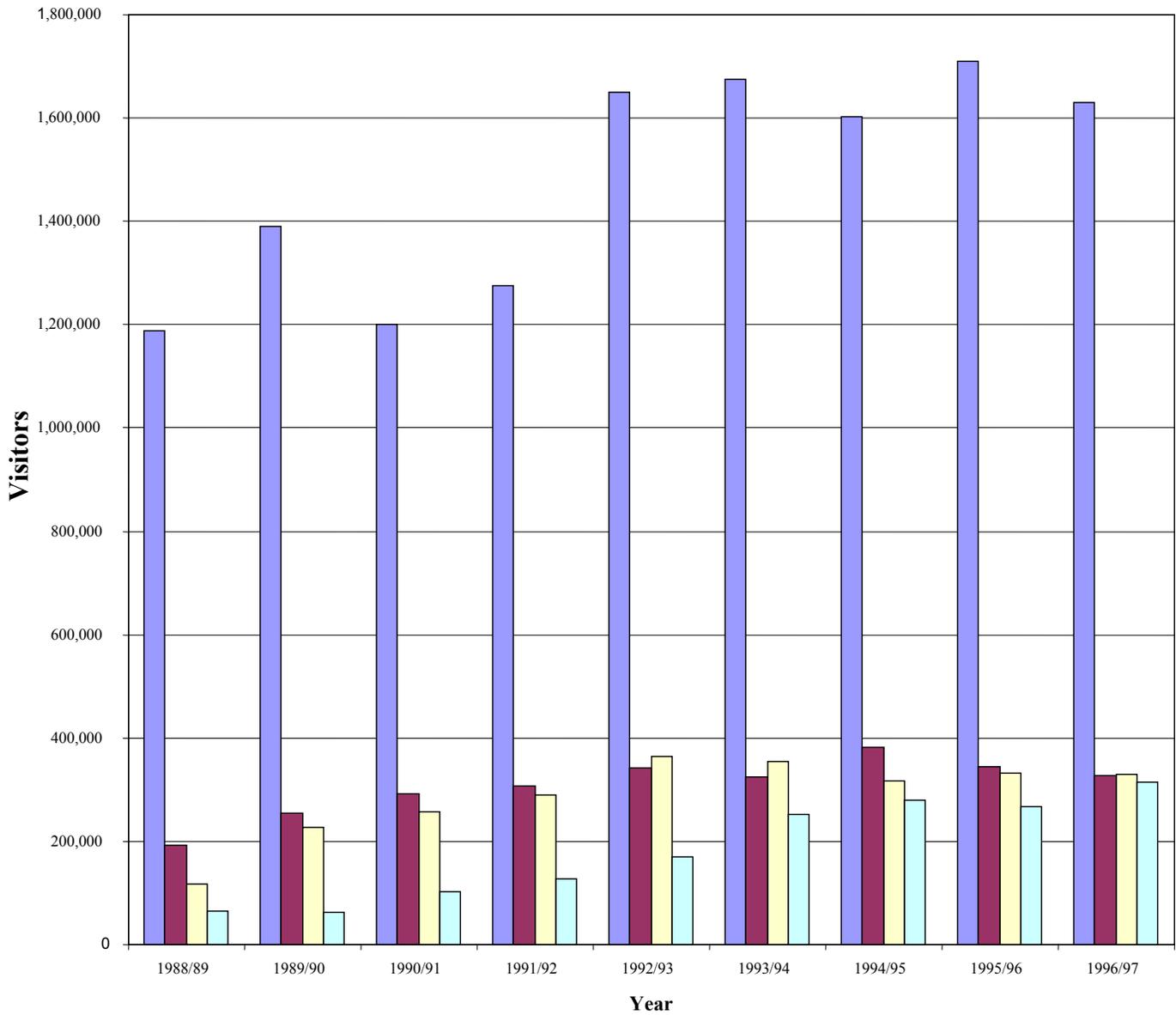
¹⁰Population statistics and projections were obtained from the Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department, and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG).

Figure 6
Summary of Visitor Use Trends (1988/89 to 1996/97)
Comparison Percentage Increase in Visitors and Acres

Recreation Facility Category	Increases in Visitors 1988/89 to 1996/97	Percent of Total Visitor Use 1988/89 to 1996/97	Increases in Acres or Miles 1988/89 to 1996/97
Open Space Parks	Increase from 116,430 visitors to 329,334 visitors	Increase from 7.5 percent of total to 12.7 percent of total	Increase from 1897 acres to 2997 acres
Trails (Trails outside of park boundaries)	Increase from 65,551 visitors to 313,514 visitors	Increase from 4.2 percent of total to 12.1 percent of total	Increase from 6.9 miles to 11.59 miles
Regional Recreation Areas	Increase from 1,187,404 visitors to 1,629,920 visitors	Decrease from 76.0 percent of total to 67.7 percent of total	Increase from 867 acres to 931 acres
Community and Neighborhood Parks	Increase from 192,763 visitors to 326,851 visitors	Increase from 12.3 percent of total to 12.6 percent of total	Increase from 41 acres to 53 acres

* It should be noted that Southwest Community Park was transferred to the City of Santa Rosa in 1997. This park accounted for 72 percent of total Community Park Use.

Figure 7
Sonoma County Regional Parks Annual Visitor Use by Park Facility Classification*
(From Regional Parks Department Annual Visitor Reports)



*** Park Facility Classification**



4. Public Workshops (1996)

Public Workshops were conducted in all six Park Planning Areas of Sonoma County to obtain input about priorities and preferences for future acquisitions, etc. More than three hundred people participated in the nine¹¹ public workshops that were held in Cloverdale, Healdsburg, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Cotati, Sonoma, Petaluma, Bodega Bay, and the North Coast (Gualala).

Attendees at the workshops included representatives of organizations such as the Sierra Club Trails Committee, the Sonoma Horse Council, the Sonoma County Trails Committee, the Bay Area Ridge Trail, Greenbelt Alliance, COASST and Citizens for Lafferty Ranch. Many of these organizations joined together as the Coalition for the Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) in 1997. In many cases these organizations had polled their members prior to the meetings and provided useful input. Often the exchange of views in the group mapping exercises helped both local residents and organized groups to seek compromises. Representatives from county, cities, state and federal agencies also participated in the Public Workshops as both panel speakers and as individuals.

At the Public Workshops conducted in 1996, the “ten dot survey” exercises were conducted to help identify priorities. The top 5 priorities in each of the Park Planning Areas are listed below. Under each category are the specific projects that were suggested at the workshops to help meet local recreation needs and enhance the local and regional recreation experience.

Results of all of these workshops in all six Park Planning Areas indicated a strong interest in passive recreation facilities and trails. Key priorities expressed in each of the Park Planning Areas are described in more detail in Appendix 4.¹²

5. Outdoor Recreation Agency Conference (1996)

On June 6, 1996, 30 organizations involved with providing or regulating recreation in Sonoma County convened for a conference and workshop on the Plan. The purpose of the conference was to introduce the Plan and share concerns, solutions and strategies for managing or regulating outdoor recreation, and to collect input for development of the Plan.

When participants were asked to identify the most important aspects of recreation that they felt the Plan should address, the following issue areas emerged as themes in the comments:

- Interagency Cooperation
- Additional Facilities
- Funding
- Recreation Management

Most agencies expressed a desire for the Plan to address the need for additional facilities. Similar to the Public Workshops, the two types of outdoor recreation facilities mentioned most frequently for

¹¹In some planning areas, more than one Public Workshop was conducted due to the spread out nature of the planning areas.

¹²Refer to ORP Appendix 4 for a summary of the "dot exercises" that recorded the priorities by type of recreational facilities, and for a list of the specific projects recommended by the participants in each of the Park Planning Areas.

future acquisitions were:

- X ***Accessible Open Space*** which includes regional parks, General Plan community separators, Sonoma County Water Agency flood control channels, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District land, and river and bay areas.

- X ***Regional Trails*** which include greenways, multi-use trails, commuter trails, and trails which would connect parks and communities.

In addition, there was a consensus that the Plan should analyze and address guidelines for: (1) recreation and resource compatibility, particularly in sensitive habitat areas; and (2) impacts of recreation on adjacent landowners. For a more detailed description of the Agency Conference, see Appendix 4.

This page has been intentionally left blank.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS



Evaluation of quantitative guidelines, survey information, workshop suggestions, and trends were all considered in developing the Recommendations for this Plan. The recommendations include proposed expansions of existing regional recreation areas and open space parks, new regional parks, new open space parks, trails, neighborhood/community parks, as well as recommendations for state and federal parks and preserves.

A. Introduction

This Chapter presents the recommendations in two groups Parkland Recommendations and Trail Recommendations.

B. Trail Recommendations

1. Prioritization Process

The trail recommendations of the Plan are addressed in a separate section from the park proposals for several reasons. Unlike parks, there is no recognized national standard for providing trails to a community based upon a regional population or other quantifiable measurement. The ORP used a collaborative process to identify and prioritize trail corridors. The individual projects in the ORP will be further evaluated in the Regional Park's Five-year Capital Improvement Plan. The final phase of project evaluation is when individual sites are selected.

In May 1997, following a presentation of over 700 miles of trail corridors suggested at the public workshops, the Citizens Advisory Committee directed staff to evaluate and rank the trail corridors. Staff from Regional Parks Department, the Permit and Resource Management Department, Sonoma County Water Agency and the Open Space District developed criteria for a ranking system for the trail corridors. Using this ranking system, an analysis was conducted of each trail corridor and the high priority trails were selected to be in the draft plan. Following a review of the priority trails by the CAC and public comment, adjustments to the recommendations were made. Additional modifications occurred at the 1999 Policy Workshop, by the Board of Supervisors.

Table 18
Trail priorities

Priority Ranking	Mileage	Percent of Total
Priority 1	234.1 miles	47.8 %
Priority 2	138.3 miles	28.2 %
Priority 3	72.2 miles	14.7 %
Trails not evaluated but added to plan since 1997.	45.7 miles	9.3 %
Total	490.3 miles	100%

2. Existing Recreation Facilities

The West County/Rodota Trail, is the primary regional trail currently in existence in Sonoma County. Nearly ten miles of the trail have already been constructed. The trail links Santa Rosa, Sebastopol and Graton. This project will eventually continue into the Santa Rosa's Railroad Square.

The proposed Santa Rosa Creek trail will also offer residents a connection between downtown to the Laguna de Santa Rosa alongside Santa Rosa Creek.

The County has two county coastal access trails on the south coast, and six on the north coast. There are no regional trails currently in the coastal area. The California Coastal Commission in conjunction with California State Parks has proposed the California Coastal Trail from Mexico to Oregon, which includes a connection through Sonoma County. The Coastal Plan recommends a coastal trail along the beach, the terrace, or wherever possible to connect public and private

recreation areas with other facilities.

In addition to Multi-use trails and Bikeways, the Sonoma County General Plan and ORP recognize waterway trails. The 1989 General Plan classifies waterway trails as “recreational waterways: recognize boating and canoeing activities on designated waterways. Limit hiking trails to connections between urban areas, parks and the waterway.” Three waterway trails have already been designated: Russian River, Gualala River and the Petaluma River.

Sonoma County Regional Parks staff have also researched the State of California’s Riding and Hiking Trail Program of the 1950s. During that period the State began purchasing trail easements along what was referred to as the “Sonoma-Napa Trail” now also called the Stevenson Trail in Sonoma County’s General Plan. Regional Parks staff have researched the State Parks archives in Sacramento and located twelve deeds that were recorded in the 1950’s. One of the twelve was quitclaimed back from the State to a private party in 1974. State Parks is encouraged under this plan to determine the status of the remaining easements and the implementation feasibility of the remaining trail.

Table 19
Proposed Trail Mileage Compared With Other Counties and Existing General Plan

Planning Document	Proposed Trail Mileage	Population 2010¹	Regional Trail miles per 1000 Population
Marin County Trails Plan (1994)	722 miles*	267,900	2.69 miles
Sonoma County ORP (2002)	490.3 miles	529,700	0.91 miles
East Bay Regional Parks’ Master Plan (1995) - <i>Includes Alameda and Contra Costa Counties</i>	1,410 miles*	2,692,700	0.52 miles
San Mateo County’s Trail Plan (2001)	307 miles	779,700	0.39 miles
Sonoma County General Plan (1989)²	148.6 miles	529,700	0.28 miles
Santa Clara County’s Trail Plan (1997)	535 miles	1,919,000	0.28 miles

*This number includes all trails within parks as well as regional trails. Break out figures were not available.

¹ Projections 2000 – forecasts for the San Francisco Bay Area to the Year 2020. Association of Bay Area Governments, 1999.

² Sonoma County General Plan, 1989 as amended

3. County-wide Trail Recommendations

The intent of the trail route is indicated by the descriptions. The intent of the trails varies depending upon the landscape, points of interest, public lands and other recreational opportunities. The level of specificity is dependent upon the number of points of interest the trail is attempting to connect.

(Note: In the following recommendations, the number or letter in parenthesis at the end of the description title corresponds to its location on the Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan Figures 8, 9 and 11s)

1. Gualala River Waterway Trail (A)

The Gualala River is a navigable waterway and as such, public access is protected by Article XV, Section 2 of the California Constitution. The trail follows the river from the Sonoma/Mendocino county line to Stewart's Point Road. This project was recommended at the public workshops.

2. Russian River Waterway Trail (B)

The Russian River is a navigable waterway from Cloverdale to the coast and as such, public access is protected by Article XV, Section 2 of the California Constitution.

3. Petaluma River Trail (C)

The Petaluma River is a navigable waterway and as such, public access is protected by Article XV, Section 2 of the California Constitution. The trail follows the river from Shollenberger River Park to San Pablo Bay.

4. Coastal Trail (D)

The proposed trail extends from Black Point southward to the Estero Americano, is consistent with California State Coastal Plan policy 145 which calls for establishment of a coastal trail system statewide. When complete, this trail will connect: Estero Americano, Bodega Bay, Doran Beach Regional Park, State Beaches, proposed Bodega Bay-Sebastopol Trail (AA), Willow Creek State Park, proposed Willow Creek Trail (AP), proposed Monte Rio to Coast Trail (AZ), Fort Ross State Park, Stillwater Cove Regional Park, Salt Point State Park, proposed Coastal Ridge Trail (AB), proposed Sonoma Coast Trail 2 (AT). The Coastal Trail also includes local community connector trails in the Bodega Bay area that may include boardwalks on tidelands, sidewalks and other trail links to provide safe thoroughfare through the Bodega Bay area.

