AUGUST 2009

SHASTA COUNTY

PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the many citizens, staff, and community groups who provided extensive input for the development of this Parks, Trails, and Open Space Plan. The project was a true community effort, anticipating that this plan will meet the needs and desires of all residents of our growing County.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In the summer of 2008, Shasta County initiated a process to develop its first Parks, Trails and Open Space (PTOS) Plan. This plan is intended to help coordinate public, private and non-profit agency resources, identify community needs for parks and recreation, and provide a set of clear and achievable recommendations for the County to consider when updating policy or evaluating projects that enhance the community's parks and recreation opportunities. Based on this intent, the plan provides an in-depth review of the county's current assets, discusses the issues and opportunities it faces, and provides a series of policy and project recommendations for the County to consider.

This plan deals with both the entity of Shasta County and the area of Northern California that the County governs. For clarity, when the word County is intended as the government of Shasta County it will be capitalized, while the non-capitalized county will refer to the geographic area.

INTENT OF THE PLAN

The intent of the Parks, Trails and Open Space Plan is to identify the issues and opportunities for improving the provision of parks, trails, and open space in Shasta County. The plan outlines a set of strategies and recommendations for meeting current and future community needs based on changing trends in recreation, new patterns for recreation participation, and new areas of growth and development in the county. Specifically, this plan recommends:

- Policies to maximize economic vitality, community health and environmental sustainability through parks, trails, and open spaces;
- Improvements to existing County facilities, and
- A strategy for the development of future parks and trails.

The policy recommendations made in this plan are provided as a resource for the updating of the County's General Plan. Many of the important ideas, drawn from the input of Shasta County residents, have the potential to influence policy in the park and recreation element as well as in the transportation and land use elements. With these recommended policies available, Shasta County can update the General Plan to recognize the importance of parks, trails and open space to the success and livability of this region.

In times of tight budgets and constrained resources, any implementation timeline will need to be flexible and focused on the long term. It is exactly at times like this that planning is particularly important. The project recommendations and implementation plan have been developed with this in mind, and the recommendations are designed to be made as resources become available and the economy begins to recover. With the ideas included in this plan, the County can think deliberately and carefully about how it will adapt and manage change, and be prepared to take advantage of new opportunities when they arise.

BENEFITS OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Parks, trails and open spaces generate a host of benefits for individuals and the County. Some of these are quantifiable economic benefits, such as the impact of fairs and festivals on tourism dollars, or the capacity of parks and open space to store stormwater and reduce flooding. Other benefits are more challenging to quantify but are important when considering the value of parks, trails and open space to a community. These benefits include the importance of parks and open space in attracting businesses, improving individual physical health, or reducing crime. Other intangible benefits include an improved sense of community, and the value of nearby nature in enhancing learning and the well-being of children.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Economic prosperity is one of the primary reasons to construct park facilities. Most cities and real estate developers can attest to the value added to park-adjacent residential and commercial properties. Many real estate developers have determined that the initial cost of developing a parks, trails and open spaces is returned through increased home values, quick home sales, and desirable neighborhoods. The same has been shown to be true for most types of parks in communities across the country, both currently and historically, dating back to the development of Central Park in New York City.

The same attractiveness that drives up property values near parks benefits a county as a whole by making a community attractive to residents, employers, tourists, and new businesses. Some economic benefits are direct such as fees received through rentals and classes, the impact of tourism dollars, or the dollars spent in the community on specific recreation activities, such as wildlife viewing. Other economic benefits are indirect, such as the increase of property values in close proximity to parks.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Promoting human development and well-being is another major category of benefit that parks (and particularly recreation services) can bring to a community. Parks, trails and open space provide places to connect with nature and reinvigorate the body and mind. The current awareness of the obesity epidemic raises the profile of the active living component of park facilities and recreation classes. This is just one of the more direct benefits that can also include lifelong learning and skill development. Parks also provide a place for gatherings and other social events that bring residents closer together, build social capital and increase the sense of community. Although hard to measure, this sense of community has been shown to reduce crime, create stronger neighborhoods and increase the success of children in school.

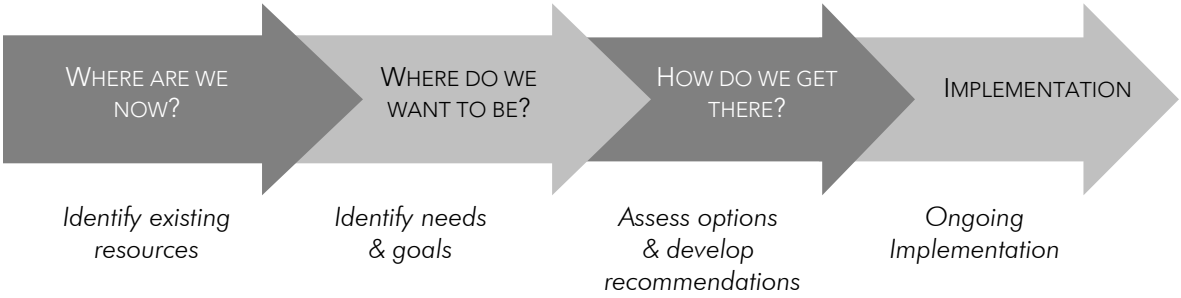
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The natural environment also benefits from parks and open spaces. These green spaces provide fish and wildlife habitat, serve as an area to recharge and filter storm water runoff and provide clean air. In urban environments, parks can also reduce the heat island effect associated with large expanses of pavement and other impervious surfaces. Environmental programming can also promote environmental awareness, natural ecosystems and conservation.

PLAN PROCESS

The planning process begins with an overall analysis of the park, trail and open space resources in Shasta County, provided by federal, state and local authorities. From this expansive view of recreation opportunities and resources, the planning process drew on local expertise and community knowledge to identify gaps in facilities and services and opportunities for improving parks, recreation, trails, and open space provision. The planning process for the Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan was organized into four phases, as depicted in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Planning Process



Phase I: Where Are We Now? In phase I, the consultant planning team reviewed the planning context, the inventory of parks and facilities and an evaluation of assets. The information collected included a demographic profile, review of land use and development patterns and a synopsis of relevant, previously completed planning studies. The County also convened a project advisory committee to help inform and guide the planning process.

Phase II: Where Do We Want to Be? The planning team took the basic context information and used it in reaching out to the community. Community members identified major park and recreation needs and priorities through a series of public involvement efforts. In addition to the qualitative community input, the planning team conducted technical analysis of the existing park system, facilities and trails and an analysis of existing recreation programs.

Phase III: How Do We Get There? Based on the findings of the first two phases, the planning team developed recommendations to help the community realize preferred future PTOS conditions within the County. These recommendations address parks and facilities, trails and natural areas.

Phase IV: Implementation: In the final phase of the planning project, the team presented the recommendations for public review to staff, the project advisory board, residents and the County Supervisors for refinement and acceptance. This phase continues as the County considers its role and updates the General Plan and the community moves forward with its park and recreation projects.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Involving the public in the development of this plan was important to make sure that the variety of interests in Shasta County were given an opportunity to influence the outcome of the process. The collective knowledge of the community about the recreation opportunities, needs and desires for parks, trails and open spaces ensures that the plan reflects the best information available. The following methods were used in this process:

- **Project Advisory Committee (PAC)**

  The Project Advisory Committee for the Shasta County Parks, Trails and Open Space Plan was formed to discuss how the plan can make the most of existing resources and what new connections and facilities are needed. The committee consists of representatives from key city, county and federal agencies providing recreation opportunities in the county. The agencies include Shasta County Public Health, City of Redding, City of Anderson, City of Shasta Lake, California State Parks, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Stewardship Council, and McConnell Foundation.

- **Stakeholder Interviews/Focus Groups**

  MIG conducted a series of interviews with key stakeholders as a part of the development of Shasta County's first Parks, Trails and Open Space Plan. The planning team held four meetings with community members who had experience with parks, trails and open space in Shasta County. Specific discussion topics included rural community parks, trail construction, local property development and public and private land ownership. In addition, the planning team also held a rural community park focus group to discuss organizational, funding and other issues that pertain to the planning and development of rural parks.

- **Community Workshops**

  Two workshops allowed the public to speak about the planning process for the Shasta County Plan. The first workshop was held February 5th at 6pm in the Shasta County Board of Supervisors Chambers in Redding. The second workshop was held February 7 at 9am in the Burney Vets

Hall in Burney. A total of 85 community members attended both three hour workshops.

PLAN ORGANIZATION

The Shasta County Parks, Trails and Open Space Plan is organized into six chapters and four appendices. These include:

- **Chapter 1: Introduction** describes the purpose of the plan, the public involvement and planning process and the organization of the document.
- **Chapter 2: Existing Conditions** describes the planning context and area, and summarizes the current inventory and availability of parks, recreation facilities and programs in Shasta County, including Federal, State, and Cities.
- **Chapter 3: Needs Analysis** presents key findings from the public involvement process, and outlines key needs.
- **Chapter 4: Policy Recommendations** describes a set of guiding policies for parkland, trails, open space and organizational development.
- **Chapter 5: Project Recommendations** describes strategies for enhancing the PTOS resources in Shasta County. The chapter includes specific recommendations for developing the proposed system.
- **Chapter 6: Implementation** breaks down the policy recommendations and project actions into short-term and long-term strategies that clarify the current and future roles envisioned for the County.

The appendices to this plan include the following:

- **Appendix A: Key Resource Inventory** presents the inventory of current and proposed regional and local park sites in Shasta County, along with a summary of recreation opportunities.
- **Appendix B: Local Park Development Process** presents guidelines for the design and development of future community parks within the unincorporated communities of Shasta County.
- **Appendix C: Funding Options** details the potential funding sources Shasta County could use to implement capital and non-capital projects, as well as fund ongoing operations of the park system.
- **Appendix D: Previous Planning Efforts** summarizes various County and City documents and reports relevant to this planning process.

2. EXISTING CONDITIONS

Shasta County encompasses a large land area with diverse land uses and property ownership. An overview of existing conditions is included to provide a better understanding of the complex character of Shasta County. This chapter also identifies park and recreation resources, and other important considerations and opportunities. In addition, this chapter:

- Defines the Shasta County planning area;
- Describes the existing and future population, the County's history and natural resources and key stakeholders that will influence the provision of parks and recreation; and
- Summarizes park lands, recreation facilities and trails.

A complete inventory of county-wide parks and recreation resources is provided in Appendix A. In addition, Appendix D provides a summary of relevant planning documents.