5. Stevenson Trail (E)

This trail was proposed by the California State Department of Parks and Recreation in 1958 to connect Robert Louis Stevenson State Park and the Napa Valley. This trail will also connect with the proposed Mayacamas Ridge Trail North 1 (AQ), and the proposed Mayacamas Ridge Trail North 2 (AY). According to research conducted by Sonoma County Regional Parks' staff the State acquired easements long this trail route in the 1950s.

6. Hood Mountain Trail North (F)

The proposed trail links Hood Mountain Regional Park to a 240-acre BLM holding to the east at the Sonoma/Napa county line. This trail links with the Mayacamas Ridge Trail North 2 (AY), and allows the connection to the Bay Area Ridge Trail: Hood Mountain-Annadel (N) and the Mayacamas Ridge Trail South (AH). This project was recommended at the public workshops.

7. Taylor Mountain Trail (G)

The proposed trail connects the proposed Taylor Mountain County Park with Annadel State Park and the City of Santa Rosa.

8. Valley of the Moon Trail (H)

The proposed trail traverses the Valley of the Moon between Jack London State Park and the Sonoma/Napa county line and links Sonoma Valley Regional Park to the Glen Ellen community and a proposed Open Space Park in the Nuns Canyon area. This trail connects with the proposed trail Mayacamas Ridge Trail South (AH), Central Sonoma Valley Bikeway (S), Sonoma Developmental Trail (AX), Bay Area Ridge Trail: Annadel-Jack London (AN), and the Rohnert Park - Jack London Trail (AK).

9. West County/ Rodota Trail East (I)

The proposed trail extends the existing West County/Rodota Trail into downtown Santa Rosa following the abandoned right-of-way. This trail connects with the existing terminus of the Joe Rodota Trail at Stony Point Road.

10. Santa Rosa Creek Trail (J)

The proposed Santa Rosa Creek Trail is located between Guerneville Road and Highway 101 and is owned in fee by the SCWA. This trail connects with the Santa Rosa Creek - West County Trail Connector Trail (AU), Santa Rosa limits, and the Peterson Creek Bikeway (R) and is partially complete. There was very strong support for trails along the Water Agency access roads at the public workshops and the agency conference.

11. Gossage Trail (K)

The proposed trail follows the SCWA Gossage channel from the Laguna de Santa Rosa Bikeway (T) south to the intersection of Stony Point Road and Highway 116. This proposed trail connects with the proposed Central County Trail (AG), proposed Laguna de Santa Rosa Bikeway (T), the City of Rohnert Park limits, and the proposed Northwest Pacific Railroad Bikeway (Q2).

12. Copeland Creek Trail (L)

The proposed trail follows Copeland Creek and links Rohnert Park near Sonoma State University to Crane Creek Regional Park. In addition, this proposed trail will connect with Sonoma State University trails, and the Rohnert Park to Jack London Trail (AK).

13. Sonoma-Schellville Trail (M)

The proposed trail follows the former right-of-way of the Northwestern Railroad from the City of Sonoma to Napa Road. In addition, the Sonoma Schellville Trail could connect with the proposed Mayacamas Ridge Trail South (AH) via City trails. This proposed trail would be a segment of the Bay Trail alignment.

14. Bay Area Ridge Trail: Hood Mountain-Annadel (N)

The proposed trail links Hood Mountain Regional Park to Annadel State Park. This proposed trail will connect with the proposed Central Sonoma Valley Bikeway (S).

15. Colgan Creek Bikeway (O)

This bikeway begins at Bellevue Avenue and ends at the Laguna de Santa Rosa Bikeway (T). This bikeway follows the existing SCWA channel until reaching the City of Santa Rosa irrigation land.

16. Roseland Creek Bikeway (P)

This bikeway begins at Ludwig Avenue and ends at Llano Road. This trail could be continued through irrigation property owned by the City of Santa Rosa to connect with the Laguna de Santa Rosa Creek Trail (T).

17. Northwest Pacific Railroad Bikeway-1 Santa Rosa to Windsor Limits (Q1)

There are five separate segments of this trail as shown on the 1997 County Bikeways Plan. This segment is from the northern Santa Rosa City limits to Airport Boulevard. The ORP extends this segment from Airport Boulevard to Windsor Limits. The trail will connect to proposed City bike trails.

18. Northwest Pacific Railroad Bikeway-2 Santa Rosa to Rohnert Park (Q2)

There are five separate segments of this trail as shown on the 1997 County Bikeways Plan. This segment is from the southern Santa Rosa City limits to the northern Rohnert Park City limits. The trail will connect to proposed City bike trails.

19. Northwest Pacific Railroad Bikeway-3 Cotati to Petaluma (Q3)

There are five separate segments of this trail as shown on the 1997 County Bikeways Plan. This third segment begins at the northern Petaluma City limits and ends at the southern Cotati City limits.

20. Northwest Pacific Railroad Bikeway-4 South Petaluma to Marin County line (Q4)

There are five separate segments of this trail as shown on the 1997 County Bikeways Plan. The fourth segment begins at southern Petaluma City limits and ends at the Marin County Line where it connects to the Marin County bikeway system.

- 21. Bay Trail: Northwest Pacific Railroad Bikeway-5 Marin County line to Port Sonoma (Q5)**
There are five separate segments of this trail as shown on the 1997 County Bikeways Plan. This segment begins at Marin County limits and ends at Lakeville Highway.
- 22. Peterson Creek Bikeway (R)**
This bikeway begins at Santa Rosa City limits and ends at Guerneville Road.
- 23. Central Sonoma Valley Bikeway (S)**
This proposed trail begins at Maxwell Farms Regional Park and continues north to Santa Rosa City limits. The proposed trail connects the Sonoma Developmental Center Trail (AX), Sonoma Valley Regional Park, Valley of the Moon Trail (H), Glen Ellen, Kenwood, Bay Area Ridge Trail: Hood Mountain-Annadel (N), and the City of Santa Rosa. The County will coordinate with the City of Santa Rosa to continue the trail through the City so that it will connect with other City and County trails.
- 24. Laguna de Santa Rosa Bikeway (T)**
This bikeway begins at Cotati limits and continues through Sebastopol limits to the proposed Riverfront Park (R4) on Eastside Road. This trail extends the 1997 Bikeways Plan Laguna de Santa Rosa Bikeway from Sebastopol Limits to Eastside Road, generally paralleling the Laguna de Santa Rosa and Mark West Creek. This bikeway would use the future West County Trail crossing of Highway 12 at Morris Street and connect with the Santa Rosa Creek Trail (J) in the vicinity of Guerneville Road. The trail continues north, generally paralleling the Laguna de Santa Rosa and/or Laguna Road to Trenton Road. The trail then crosses River Road to the Trenton Road underpass and continues northwest along the former railroad right-of-way, owned by the County, as it parallels Mark West Creek. From the former railroad right-of-way, the trail crosses Mark West Creek Bridge and generally follows the Trenton-Healdsburg Road to Eastside Road. Along Eastside Road, the trail would connect with the proposed Russian River Trail (AD) and the proposed Riverfront Park (R4). A spur of the trail continues southwest from the Trenton Healdsburg Road to River Road on the remaining County-owned railroad right-of-way. North of Highway 12, this bikeway would not be paved.
- 25. Kenwood-Santa Rosa Bikeway (U)**
This bikeway begins at Warm Springs Roads in Kenwood and ends at Annadel State Park.
- 26. Sonoma Creek Bikeway (V)**
This bikeway begins at Sonoma limits and ends at Leveroni Road.
- 27. Skaggs Island Trail/Second Napa Slough Bikeway (W)**
Obtain a trail easement for a bikeway along the levees of the former Skaggs Island Naval Station. This bikeway begins at Hudeman Slough Boat Launch Facility and ends at Highway 37. This proposed trail would be a connection for the Bay Trail.
- 28. Dutch Bill Creek Bikeway (X)**
This bikeway begins at State Highway 116 in Monte Rio and ends at Graton Road.

29. Hunter View Creek Bikeway (Y)

This bikeway begins at Santa Rosa City limits and ends at Snyder Lane.

30. Mark West Creek Trail (Z)

This proposed trail begins at the Northwest Pacific Railroad Bikeway Section 1 (Q1) and generally follows Mark West Creek to the east to Napa County. The Mark West Creek Trail could connect Windsor, Shiloh Ranch Regional Park, the Lang/Gutman properties, Pepperwood Ranch Nature Preserve, Napa Bothe State Park, the Stevenson Trail (E) and Napa County.

31. Bodega Bay to Sebastopol Trail (AA)

This proposed trail begins at Bodega Bay and ends at the West County Trail (I). This trail connects Bodega Bay, Salmon Creek Beach, State and/or County Park property, Finley Creek Preserve (Sonoma Land Trust property), Coleman Valley Road, Willow Creek Road, Occidental, and the West County Trail (I) at Occidental Road. The existing West County Trail (I) continues south into Sebastopol.

32. Coastal Ridge Trail (AB)

This proposed trail begins at Stillwater Cove Regional Park and ends at the Gualala River Waterway Trail (A). This trail connects Stillwater Cove Regional Park, Salt Point State Park, Kruse Rhododendron Reserve, and the Gualala River Waterway Trail (A). The trail would be located to the west of the Gualala River and offer views and access to the Gualala River valley.

33. West County Trail Extension (AC)

This proposed trail would extend the existing West County/Rodota Trail by class 2 bikelanes from Forestville at Mirabel Road to River Road and Steelhead Beach Regional Park.

34. Russian River Trail (AD)

This proposed trail begins at Monte Rio and ends at the City of Healdsburg. The trail connects Monte Rio, Guerneville, the Guerneville Bridge, proposed Guerneville River Access (R5), Forestville River Access, Steelhead Beach Regional Park, Wohler Bridge Fishing Access, proposed Windsor River Front Park (R6), and the City of Healdsburg. The trail connects many of the existing access easements and planned river access locations while generally paralleling the Russian River. The trail will also connect with the Old Cazadero Trail (AF), Armstrong Redwoods Trail (AE), and the West County Trail Extension (AC).

35. Armstrong Woods Trail (AE)

This proposed trail begins at Guerneville and ends at Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve. The trail will generally parallel Armstrong Woods Road. This trail will connect with the Russian River Trail (AD).

36. Old Cazadero Trail (AF)

This proposed trail begins at Guerneville Park and ends at Austin Creek State Park. The trail will connect Guerneville Park, Old Cazadero Road, and Austin Creek State Park. The trail will generally parallel Old Cazadero Road. This trail will connect with the Russian River Trail (AD). The need for this project was identified at the Plan public workshops.

37. Central County Trail (AG)

This proposed trail begins at the City of Petaluma and ends at the Gossage Trail (K). The trail would utilize the former Santa Rosa-Petaluma railroad right of way where available. The County will coordinate with the City of Petaluma to continue the trail through the City so that it will connect with the following trails: Bay Area Ridge/Helen Putnam Trail (AS), Bay Area Ridge Trail: Petaluma-Sonoma Mountain (AL), the Petaluma Marsh Trail (BA) and the Petaluma Waterway Trail (C).

38. Mayacamas Ridge Trail South (AH)

This proposed trail begins in the City of Sonoma and ends at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. The trail connects the City of Sonoma, Mountain Cemetery, proposed regional preserve using B.L.M. property (P14), Trinity Road, and Sugarloaf Ridge State Park.

39. South Sonoma Valley Trail (AI)

The trail begins at Sonoma County's Hudeman Slough Boat Ramp and ends at Highway 121 in Schellville. This trail connects Hudeman Slough, Department of Fish and Game Ringstrom Bay, Sonoma County Water Agency Hudeman Slough Mitigation and Enhancement Wetlands, and Schellville. On road bikeways connect this trail to the Sonoma Right of Way Trail /Schellville Trail (M) on the former railroad right of way. This proposed trail would be a segment of the Bay Trail alignment.

40. Bay Trail: Skaggs Island to Lakeville Highway (AJ)

This proposed trail begins at Skaggs Island and ends at the Bay Trail: Northwest Pacific Railroad Bikeway (Q5). This segment connects the Second Napa Slough Bikeway (W), Skaggs Island, Highway 37, State Fish and Game land, Coastal Conservatory land, San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Tolay Creek Trail, Tubbs Island, and the Bay Trail: Northwest Pacific Railroad Bikeway (Q5). The Bay Trail: Northwest Pacific Railroad Bikeway (Q5) continues to Port Sonoma Marina.

41. Rohnert Park to Jack London Trail (AK)

This proposed trail begins at Crane Creek Regional Park and connects with the Copeland Creek Trail (L), Fairfield Osbourne Preserve, Sonoma Mountain Regional Park property (OS16), the Bay Area Ridge Trail: Jack London-Annadel (AN), and ends at Jack London State Park. The County will work with the City of Rohnert Park and Sonoma State University to coordinate the continuation of the trail through the University and City so that it will connect with other City and County trails.

42. Bay Area Ridge Trail: Petaluma to Jack London (AL)

This proposed trail begins at the Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park and ends at Jack London State Park and connects to trail (AX) Sonoma Developmental Center Trail. This trail connects a City of Petaluma Class 1 Bikeway, Petaluma Adobe Historic State Park, Stage Gulch Road, and the ridge between Sonoma Valley and Petaluma. This trail will provide views of the surrounding area and possible access to the proposed South Sonoma Mountain park (R11). The need for this project was identified at the Plan public workshops. Some or all of the proposed route is part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail alignment.

43. Bay Area Ridge Trail: Annadel-Jack London (AN)

This proposed trail begins at Annadel State Park and ends at Jack London State Park and/or the proposed Bay Area Ridge Trail: Petaluma to Jack London (AL). A part or the entire proposed route is part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail alignment.

44. Cloverdale to Lake Sonoma Loop Trail (AO)

This trail begins at Lake Sonoma and ends at the City of Cloverdale. The proposed trail connects Lake Sonoma's trail system, Kelly and/or Hot Springs Road, proposed Western Hills Regional Park (OS23), and Cloverdale.

45. Willow Creek Trail (AP)

This proposed trail begins at Sonoma Coast State Beach at Willow Creek and ends at Coleman Valley Road. This trail connects Willow Creek State Park, Monte Rio to Coast Trail (AZ), Willow Creek Road, proposed state park expansion (OS18), Finley Creek Preserve-Willow Creek Connector (AV), and the Bodega Bay -Sebastopol Trail (AA).

46. Geysers Trail (AQ)

This proposed trail begins at Cloverdale, heads east toward the historic Geysers Resort and then continues south to Robert Louis Stevenson State Park. This trail connects the Geysers Resort, B.L.M. land, and Robert Louis Stevenson State Park. The trail would also connect with the Stevenson Trail (E) and the Palisades trail in Napa County.

47. Kelly Road Trail (AR)

This proposed trail begins at Highway 1 at Annapolis Road and ends at Lake Sonoma. This trail connects the coast, Annapolis Road, Soda Springs Reserve, Kelly Road, Rockpile Road, and the trail system at Lake Sonoma Recreation Area. The need for this project was identified at the public workshops.

Since the development of the first Draft Plan, the status regarding the Kelly Road project has changed. The road was sold to private buyers that are forming a road maintenance association. The Regional Parks Department recommends that a trail easement be obtained along roadway. Use of the easement would require that parking areas be located at both ends of the road and that some minimal facilities such as public restrooms be installed at various locations. The trail might be seasonal and use could be regulated by permit. Further discussion and agreement would be needed to develop the trail.

48. Bay Area Ridge/Helen Putnam Trail (AS)

This proposed trail begins at the Marin County line and passes through Helen Putnam Regional Park, and ends at the Central County Trail (AG). This trail is intended to connect with one or more of Marin County's regional trails adjacent to the Sonoma/Marin county line. The Bay Area Ridge Trail alignment includes the trail from Marin to Helen Putnam Regional Park.

49. Sonoma Coast Trail 2 (AT)

This proposed trail begins at the Coastal Trail (D) at Black Point and ends at Gualala Point Regional Park. The trail includes the existing public Bluff Top, Salal, and Shell Beach Trails

and may connect with one or more of the other County coastal access points.

50. Santa Rosa Creek WCT Connector (AU)

This proposed trail begins at the Santa Rosa Creek Trail (J), and passes through the Cramer property held in fee by the State of California and the SCAPOSD to Occidental Road thence east to Fulton Road and connects to the existing Joe Rodota Trail.

51. Coleman Valley-Willow Creek Trail (AV)

This proposed trail begins at the Willow Creek Trail (AP) and ends at the proposed Bodega Bay-Sebastopol Trail (AA) near or at the Finley Creek Preserve.

52. Bellevue Trail (AW)

This proposed trail has two segments: The first segment begins at the Gossage Trail (K) at the SCWA Wilfred Channel and ends at the intersection of two of Rohnert Park's Class 1 Bikeways: Robert Lake Road and the Wilfred Channel. This segment follows the SCWA Bellevue Wilfred Channel. The second segment begins at the end of Rohnert Park's Wilfred Channel Bikeway at the SCAPOSD Young-Armos property and ends at Petaluma Hill Road at the SCAPOSD Oken property.

53. Sonoma Developmental Center Trail (AX)

This proposed trail begins at Sonoma Valley Regional Park and thence west through the SCAPOSD Sonoma Developmental Center easement to connect with the Bay Area Ridge Trail: Jack London-Annadel (AN) and Valley of the Moon Trail (H).

54. Mayacamas Ridge Trail North (AY)

This proposed trail begins at Napa-Bothe State Park and terminates at the northern boundary of Sugarloaf Ridge State Park.

55. Monte Rio to Willow Creek Trail (AZ)

This proposed trail begins at Sonoma Coast State Beach at Willow Creek and ends at Monte Rio. This trail will connect Willow Creek State Park, proposed Willow Creek Trail (AP), proposed state park expansion (OS18), Duncan Mills, Dutch Bill Creek Bikeway (X), and Monte Rio.

56. Bay Trail: Petaluma Marsh Trail (BA)

This trail begins at Port Sonoma Marina and follows the levees north to the City of Petaluma's trail system. This trail connects Port Sonoma Marina, the Bay Trail in Marin County, the Bay Trail: Northwest Pacific Railroad Bikeway (Q5), the Petaluma River Waterway Trail (C), and the City of Petaluma's riverbank trail system. This proposed trail would be a segment of the Bay Trail alignment.

57. Short Tail Gulch Trail (BB)

This proposed trail begins at Osprey Drive and ends at the coast. This trail follows an existing recorded County trail easement and provides public access to the Coast.

58. Bay Area Ridge / Adobe to Adobe Trail (BC)

This trail begins at the Petaluma Adobe State Park and ends where the City of Sonoma trails can connect it with Sonoma Adobe State Park. This trail could connect the proposed South County Regional Park (R11), Leveroni Road, Bay Area Ridge Trail: Petaluma to South Sonoma Mt. (AL) and sections of the ridge separating Sonoma and Petaluma. The Bay Area Ridge Trail alignment includes the section from Petaluma Adobe State Park to Bay Area Ridge Trail: Petaluma to South Sonoma Mt. (AL).

59. Foothill Trail (BD)

This trail begins at the northern Santa Rosa City limits and ends at Healdsburg Veterans Memorial Beach. This proposed trail would connect Santa Rosa, Larkfield-Wikiup, Shiloh Ranch Regional Park, Faught Road, Foothill Regional Park, the Russian River Trail (AD) and Healdsburg.

60. McCray Ridge Trail (BE)

This trail begins at Westside Road and ends at Austin Creek State Recreation Area. The proposed McCray Ridge Trail corridor includes the Mill Creek Road area to the north and Sweetwater Springs Road area to the south.

61. The Cedars Trail (BF)

This trail begins at Austin Creek State Recreation Area, passes through the proposed 1500 acre Cedars Preserve currently managed by BLM, crosses Stewart's Point Skaggs Springs Road and ends at Lake Sonoma Recreation Area's trail system.

62. Salmon Creek Trail (BG)

This trail begins at Occidental and ends at the Pacific Ocean. The proposed Salmon Creek Trail would generally follow Salmon Creek from Occidental, then to Freestone, Bodega, and finally Salmon Creek State Beach. This trail may connect with the Dutch Bill Creek Bikeway (X), Bodega Bay-Sebastopol Trail (AA) and the Coastal Trail (D).

63. Estero Americano Waterway Trail (WA)

This proposed waterway trail follows the Estero Americano at the Pacific Ocean and ends where the Estero Americano is no longer navigable.

C. Parkland Recommendations

1. Introduction

In order to establish priorities for all types of park facilities for all six park planning areas, a three-tier system is being use. The first tier is contained in the Plan where projects are compared based upon acreage and population numbers, independent upon actual project opportunities. The second tier uses the Five year Capital Improvement Plan to set specific priorities that also identifies short term funding needs. The third tier uses individual sites to evaluate the project for meeting specific local and regional needs. The three-tier system is designed to allow new opportunities to be incorporated and compared with other existing needs as they arise.

2. Sub-Planning Area Priorities

In order to establish overall priorities within the Plan's sub planning areas, a table of the Priorities of the Evaluation of Parkland Needs based on the acreage goals is presented below.

The charts, by park facility type (Community Parks, Regional Recreation Areas and Open Space Parks), and Summary Table show the level of parkland needs by Planning Area for 2010 for the three different types of park facilities. These needs reflect the Board's General Plan Policy PF-2c using the following standards for determination of park needs. "Twenty* acres of regional parks per 1,000 residents county-wide and five acres of local and community parks per 1,000 residents in unincorporated areas". (*Note: In the ORP the twenty acre total has been refined to comprise of 5acres/1000 residents for Regional Recreation Areas and 15 acres/1000 residents for Open Space Parks).

The Priorities of Parklands Needs Table shows by individual Planning Areas the percentage by which the County meets the acreage goals with existing park and recreation facilities for the projected population in the year 2010. The higher the percentage of goal already met, the less the priority. By using a four step scale of Low priority to Very High priority, it allows the consideration of the three park category needs within each sub-planning area.

Table 20
Priorities of the Evaluation of Parkland Needs

	Area	Community Parks (unincorp)		Regional Recreation Area		Open Space Parks	
		% of Parkland Goals met by existing facilities	Priority Ranking of Park Facility Type within Area	% of Parkland Goals met by existing facilities	Priority Ranking of Park Facility Type within Area	% of Parkland Goals met by existing facilities	Priority Ranking of Park Facility Type within Area
AREA 1	Sonoma Coast	44%	High	100%	Low	58%	Medium
AREA 2	North County	19%	Very High	24%	Very High	100%	Low
AREA 3	Russian River	23%	Very High	88%	Low	0%	Very High
AREA 4	Santa Rosa Plain	74%	Low	31%	High	45%	High
AREA 5	South County	41%	High	0%	Very High	16%	Very High
AREA 6	Sonoma Valley	55%	Medium	39%	High	24%	Very High

3. Strategic Priorities: 5 Year Capital Project Plan

The ORP policy recommendation #3.4 reflects the method by which projects would be prioritized using the existing County Five Year Capital Project Plan as a mechanism. Because the County General Fund does not provide funds for park development, the Board has less discretion to prioritize projects. However, the County does prepare a Five-Year Capital Project Plan, whereby it annually reviews priorities. The annual update of the Five-Year Capital Project Plan includes public presentations and discussion with the County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and the Sonoma County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. The annual update of the Five-Year Capital Project Plan takes into account factors that may increase or decrease the priority of an individual project or add a new project. These include park mitigation fees available within the sub-planning area, grant funding availability and what types of projects are eligible for funding, and properties that become available for sale that might meet park needs.

4. Project Specific Priorities: Site Specific Evaluation

When a property becomes available to address a need identified by the ORP or the Five Year Capital Project Plan, within a sub-planning area, site specific criteria would be applied as to the suitability of the property. These criteria include but are not limited to size, location, environmental constraints and opportunities (e.g. wetlands, wildlife, endangered plants communities), public access, location relative to similar facilities, demographics and unique features that might be of historic, cultural or biotic value.



B. Area 1: Sonoma Coast

Existing Recreation Facilities:

Although the area of land currently available for public recreation along the Sonoma Coast is 13,320 acres, there is a need to protect and maintain the spectacular scenic qualities, which are of statewide and national importance both to local residents and visitors.

The Sonoma Coast contains 495 acres of Regional Parks. This includes four coastal regional parks, and the Watson School Wayside Park. Stillwater Cove Regional Park is scheduled to expand by another 221 acres by the year 2005. Camping is available in the coastal regional parks.

The County has two county coastal access trails on the south coast, and six on the north coast. There are no regional trails currently in the coastal area. The California Coastal Commission in conjunction with California State Parks has proposed the California Coastal Trail from Mexico to Oregon, which includes a connection through Sonoma County.

California State Parks have two large parks, Fort Ross and Salt Point, which are more than 4,000 acres each. In addition, the Sonoma Coast Parks consist of beach and coastal access parks between Bodega Bay and Stillwater Cove Regional Park, which together compose more than 3,000 acres. Some of these parks have limited support facilities. Access is via Highway 1, which becomes congested on weekends. Camping is available in many of the State Parks. Several of the stretches of State beaches are separated by intervening private property.

Only twelve acres of Community Parks are available in the Coastal Area. Two sites are located on school property, and the Camp Meeker Recreation and Park District and Cazadero Water District provides another sites.

The numbers of the residents of the Sonoma Coast Area compared with other areas of the county is relatively small. Demographics of the area reveal 39 percent of residents are more than 45 years old.

Two of the largest communities, Bodega Harbor and Sea Ranch, have a large percentage of retirees. Both communities have private facilities such as tennis courts, private trails and swimming pools supported by the homeowners associations. The residents living within these planned unit developments account for almost one quarter of the coastal population. Growth of the coastal area population is expected to be small by the year 2010. However coastal parks are used by residents of other parts of Sonoma County as well as visitors from other areas because of the area's recognized statewide unique biotic, scenic and recreational qualities.

In the communities, particularly Bodega Bay, there are some unmet needs for additional youth oriented facilities to serve coastal residents.

**Table 21
Outdoor Recreation Plan Recommendations for Addressing Parkland Needs by
Population/Acreage Standards: Sonoma Coast Planning Area 1**

Community and Neighborhood Parks (Standard 5 acres per 1,000)					
					Acreage
Camp Meeker Park and Rec District. (1)	940	5 acres	0 acres		
Sea Ranch (Planned Unit Development) (2)	1,374	Existing Homeowner provided facilities	0 acres		
Bodega Harbor (Planned Unit Development) (2)	1,200	Existing Homeowner provided facilities	0 acres		
Other Unincorporated Areas including Bodega Bay and Occidental	6,350	14 acres	18	Bodega Community Park (C1) Occidental Community Park (C2)	10 acres 8 acres
Regional Recreation Areas (Active) (Standard 5 acres per 1,000)					
					Acreage
9,900	463 acres	0	None		0 acres
Regional Recreation Areas (Passive) (Standard 15 acres per 1,000)					
					Acreage
9,900	86 acres	63	Expand Gualala Point Regional Park (OS1) Expand Stillwater Cove Regional Park (OS2)		50 acres 221 acres

(1) According to the Department of Finance, Camp Meeker Park and Recreation District served 700 people in 1988. Assuming a comparable growth rate to the rest of the Planning Area, it is assumed that in 2010, the Camp Meeker Park and Recreation District will serve approximately 978 people.
 (2) Estimates of population living within the Homeowners Association boundaries by 2010.

Sonoma Coast Recommended Projects

(Note: In the following recommendations, the number or letter in parenthesis at the end of the description title corresponds to its location on the Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan Figures 8, 9 and 11)

1. Develop a Community Park to serve residents of the Bodega Bay area (C1)

This proposed Community Park would be located on part of an existing 17-acre publicly owned property next to the Community Center. This community park would meet the needs of local residents for active and some passive recreation as identified through Plan workshops and acreage/population needs assessment.

2. Develop additional community park facilities in Occidental (C2)

This need for an eight acre community/neighborhood park in the Occidental area has been identified using the community park acreage/population analysis method.

3. Expand Gualala Point Regional Park (OS1)

The expansion of Gualala Point Regional Park would increase the access to the Gualala River and adjacent redwood groves for fishing, hiking, camping, and wildlife viewing. This need has been identified by recreation plans, the Coastal Plans, and in the Plan workshops. This expansion may include approximately 50 acres of land contiguous to the existing County Park.