PLANNING AREA

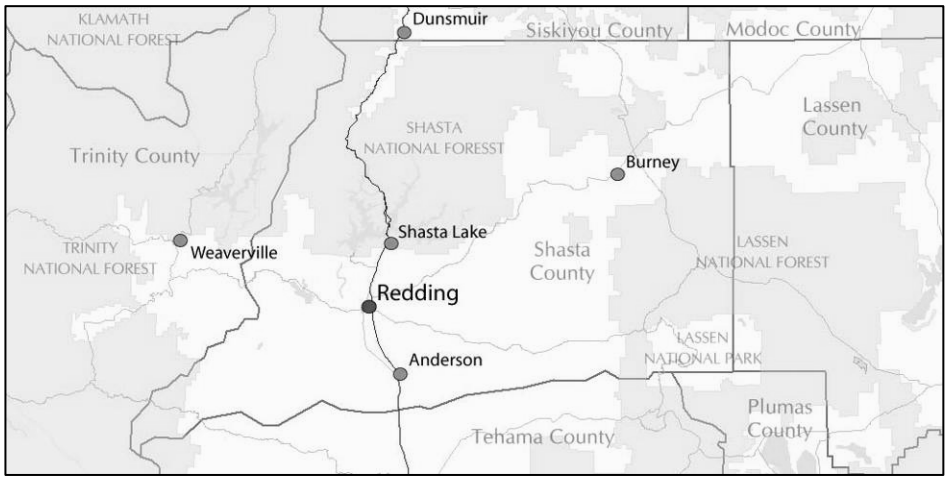
The planning area for the Parks, Trails and Open Space Plan includes the area within the Shasta County limits. The area is estimated at 3,850 square miles or 2,428,000 acres. Within this boundary are the incorporated cities of Redding, Shasta Lake and Anderson with 29 unincorporated towns and rural centers spread throughout the county. In addition, five federal forests and national park sites lie partially or solely within Shasta County. These include Lassen National Forest, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and Lassen Volcanic National Park.

The county's terrain varies from low valleys to steep forested mountains. It is bounded by the Cascade Mountain range to the east and north and the Coast Mountain range to the west. Mount Lassen, located in Lassen Volcanic National Park, is the county's highest peak at 10,457 ft., whereas the lower elevations of 400 to 700 ft. are on valley floor around the City of Redding.

Interstate Highway 5 is the main north-south corridor through Shasta County, linking Shasta Lake, Redding and Anderson. Highway 299 is the main east-west highway connecting Redding with Burney and Fall River.

The Sacramento River and Shasta Lake are the county's most identifiable water features. The head of the Sacramento River lies in Siskiyou County and flows south through Shasta County toward Sacramento. The river provides recreational opportunities in the cities of Redding and Anderson. The stream systems of Battle, Bear, Churn, Clear, Clover, Cottonwood, Cow and Stillwater flow into the mainstem of the Sacramento River south of Shasta Lake, whereas Hat, Squaw, Fall, McCloud and Pit Rivers flow directly into Shasta Lake.

Figure 2: Regional Context



COMMUNITY PROFILE

Shasta County contains a wide range of agencies including cities, counties, special service districts and private organizations that manage park units as well as historic and natural resources. The major recreation destinations are found in the undeveloped open space and natural areas of national recreation areas, national parks, wilderness areas and State Parks. The challenge of this planning process is to increase coordination of and access to the wide variety of resources that are owned and managed by different entities.

COMMUNITY TYPES

There are a variety of Shasta County communities, all with different needs related to parks and recreation. While some communities provide a full array of urban services to their residents, others are reliant on regional facilities for recreation opportunities. The Shasta County General Plan describes four types of communities that exist in the county. The consideration of park and recreation needs by community type

should be combined with the consideration for the individual needs of each community.

The Shasta County General Plan community types are summarized below along with the types of services these communities are generally responsible for providing.

Urban Center: Urban centers provide a full range of urban services within the boundaries of incorporated cities. Within urban centers, the cities are responsible for providing for park and recreation services.

Urban Center Cities
▪ Anderson
▪ Redding
▪ Shasta

Town Center: The General Plan defines town centers as unincorporated areas with smaller populations than those of urban centers. Public services in town centers are typically provided by the County and/or limited-purpose special districts. Currently, the County does not provide significant park and recreation services to town center communities.

Town Center Communities
▪ Burney/Johnson Park
▪ Cottonwood
▪ Fall River Mills/McArthur
▪ Palo Cedro

Rural Community Center: Rural community centers have few, if any, urban services. The General Plan characterizes these areas as having a low population density, with residents who desire a more rural lifestyle.

Rural Community Center Communities	
▪ Bella Vista	▪ Montgomery Creek
▪ Big Bend	▪ Mountain Gate
▪ Cassel	▪ Oak Run
▪ Castella/Sweetbriar	▪ Old Station
▪ Centerville	▪ Ono
▪ French Gulch	▪ Platina
▪ Happy Valley	▪ Round Mountain
▪ Hat Creek	▪ Shasta/Keswick
▪ Igo	▪ Shingletown
▪ Jones Valley	▪ South Dunsmuir
▪ Lakehead	▪ Viola
▪ Lakeshore	▪ Whitmore
▪ Millville	

Rural Homesite: Rural homesites exist on larger parcels. Density is often described in terms of acres per unit rather than minimum lot size. Rural homesites have limited services, and because these designations are physically separated from communities, there are no specific rural homesites identified by the General Plan.

POPULATION

In 2000, Shasta County's population was 165,200. By 2006, the population had reached almost 179,900. This 2006 figure is the most current official estimate of the population of Shasta County and is used for analysis in this plan update process. The projected future population in 2025 is 246,500, based on Shasta County Planning Department population projections. Table 1 summarizes population data used in the planning process.

Table 1: Shasta County Population Growth

YEAR	POPULATION
2000	165,200[1]
2006	179,900[2]
2025	246,500[3]

Source: [1]US 2000 Census, [2]U.S. Census 2006 American Community Survey, [3]Shasta County Planning Department

According to the Shasta County General Plan, the majority of the County's population lives along the Interstate 5 corridor. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 84% of the population lives in the Sacramento Valley within the cities of Shasta Lake, Redding, Anderson and the unincorporated community of Cottonwood. Approximately 5% of the population lives in northeast Shasta County in the unincorporated communities of Burney/Johnson Park, Fall River Mills/McArthur, Cassel and Hat Creek.

HISTORY

In the early 1800's, the first European settlers to arrive in Shasta County were of Spanish, American and Russian descent. They came to trap and explore the area for the Hudson Bay Company and other enterprises. In 1848, the gold rush began in northern California and an abundance of prospectors moved to the Shasta County area in hopes of finding their fortune mining gold, silver, copper and other metals. Over the years, the miners settled in areas that became known as Whiskeytown, Millville, Cottonwood and Redding. At the turn of the 20th century, an economic downturn occurred when mining was no longer profitable.

A second surge in economic and population growth came in the late 1930s and 1940s when building of the Shasta Dam and the post-World War II construction boom brought an influx of people. What was to become, the City of Shasta Lake was established and Redding became a regional center as a result of this economic boom. The timber industry grew significantly in the years after World War II and continued to be a major industry until the early 1990s. Today, much of the regional economy is driven by construction, retail trade and tourism. Redding is the County seat and serves as the center in providing shopping, health care, education and government services in Shasta County.

NATURAL RESOURCES

While natural resource lands may be considered environmentally sensitive and have limited development potential, they also have potential for recreation benefits and open space conservation. Aside from providing park and recreation opportunities, the protection of natural resource areas can have a number of other benefits such as protecting unique landforms, maintaining habitat and preserving riparian and vegetative cover.

A major tourist attraction and quality of life attribute to the area is the abundance of natural resources. Residents have attributed the high quality of life to clean air and water, abundance of wildlife and extensive opportunities to recreate in nature. Oak woodlands, pasture lands and grasslands make up the landscape in the lower

elevations of Shasta County. Coniferous forests are the dominant habitats at higher elevations. An abundance of wildlife can be found throughout the county and fisherman can find excellent fishing throughout the area. Salmon, steelhead, and trout are found in many of the waterways, and waterfowl can be found in the Fall and Sacramento Rivers. Due to human activities that have changed natural habitats, numerous animal and plant species are now threatened and endangered in Shasta County. Table 2 lists these threatened and endangered animal and plant species.

Table 2: Listed Threatened and Endangered Animal and Plant Species in Shasta County

ANIMAL SPECIES	
Sierra Nevada Red Fox	Wolverine
Bald Eagle	American Peregrine Falcon
Swainson's Hawk	Greater Sandhill Crane
Bank Swallow	Shasta Salamander
Winter-run Chinook Salmon	Spring-run Chinook Salmon
Fall-run Chinook Salmon	Late Fall-run Chinook Salmon
Steelhead Trout	Rough Sculpin
Shasta Crayfish	Northern Spotted Owl
Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle	Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp
Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp	Willow Flycatcher
Shasta Sideband Snail	
PLANT SPECIES	
Orcuttia Tenuis	Boggs Lake Hedge-hyssop
Greene's Tuctoria	

Source: 2004 Shasta County General Plan

STAKEHOLDERS

There are a number of public agencies managing land use within Shasta County that are involved in park and recreation planning and services. In some cases these agencies may operate recreation facilities, such as trails, campgrounds or boat ramps while other stakeholders may own land or other resources with potential recreational value.

State and Federal

State and Federal jurisdictions within Shasta County include the California Department of Fish and Game, California State Parks, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Reclamation. The federal government manages over 20% of the land in the county, playing a significant role in providing outdoor recreation opportunities in the area.

Shasta County

Shasta County government provides a wide range of services to residents throughout the county. The Shasta County Board of Supervisors sets policy for and oversees at least 25 different service areas, ranging from child support services to weight and measures, as well as administrative services and other supporting functions. Within this range of services, the County's four park sites are maintained by the Facilities Division within the Public Works Department.

Incorporated Cities

Each of Shasta County's three incorporated cities, Redding, Anderson and Shasta Lake, has a developed park system of its own with a variety of park types. The Anderson Parks and Recreation, Redding Community Services and Shasta Lake Public Works departments maintain their respective parks.

Unincorporated Communities

Shasta County's General Plan also recognizes 29 unincorporated communities. Governmental functions and services for these communities are provided by the County government. Some of these communities have established local parks with the help of community foundations or other service groups.

Other Service Providers

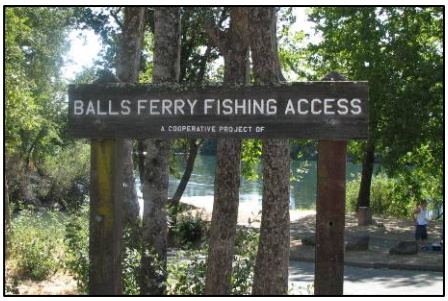
The county has a variety of water districts that provide safe drinking water for residents. The districts help secure a clean source of water and encourage water conservation through watershed enhancement projects, infrastructure improvements, community education and reclaimed water. These jurisdictions are potential partners in providing recreation opportunities. For example, they may help in identifying location of trails along water corridors.

In 2004, the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council (Stewardship Council) was created to distribute PG&E land as part of a company settlement. The Stewardship Council is a non-profit organization with 18 representatives from government agencies, water districts, forest and farm industry groups and other stakeholders. Over 140,000 acres of PG&E land, of which 49,000 acres of land lie in Shasta County watershed areas, is being conserved in perpetuity for a variety of conservation uses. The two watershed units in Shasta County are the Pit-McCloud River Unit (38,223 acres) and Cow-Battle Creek Unit (11,085 acres). Both of these watershed units provide recreational activities such as fishing, camping and picnicking.

Shasta County is served by 25 school districts with a total of 64 schools from elementary to high school. These sites can also be considered a recreation resource. Most of these facilities include playgrounds and some field space, and many include

gymnasiums in addition to classroom spaces. The Shasta County Office of Education oversees these districts at the County level.