4. Expand Stillwater Cove Regional Park (OS2)

This proposed expansion could support trail system development, additional overnight facilities, and watershed protection of Stockhoff Creek. This need has been identified by recreation plans, the Coastal Plan and in the Plan workshops. The expansion of Stillwater Cove Regional Park would include approximately 221 acres of land. It is also recommended that trail easements Offers-To-Dedicate (OTDs) that are close to Stillwater Cove Regional Park be accepted by the County.

Other Lands

The following projects are assumed to be implemented by other state, federal, and local agencies. They are included in the plan as referenced because they are intended to protect habitat and/or contribute to public recreation in Sonoma County.

5. Acquisition of land for the expansion of Willow Creek State Park (P1)

The expansion of the Sonoma Coast State Beach at Willow Creek is intended to expand the State's resource management of the watershed area. The area would be available for passive recreational use. This need has been identified in recreation plans, coastal plans, and restoration plans in addition to the Plan workshops.

6. Acquisition of additional land for a preserve in the Estero Americano watershed (P2)

This preserve would be of sufficient size to protect the unique vegetation and wildlife found at and surrounding the Estero Americano. This need has been identified by California Department of Fish and Game, Sonoma Land Trust, California State Coastal Conservancy, Sonoma County, and SCAPOSD. It was also recommended at the Public Workshops. This preserve may have a limited public access component.

7. Acquisition of land for a preserve in the Salmon Creek area (P3)

This preserve is intended to be of sufficient size to protect one or more of the following unique biotic resources: the estuary, salmonid habitat, and fairy shrimp habitat of Salmon Creek.

8. Acquisition of additional land for the expansion of the Fort Ross State Park (P4)

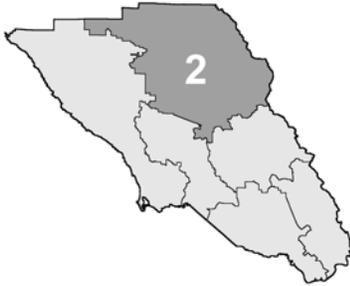
The expansion of the Fort Ross State Park area is intended to expand the State's resource management of the coastal area. The area would be available for passive recreational use. This need has been identified in recreation plans, coastal plans, and restoration plans in addition to the Plan workshops. It is also recommended that several OTDs that connect to Fort Ross State Park be accepted by the State.

9. Acquisition of additional land for the expansion of Salt Point State Park (P5)

The expansion of Salt Point State Park area is intended to expand the State's resource management of the area. The area would be available for passive recreational use. This need has been identified in recreation plans, coastal plans, and restoration plans in addition to the Plan workshops.

10. Acquisition of the "The Cedars" for a wilderness park (P6)

The approximately 1500 acre B.L.M. parcels would preserve an area identified in the General Plan as a critical habitat area. The acquisition could provide compatible additional passive recreation opportunities. The purchase of the BLM property would need additional acquisitions of private land to connect with the nearest publicly managed land area at Austin Creek State Recreation Area.



C. Area 2: North County

Existing Recreation Facilities:

The North County Area contains Lake Sonoma Recreation Area, the largest single parcel of publicly accessible land in the County, with more than 17,000 acres. However, local residents do not regard this area as serving local needs.

Two State Parks are on the borders of Area 2, The North County. To the east is a small section of Robert Louis Stevenson State Park that can only be accessed from Napa County. On the southwestern boundary of this area are Armstrong Woods State Reserve and Austin Creek State Recreation Area (see Area 3).

In the southern portion of Area 2, the last decade has seen development of Shiloh and Foothill Regional Parks, containing more than 1,000 acres. In 2000, the development of the Cloverdale River Park established the first of several public river access sites north of Healdsburg. The Russian River Public Access and Trespass Management Plan identifies the need for small river access sites every six to nine river miles between Healdsburg and the Mendocino County line. The report identified sites for future study, four of which have been included in the Plan Recommendations.

Based on the recommended formula guidelines, some additional community park facilities are needed to address the needs of residents of the unincorporated areas.

North County Recommended Projects:

(Note: In the following recommendations, the number or letter in parenthesis at the end of the description title corresponds to its location on the Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan Figures 8, 9 and 11)

1. Develop a community park in Geyserville (C3)

This proposed community park would be approximately 24 acres. This need has been identified by using the park acreage/population analysis method. The project might be developed under a partnership with the Geyserville School District.

2. Develop a community park between Healdsburg and Windsor (C4)

This proposed community park would be approximately 11 acres. This need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.

**Table 22
Outdoor Recreation Plan Recommendations for Addressing Parkland Needs by
Population/Acreage Standards: North County Planning Area 2**

Community and Neighborhood Parks (Standard 5 acres per 1,000)					
					Acreage
Del Rio Woods Park and Rec. District (1)	243	7 acres	0 acres		
City of Cloverdale	8,200	31 acres	10 acres	City General Plan	
Rural North East including Geyserville	7,100	12 acres	24 acres	Geyserville Community Park (C3)	24 acres
Rural Healdsburg/Windsor	7,957	2 acres	38 acres	Healdsburg Community Park (C4)	38 acres
City of Healdsburg	13,400	45 acres	22 acres	City General Plan	
Town of Windsor	30,200	85 acres	66 acres	Town General Plan	
Regional Recreation Areas (Active) (Standard 5 acres per 1,000)					
					Acreage
67,100	81 acres	255 acres	Preston Bridge River Access (R1) Asti River Access (R2) Geyserville River Access (R3) Riverfront Park (R4) Alexander Valley River Access (R5)		2 acres 2 acres 5 acres 260 acres 5 acres
Regional Parks (Passive) (Standard 15 acres per 1,000)					
					Acreage
67,100	1,053 acres	0	Fitch Mountain Regional Park (OS3) Western Hills Reg. Park (OS4) Mark West Reg. Park (OS5)		206 acres 300 acres 400 acres

(1) The Department of Finance reported that the Del Rio Woods Park and Recreation District served 200 people as of 1988. Using the same growth rate as the rest of the Planning Area, it is estimated that this District will serve approximately 241 people in the Yr. 2010.

3. Develop public river access at Preston Bridge on the Russian River (R1)

The Preston Bridge site encompasses both sides of the river and would contain approximately 2

acres or be of sufficient size to serve local and visiting populations need to access the Russian River. This park need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method and suggested from the Coastal Conservancy's Russian River Trespass Management and Access Plan.

4. Acquire land on the Russian River at Asti for public river access (R2)

This proposed regional recreation area (river access) would be approximately 2 acres or sufficient size to serve local and visiting populations need to access the Russian River. This park need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method and suggested from the Coastal Conservancy's Russian River Trespass Management and Access Plan.

5. Geyserville River Access (R3)

This proposed regional recreation area (river access) would be approximately 2 acres or sufficient size to serve local and visiting populations need to access the Russian River. This need has been identified in the public workshops and Russian River related studies. Development might occur in conjunction with the proposed Community Park (C4). This park need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.

6. Acquire land for Riverfront Park (R4)

The existing restored gravel pits of approximately 260 acres could help meet the need for regional recreation area and river access. This park need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.

7. Acquire land on the Russian River in the Alexander Valley area for public access (R5)

This proposed Alexander Valley regional recreation area (river access) would be approximately 5 acres or sufficient size to serve local and visiting populations' needs to access the Russian River. This park need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method and suggested from the Coastal Conservancy's Russian River Trespass Management and Access Plan.

8. Acquire and develop Fitch Mountain as a regional open space park (OS3)

This proposed regional open space park would be between 200-250 acres. This park would provide a variety of passive recreation opportunities at a prominent landmark, Fitch Mountain. The need for both additional accessible open space and an open space park at Fitch Mountain has been identified by Healdsburg residents and in the Plan workshops and using the park acreage/population analysis method.

9. Acquire and develop Western Hills regional open space park in the hills west of Cloverdale (OS4)

The general location for the proposed 300 acre regional open space park would be east of Lake Sonoma, west of Cloverdale, north of Hot Springs Road and south of Highway 128. This need is identified in the Cloverdale General Plan and through the Plan workshops and using the park acreage/population analysis method.

10. Develop land for a regional open space park in the Mark West Creek Road area (OS5)

A proposed regional open space park would help meet the open space park needs identified for both Park Planning Area 2 and 4 at an area long recognized for its scenic and recreational qualities. Irrevocable offers to dedicate trails have been made to the County in this area over portions of lands protected through SCAPOSD conservation easements. This park need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.

Other Lands

The following projects are assumed to be implemented by other state, federal, and local agencies. They are included in the plan as referenced because they are intended to protect habitat and/or contribute to public recreation in Sonoma County.

11. Development of the Healdsburg Ridge Open Space Preserve for trails (P7)

This proposed preserve could include lands protected through SCAPOSD conservation easements and may include other lands in the Digger Bend area as well. The Healdsburg Open Space Preserve will help meet local and regional need for accessible open space as identified by the City of Healdsburg, Plan public workshops, and other plans.



D. Area 3: Sebastopol and Lower Russian River Areas

Existing Recreation Facilities:

State Parks operates the Austin Creek State Recreation Area and Armstrong Woods State Parks.

The Regional Parks department has two existing regional park facilities in this area (Ragle Ranch Regional Park and Steelhead Beach Regional Park and River Access). Part of Ragle Ranch Regional Park also functions as a community park for West County and City of Sebastopol residents and contains regional sports activities.

The City of Sebastopol operates several community parks and is developing the Laguna Park on the east side of the City.

Several communities in the Lower Russian River area have community parks either through special districts (Russian River Park and Recreation District and Monte Rio Park and Recreation District) or through nonprofit organizations such as the Forestville Youth Park and the Bloomfield Community Park operated by the Bloomfield Community Club. The Bloomfield Park is in need of rehabilitation. It consists of approximately 5.3 acres and is located in the center of Bloomfield.

Several school districts offer the use of their facilities for public recreation during non- school hours. The County in 1996 provided funds to several schools to serve the public during non-school hours (Harmony, Monte Rio and Guerneville).

**Table 23
Outdoor Recreation Plan Recommendations for Addressing Parkland Needs by
Population/Acreage Standards: Sebastopol/Lower Russian River Planning Area 3**

Community and Neighborhood Parks (Standard 5 acres per 1,000)					
					Acreage
Russian River Park and Recreation District including Guerneville (1)	7,309	9 acres	27 acres		
Monte Rio Park and Recreation District (2)	2,302	26 acres	0 acres		
Other Unincorporated Areas including Graton and Forestville	30,489	35 acres	118 acres	Graton Park (C5) South Sebastopol Community Park (C6) West Sebastopol Community Park (C7)	39 acres 40 acres 39 acres
City of Sebastopol	9,200	43 acres	3 acres	City General Plan	
Regional Recreation Areas (Active) (Standard 5 acres per 1,000)					
					Acreage
49,300	217 acres	30 acres	Guerneville River Access (R6) Sunset Beach River Access (R7)		7 acres 23 acres
Regional Parks (Passive) (Standard 15 acres per 1,000)					
					Acreage
49,300	0 acres	740 acres	West County Regional Park (OS5)		740 acres

(1) The Department of Finance reported that the Russian River Park and Recreation District served 6,351 people in 1988. Using the same growth rate as the rest of the Planning Area, it is estimated that this District will serve approximately 7090 people by the Yr. 2010 (includes school areas inside the district boundary).

(2) The Department of Finance reported that the Monte Rio Park and Recreation District served 2,000 people in 1988. Using the same growth as the rest of the Planning Area, it is estimated that this District will serve 2,233 people by the Yr. 2010 (includes school areas inside the district boundary).

Sebastopol/ Lower Russian River Recommended Projects:

(Note: In the following recommendations, the number or letter in parenthesis at the end of the description title corresponds to its location on the Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan Figures 8, 9 and 11)

- 1. Acquire property for a community park in Graton area (C5)**
This proposed park would be approximately 39 acres and would meet the local park needs as identified by the residents of Graton and the surrounding area. This need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.
- 2. Acquire property for a community park in the South Sebastopol area (C6)**
This proposed park would be approximately 40 acres and would meet the local park needs of residents of the area south of Sebastopol and the surrounding area. This need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.
- 3. Acquire property for a community park in the area West of Sebastopol (C7)**
This proposed park would be approximately 39 acres and would meet the local park needs of residents of the areas to the west of Sebastopol and the surrounding area. This need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.
- 4. Develop the Guerneville regional recreation area (river access) on surplus Caltrans property (R6)**
This regional recreation facility would be located on a 6.5 acre site surrounding the south side of the former Highway 116 bridge. This need is identified by the Russian River related plans and the park acreage/population analysis method.
- 5. Develop a regional recreation area at Sunset Beach (R7)**
This regional recreation facility would be located on a 23 acres of property to the west of Hacienda Bridge. This park need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.
- 6. Acquire and develop Regional Park in West County (OS6)**
This proposed regional open space park would be approximately 740 acres and would meet both preservation and compatible recreation needs identified through the Plan public workshops, SCAPOSD acquisition process, and previous proposals in the County. This park need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.

Other Lands

The following projects are assumed to be implemented by other state, federal, and local agencies. They are included in the plan as referenced because they are intended to protect habitat and/or contribute to public recreation in Sonoma County.

7. Acquisition of additional land for the expansion of Austin Creek State Recreation Area (P8)

The expansion of Austin Creek State Recreation Area is intended to expand the State's resource management of the area. The area would be available for passive recreational use.

8. Acquisition and development of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Preserve with trail connections (P9)

The need for a publicly accessible preserve at the Laguna de Santa Rosa has been identified through the Plan workshops, several studies of the Laguna de Santa Rosa. The City of Sebastopol has been developing this project in conjunction with the Laguna Foundation and the State Department of Fish and Game.



E. Area 4: Santa Rosa

Existing Recreation Facilities:

The Santa Rosa Plain area benefits from having Annadel, a large State park adjacent to the southeast area. This park is easily accessible from Santa Rosa through a city park, Howarth Park and the County's Spring Lake Park.

The County operates two regional parks in this area. Spring Lake Park (330 acres), which is within the City limits, is the most-visited regional park in the County system with 440,262 visitors a year (1996-97). In addition, the Regional Parks Department operates the 1450 acre Hood Mountain Regional Park. This is located 5 miles from Highway 12. Since the late 1970s, in the wake of Proposition 13 when manpower was cut back, concern for adequate patrolling during the summer months has meant that this facility is only open during the winter months at weekends and holidays. Renewed interest in reopening Hood Mountain to the public has been expressed as a result of the expansion of Sugarloaf State Park (McCormick Addition) which abuts Hood Mountain Regional Park to the east.

Recommendations from the public workshop held in Santa Rosa in October 1996 demonstrated a continued interest to pursue acquisition and development of Taylor Mountain as a regional park with trail connections to Annadel State Park. The Sonoma County Fairgrounds was considered an underutilized asset for the equestrian community. It was suggested that an equestrian trailhead be developed at this facility.

The Santa Rosa Area has many community and neighborhood parks within the incorporated areas and a County-owned 11-acre park in the unincorporated area of Larkfield-Wikiup.

Several school districts offer the use of their facilities for public recreation during non-school hours. The County in 1996 provided funds through the Community Partnership Youth Project to develop and renovate new sport fields and other school facilities to benefit the public at Bellevue, Roseland, and Kawana schools.

In addition two non-profit groups, the Rincon Valley Little League and the Santa Rosa Ballfield Trust, operate additional ballfields to serve the area's youth.

**Table 24
Outdoor Recreation Plan Recommendations for Addressing Parkland Needs by
Population/Acreage Standards: Santa Rosa Plain Planning Area 4**

Community and Neighborhood Parks (Standard 5 acres per 1,000)						
						Acreage
Rural Santa Rosa	26,600	79 acres	54 acres	Unity Ballfields (C8) Los Guillicos Sports Facility (C9) Maddux Park Expansion (C10)	20 acres 20 acres 14 acres	
City of Santa Rosa	188,200	757 acres	184 acres	City General Plan		
Regional Recreation Areas (Active) (Standard 5 acres per 1,000)						
						Acreage
214,800	330 acres	744 acres	North Santa Rosa Regional Park (R8) South Santa Rosa Regional Park (R9) Doerksen Ranch Regional Park (R10)	300 acres 300 acres 150 acres		
Regional Parks (Passive) (Standard 15 acres per 1,000)						
						Acreage
214,800	1450 acres	1772 acres	Porter Creek Regional Park (OS7) Taylor Mountain Regional Park (OS8) Matanzas Lake Regional Park (OS9) Hood Mountain Regional Park expansion (OS10)	300 acres 800 acres 200 acres 450 acres		

Santa Rosa Plain Recommended Projects

(Note: In the following recommendations, the number or letter in parenthesis at the end of the description title

corresponds to its location on the Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan Figures 8, 9 and 11)

1. Unity Ballfield Project (C8)

This proposed 20 acre community ballfield complex is located on the north side of Santa Rosa in the Larkfield-Wikiup area. The property is already in public ownership. This need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.

2. Los Guillicos Sports Facility (C9)

This proposed 20 acre community park would be located on existing publicly owned land between Santa Rosa and Kenwood. The site has existing infrastructure including sewer, water, roads and parking. This need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.

3. Maddux Park expansion (C10)

Expand existing Maddux Park in the Larkfield-Wikiup area by 14 acres to support more active recreation facilities. This park need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.

4. West Santa Rosa Regional Park (R8)

This proposed regional park between would be located west of Santa Rosa and consist of approximately 300 acres. The park would provide diverse recreational opportunities including areas for organized sports. This park need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.

5. South Santa Rosa Regional Park (R9)

This proposed regional park between would be located between South Santa Rosa and Rohnert Park and consist of approximately 300 acres. The park would provide diverse recreational opportunities including areas for organized sports. This park need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.

6. Acquire lands for a regional open space park in the Doerksen Ranch area (R10)

This proposed park would consist of approximately 150 acres, some of it suitable for active recreation facilities. The need for this type of facility has been identified through Plan workshops and a public survey of recreation needs. This park need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.

7. Acquire land for regional open space park in the Porter Creek area (OS7)

This proposed regional open space park would consist of approximately 300 acres. This park was originally proposed by the State to protect and provide access to the unique features of the Petrified Forest area. This park need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.

8. Taylor Mountain Regional Park (OS8)

This proposed regional open space park would consist of 800 acres and offer recreational opportunities including trails. The need for a regional park at Mt. Taylor has been

identified through public workshops, several previous studies, and the City of Santa Rosa. This park need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.

9. Matanzas Lake Regional Park (OS9)

This proposed regional open space park would be located on existing Sonoma County Water Agency property and consist of approximately 250 acres. This facility would help meet the need for more accessible open space that has been identified through public workshops, previous plans, and recreational surveys. This park need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.

10. Acquire land for expanding Hood Mountain Regional Park (OS10)

This expansion would include approximately 450 acres of land between Hood Mountain Regional Park and Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. This facility would allow for extensive trail system development and the possibility of multi-night trips between Hood Mountain and Sugarloaf Ridge parks. This need has been identified through the Plan workshops and park acreage/population analysis method.

Other Lands

The following projects are assumed to be implemented by other state, federal, and local agencies. They are included in the plan as referenced because they are intended to protect habitat and/or contribute to public recreation in Sonoma County.

11. Acquisition of additional land for the expansion of Annadel State Park (P10)

The expansion of Annadel State Park area is intended to expand the State's resource management of the area. The area would be available for passive recreational use.

12. Acquisition of additional land for the expansion of Sugarloaf Ridge State Park (P11)

The expansion of Sugarloaf Ridge State Park area is intended to expand the State's resource management of the area. The area would be available for passive recreational use.



F. Area 5: South County

Existing Recreation Facilities:

The area is currently served by two regional parks. It is proposed that additional property be acquired to add to the two existing regional parks in the area (Crane Creek Regional Park and Helen Putnam Regional Park). Crane Creek Regional Park could be expanded to the west to connect with Petaluma Hill Road and create a trail link with Sonoma State University and then north toward Fairfield Osborne Preserve. Helen Putnam Regional Park could also be expanded to the east to create more of an interface with the City of Petaluma. It is suggested that a third regional park would be located on Sonoma Mountain.

The City of Petaluma operates Schollenberger Park (50 acres) that consists of trails and other amenities along the Petaluma River.

The 1989 General Plan designation of the Meacham Hill Landfill as a future regional park site may not be a practical park site in the near future due to the long term landfill operation. It is recommended that an alternate site be sought.

The three cities within this area, Petaluma, Rohnert Park and Cotati operate many neighborhood/community parks. Additional neighborhood/community park needs in the unincorporated areas could be met by acquisition of two additional community park properties.

**Table 25
Outdoor Recreation Plan Recommendations for Addressing Parkland Needs by
Population/Acreage Standards: South County Planning Area 5**

Community and Neighborhood Parks (Standard 5 acres per 1,000)					
					Acreage
Rural Cotati	5,800	4 acres	25 acres	South Cotati Community Park (C11)	25 acres
Rural Petaluma	11,900	32 acres	28 acres	West Petaluma Community Park (C12)	28 acres
City of Petaluma	62,600	348 acres	0 acres	City General Plan	
City of Cotati	9,200	42 acres	4 acres	City General Plan	
City of Rohnert Park	52,400	207 acres	55 acres	City General Plan	
Regional Recreation Areas (Active) (Standard 5 acres per 1,000)					
					Acreage
141,900	0 acres	710 acres	South County Regional Park (R11)		700+/- acres
Regional Parks (Passive) (Standard 15 acres per 1,000)					
					Acreage
141,900	345 acres	1,784 acres	Crane Creek Expansion (OS11)		350 acres
			Helen Putnam Park Expansion (OS12)		350 acres
			Southwest Regional Park (OS13)		600 acres
			Copeland Creek Regional Park (OS16)		500 acres

South County Recommended Projects

(Note: In the following recommendations, the number or letter in parenthesis at the end of the description title corresponds to its location on the Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan Figures 8, 9 and 11)

1. South Cotati Community Park (C11)

This proposed community park would be located in the area south of the City of Cotati. This proposed park would be approximately 25 acres and would help meet the local park needs as identified by the residents of the surrounding area. This park need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.

2. West Petaluma Community Park (C12)

This proposed community park would be located in the area west of the City of Petaluma. This proposed park would be approximately 28 acres and would help meet the local park needs as identified by the residents of the surrounding area. This park need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.

3. Acquire and develop a regional recreation area in the south Sonoma Mountain area (R11)

This proposed regional recreation area, South Sonoma Mountain Area would be approximately 700 acres and would be located north of Highway 116 and east of Adobe Road. This park need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.

4. Acquire land for the expansion of Crane Creek Regional Park (OS11)

This proposed expansion of Crane Creek Regional Park may include approximately 350 acres adjacent to the park. This expansion would help meet the need accessible open space in South County. The need for this project was identified at the Plan public workshops and using the park acreage/population analysis method.

5. Acquire land for the expansion of Helen Putnam Regional Park (OS12)

This proposed expansion of Helen Putnam Regional Park may include 350 acres contiguous to the park. This expansion would help meet the need for more additional accessible open space in South County as identified in the Plan workshops and a survey of area residents. This park need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.

6. Acquire and develop a regional open space park in the Southwest County area (OS13)

This proposed regional open space park would be approximately 600 acres and would be located west of Highway 101 south of Sebastopol and north of Helen Putnam Regional Park. The public workshops and previous plans have identified this need. This park need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.

7. Acquire and develop a regional park in the vicinity of Copeland Creek (OS16)

This proposed regional open space park would be approximately 500 acres and would be located on the northwest slope of Sonoma Mountain with the possibility of linking with Crane Creek Park by trail and North Sonoma Mountain Regional Park by trail. This park need has

been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method. Previous plans have also identified this need.

Other Lands

The following projects are assumed to be implemented by other state, federal, and local agencies. They are included in the plan as referenced because they are intended to protect habitat and/or contribute to public recreation in Sonoma County.

8. The City of Petaluma's proposed development of a public access trail and preserve on Lafferty Ranch (P12)

The City of Petaluma has proposed to develop an existing publicly owned property on Sonoma Mountain as a wilderness preserve and hiking trail area.



G. Area 6: Sonoma Valley

Existing Recreation Facilities:

Regional Parks operates the Hudeman Slough Boat Launch, Maxwell Farms Regional Park, Sonoma Valley Regional Park and several small parks in Kenwood, El Verano, Boyes Hot Springs and Fetters Hot Springs.

Sonoma Valley Regional Park contains the main cross valley trail between Arnold Drive and Highway 12. The Regional Parks Department has also land banked an eighty four acre property on the top of Sonoma Mountain that has access to Sonoma Mountain Road.

State Parks have two historic units within Sonoma Valley (Jack London State Park and the Downtown Sonoma Historic District). In addition, the State also operates Sugarloaf State Park.

The Open Space District has acquired a large property (McCormick Ranch) that is now part of Sugarloaf State Park. An irrevocable trail offer has been made to the County over the Freiberg property, which is preserved through a District conservation easement. The uppermost portion of the Sonoma Developmental Center property adjacent to Jack London State Park has been preserved through a District conservation easement. There have also been ongoing discussions with the State Developmental Center to acquire other portions of the property for additional parkland.

The City of Sonoma operates fifteen acres of parks one property is operated under a joint powers agreement with the Sonoma Valley Unified School District.

Sonoma Valley has the largest concentration of residents in the unincorporated area of Sonoma County. These are mainly focussed in the area north of the City of Sonoma in the area that follows the Arnold Drive and Highway 12 corridors. Within this area there are several planned unit developments with their own parks that provide park and recreation facilities for residents (e.g., Temelec, Sonoma Greens and the Elizabeth Park Homeowners Association).

The Sonoma Valley Unified School District maintains and operates thirty-six acres of recreation fields, play areas, tennis courts and a swimming pool.

Suggestions from the public meeting included requests for facilities that included a teen center and swimming pools. Since the public meeting in November 1996, non-profit organizations have organized to raise funds for some of these facilities.

Based on the guideline of a ratio of 5 acres/of Community/Neighborhood parks per 1000 residents, there is a need for an additional 69 acres. However there is a lack of suitable large parcels in the Boyes and Fetters Hot Springs areas with flat areas that could be used for athletic fields.

**Table 26
Outdoor Recreation Plan Recommendations for Addressing Parkland Needs by
Population/Acreage Standards: Sonoma Valley Planning Area 6**

Community and Neighborhood Parks (Standard 5 acres per 1,000)					
					Acreage
Temelec (Planned Unit Development)	1,832	Existing Homeowner provided facilities	0 acres		
Kenwood	1,550	5 acres	2 acres	Alder Park (C13)	2 acres
Unincorporated Areas including Glen Ellen, Boyes Hot Springs, El Verano, Fetters Hot Springs	29,518	79 acres*	69 acres	Boyes Hot Springs Com. Park (C14) El Verano Com. Park (C15) South Sonoma Community Park (C16)	25 acres 22 acres 22 acres
City of Sonoma	13,800	78 acres	0 acres	City General Plan	

*Includes County Service Area #41 (Valley of the Moon Parks), schools and planned unit development parks operated by homeowners associations.

Regional Recreation Areas (Active) (Standard 5 acres per 1,000)				
				Acreage
46,700	90 acres	144 acres	North Sonoma Valley Regional Park (R12)	144 acres
Regional Parks (Passive) (Standard 15 acres per 1,000)				
				Acreage
46,700	171 acres	530 acres	North Sonoma Mountain Regional Park (OS14) Nunns Canyon Regional Park (OS15) Sonoma Valley Expansion	85 acres 350 acres 100 acres

Sonoma Valley Recommended Projects

(Note: In the following recommendations, the number or letter in parenthesis at the end of the description title

corresponds to its location on the Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan Figures 8, 9 and 11)

1. Develop Alder Park property in Kenwood (C13)

This proposed park abuts Sonoma Creek. This is part of an existing publicly owned five-acre property.

2. Boyes Hot Springs Community Park (C14)

This proposed community park would be located in the Boyes Hot Springs area to meet the projected needs. The property would consist of approximately 25 acres. However, the shortage of suitable vacant parcels of land in the area may dictate the need be met by perhaps two or three smaller parks. The community park would provide diverse recreational opportunities including areas for organized sports. This park need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.

3. South El Verano Community Park (C15)

This proposed community park would be located in the El Verano area to meet the projected needs. The property would consist of approximately 22 acres. The community park would provide diverse recreational opportunities including areas for organized sports. This park need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.

4. South Sonoma Community Park (C16)

This proposed park would be located south of the City of Sonoma and consist of 22 acres. The park would provide diverse recreational opportunities including areas for organized sports. This park need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.