EXISTING RESOURCES



For the purposes of this plan, the inventory of parks and facilities is classified by scale and function. This allows each resource to be viewed by the intended geographic range within which visitors travel to the site and by the amenities that are provided in the park. The review of existing resources is based on sites identified during the planning process and includes a comprehensive list of park and recreation sites throughout Shasta County, including County-owned lands and state, federal and other agencies and providers. Appendix A provides a complete list of all identified resources in the county as well as a description of the scale and function each serves. The existing conditions maps (*Map 1: West Shasta County, and Map 2: East Shasta County*) provided on pages 13 and 15 show where these sites are within the county.

SCALE

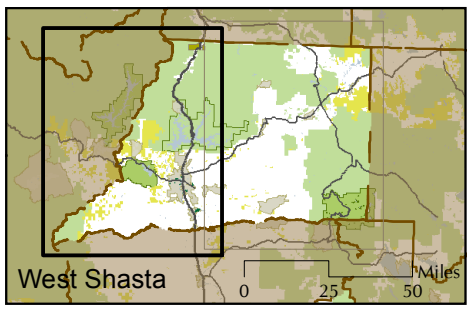
Scale is representative of the general area and population that a park or facility serves. Scale can also be considered as the service area of a resource or the distance people are willing to travel to visit it. Understanding the scale of a site helps determine who the park or recreation resource is designed for as well as the importance or significance of the resource to the user. There are two scales in Shasta County: regional resources that serve the entire county (and beyond) and local resources that are primarily used by a surrounding community. This distinction can be used to describe the role that the County and other entities should play in providing park and recreation facilities and services.

> **Regional:** A regional facility is designed to appeal to residents from throughout the county and beyond. Regional facilities provide access to unique natural or cultural features and/or regional-scale recreation facilities. They can accommodate large group activities and often have infrastructure to support large gatherings such as tournaments, special events and festivals. Regional facilities enhance the economic vitality and identity of the region. These facilities may also include significant green space to preserve unique natural areas, tree canopy, riverfront corridors, wetlands and remnant landscapes. Examples of regional facilities are Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, Hat Creek, Redding Soccer Park, Shasta Lake, and Swasey Recreation Area.

1. Sacramento River Bend Area
2. Lake Redding Park
3. Redding Aquatic Center
4. Caldwell Park
5. Peppertree Natural Area Park
6. Churn Creek
7. Lema Ranch
8. Big League Dreams Ballpark
9. Redding Soccer
10. Enterprise Park
11. South Bonneyville Boat Launch
12. Parkview Riverfront Park
13. Turtle Bay Boat Launch
14. Riverfront Park
15. Convention Center & Grounds
16. Benton Dog Park
17. Mary Lake Park

Dunsmuir
Castle Crags State Park
Castella Mini-Park
Shasta-Trinity National Forest
Trinity Lake
Shasta National Recreation Area
Shasta Lake
Weaverville
Lewiston Lake
Lewiston
French Gulch
French Gulch
Chappie Shasta Off-Highway Vehicle Area
Margaret Polf Park
City of Shasta
Bella Vista Park
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
Whiskeytown Lake
Keswick Reservoir
Redding
Shasta State Historic Park
Swasey Recreation
Palo Cedro Community
Millville
Palo Cedro
Lower Clear Creek
Cloverdale Trailhead
Shasta District Fairgrounds
Anderson River Park
Anderson
Happy Valley Community Park
Volonte Park
Balls Ferry Boat Ramp
Cottonwood Community Center and Park
Cottonwood
Reading Island Recreation Area
Cottonwood Downtown Park
SHASTA-TRINITY NATIONAL FOREST
Miles
0 5 10

Shasta County Parks, Trails, and Open Space Plan
Shasta County, California



Local Park/ Recreation Area
Regional Park/ Recreation Area
National Park
City Park
State Park
Bureau of Land Management
National Forest
City Limits
Other County
Water Feature
Census Designated Place
Interstate
Major Road
River / Water Access
Natural and Scenic Area
Historical/Cultural
Trail
Camping
Competitive Sports
Community Space
Regional Event Venue
Visitor Amenities
OHV

Map 1: Existing Resources - West

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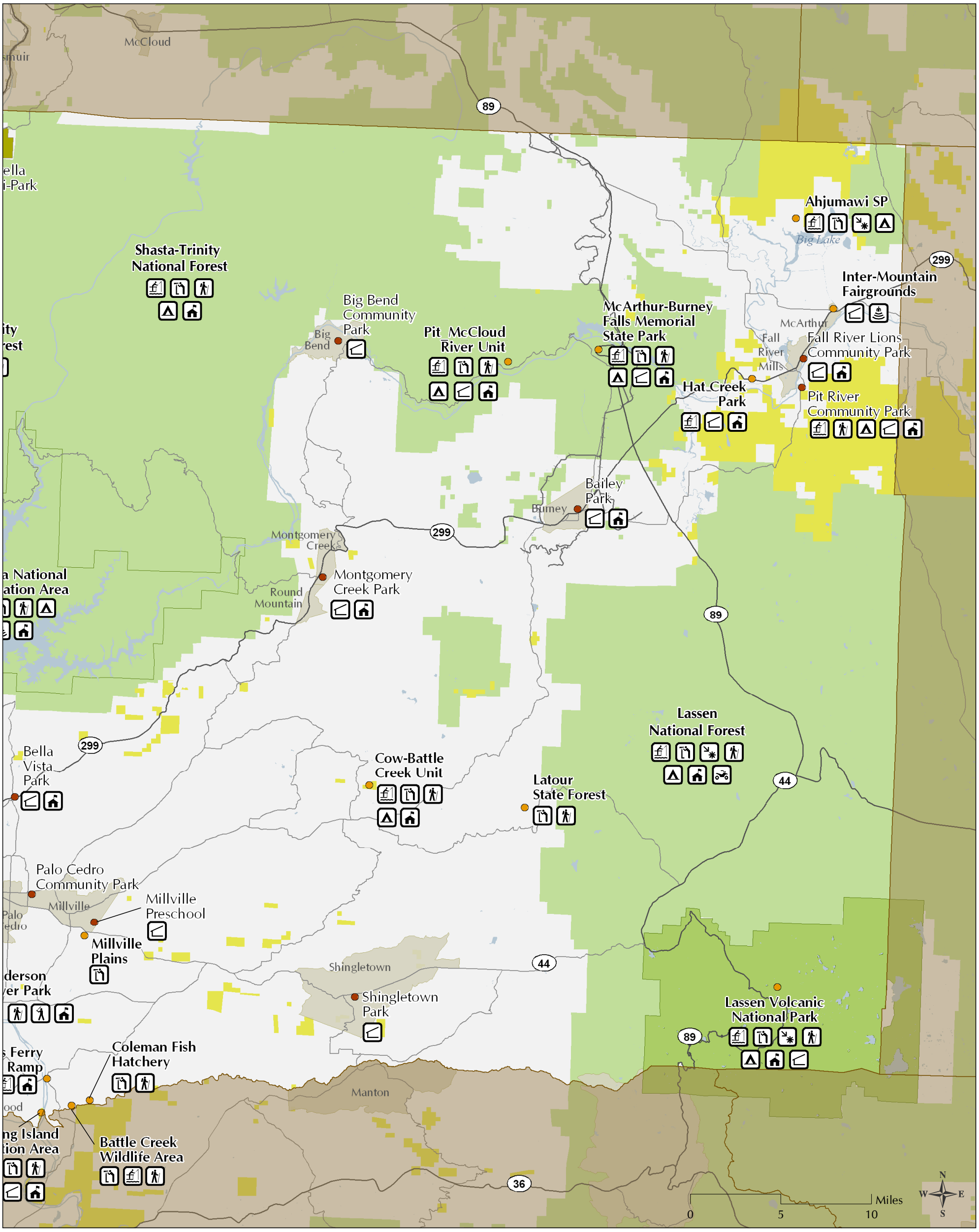
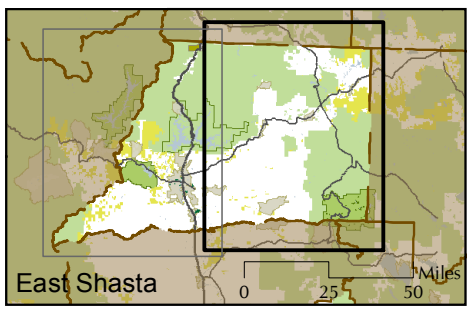
August 2009 Data Sources: Shasta County, ESRI, and California Spatial Library



Shasta County Parks, Trails, and Open Space Plan

Shasta County, California



- Local Park/ Recreation Area
- Regional Park/ Recreation Area
- National Park
- City Park
- State Park
- Bureau of Land Management
- National Forest
- City Limits
- Other County
- Water Feature
- Census Designated Place
- Interstate
- Major Road
- River / Water Access
- Natural and Scenic Area
- Historical/Cultural
- Trail
- Camping
- Competitive Sports
- Community Space
- Regional Event Venue
- Visitor Amenities
- OHV

Map 2: Existing Resources - East

MIG

August 2009 Data Sources: Shasta County, ESRI, and California Spatial Library

Local: A local facility provides close-to-home recreation opportunities for nearby residents. Typically smaller in size, these facilities are designed to serve neighbors within walking and bicycling distance of the facility. Local facilities include amenities such as playgrounds, outdoor sport courts, sport fields, picnic tables, pathways and multi-use open grass areas. Examples of local facilities are neighborhood parks, Cottonwood Community Center and most rural community parks.

FUNCTION

Function is the use of the facility/site and the role it plays in the recreation system in Shasta County. During the planning process, ten broad categories were identified for this discussion. It is important to note that many of the key resources serve many of these functions. The functions and a brief description are listed below.

- **River/Water Access:** These facilities provide opportunities for fishing, boating, water edge play and access and swimming. Examples include Ahjumawi Lava Springs State Park, French Gulch, Parkview Riverfront Park and Turtle Bay Boat Launch.
- **Natural and Scenic:** These facilities provide viewpoints, rare or unique habitats and opportunities to enjoy and explore nature. Examples include Lassen Volcanic National Park, Churn Creek, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, and Castle Crags State Park. Depending on the type of resource, these may be more or less accessible or protected.
- **Historical/Cultural:** These facilities offer interpretation of the history of the area and venues for performing and cultural arts. Examples include Caldwell Park, Lassen Volcanic National Park and Shasta State Historic Park.
- **Trail:** These facilities include access points such as trailheads and corridors as seen in the Shasta Trinity Trail. Other examples include Hornbeck Trail, Westside Hiking Trail and Sacramento River Rail Trail.
- **Camping:** These facilities include overnight sites intended for RV, car or walk-in opportunities. Examples include Ahjumawi Lava Springs State Park, Cow-Battle Creek Unit, McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park and Sacramento River Bend Area.
- **Competitive Sports:** These sites provide large-scale facilities that support tournament play. Examples include Redding Soccer Park, Big League Dreams Ballpark and Redding Aquatic Center.
- **Community Space:** These facilities provide opportunities for picnicking, community gatherings, playgrounds, and generally, the functions that neighborhood and community parks serve. Examples

include Shasta District Fairground, Shasta State Historic Park and Fall River Lions Community Park.