5. North Sonoma Regional Park (R12)

This proposed regional park between would be located in the Eldridge area to meet the projected needs of the Sonoma Valley area. The property would consist of approximately 144 acres. The park would provide diverse recreational opportunities including areas for organized sports. The property might be acquired through future surplus of Sonoma Developmental Center property. This park need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.

6. Develop an open space park in the north Sonoma Mountain area (OS14)

The development of an existing 85 acre County-owned parcel on Sonoma Mountain as a regional open space park. This facility will serve as a resource management area with recreational access including trails with connections to Jack London State Park and west to Rohnert Park. The need for trail connections between accessible open spaces has been identified in the Plan workshops, and public recreation studies.

7. Acquire and Develop an open space park in the Nunns Canyon Area east of Highway 12 (OS15)

This proposed 455 acre regional open space park would be located south of Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, north of the City of Sonoma and between Highway 12 and Napa County.

This would serve as a resource management area with recreational access including trails with connections to Sonoma Valley Regional Park and Jack London State Park. This park was in the 1989 General Plan. The trail connection (H) between this proposed park and Sonoma Valley Regional Park was also identified in the 1989 General Plan. This park need has been identified using the park acreage/population analysis method.

Other Lands

The following projects are assumed to be implemented by other state, federal, and local agencies. They are included in the plan as referenced because they are intended to protect habitat and/or contribute to public recreation in Sonoma County.

8. Acquisition of additional land for the expansion of Jack London State Park (P13)

The expansion of Jack London State Park is intended to expand the State's resource management of the area. The area includes trail links for the Bay Area Ridge Trail and trails to Petaluma (AL) and north to Annadel State Park (AN).

9. Acquisition of lands for Sonoma-Napa Ridge Preserve (P14)

This approximately 500 acre proposed preserve is located on the Sonoma-Napa County line in view of Sonoma Valley. This preserve, composed of Bureau of Land Management property and other lands, would protect the headwaters of steelhead bearing streams and support downstream restoration and education projects.

10. Acquisition of Skaggs Island as a wildlife preserve (P15)

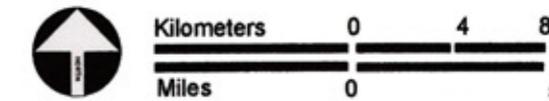
This preserve would protect and restore the San Pablo Bay Wetlands, an identified critical habitat. Public access would be provided by using levees. A trail connection is proposed to connect with the Bay Trail: Second Napa Slough Bikeway (W).

Sonoma County Outdoor Recreation Plan Proposed Regional Recreation Areas & Community Parks

-  Proposed Community Park depicted on the 1989 General Plan Figure OS-4a
-  Proposed Community Park not depicted on the 1989 General Plan Figure OS-4a
-  Proposed Regional Recreation Area depicted on the 1989 General Plan Figure OS-4a
-  Proposed Regional Recreation Area not depicted on the 1989 General Plan Figure OS-4a

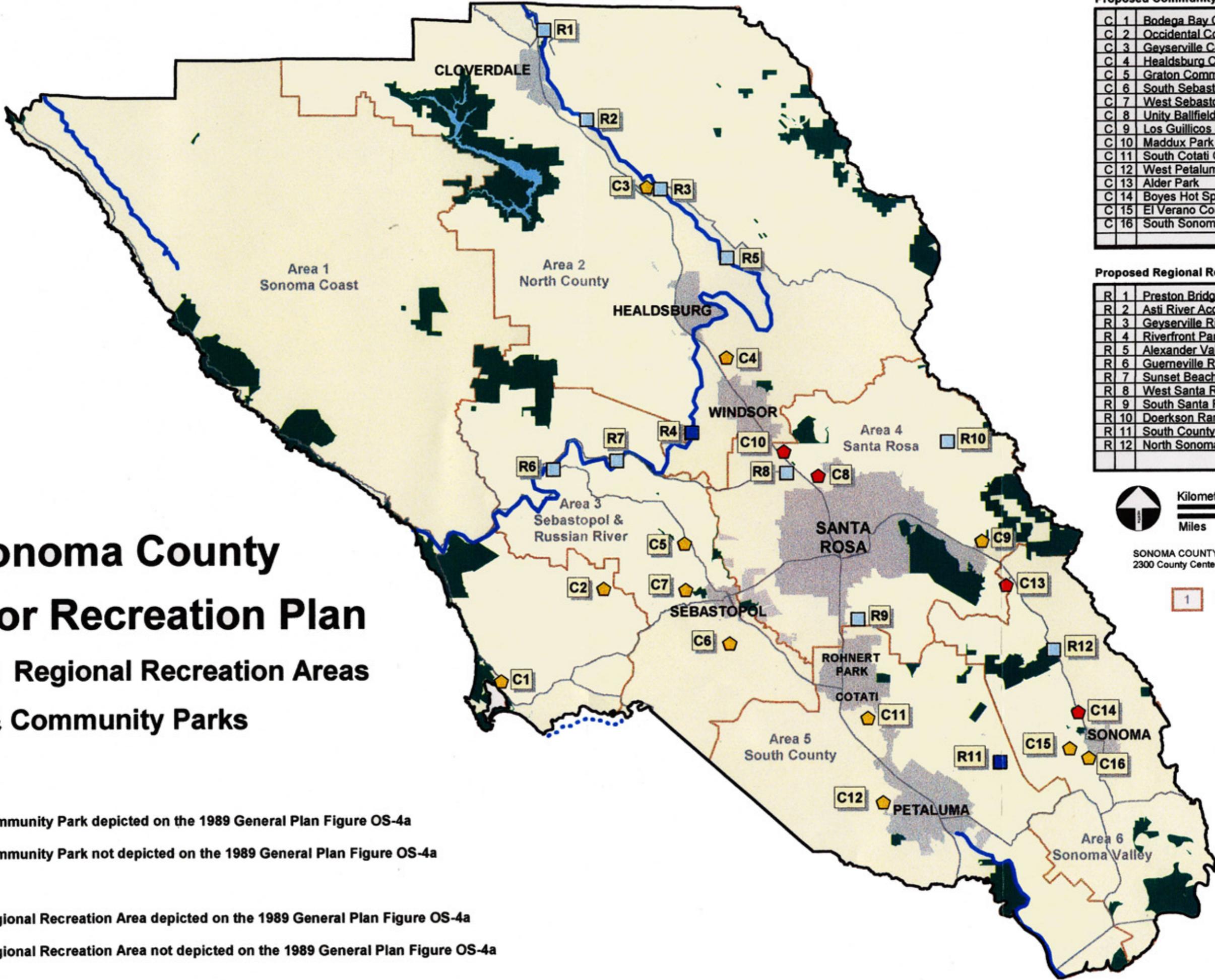
C 1	Bodega Bay Community Park
C 2	Occidental Community Park
C 3	Geyserville Community Park
C 4	Healdsburg Community Park
C 5	Graton Community Park
C 6	South Sebastopol Community Park
C 7	West Sebastopol Community Park
C 8	Unity Ballfields
C 9	Los Guillicos Sports Facility
C 10	Maddux Park Expansion
C 11	South Cotati Community Park
C 12	West Petaluma Community Park
C 13	Alder Park
C 14	Boyes Hot Springs Community Park
C 15	El Verano Community Park
C 16	South Sonoma Community Park

R 1	Preston Bridge River Access
R 2	Asti River Access
R 3	Geyserville River Access
R 4	Riverfront Park
R 5	Alexander Valley River Access
R 6	Guerneville River Park
R 7	Sunset Beach River Access
R 8	West Santa Rosa Regional Park
R 9	South Santa Rosa Regional Park
R 10	Doerkson Ranch Regional Park
R 11	South County Regional Park
R 12	North Sonoma Valley Regional Park



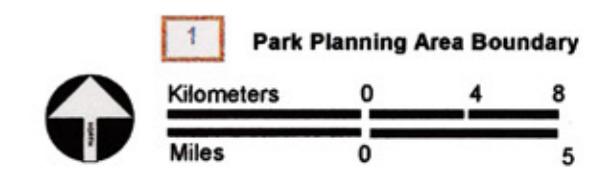
SONOMA COUNTY REGIONAL PARKS DEPARTMENT
2300 County Center Drive 120A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

 Park Planning Area Boundary

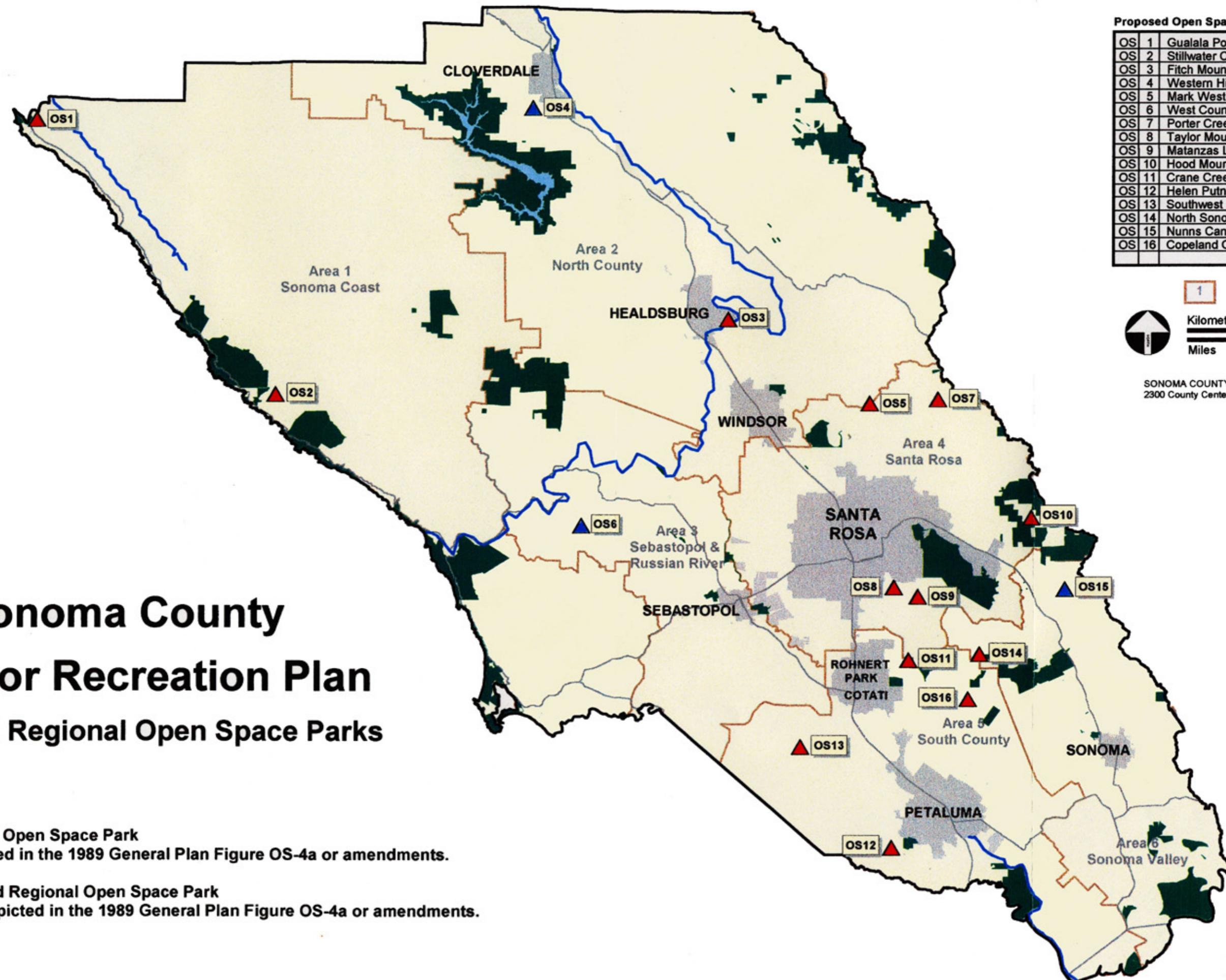


Sonoma County Outdoor Recreation Plan Proposed Regional Open Space Parks

Proposed Open Space Parks		
OS 1	Gualala Point Regional Park Expansion	
OS 2	Stillwater Cove Regional Park Expansion	
OS 3	Fitch Mountain Regional Park	
OS 4	Western Hills Regional Park	
OS 5	Mark West Regional Park	
OS 6	West County Regional Park	
OS 7	Porter Creek Regional Park	
OS 8	Taylor Mountain Regional Park	
OS 9	Matanzas Lake Regional Park	
OS 10	Hood Mountain Regional Park Expansion	
OS 11	Crane Creek Regional Park Expansion	
OS 12	Helen Putnam Park Expansion	
OS 13	Southwest Regional Park	
OS 14	North Sonoma Mountain Regional Park	
OS 15	Nunns Canyon Regional Park	
OS 16	Copeland Creek Regional Park	



SONOMA COUNTY REGIONAL PARKS DEPARTMENT
2300 County Center Drive 120A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403



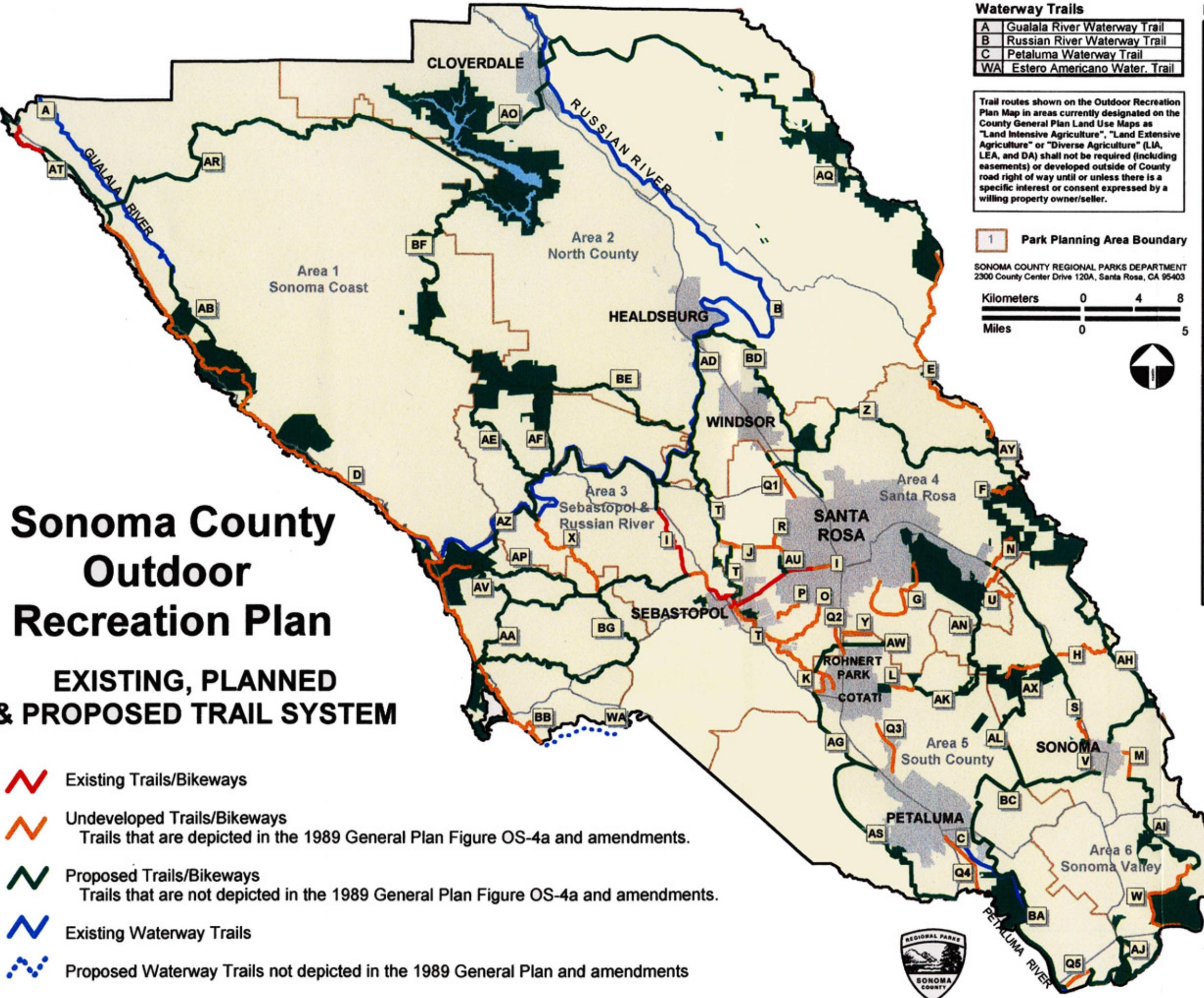
-  Regional Open Space Park depicted in the 1989 General Plan Figure OS-4a or amendments.
-  Proposed Regional Open Space Park not depicted in the 1989 General Plan Figure OS-4a or amendments.



Sonoma County Outdoor Recreation Plan

EXISTING, PLANNED & PROPOSED TRAIL SYSTEM

-  Existing Trails/Bikeways
-  Undeveloped Trails/Bikeways
Trails that are depicted in the 1989 General Plan Figure OS-4a and amendments.
-  Proposed Trails/Bikeways
Trails that are not depicted in the 1989 General Plan Figure OS-4a and amendments.
-  Existing Waterway Trails
-  Proposed Waterway Trails not depicted in the 1989 General Plan and amendments

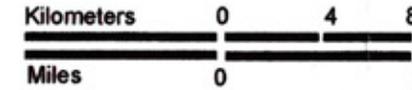


Waterway Trails	
A	Gualala River Waterway Trail
B	Russian River Waterway Trail
C	Petaluma Waterway Trail
WA	Estero Americano Water. Trail

Trail routes shown on the Outdoor Recreation Plan Map in areas currently designated on the County General Plan Land Use Maps as "Land Intensive Agriculture", "Land Extensive Agriculture" or "Diverse Agriculture" (LIA, LEA, and DA) shall not be required (including easements) or developed outside of County road right of way until or unless there is a specific interest or consent expressed by a willing property owner/seller.

 Park Planning Area Boundary

SONOMA COUNTY REGIONAL PARKS DEPARTMENT
2300 County Center Drive 120A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403



Multi-use Trails	
D	Sonoma Coast Trail 1
E	Stevenson Trail
F	Hood Mountain Trail North
G	Taylor Mountain Trail
H	Valley of the Moon Trail
L	Copeland Creek Trail
N	Bay Area Ridge Trail: Hood Mountain- Annadel Trail
Z	Mark West Creek Trail
AA	Bodega-Sebastopol Trail
AB	Coastal Ridge River Trail
AD	Russian River Trail
AE	Armstrong Redwood Trail
AF	Old Cazadero Trail
AG	Central County Trail
AH	Mayacamas Ridge Trail South
AI	South Sonoma Valley Trail
AJ	BayTrail: Skaggs Island to Lakeville Highway
AK	Rohnert Park-Jack London Trail
AL	Bay Area Ridge Trail: Petaluma to South Sonoma Mt.
AN	Bay Area Ridge Trail: Jack London-Annadel
AO	Cloverdale-Lake Sonoma Trail
AP	Willow Creek Trail
AQ	Geysers Trail
AR	Kelly Road Trail
AS	Bay Area Ridge Trail / Helen Putnam Trail
AT	Sonoma Coast Trail 2
AV	Willow Ck-Coleman Valley Trail
AX	Sonoma Developmental Center
AY	Mayacamas Ridge Trail North
AZ	Monte Rio to Coast Trail
BA	Petaluma Marsh Trail
BB	Short Tail Gulch Trail
BC	Bay Area Ridge Trail / Adobe to Adobe Trail
BD	Foothill Trail
BE	McCray Ridge Trail
BF	The Cedars Trail
BG	Salmon Creek Trail

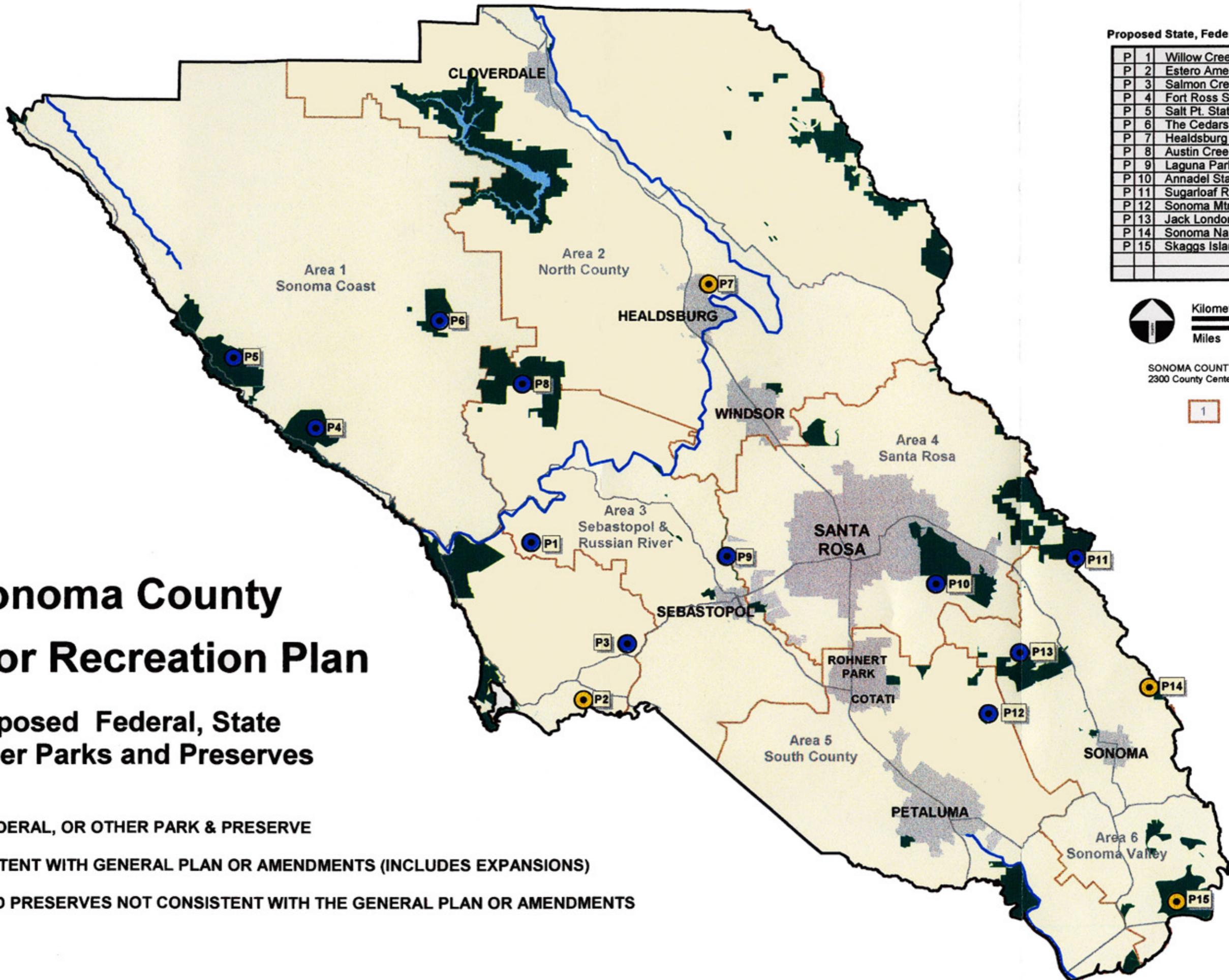
Class 1 Bikeways	
I	West County Trail
J	Santa Rosa Ck. Trail (unincorporated)
K	Gossage Trail
M	Sonoma Railroad ROW Trail
O	Colgan Creek Bikeway
P	Roseland Creek Bikeway
Q1	NWPRR Windsor-Santa Rosa
Q2	NWPRR Santa Rosa-Rohnert P.
Q3	NWPRR Rohnert Park-Petaluma
Q4	NWPRR Petaluma-Marin Co.
Q5	Bay Trail: NWPRR Port Sonoma-Lakeville
R	Peterson Creek Bikeway
S	Central Sonoma Valley Trail
T	Laguna de Santa Rosa Ck
U	Kenwood-Santa Rosa Trail
V	Sonoma Creek
W	Second Napa Slough Bikeway
X	Dutch Bill Creek Bikeway
Y	Hunter View Creek Bikeway
AW	Belleview Trail
AU	Santa Rosa Creek-West County Trail



Sonoma County Outdoor Recreation Plan

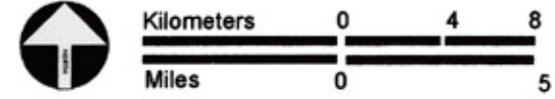
Proposed Federal, State & Other Parks and Preserves

-  STATE, FEDERAL, OR OTHER PARK & PRESERVE
-  CONSISTENT WITH GENERAL PLAN OR AMENDMENTS (INCLUDES EXPANSIONS)
-  PROPOSED PRESERVES NOT CONSISTENT WITH THE GENERAL PLAN OR AMENDMENTS



Proposed State, Federal Parks and Preserves

P 1	Willow Creek State Park
P 2	Estero Americano Preserve
P 3	Salmon Creek Preserve
P 4	Fort Ross State Park Expansion
P 5	Salt Pt. State Park Expansion
P 6	The Cedars Preserve
P 7	Healdsburg Ridge Open Space Preserve
P 8	Austin Creek SRA Expansion
P 9	Laguna Park
P 10	Annadel State Park Expansion
P 11	Sugarloaf Ridge State Park Expansion
P 12	Sonoma Mtn. Preserve (Lafferty Ranch)
P 13	Jack London State Park Expansion
P 14	Sonoma Napa Ridge Preserve
P 15	Skaggs Island Preserve



SONOMA COUNTY REGIONAL PARKS DEPARTMENT
2300 County Center Drive 120A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

 Park Planning Area Boundary



VII. FINANCING OPTIONS



This chapter describes the likely financial costs of implementing the Plan and the various funding options that may be available to implement the recommendations of this Plan. These include the voter-approved 1990 Measure C that created the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, federal and state grant funds for acquisition and development and restoration of parks; developer park mitigation fees; transit occupancy taxes; parcel taxes; and increases in user fees. In addition, this chapter includes recommendations of specific financing measures that might be considered to assure the successful implementation of the Plan.

A. Estimate of Likely Costs

The following is a financial projection of the costs of implementing the proposals described under the Plan. It is anticipated that by coordinating efforts with federal, state, local and non profit groups, some of these organizations could become partners in implementing the Plan.

The Plan would more than double the acreage of the existing County Regional Park system. The needs analysis indicates that there is a shortage of Community and Neighborhood Parks in the unincorporated areas of the County based on the formula of 5 acres per 1000 residents this would require the construction of an additional 376 acres of these types of parks by the year 2010. In addition, the increase in responsibilities to implement and manage a substantially increased Class 1 bikeway and Multi-Use trail system will create a resulting increase in capital expenditures and annual maintenance and operations costs. Details of costs are included in Appendix 7.

In calculating likely costs related to the implementation of the Plan, the following components have been considered:

1. Acquisition and Development Costs

The total estimated cost for implementing the acquisition and development costs associated with the recommendations of this plan is almost \$194.9 million.

Plan includes estimates of likely costs of acquisition. These were prepared using a licensed appraiser and data reflected in recent sales and appraisals. This included analysis of right of way costs in acquiring trail corridors. This information is at a programmatic level and estimates should not be considered as parcel specific. Every acquisition would be subject to a detailed full appraisal. The total acquisition costs are estimated to be \$89.7 million.

Development costs are based on an analysis of past development costs and projections. Estimated facility development costs are likely to be almost \$105.2 million.

Of the \$194.9 million in acquisition and development costs, over \$77.8 million is reflected in projects that are not completed from the 1989 General Plan amended. A total of \$117.1 million reflects additional projects that would be added should the Draft Plan be adopted. The largest single category addition being Community and Neighborhood Parks accounting for \$58.1 million of the increase.

Table 27
Estimated Acquisition and Development Costs by Facility Type.

TOTAL ALL AREAS	Acquisition	Development	Total
Open Space Parks	\$35,580,000	\$9,619,500	\$45,199,500
Regional Recreation Areas (including River Access)	18,474,000	18,061,268	36,535,267
Community/Neighborhood Parks	15,872,000	45,203,286	61,075,285
Trails	19,788,887	32,343,150	58,132,037
TOTAL ALL AREAS	\$89,714,887	\$105,227,202	\$194,942,089

Table 28
Estimated Acquisition and Development Costs by Planning Document.*

TOTAL ALL AREAS	Ex General Plan	Additional ORP Proposed	Total
Open Space Parks	\$34,363,000	\$10,836,500	\$45,199,500
Regional Recreation Areas (including River Access)	14,941,107	21,594,160	36,535,267
Community/Neighborhood Parks	2,130,000	58,945,285	61,075,285
Trails	26,365,087	25,766,950	52,132,037
TOTAL ALL AREAS	\$77,799,194	\$117,142,895	\$194,942,089

* Planning document refers to those projects that are either in the Existing General Plan, and Additional Projects proposed under the Plan. It should be noted that these refer to likely costs and not funding sources for recreation projects.