- **Regional Event Venue:** These are major sites focused on a specific event or type of event. Examples include Shasta District Fairgrounds, Redding Aquatic Center and the Convention Center and Grounds.
- **Visitor Amenities:** These facilities include information kiosks, rest areas and other features that assist visitors and local users in enjoying travel and the exploration of Shasta County. Examples include Bella Vista Park, Lake Redding Park, French Gulch and South Bonnyview Boat Launch.
- **OHV:** These facilities provide the infrastructure for parking, trail access and designated off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation areas. The chief example of this type of facility is the Chappie Shasta Off-Highway Vehicle Area.

RECREATION PROGRAM PROVIDERS

While the emphasis of this plan focuses on park and recreation land and providers, the discussion of recreation in Shasta County would not be complete without an overview of recreation programming. As addressed in Chapter 3, this overview can also determine park and recreation facility needs. Recreation programming is provided by public, private, and non-profit organizations in Shasta County. These organizations vary in the services provided and in intended age groups. Generally, public agencies offer the most variety in programming, whereas non-profit and private organizations specialize in select activities.

An important component in recreation programming is the understanding where activities take place. Many of the key resources discussed in the previous section provide the space for activities. These include regional and local sites that have indoor and outdoor opportunities.

PUBLIC AGENCY RECREATION PROVIDERS

The City of Redding Recreation Department is the provider with the most programming and most used recreation programs in Shasta County. The three largest indoor recreation centers include Caldwell Recreation Center, Redding Aquatic Center and Martin Luther King, Jr. Multicultural Center. The recreation categories offered by the department include:

- Sports: Football, Soccer, Volleyball, Baseball, Softball, Tennis, Basketball, Lacrosse, Dodgeball, Golf, Kickball;
- Tot Time;

- Dance and Fitness;
- Yoga and Martial Arts;
- Fitness, Stretching, Jump Roping;
- Backpacking, Snow Shelters, GPS;
- Financial Planning, Crochet, Art, Shasta Gem & Mineral;
- Personal Enrichment-Art;
- Drums, GPS, Gaming;
- Senior Activities; and
- Aquatics.

The City of Anderson Parks and Recreation Department provides organized recreation programming. Classes include dancing, aerobics and strength training, baton twirling, softball, football, soccer, baseball, basketball and yoga. The activities are specific for toddlers, teens, adults and seniors. The Anderson Teen Center provides both organized and drop-in activities. These activities include computer use for homework and games; dance studio; and games such as air hockey, foosball and pool.

Some events are coordinated by multiple parks and recreation departments. An example is the North State Skate Series, a special program staged by city recreation departments and held at skateparks in Redding, Anderson and Red Bluff.

The National Park Service provides organized activities throughout the year at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and Lassen Volcanic National Park. These include ranger-led interpretive walks, snowshoe hikes and evening programs.

OTHER RECREATION PROVIDERS

A number of private recreation providers are located throughout the county. The major providers are for court sports, field sports, golf, gun and archery, equestrian, roller skating/hockey, senior centers, swimming, boating and skiing.

The Redding Record Searchlight newspaper maintains a comprehensive list of private recreation providers in the Shasta County and surrounding area. The website is www.shastaoutdoorfun.com.

3. NEEDS ANALYSIS

The needs analysis provides a basis for system-wide recommendations, including the potential acquisition and development of new parks, trails, and open space sites, the renovation of existing parks and trails and potential partnerships with other service providers. The findings from this analysis help inform the set of policy and project recommendations in the following chapters.

This chapter presents key findings and trends from the results of community involvement activities. It also presents the methods and data used to analyze needs in Shasta County. This chapter organizes the discussion into four main sections: Parks, Trails, Open Spaces and Organizational Needs. Each section describes the current planning context and relevant policies, followed by public involvement input, and an analysis of needs.

COMMUNITY NEEDS ANALYSIS KEY FINDINGS

The needs analysis generated a wide range of issues, opportunities and needs. Throughout the entire planning process, the following key ideas emerged.

- **A need for local parks**

  Most of the discussion around park and recreation sites concerned improving or adding new community parks in unincorporated town centers. Many of these communities need financial assistance or technical expertise in the development of a park. The needs analysis also identified that schools can be potential sites to add a park.

- **A need for increased awareness of resources**

  In many cases, significant recreation activities and resources are already available. However, the public, particularly visitors, may not be aware of these opportunities. There is currently no comprehensive information clearinghouse or coordinator for these resources. In addition, the public views the County government as a necessary link to further develop parks, recreation facilities and trail opportunities. The County is also perceived to have access to funding sources for parks and trails that other agencies do not. Raising funds for renovations and land acquisition was mentioned as a challenge for some communities. Because of limited

funds and the desire to build community involvement, the public also discussed the support for volunteerism.

- **A need to develop trail system connections**

  Trail connectivity for recreation and transportation opportunities was one of the most discussed topics during the planning process. Members of the public indicated that trails connecting towns throughout the county are important. Areas of interest include trails from the county's east side to the Redding area, the completion of the Shasta-Trinity Trail and connecting Redding with nearby unincorporated communities. Public input also noted that trails can be considered a good investment because they provide a high value relative to cost. The needs analysis indicated that railway lines, powerline easements and canals could be considered for trail corridors.

- **A need to improve open space management**

  The public identified the natural character of Shasta County as one of its key assets. People move to the county for its natural beauty, and residents often cite it as one of the main reasons they live in Shasta County. In order to protect this natural character, open lands surrounding and within residential areas should be preserved. The protection of open space and natural areas for their ecological value was also mentioned during the public involvement process.

PARK NEEDS

As discussed in Chapter 2, the General Plan describes four community types in Shasta County: Urban center cities; town centers; rural community centers; and rural homesites. Urban centers are incorporated communities that have city governments to provide park and recreation services. Rural homesites have few people and limited services. This chapter does not identify specific needs for these two community types. The majority of unmet park and recreation needs relate to town center and rural community center communities. Both of these communities are primarily reliant on Shasta County for most public services.

METHODOLOGY

Evaluation of Shasta County's park needs includes a review of land providers in the County, an analysis of public involvement findings and the evaluation of community services anticipated in the Shasta County General Plan. Based on the discussion of scale presented in Chapter 2, park needs in Shasta County are generally local or regional in nature. Local park need is based on a community's identified need for close to home recreational opportunities. This need can be met by providing a

smaller park designed to serve neighbors within walking or bicycling distance. Regional park need is based on county-wide or regional attraction to a unique site or land area. Regional sites typically accommodate large group activities and special events. It is also possible that a site could accommodate both local and regional needs; a regional park in proximity to a rural community would therefore fulfill the needs of two different scales. To justify development of a local park, an individual community would have to express community-wide need for such a facility, while a regional destination would be based on the needs of multiple groups, communities or portions of the county. Appendix B: the Local Park Development Process provides a good reference for moving forward with the park planning process.

The park needs section provides an analysis of these two scales of developed park sites based on the character of the county and the distribution of the population centers within it. The methodology includes an examination of local priorities, park access, the number of planned parks and current policies addressing park land. It is important to note that this analysis is intended to set a base level of park service. Need for additional park land over this basic level is a local community decision that will be based on changes in the community over time. In addition, the County may find that additional park acreage is necessary based on additional studies and analyses.

LOCAL PARKS

In many of Shasta County's rural communities the desire to have a place to play and gather has resulted in the development small community supported park sites and the shared access to school facilities. These efforts have resulted in varying levels of success and an uneven distribution of developed park opportunities in communities across the county. While some communities have long established community parks that have developed substantial community support, others have been unable to keep up the initial effort required to maintain park land. Some communities have yet to complete the initial development of planned park sites. Table 3 lists the rural community parks in Shasta County. For reference, the table also shows the community designation as specified in the Shasta County General Plan.

There are eight existing and two planned local parks in Shasta County. The existing rural community parks are located in several Town Centers and Rural Community Centers. These existing parks are developed to different degrees, reflecting the level of community organization around parks and the resources that are available. Maintenance and operations for these park sites are typically provided by volunteer community organizations and school districts. The two planned parks are the result of local community support.

Table 3: Rural Community Parks

PARK SITE	OWNERSHIP	COMMUNITY TYPE
Existing		
Bailey Park (Burney)	County Community Network	Town Center
Cottonwood Community Park	Cottonwood Community Foundation	Town Center
Fall River Community Park	Fall River Lions Club	Town Center
Bella Vista Park	Local School District	Rural Community Center
Big Bend Community Park	Indian Springs School	Rural Community Center
Castella Mini-park	Castle Rock Community Preschool	Rural Community Center
Millville Preschool	Millville Preschool	Rural Community Center
Montgomery Creek	Local School District	Rural Community Center
Shingletown Early Childhood Playground/Park	Local School District	Rural Community Center
Planned		
Happy Valley Park	Peltier Family Trust*	Rural Community Center
Palo Cedro Community Park	Palo Cedro Community Park Association	Town Center

* The Peltier Family Trust. Has committed the property to the Happy Valley Park project pending a permanent property owner
Note: Parks located on school property may have limited access or hours to the general public.

Existing Local Park Policies

The Shasta County General Plan addresses recreation needs as part of community development. While urban residents have established park agencies working to provide a variety of developed recreation opportunities, residents in rural areas lack the facilities that provide a place to gather and play. The General Plan requires town centers to develop community plans to include planning and implementation strategies for park and recreation facilities. However, as of July 2009, only two of the four communities have adopted plans. As such, the community parks and recreation planning process does not appear to be a currently active program and the existing plans are old enough that current community desires are not represented.

Public Involvement Findings

A number of community preferences about the provision of park land emerged from the public involvement process.

- Public input showed support for the development of community parks in unincorporated communities of Shasta County. Specific communities that residents identified for a community park include Palo Cedro, Cottonwood and Happy Valley. Participants also indicated that the

effort to develop parks in these areas would benefit from County assistance.

- The public noted schools as natural partners for developing local parks, since many communities already have some basic recreation features at school sites.
- Residents wanted a balance of parks, trails and open space opportunities and facilities are needed to ensure that these opportunities are preserved and made accessible to all residents.
- Input indicated concern about the impact to public lands as a result of ATVs. Suggestions included additional facilities designed for this purpose to reduce damage done to sensitive areas.
- Participants in the process wanted recognition of the local and regional park services provided by the Cities and the tax base by which they are supported. The concern focused on the financial support of developed park and recreation opportunities for the entire region being carried by the taxpayers of the urban core.

Local Park Needs Analysis

The unincorporated communities in Shasta County each have a need for a level of local park service. In order to create a basis for public support of these community efforts, it is important to establish a quantity of park land that is needed in the county as a whole and for the individual communities.

To quantify this need across the county, a basic local park unit has been determined from the park service provided in similar California counties, such as Yuba County. The rural community park is the primary park type in rural communities. The most important function of these parks is to provide a place for the community to gather, play or hold events. At a basic level, a rural community park should include an indoor or outdoor gathering place for community events and at least one developed active recreation feature, such as a sports field. For this size and density of a rural community, the typical park ranges in size from 5 to 25 acres. To accommodate the range of developed park resources typically needed, the ideal park size is at least 10 acres. This approach ensures recognition that even low population communities have a basic level of need for park sites.

The second critical point of analysis is the types of communities that require local park service. Based on the breakdown of community type rural homesites should not be considered. However, based on the public interest level demonstrated during the planning process and in the self-motivated creation of local park sites the remaining two unincorporated community types, town centers and rural community centers, should be considered to have local park needs.

The General Plan currently recognizes four town center communities in Shasta County: Burney/Johnson Park, Cottonwood, Fall River Mills/McArthur and Palo Cedro. The minimum park acreage needed for each of these larger unincorporated communities is 10 acres. The four designated town centers have a total minimum need of:

- ***Minimum local park land– town centers: 40 acres***

Each of these town centers has at least one park site identified. All of these park sites have the ability to meet the minimum criteria for a rural community park, although the Palo Cedro Community Park has yet to be developed. With the acreage of these sites applied against the minimum need the resulting net need for new park land in town centers is:

- ***Net need for local park land – town centers: 0 acres***

The General Plan also identifies 25 smaller rural community centers in Shasta County. Smaller than town centers, these communities have smaller population concentrations that can support an ideal park size of 5 acres. This area is the minimum land needed for basic play features and a community gathering space. These parks are smaller than the recommended acreage for town center parks because there are fewer residents to be served. With 25 rural community centers, the total minimum need for rural community park land in rural community centers is:

- ***Minimum local park land– rural community centers: 125 acres.***

Of the 25 rural community centers, none have stand-alone parks. The six identified park sites in rural community centers (Bella Vista Park, Big Bend Community Park, Castella Mini-park, Millville Preschool, Montgomery Creek Park and the Shingletown Early Childhood Playground) do not provide the same level of service as an independent rural community park. The sites are mainly limited by being located on school property, where they are inaccessible to the public during much of the day. However, these sites do provide a good start to meeting local park needs and represent a partnership that could be explored in other communities. To provide all-day access and additional space for other facilities, adjacent public land could be added. For the purposes of quantifying land need, these school-park sites could be considered to meet a small portion (two acres) of the land need as long as they are accessible to the public after school hours. With six sites identified 12 acres should be applied against the minimum need, resulting in a net need of:

- ***Net need for local park land – rural community centers: 113 acres***

Within this net need is the acreage planned for the Happy Valley Community Park. With the net need for town centers at zero, the total local park land need is:

- ***Total need for local park land: 113 acres***

REGIONAL PARKS

When looking at the park system across the county, the larger scale group is the regional park. This category captures the many types of parks that are designed for the benefit not only of the local residents, but of the residents of the entire county and beyond. Regional scale parks include the largest site in the county, the national forests, recreation areas and parks as well as other significant but smaller sites that are a destination from throughout the county and beyond.

The properties owned and managed by the County include a number of park sites that offer unique recreation opportunities that are appealing at the regional level and

that also serve the local population. These sites have been acquired over time, present an interesting cross section of the types of regional sites in the county and offer different uses for residents and tourists. The Anderson-Sacramento River Park has been proposed as a part of California State Parks planning current efforts in the region. A complete listing of existing regional scale sites is provided in Table 4.

Table 4: Existing Regional Parks

PARK/RECREATION SITE	OWNERSHIP
Ahjumawi Lava Springs State Park	California State Parks
Anderson River Park	City of Anderson
Balls Ferry Boat Ramp	Shasta County
Battle Creek Wildlife Area	California Dept. Fish and Game
Benton Dog Park	City of Redding
Big League Dreams Ballpark	City of Redding
Caldwell Park	City of Redding
Castle Crags State Park	California State Parks
Chappie Shasta Off-Highway Vehicle Area	Bureau of Land Management
Cloverdale Trailhead	Bureau of Land Management
Coleman Fish Hatchery	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Convention Center & Grounds - regional	City of Redding
Cow-Battle Creek Unit	Pacific Gas & Electric / Stewardship Council
Enterprise Park	City of Redding
French Gulch	Shasta County
Hat Creek	Shasta County
Inter-Mountain Fairgrounds	Shasta County
Keswick Reservoir	Bureau of Reclamation
Lake Redding Park	City of Redding
Lassen National Forest	U.S. Forest Service
Lassen Volcanic National Park	National Park Service
Latour State Forest	California Department of Forestry and Fire
Lower Clear Creek	Bureau of Land Management
Margaret Polf Park	City of Shasta Lake
Mary Lake Park	City of Redding
McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park	California State Parks
Millville Plains	Private Land
Parkview Riverfront Park	City of Redding
Peppertree Natural Area Park	City of Redding
Pit-McCloud River Unit	Pacific Gas & Electric / Stewardship Council
Reading Aquatic Center	City of Redding
PARK/RECREATION SITE	OWNERSHIP
Reading Island Recreation Area	Bureau of Land Management

Redding Soccer Park	City of Redding
Riverfront Park	City of Redding
Sacramento River Bend Area	Bureau of Land Management
Shasta District Fairgrounds	Shasta District Fair
Shasta-Trinity National Forest	U.S. Forest Service
Shasta National Recreation Area	U.S. Forest Service
Shasta State Historic Park	California State Parks
South Bonnyview Boat Launch	City of Redding
Swasey Recreation Area	Bureau of Land Management
Turtle Bay Boat Launch	City of Redding
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area	National Park Service

Public Involvement Findings

Shasta County residents strongly value the access to major regional recreation sites such as Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and Lassen Volcanic National Park. The participants in the community workshops also indicated that the things they most identify with Shasta County are the views, open spaces, forests and lakes. Many of the existing regional parks are focused on these types of resources and the participants expressed ongoing interest in preserving sites that provide this essential character of Shasta County and access to nature resources.

Several sites that the community expressed interest in are currently a part of the Stewardship Council process that is determining the disposition of some Pacific Gas and Electric property. The primary interest was whether or not public access would be maintained or expanded at these sites in whatever new management arrangement would result from the process.

The community is also aware of the importance of the regional sites to tourism and economic development. This awareness fits with a national trend toward focusing efforts on amenities at the regional scale that can serve both local (county residents) and visitor needs.

Regional Parks Needs Analysis

This category of park land is typically acquired on an opportunity basis to expand access to resources or to fill in a location that would provide better distribution of park resources. The ongoing need is to monitor available land in the county for key opportunities to expand the existing park system in order to provide access to additional natural or developed resources.

TRAIL NEEDS

Trails offer a fun, healthy and inexpensive way to enjoy the outdoors, and to get from one point to another. Development of a trails network can provide greater mobility for school-age children when walking or riding bicycles to schools or when at play. A trail network can also increase tourism leading to region-wide economic benefits. Local trails are typically limited to individual development sites or parks, and regional trails provide connections to neighboring communities or destinations throughout the region. This section provides an overview of regional trails as well as a review of existing policies and regulations related to trail use and development. This section also identifies input from the public involvement process, and trail and facility needs for consideration.

Multiple jurisdictions manage hundreds of miles of off-street trails within Shasta County. These jurisdictions include the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, California State Parks, City of Redding and the McConnell Foundation. The fact that these trails are non-continuous is generally due to the mixture of land ownership or lack of cooperation among land managers, as well as inconsistent trail development policies among the various management entities throughout the County. Table 5 shows existing and proposed regional trails in Shasta County, as well as the lead agency or agencies responsible for land management along the length of the trail.

Table 5: Existing and Proposed Regional Trails

TRAIL	OWNERSHIP
Existing	
Blue Gravel Trail	City of Redding
Buenaventura Trail	City of Redding
Hart Trail / Upper Sacramento Ditch Trail	Bureau of Land Management
Hornbeck Trail	Bureau of Land Management
Mule Mountain Pass Trail	Bureau of Land Management
Nobles Emigrant Trail	Lassen Volcanic National Park, Lassen National Forest
Pacific Crest Trail	Lassen Volcanic National Park, Lassen National Forest, California State Parks
Sacramento River Rail Trail	Bureau of Land Management
Sacramento River Trail	City of Redding
Shasta Trinity Trail (partial)	City of Redding, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, Shasta-Trinity National Forest
West Side Hiking Trail (partial)	City of Redding

TRAIL	OWNERSHIP
Proposed	
Sacramento River Water Trail	California State Parks[1]
Happy Valley Road Corridor	Shasta County[2]
Deschutes Road Corridor	Shasta County[2]
Placer Road Corridor	Shasta County[2]
Old Oregon Trail Corridor	Shasta County[2]
Lake Boulevard Corridor	Shasta County[2]
State Highway 299 Corridor	Caltrans[2]
State Highway 273 Corridor	Caltrans[2]
State Highway 44 Corridor	Caltrans[2]
Burney Area Recreational Experience Trail (B.A.R.E.)	McCloud Railway Co.

Source: [1]Central Valley Vision Implementation Plan (2008), [2] Shasta County Bikeway Plan (2003)

As identified by the public, the Sacramento River is a unique and important asset that should be both a destination and a trail corridor. In addition to its natural resource value, it provides economic and recreation opportunities for the County. Each jurisdiction along the river recognizes this importance and strives to protect it for future generations. California State Parks is developing a strategic plan for State Parks' expansion including a proposed water trail along the Sacramento River from Redding to Sacramento with campsites, boat ramps and day-use areas at existing parks and marinas.

EXISTING TRAIL POLICIES

Overall, there is a lack of policy guidance to promote development of a regional trail network in Shasta County. While no formal off-street trail policies exist, the County does have adopted standards for on-street bicycle and pedestrian routes. These include the Shasta County General Plan (2004), the Shasta County Bike Plan (2003) and the Regional Transportation Plan (2004).

Public Involvement Findings

Findings from the public involvement process suggest that trails are important for establishing regional recreational opportunities for residents and tourists. Through the public involvement process, participants discussed a need for trail opportunities for a variety of users of all ages and abilities. Rails, power line easements and canals were all suggested as possible options for trail corridors.

In general, public input suggests that the County should increase its support for and involvement in trail development. Participants felt that the County should create developer incentives and guidelines for the creation of trails, and that development of partnerships with Caltrans and local transportation agencies were critical for

developing a trail network. Public involvement findings also suggested use of local organizations such as Save Burney Falls, and existing collaborative efforts, such as the Shasta-Trinity Trail partnership between the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and the City of Redding or the Sacramento Trail partnership that includes the Bureau of Land Management, and many local jurisdictions, to improve collaboration and trail development opportunities throughout the county. Participants felt that the County should play a larger role in seeking funding for trail planning and development due to the value of having the County as a partner in funding efforts.

The Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California (2003) report also shows state-wide support for trails. Based on the responses from the sample of 2,512 Californians, participants reported walking as the most popular outdoor recreation activity and trail hiking as the fourth most popular. Bicycling and walking on trails were also popular activities among youth. The report recommends expanding trail networks throughout the state for the diverse benefits that trails offer.

Trails Needs Analysis

The public workshops and focus groups have identified a number of needs related to trails. The needs analysis for trails includes the identification of important community trail destinations and a list of potential trails, connections, and trail related improvements. Trail destinations are places that residents would like to be able to reach by trail or bikeway. Some of these important destinations include:

- Bella Vista
- Burney
- Cottonwood
- Lower Clear Creek
- McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park
- Palo Cedro
- Shasta Community College
- Shasta National Recreation Area
- Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

The public involvement process also produced a number of desired conceptual trail alignments. Based on public input, community members want to connect and link facilities into a county-wide network – including schools, neighborhoods, regional event venues and other community focal points such as the Sacramento River and the National Recreation Areas.