For more detailed breakdown of facility costs by individual Planning Area:
See Appendix 7.

2. Cost of Operation and Management of proposed facilities

For the purposes of this Plan, the plan has considered only those management costs that might be borne by the County Regional Parks Department in managing the expanded County Parks system. Figures for operating different types of parks and trails were derived from data collected by the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department's Cost Accounting system. The County Auditor's Office has reviewed the information that was collected and further refined the data.

Annual management costs to implement the recommendations of this plan are estimated to be \$10.3 million (in 2002 dollars). This is broken down as follows:

Table 29
Estimated Annual Management Costs.

Summary of Estimated Annual Operation and Maintenance Costs	Ex General Plan	Additional ORP Proposed	Total
Parklands			
Open Space Parks	\$1,369,570	\$454,510	\$1,824,080
Regional Recreation Areas incl. River Access	880,281	1,794,999	2,675,280
Community/Neighborhood Park	338,637	2,960,903	3,299,540
Trails	1,386,370	1,158,397	2,545,343
Total	\$3,974,858	\$6,369,385	\$10,344,243

For more detailed breakdown of facility costs:
See Appendix 7.

B. Funding Sources

There are several state and federal grants programs available for park and recreation development. Most of these grant programs are competitive programs requiring some local matching funds.

1. Acquisition and Development Funds

a. Sales Tax

The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District was established by Measure A approved by the voters in 1990. It is funded by a 1/4 cent sales tax approved by the voters through Measure C. This sales tax, which generates approximately \$11.5 million/year, has a 20-year sunset provision.

Regional Parks in cooperation with SCAPOSD has already acquired several properties for development and use as trails and regional parks. Other properties and conservation easements that have recreation potential have been acquired by the SCAPOSD.

b. Parkland Dedication

Park lands can be dedicated under the County Park Mitigation fee ordinances. Dedication usually only occurs in subdivisions in excess of fifty residential units. There is a formula that is used to determine what amount of land needs to be dedicated. In the past this has been 5 acres per 1000 population. Fifty unit subdivisions are not common in the unincorporated areas of Sonoma County and have not triggered the parkland dedication requirement since its inception in 1986. The Board of Supervisors has in consideration of overriding public benefit, accepted properties from developers as dedications of parks, most notably Shiloh Ranch Regional Park, Foothill Regional Park, the expansion of Helen Putnam Regional Park, Gualala Point Regional Park and Maddux Community Park.

c. Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds

This program has been in existence since 1964. Congress passed legislation to create the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to support the creation of parks, forests, clean water, open spaces, and to guarantee outdoor opportunities and a clean environment for Americans. Each year, the fund receives \$900 million primarily from federal off-shore oil and gas revenues.

In its 34 years of existence, it has been responsible for the acquisition of nearly 7 million acres of park land and open space, and the development of more than 37,000 parks and recreation projects. Since the establishment of LWCF, Sonoma County benefited by \$679,875 between 1969 and 1988, making some of the most strategically important parkland acquisitions and development in Sonoma County. However, in every year since 1979 Congress has failed to appropriate as much as 85 percent of the fund and those funds that are appropriated benefit federal agencies (National Parks Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management). Beginning in 2000, there has been the introduction of legislation in Congress (Conservation and Reinvestment Act or

CARA) that would return funding to the states. Although final numbers have not yet been determined, it was estimated that California would receive in excess of \$324 million per year of which \$184 million would be under Land and Water Conservation Funds and an additional \$50 million in other competitive grant programs.

d. Sale of Existing County Rights-of-way

The County holds easements over many properties for roads and public access to the coast, shoreline beaches or rivers. When the County is petitioned to abandon these easements, PRMD charges a fee for staff to process the request. This review includes applicable plans (e.g. The General Plan, Area Plans, Specific Plans) to determine whether the easement is needed for planned roads, trails, Bikeways, or other public uses. If the easement is not needed, there is no value obtained from the petitioner for the easement. However, if the County wants to acquire an easement, the County has to pay “fair market value”. It is recommended that the County consider a policy to obtain fair market value for the easement that it is disposing of and place the proceeds in a trust fund to acquire future easements, including trails.

e. Cooperative Projects with Other Agencies

Sonoma County Regional Parks manages several properties that were acquired by other county or state agencies. These include management arrangements with the Sonoma County Water Agency for Spring Lake Park and the proposed Riverfront Park. There are also similar arrangements for several river access sites purchased by the State Wildlife Conservation Board. It is anticipated that if State agencies approach the County with similar proposals in the future, and if they are compatible with the Regional Parks’ mission, additional publicly accessible lands could be acquired through these cooperative ventures.

f. Surplus Land from Federal and State Agencies

Many of Sonoma County’s parks were created with lands declared surplus by the federal government (Hood Mountain Regional Park) and by the State of California (Sonoma Valley Regional Park). There are still some Bureau of Land Management and State General Services Administration properties in Sonoma County that have been identified in this plan for potential use as public recreation, either as part of managed preserves or as trails. These include Skaggs Island, BLM property on the Sonoma/Napa border and the Cedars property northwest of Austin Creek State Recreation Area.

g. Park Mitigation Fees

Since Proposition 13, most County departments involved in the provision of infrastructure (such as roads, sanitation and parks) have relied on developer impact fees (mitigation fees) and federal and state grants to meet the cost of new facilities. These fees can only be used for the acquisition and construction of new park facilities or renovation of older facilities where there would be net improvement in service.

These fees are collected from new residential construction in the unincorporated areas of the County. (Cities have their own Park Mitigation fees). However, the amount of fees collected in a fiscal year is subject to economic fluctuations in the residential construction industry. The total amount of park

mitigation fees collected in FY 2000/01 was \$514,000. Since 1989, Regional Parks' strategy has been to maximize the value of these Park Mitigation fees by using them as leverage for additional funding from competitive federal, state and local grant sources.

h. Local Park Bonds

Although this technique has been used by School Districts, Fire Districts and other government services, it has not been used in Sonoma County to fund recreation infrastructure. General Obligation bonds would require a two-thirds majority of the electorate. Several local parks bonds measures have been successful in other parts of the Bay Area, notably East Bay Regional Parks Districts Measure A in 1988.

i. Federal Transportation Funds

These grants require local matching funds. Regional Parks has committed using a combination of Transportation Development Act (TDA), Article 3 funds and Park Mitigation Fees as the local match.

j. Federal Community Development Block Grant Program

These funds come to the Sonoma County Community Development Commission from the federal government and can be used to develop new park facilities in low to moderate income neighborhoods, or to renovate park facilities for the disabled to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

k. State Bond Funds

The passage of Proposition 12 and Proposition 13 by the voters of California in March 2000 and the passage of Proposition 40 in March 2002, will provide State funds under various programs that could be used to implement parts of the proposed Plan. State funding requires that proposed projects be found consistent with the County General Plan.

l. Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program

This competitive grant program is administered by the California Transportation Commission. Funds can be used for projects that enhance and mitigate the environmental impacts of modified or new public transportation facilities. Development of bikeways is eligible. Local matching funds are required.

m. Habitat Conservation Funds

The California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 (Proposition 117) provides \$2 million annually in competitive grants for the acquisition and development of property for the protection of wildlife habitat. Thus far, the County has received \$270,000 from this fund under the eligible categories of "riparian habitat" and "wildlife corridors and urban trails". Local matching funds are required.

n. State Wildlife Conservation Board Boat Launch Development Funding (Dingle-

Johnson Act)

Funds are available to local agencies for development of fishing related activities such as boat launching and attendant facilities (parking, restrooms, landscaping, etc.). The County has received \$200,000 from the WCB to assist with developing Steelhead Beach Regional Park. A local match is not required.

o. State Coastal Conservancy

The Coastal Conservancy provides grant funds to acquire and develop public access along the Pacific Coast and the Russian River. Matching funds are required. The Conservancy has funded numerous acquisition and development projects for the County.

Local matching funds are required.

p. California Environmental License Plate Fund (SB 1165)

Provides competitive grant funds to local agencies to acquire real property in order to preserve natural areas and protect wildlife and its habitat.

q. Fishery Restoration Grants Program

The California Department of Fish and Game provides funds on an annual basis to public agencies for watershed and riparian habitat restoration. This source has been used by the County for improvements at Hood Mountain Regional Park.

r. Coastal Resources Grant Program

Administered by the State Resources Agency, this competitive grant program provides funds to coastal counties and cities for the protection of recreational resources such as coastal viewsheds, aesthetic coastal sites, beaches, and dunes. Local matching funds are required.

s. Local Transportation Funds

i. Transportation Development Act, Article 3, Funds:

This fund is derived from gasoline tax, of which a portion comes to the County via the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. Under Article 3, the money can be used for bikeway related projects.

ii. Transportation Fund for Clean Air

Also known as AB 434, this program is funded by a surcharge on motor vehicle registrations. The funds can only be used to reduce air pollution from motor vehicles. Class I bikeways are eligible if it can be shown that commuters will bike to work instead of driving a vehicle. Competitive applications are made to the Sonoma County Transportation Authority, with final approval from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District who controls the funds.

2. Maintenance and Operation Funding

a. Transient Occupancy Tax

The total Transient Occupancy Tax (hotel, motel, bed and breakfast and campground bed tax) collected in the unincorporated areas of the County is slightly more than \$3.6 million (FY 1996/97). The tax rate is 9 percent.

The Regional Parks Department received \$576,999 /year (1996/97) for operation of existing park and recreation facilities this includes the funding of a full time Sonoma County Probation Camp work crew.

b. Other Tax Options

The 1995 SRI survey asked respondents whether they were prepared to pay additional taxes to support the Regional Park system. A total of 58 percent of respondents favored a regional sales tax to pay for an expanded park system. Only 25 percent favored a parcel property tax.

According to the SRI survey, in order to get over the two third's majority support for any tax measure, development and acquisition of new parks had to be part of the purpose of the tax.

Option 1: A Parcel Property Tax for Regional Parks and Trails

Since the passage of Proposition 218 in November 1996, only property owners may vote in elections for benefit assessment districts.

In September 2001, the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority became the first public land management organization in the Bay Area to pass a benefit assessment measure to fund not only land acquisition, but development and management. The benefit assessment district will raise \$8 million annually for those purposes. Unlike the sales tax initiative, there is no sunset provision under Santa Clara's measure.

Option 2: Regional Sales Tax

The reason for a regional sales tax is usually to pay off bonds for specific capital improvements (e.g., roads) or for specific purposes such as the Open Space District's quarter cent sales tax. Sales tax measures often contain a "sunset" provision. Because of limits on bonding capacity, most local government entities are often unwilling to commit sales tax on a long-term basis because of unexpected or anticipated future needs.

c. Increase in User Fees

Day Use Fees. In the past the Regional Parks Department has increased fees to keep pace with inflation. However, as most day use areas are on the honor system, there is little way of forcing park visitors to pay the fees. Fee collection does increase at those facilities with manned entry stations.

Camping Fees. It is estimated that increasing camping fees by \$1/year could generate approximately \$50,000/year.

C. Financial Recommendations

1. Continue to seek out, develop and expand partnerships with other public/private and nonprofit agencies through appropriate cost-sharing mechanisms.
2. Continue funding support, increasing incrementally, for expansion of the park system and inflation (Consumer Price Index) for operation and maintenance of park and recreation facilities.
3. Continue the collection of user fees (park entrance fees, camping fees) and concession payments to support facility maintenance.
4. Promote the use of concessionaires to augment services to the public, in keeping with the concession and special-use policy. Concessions could be used to operate special recreational facilities, such as equestrian centers, food service, or retail sales services, at park sites, consistent with the department's mission.
5. The Regional Parks Department, The Sonoma County Water Agency and the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District will aggressively seek grants, donations of funds, assets, and services that support the Plan goals.
6. The County will coordinate with and/or provide services to other agencies when the activities are related to the department's mission. Service agreements will include provision for payments to the department sufficient to support the direct and indirect cost of providing such services.
7. The various incorporated cities within Sonoma County should be encouraged to (1) provide adequate local-serving parks and recreation services for their residents; and (2) provide recreation services to nearby unincorporated areas with appropriate County participation either through provision of "in-kind" service or project funding.
8. Establish a zone of benefit within the existing boundaries of County Service Area 41 for expanded park and recreation services.
9. Encourage park development adjacent to elementary, junior and senior high schools to benefit from shared use of land and facilities. A joint-use program with local school districts should be pursued, where feasible, to develop necessary agreements for cost-sharing arrangements for parks near schools.
10. Continue to use development impact fees (Park Mitigation Fees) to maximize leverage for grant funds.
11. Explore the development of a fund that can use the proceeds from the sale of County owned easements to be used for future trail acquisition.

This page has been intentionally left blank

VIII. REFERENCES



1. ABAG, Projections – (2000).
2. California Outdoor Recreation Plan, State of California Resources Agency, Department of Parks and Recreation, (1993).
3. “Campground Study”, the Bay Area Open Space Council, (1994).
4. Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, A Project of the National Recreation and Park Association and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, James D. Mertes, PhD, CLP, and James R. Hall, (1996).
5. Park Neighbor Survey, Sonoma County Regional Parks, (1997).
6. “Physical Activity and Health”, U.S. Surgeon General, (1992).
7. Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California, An Element of the California Outdoor Recreation Planning Program, California State Parks, (March 1998).
8. “Recreation on the Russian River”, Sonoma County Regional Parks, (1976).

9. Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, Edited by Roger A. Lancaster, National Recreation and Park Association, (1983 revised 1987).
10. The Bay Area's Public Lands: Database Compendium, Greenbelt Alliance.
11. "The Economic Benefits of Watchable Wildlife Recreation", California Department of Fish and Game, (1991).
12. "The Impacts of Rail Trails", the University of Pennsylvania, (1992).
13. The Russian River Public Access and Trespass Management Plan, State Coastal Conservancy, (1995).
14. U.S. Census Data for Sonoma County, (2000).