There are a number of land management jurisdictions that the existing and proposed trails cross. These include both private and public agencies. Much of the trail segments within publicly owned lands are either existing, planned or under

construction. The challenge for future trail development is acquiring a right of way for trail development on private lands. In addition, determining what agencies will be able to own and maintain trails outside of existing public lands will be critical.

OPEN SPACE NEEDS

Open spaces are among the most defining features of Shasta County with which residents identify. These features range from Millville Plains, with an established reputation for the annual wildflower bloom, to the Chappie Shasta Off-Highway Vehicle Area with 200 miles of off-highway vehicle trail access. This section reviews existing policies and regulations that can have an impact on open spaces in Shasta County. This section also identifies key public involvement input related to open space, and analyzes resulting open space needs.

It is important to note that in Shasta County, not all open space lands are under public ownership. Much of the land, familiar to residents and visitors alike, is open range land and forest that is owned privately and operated as agricultural and timber land. Private farms and ranches may give the impression of a permanent green space, but land uses can change over time.

EXISTING OPEN SPACE POLICIES

Existing regulatory provisions influence the use, development and management of Shasta County's open space and natural areas. Provided below is a discussion of the County's open space regulatory provisions.

General Plan

The Open Space and Recreation element of the General Plan broadly defines open space as "any parcel or area of land or water which is essentially unimproved and designated as such" for natural resource protection, managed protection of natural resources, outdoor recreation and public health and safety. The General Plan distinguishes between protection of open space and recreation resources, but lumps these uses together within the objectives of the General Plan framework.

The plan provides two open space objectives: protect open space and recreational resources; and provide public access consistent with resource protection. Based on these objectives, the General Plan provides two land use classifications for open spaces: Natural Resource Protection-Open Space, for open spaces with "no known economic value"; and Natural Resource Protection-Recreation Resource, for privately owned lands with recreation value. The Open Space land use designation allows low-density residential development of one unit per 20 acres, as well as other

resource uses. The Recreation Resource land use is an overlay intended to mitigate visual impacts of existing or planned uses, and is applied to national recreation areas, national parks, wilderness areas and State parks. Other designations contained within the plan include the provision of access to the Sacramento River and Battle Creek.

Zoning

To implement the General Plan, the Shasta County Zoning Plan prescribes specific land uses and development regulations for each of the County zoning districts. State law requires that the zoning code is consistent with the General Plan. The Shasta County Code contains an extensive set of zoning districts that specify permitted uses and use regulations throughout the County. Each zoning district implements the goals of the Shasta County General Plan. Zoning districts that regulate use within open spaces and natural areas in Shasta County include Habitat Protection (HP), and Open Space (OS) Districts. The descriptions provided in the County Zoning Plan for these districts are summarized below.

- **Habitat Protection District** – Lands with significant wildlife habitat values can be protected through the Habitat Protection zoning district designation. The zone allows residential uses, forest management and habitat enhancement projects, fishing and hunting and agriculture. Other uses requiring a permit include limited commercial, such as home occupation businesses and assisted living facilities. As a protective district, this zone allows an increase in density if development is clustered to reduce negative impacts to sensitive lands.
- **Open Space District** – Shasta County's existing open space provisions define the purpose of the district as a protection of lots or portions of lots as open space that are: "most properly kept" as open space; needed as a greenbelt or buffer; or, for health and safety reasons. As a zoning district, an open space designation can generally be applied to any area that meets one of the defined open space uses. The open space district currently allows for forest management, low intensity recreational uses (including fishing and hunting) and agricultural uses. Limited residential and commercial uses, recreation facilities such as golf courses and playgrounds are also permitted through a special permit. Site development standards require 20 acre minimum lot sizes.

It is equally important to look at regulations required in other zoning districts that may be adjoining open space or habitat areas and their potential to impact open spaces and natural areas. Along with the built environment, use of natural resource lands has the potential to impact areas specifically set aside for protection. The regulations pertaining to zoning districts for agriculture, timber production, mineral resources and recreation all have the potential to impact open spaces.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FINDINGS

Public input to the planning process resulted in several important findings related to open spaces and natural areas in Shasta County. Ultimately, these findings help to identify open space and natural area needs in the County. Throughout the public involvement process, several themes emerged related to the use and management of open space and natural area lands. Major themes are described below.

- Designated open spaces and natural areas serve a dual role: they provide recreational opportunities while also protecting important natural resource areas. Protection of open space lands was a concern for some members of the public who felt certain areas should be preserved for their ecological value. At the same time, well-managed public lands should exist in areas where recreational use and resource protection are balanced.
- A "carrot and stick" approach to private development should be considered in providing for the types of recreation lands desired by the community. Development regulations should be linked to the desired park, trail and open space needs of the county. On the other hand, incentives should also be used to encourage the preservation and utilization of lands available for public use.
- A coordinated effort between public agencies and partners could create an impressive system of open spaces in Shasta County. The public sees a role for the County in coordinating this due to the necessary connection to countywide land use planning.

OPEN SPACE NEEDS ANALYSIS

Shasta County has an extensive inventory of open space and natural areas. However, most of the largest areas of public open space are in the parts of the county most distant from the majority of the population. Currently, the southern portions of the County have fairly limited open space and natural areas. It is in the areas around Redding, Shasta Lake and Anderson that the character of Shasta County will be defined. Most of the county's residents live in this corridor and nearly all of the visitors enter or pass through the area in the Interstate 5 corridor. Allowing development patterns that remove forested areas and cover open hillsides will not only detract from the unique appearance of the area but will reduce the desirability, and value, of property throughout the area.

Open space lands that are close to the population centers serve another important role, establishing a connection between residents and the natural environment. In addition to lands that preserve views and the character of the area, open space lands

are needed in Shasta County that protect and provide access to the various habitat zones that define the environment around the communities of Shasta County. These sites do not need to be especially large, but do benefit from interconnected open space areas within particular drainages or watersheds. These key areas exist throughout the county and support the natural systems that in turn support the various activities that Shasta County residents and visitors value, such as fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing and enjoying scenic landscapes.

ORGANIZATIONAL NEEDS

Throughout the public involvement process, the need for improved county-wide coordination emerged as a key finding. Meeting the park and recreation needs of Shasta County requires a well-planned and organized countywide effort.

ORGANIZATIONAL ROLES

Coordinating park and recreation services county-wide requires a good understanding of organizational roles. Some providers of park land and recreation opportunities, such as the US Forest Service, are funded entirely by the Federal government and have a narrow focus, while other providers, such as Shasta County, rely on a variety of funding sources, and are responsible for providing a variety of services for several different communities. This analysis has identified four organizational roles that are critical to providing the broad mix of recreation opportunities desired by the community. These roles are briefly described below:

- **Coordination** – Coordination can create a system out of the many providers by avoiding duplication, improving facility quality and quantity, reducing costs and represent resident interests through joint planning and development efforts.
- **Funding** – Funding can come from a variety of sources including park user fees, development impact fees, grants, bonds, special districts, concessionaires, etc. While some park and recreation lands require significant funding for their development and maintenance, others are left undeveloped and require only basic services.
- **Maintenance and Operations** – With a diverse range of parks, facilities and open spaces, it will be important to identify organizations with dedicated staff that mow, repair and clean park features or with maintenance contracts to do the same. This also includes the legal and management obligations such as safety compliance and insurance.

- **Programming** – There are a number of programming providers in Shasta County, but most agencies specialize in other areas. Recreation providers offer recreational, environmental, cultural and other educational programs for a variety of interests, ages and abilities.

Some agencies operating in the county are major role-players in several of these areas, while others are quite specialized, due to their mandates or limited funding.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FINDINGS

- Participants noted that park development is difficult for many communities because of a lack of technical expertise in land acquisition, planning and development or the perception of a tedious process.
- The community expressed the difficulty of keeping track of the activities of the many agencies planning, developing and programming parks in the county.
- Liability associated with a park was a concern for many who would like to develop a park, but don't want to assume liability. Lions International was one organization able to provide liability coverage for the facilities it maintains.
- The ability to make use of volunteers was another issue. Tapping volunteer resources is a low cost way to maintain community parks, but the use of volunteers can be difficult to rely on in the long-term.
- Raising funds to acquire park land was perceived as a major challenge. The County was considered a major player in acquiring state and federal funds to which other local agencies do not have access.

ORGANIZATIONAL NEEDS ANALYSIS

The needs analysis includes a review of each of the four organizational roles.

Coordination

An important consideration of government and private grant funds is that certain funds are only available to particular types of projects or organizations. The wide variety of grant programs from private and public funding sources, each with different intentions and requirements, requires considerable knowledge to sort through and track. In addition, the coordinated effort of two or more organizations makes a more compelling case for funding from many sources.

Trail projects are an important case study as they often extend beyond the ownership of one jurisdiction. In order to create the longer regional trails, these routes often need to connect to other public lands or across land that is privately held. The

success of these regional trail projects can depend on an agency tracking property transactions and identifying opportunities for property or easement acquisition.

Funding

While additional funding is always the first need identified as a limiting factor to expanding park, recreation and open space opportunities, access to funding is nearly as large of an issue. Federal, state and local agencies have their own funding that is used to purchase land, develop sites and staff the management and maintenance staff required. These resources are typically focused on projects that are, or will be, entirely within the system of land and facilities owned by the funding agency. Other agencies and most private foundations are providing grants to organizations that provide funding for projects that match their stated goals. These projects typically would not be maintained in the long-term by the granting agency, although they may require the investment to be maintained as a condition of funding.

Maintenance and Operations

The upkeep of parks, trails and open space largely falls to the owner of the land. While this relationship is clear in the case of a Bureau of Land Management property or a City of Redding Park, there are a number of sites in the county that do not have ongoing maintenance funding or professional staff. As community members noted, establishing a new park is made even more difficult when no agency is willing to take on ownership and key operations concerns such as liability insurance. Long-term secure funding that is adequate for the ongoing maintenance is a key factor in this role as well. Agencies that are focused on providing recreation services and facilities have fewer conflicting demands on the use of funding. When an agency such as the County faces budget shortfalls, parks must compete against health and safety services for ongoing funding.

Programming

A very limited number of agencies in Shasta County provide recreation or environmental programming. This service can promote park, trail and open space awareness and increase the value of the system in the minds of residents. Because these services require a certain critical mass of population to initiate, it does not make sense for each community in Shasta County to start their own program. The programming offered in Shasta County can be supported by expanding the awareness of programs at particular sites or offered by a particular agency. Visitors especially need a reliable, current listing of the activities offered.

4. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter describes the recommended policies to enhance the park and recreation resources in Shasta County. Park policies and objectives provide the framework to guide the planning and development of future parks, trails and open space in Shasta County. In general, the policies in this chapter allow the County flexibility in coordinating the various roles and responsibilities with other agencies and providers. Policy recommendations presented in this chapter also provide an initial step towards implementation of the specific project recommendations presented in the following chapter. Based on the needs identified in Chapter 3, the policy recommendations are presented in the following categories:

- Parks;
- Trails;
- Open Space; and
- Capacity Development.

It should be noted that these recommendations are not listed in any particular order. The policies and objectives in this chapter are comprehensive in nature and are intended to provide updated language for integration into the County General Plan as appropriate.

PARKS

The needs analysis uncovered different park needs that support a range of policies in Shasta County. There is an overall need for the County to coordinate for the provision of parks in rural communities; these places lack the expertise to carry-out the coordination, planning and financing necessary to create new park sites. Larger, regional parks are also popular and needed in Shasta County. It is important to consider that the successfulness of parks is largely dependent on the type of land that the County acquires.

Policy P.1 Work with community partners to provide parks for unincorporated rural communities.

Objective P.1.1 Create community parks for rural population centers based on community involvement and interest.

Objective P.1.2 Secure adequate park land that is reasonably related to new development to serve future residents while it is still available, in accordance with this plan.

Objective P.1.3 Contribute to new and existing regional parks to provide access to regional destinations, drawing residents from Shasta County and visitors from the region at large.

Objective P.1.4 Identify funding for improvements and maintenance needs of existing parks and facilities prior to acquisition and development of new sites.

Objective P.1.5 Periodically review and revise planning and development efforts based on local park and recreation preferences, needs and trends.

Policy P.2 Design parks that are desirable, safe and fun, taking into account long-term maintenance needs.

Objective P.2.1 Include the public in the planning, design and maintenance of parks by engaging local residents and encouraging volunteerism.

Objective P.2.2 Create opportunities for children, adults, families and people with disabilities. Where possible, recreational opportunities, particularly those which are youth oriented, should be provided within bicycling distance of population centers.

Objective P.2.3 Incorporate interpretation of local history, culture and the environment into the park system where possible.

Objective P.2.4 Provide water access for boating and fishing at special use sites and regional parks where appropriate.

Objective P.2.5 Determine maintenance costs and funding sources for new parks and facilities prior to development. Projects should be able to meet minimum design standards and require relatively low maintenance in the future.

Objective P.2.6 Design new parks for efficient maintenance by developing maintenance management plans prior to construction, evaluating operational impacts and feasibility and involving maintenance and program staff in the design process.

Policy P.3 Local park operations should be supported by local funding.

Objective P.3.1 Ensure the ongoing maintenance of local parks through a stable, locally based funding source.

Objective P.3.2 Reserve County operating funding for park and recreation operations for sites with a regional (at least county-wide) draw.

Objective P.3.3 Distribute one-time and periodic capital funding to local parks through a fair, competitive improvement grant process.

TRAILS

Overall, the needs assessment identified the necessity for the County to increase its role in providing trails. The public indicated a need to increase the number of trails and connections to key destinations throughout the county. In addition to these needs, trail location, design and development are all important considerations for creating a successful network of trails.

Policy T.1 Create a well-connected trail system that provides transportation and recreation benefits to the county and the region.

Objective T.1.1 Provide a regional system of on-and off-street trails and corridors that link parks, open spaces, significant environmental features, public facilities and areas of interest.

Objective T.1.2 Trail planning should consider local planning and permitting requirements, as well as County, state and federal guidelines.

Policy T.2 Actively pursue strategies and opportunities to expand and improve the trail system.

Objective T.2.1 Require trail rights-of-way or public access easements based on adopted trail policies and alignments when property division or other approvals are considered.

Objective T.2.2 Offer land-use incentives such as bonuses and other strategies that encourage trail dedication and public access easements for trails.

Objective T.2.3 Coordinate with local trail efforts to connect neighborhoods together and to the regional network.

Policy T.3 Create well-designed and maintained trails that are accessible to all users.

Objective T.3.1 Where possible, create trail opportunities for a range of abilities and users including bicyclists, pedestrians, equestrians and ATV users.

Objective T.3.2 Explore joint use of existing rights-of-way such as street, railway and power line for potential trail corridors.

Objective T.3.3 Promote wildlife habitat connectivity as well as human connectivity by incorporating trails within open space corridors.

Objective T.3.4 Minimize disturbance to natural resources, especially when developing near wetlands and other sensitive lands.

Objective T.3.5 Design trails and support facilities that consider long-term maintenance needs.

Objective T.3.6 Provide additional trail support facilities, such as trailheads and trail signs, where appropriate. Incorporate information about ADA accessibility, mileage and rules for trail use into trail signage.

Objective T.3.7 Create a map of existing trails and nearby services to increase awareness of trail network opportunities.

Objective T.3.8 Encourage safe routes to schools from new housing developments in all communities.

Policy T.4 Prioritize trail projects based on their ability to improve non-motorized transportation access and connectivity.

Objective T.4.1 Major bicycle commuting routes should be established from communities adjacent to the urban centers of the county.

Objective T.4.2 Where possible, bike routes should be developed to also provide recreational benefits.

OPEN SPACE

The natural character of Shasta County is a key asset, offering a wealth of opportunities for residents and visitors. The mixture of public and private lands adds a layer of complexity that requires careful consideration and collaboration with other land managers, property owners and users. In order to protect this natural character, open lands surrounding and within residential areas will need to be preserved. However, residents also indicated that recreation access is necessary.

Policy OS.1 Conserve important natural and scenic areas that provide wildlife habitat, cultural and historical resources and significant views as well as sensitive lands including wetlands and steep slopes.

Objective OS.1.1 Protect sensitive lands by requiring adequate development buffers and setbacks, as well as development overlays that promote conservation of natural resources and identify natural hazards, soil conditions, vegetation and tree canopy, cultural and historical resources, wetlands and steep slopes.

Objective OS.1.2 Link fragmented open space areas and acquire or protect larger tracts of open space as well as continuous natural features such as water bodies, ridgelines, and valleys.

Objective OS.1.3 Preserve panoramic views of ridgelines, hills and other significant features.

Objective OS.1.4 Promote native vegetation retention, tree conservation and maximum impervious surface standards when developing on or near open space lands.

Objective OS.1.5 Provide buffers to protect environmentally sensitive lands where use of natural resource lands would cause adverse impacts.

Objective OS.1.6 Consider low impact development standards and conservation easements to preserve the open character of large land parcels.

Objective OS.1.7 Improve existing open space areas by providing resources to improve habitat and eliminate invasive species.

Objective OS.1.8 Seek alternative methods of acquiring or protecting open space lands. Techniques such as transfer of development rights, cluster development and land banking are all methods for consideration.

Objective OS.1.9 Recognize watershed planning as a useful method of protecting open spaces, and for analyzing changes in stream hydrology, flooding, water quality and development of capital facilities.

Objective OS.1.10 Create an up-to-date county-wide inventory of prioritized open spaces to help identify future recreation or conservation resources.

Policy OS.2 Balance conservation of open space with opportunities for recreation and resource management.

Objective OS.2.1 Allow public recreation and resource management through collaborative planning and low impact design and use within designated open space areas.

Objective OS 2.2 Encourage user groups to monitor recreational use of open space and maintain recreational support facilities.

Objective OS 2.3 Develop trailheads and staging area amenities including recreational maps and signage along trail systems in open space lands.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The County has the ability to maximize the limited available resources by defining a role as a coordinator, while empowering smaller communities to carry-out desired projects. This is especially important considering the County's large land area and the diversity of needs identified by different residents, users and agencies.

Policy CD.1 Develop partnerships and empower local communities to create and maintain parks and recreation facilities.

Objective CD.1.1 Develop a clear set of conditions for County land acquisition and support for park projects. Provide materials explaining these conditions to community groups seeking to develop new park sites.

Objective CD.1.2 Consider joint land acquisition opportunities with partner agencies, such as local school districts, when planning new parks. There are a variety of recreational sites and opportunities on PGE lands, many now managed by the Stewardship Council. These areas may provide future opportunities to expand special use park opportunities across the county.

Objective CD.1.3 Work with school districts to add to or share existing public land and facilities to meet some of the park needs. Encourage joint (municipal/school district) use of playgrounds, parks and recreational facilities.

Policy CD.2 Collaborate with key stakeholders, landowners and other jurisdictions and agencies to identify appropriate and community-supported parks, trails and open spaces.

Objective CD.2.1 Work with Shasta County cities and communities, land managers, stakeholders and residents to identify desired recreational locations.

Objective CD.2.2 Coordinate with other jurisdictions and land managers to pursue land dedication or public easement to formalize conceptual recreation trails and sites as opportunities allow.

Objective CD.2.3 Develop an early and deliberate line of communication with effected property owners for discussing the potential of new parks, trails and open spaces.

Policy CD.3 Involve the public and encourage public participation.

Objective CD.3.1 Enhance communication and outreach to inform citizens of the recreational opportunities available in local neighborhoods and county-wide, as well as opportunities offered by other organizations.

Objective CD.3.2 Establish a process for residents and recreation partner organizations to propose park improvement projects.

Objective CD.3.3 Encourage citizen involvement and participation in maintaining and restoring the quality of parks, such as adopt-a-park programs, and sports group partnerships.

Objective CD.3.4 Collaborate with schools, senior groups, service organizations, organizations serving families and residents from diverse cultures to identify potential projects for youth, seniors, families and other community service volunteers.

Objective CD.3.5 Monitor community demand for recreation programming and work with partners to ensure diverse recreation programs and special events at a variety of times, locations and skill levels.

Policy CD.4 Coordinate with other providers to provide complete information about park and recreation opportunities in the county.

Objective CD.4.1 Jointly maintain a comprehensive inventory of available resources and public lands and recreation opportunities including the existing and potential resource and recreational values of these areas.

Objective CD.4.2 Expand the awareness of existing recreational programs at particular sites or offered by a particular agency. Both residents and visitors need a reliable, current listing of the activities offered.

Objective CD.4.3 Provide information that is current and readily available to the public throughout the county and at key public locations.

Objective CD.4.4 Enable the public to provide input and suggestions towards future projects or necessary improvements.

Policy CD.5 Pursue a variety of funding techniques, strategies and expertise to help fund, develop and maintain identified park needs.

Objective CD.5.1 Consider establishing a park district that has tax authority and a mandate to specialize in meeting the recreation needs of the community.

Objective CD.5.2 Secure funding that is adequate for the ongoing maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.

Objective CD.5.3 Seek alternative park funding and acquisition mechanisms such as special taxing districts, land banking, grant programs and private donations and endowments.

Objective CD.5.4 Offset County maintenance demand by encouraging the use of volunteers, user groups and community-based organizations.

Objective CD 5.5 Connect park and recreation projects to other community needs, such as public health, public safety and emergency preparedness, to leverage additional funding.

5. PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

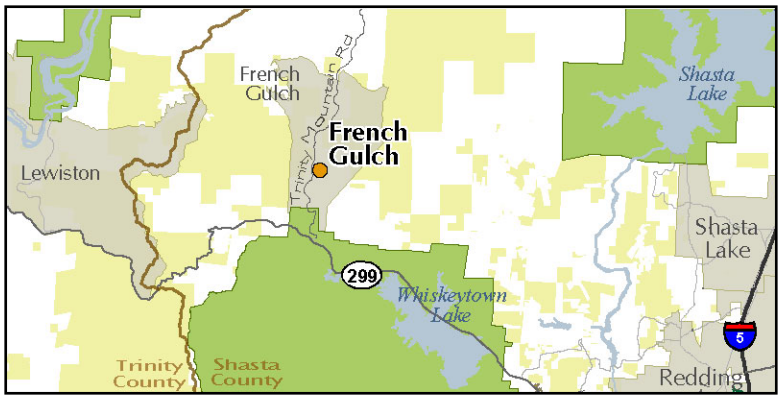
This chapter builds on the policies presented in Chapter 4 by providing recommended actions and projects to address the community needs for parks, trails and open space. It is important to note that not all recommendations in this chapter will be carried out by Shasta County. These recommendations serve as a comprehensive list that the County and partner organizations can use to coordinate improvements over time. Ultimately, the County can work with stakeholders to determine appropriate responsibilities and roles for future implementation.

PARKS

The planning process for Shasta County's parks, trails and open spaces identified the need for sites and amenities beyond what the County currently provides. This county-wide view was important in understanding the many potential partners that can help fill gaps in the community's recreation opportunities. This section begins with the park and recreation sites that the County currently owns and operates and will emphasize the improvements necessary to make the most of the existing County sites. A number of additional projects are recommended to address the park deficiencies that exist in the largest of the unincorporated communities. At the regional scale, the projects recommended here emphasize the interconnection of regional park sites and recreational areas.

COUNTY PARK SITES

Existing County-owned sites represent one set of opportunities for enhancing the park, trails and open space system in Shasta County. Each site currently owned by the County is described below.



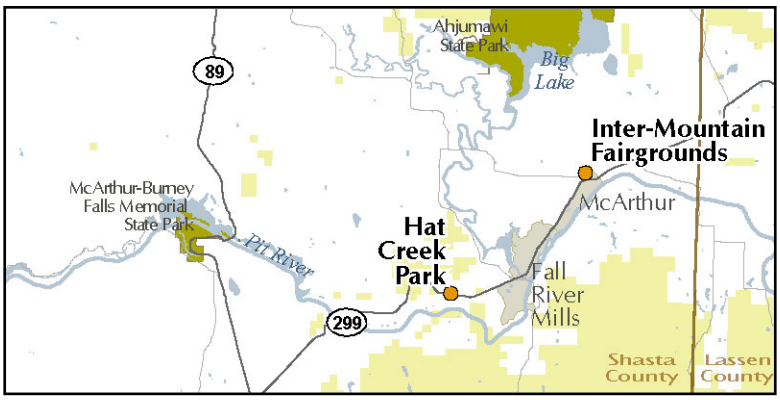
French Gulch

French Gulch Park is a day use area located next to Clear Creek in French Gulch. Recreational opportunities include picnicking, playing horseshoes and enjoying water activities in the creek. This park exists as a visitor amenity for the regionally significant French Gulch historic area.

Recommended projects for this site include:

- Adding park identification sign;
- Adding a group picnic area, with capacity for 25 or more, that could serve visitors as well as local gatherings;
- Adding 2-3 features that serve regular local recreation needs if the community is willing to contribute to the operation of this site. Specific features should be identified by the nearby community and could include walking paths or a sport court (such as basketball); and
- Connecting this park to the historic attractions of the community and the county through interpretive signage, information about other historic sites in the county and a self-guided walking tour.

Hat Creek



Situated along Highway 299E in the Fall River Valley, Hat Creek Park offers excellent catch and release fly-fishing year round. It is a designated day use area maintained by the county. Picnic tables and a restroom are provided. The site has recently had a major renovation to provide improved access for those with physical limitations. Recommended projects for this site include:

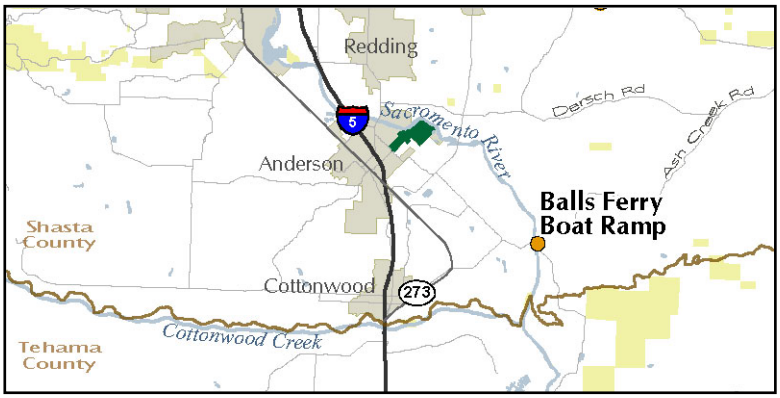
- Adding a trail connection to the Pit River Community Park;
- Working with Lassen National Forest, the Chamber of Commerce and other tourist promotion groups to include Hat Creek in fishing promotional materials;
- Providing information at the site about other fishing and river access sites in the county; and
- Work with Stewardship Council to acquire title to the site.

Inter-Mountain Fairgrounds

The Inter-Mountain Fairgrounds is located in the north-eastern tip of Shasta County on Highway 299E in the town of McArthur. An annual fair is held in late August and is a regional draw with over 30,000 attendees. The fairgrounds provide three halls, an outdoor and indoor arena, picnic tables, RV and boat storage and a kitchen. There are 53 RV spaces and a number of tent camping sites available seasonally. The fairgrounds also include sport fields that serve local and tournament play. This site is

owned by the County and operated by an independent fair organization. Recommendations for this site include:

- The creation of an informational display about park and recreation opportunities in Shasta County in a prominent location at the facility; and
- Developing a regional scale play area to be added to the site. In addition to being larger, a regional play area should include a theme-based design that is appropriate for the image of the fairgrounds and the area, specialized equipment that provides a play destination for residents and visitors. This play area should be positioned on the site to be accessible for local use and convenient for children and parents attending the fair.



Balls Ferry Boat Ramp

The Balls Ferry Boat Ramp is located east of the City of Anderson and provides public access to the Sacramento River. It is maintained by the county and provides an improved boat launch, restroom and parking area. Balls Ferry was initially a log embarkation point for Sutter's Fort, established in 1868. The ferry was first owned and operated by Major P. B. Reading. Ferry service was operated for 29 years before being replaced by a bridge. This area was dedicated in 1972 as a State of California Point of Historical Interest. Recommendations for this site include:

- Replacing aging park sign;
- Enhance boat launch area;
- Including informational signage that identifies other river access points;
- Adding interpretive signage that explains the historic logging operations and ferry service as well as information about the importance and health of the Sacramento River; and
- Replacing the restroom with a high durability modern facility which includes automatic time locks.

LOCAL PARKS

Outside of the county's three incorporated cities, there is no organized County sponsored program of providing important local park amenities. Without a publicly supported local park system, many communities have taken on park projects to improve their communities. These projects have experienced the full range of outcomes from successful community maintained parks to playgrounds abandoned

for lack of care. Many community efforts have struggled with similar challenges centered on the ownership and long-term maintenance of park sites.

The key policy direction of this plan, in relation to local parks, is that the development and operations of local park resources should be the responsibility of the local community. However, the process to acquire the approvals and establish the locally-based funding would need to be managed by County government. In order to facilitate local park projects that can be sustained over the long term, the County should establish a local park development handout that explains the policies and general steps necessary to develop and maintain a new park in an unincorporated community. Appendix B: Local Park Development Process lays out a recommendation for this process, based on the plan recommendations on ownership, park development, maintenance and operations laid out below.

Focus Communities

The four-tiered system in the County's general plan describes the scale, density and expected services of each type of community in Shasta County, from Urban City Center to Rural Home Sites. Using this structure as a guideline provides some insights about the community needs as explained in Chapter 3. County efforts should first be focused on the largest unincorporated communities and those that are most isolated from other park opportunities.

Of the four town centers defined in the General Plan, Palo Cedro is the only one with only partially developed park facilities. As the most populous unincorporated community in Shasta County Palo Cedro should be a priority for development or technical assistance.

There are also rural community centers that should be priorities for new local park development. Based on population growth and proximity to the urban core of the county, Happy Valley should have a community park. Also, due to the size and relative isolation from other park sites, Shingletown should be a priority for new park development, subject to community interest.

Ownership

There are three basic types of entities capable of owning the land underlying a public park: public, private and non-profit. Private owners would include individuals, homeowners' associations and companies. Although companies generally would not own publicly available property, the major exception would be large utility corporations which have historically owned and managed a variety of sites for public recreation. With the appropriate agreements in place, this type of private entity can be a suitable owner for a local park.

Non-profit organizations, such as community foundations, are a potential owner of park property. For example, the Cottonwood Community Foundation is the owner of the Cottonwood Community Center sites. Other non-profit organizations include service groups, such as Lions International, which have also been park owners and operators in Shasta County. While these organizations have played an important role in establishing some of the park and recreation opportunities that currently exist, they are problematic as a model for additional development. Community organizations often struggle with maintaining vitality over the long-term, as board members change or the volunteer base shrinks.

The recommendation of this plan is that a public agency is the ideal owner of park lands. It is anticipated that the future park system will be, much like the existing situation, owned by a variety of public agencies ranging from local to federal. The ownership of local parks however, falls outside of the responsibility of national and state jurisdictions. Therefore, areas that do not have a local park agency, essentially everything outside of Anderson, Shasta Lake City and Redding, would be best served by park land owned by the County.

Park Development

Most of the communities that need local park development are lacking a set of facilities that can be categorized as a rural community park. No set standard is defined by the National Recreation and Park Association for rural community parks. However, based on the public input and the experience of other Counties a basic set of amenities can be recommended. The recommended minimum requirements for a rural community parks in Shasta County are:

- Community gathering space – can be indoor or outdoor and should be able to accommodate gatherings of at least 25-100 people.
- Play area – does not need to be a typical catalog-ordered play structure, but should provide age appropriate play areas. Consideration should be given to nature-themed play to accent the rural environment. These natural areas where children can safely roam, build rock dams and forts, play with water, pick wildflowers and balance on logs.
- Competitive sport field – the park should include at least one developed sport field (for example, a softball or soccer field) for organized team and informal community play.

Additional amenities should be considered but the balance of value to the community vs. development and maintenance costs should always be a primary consideration. Restrooms are an excellent example of a high value and high cost addition to a park, as they require regular maintenance and monitoring.

Park development costs can be greatly off-set through partnerships with existing community groups that may have part or even all of the basic facilities needed for rural community parks. School Districts are an obvious partner in many communities. Both the community and the school can benefit from this partnership. By creating a formalized school park, the residents guarantee access to the facilities (subject to the agreements made with the district) and can in return provide assistance in maintenance, facility improvements and even ongoing revenue to the school. Sharing these facilities represents the best utilization of existing public investment in the community.

In addition to new local parks, existing rural community parks will likely need reinvestment to preserve recreation opportunities in the community.

Maintenance and Operations

The ongoing maintenance of a park property is typically, but not always, the responsibility of the property owner. The most important aspect of maintenance responsibilities is that they continue on forever. This is the primary reason that volunteer based community organizations have a difficult time with being the primary maintenance organization for a park site. The location of existing and potential park sites in the county also presents a challenge to the ongoing maintenance. Even with adequate maintenance funding, it would be expensive and inefficient to maintain many of the sites from a centralized location.

The ideal maintenance organization for a local park outside of the urban core of the county would be an existing public entity that has maintenance responsibilities similar to the tasks required in park facility upkeep. For example, in some communities, an existing County Service Area funds maintenance of local public facilities. In other cases, the best solution may be to contract the maintenance services with a private party.

REGIONAL PARKS

Regional Parks are important to the County as a whole because they attract visitors from outside the county while also meeting local recreational needs. Tourism increases the County's visibility as a great place for outdoor recreation and generates revenue for local businesses.

Connections to Similar Facilities

Providing recreation users with locations of other trailheads or historic sites in the county can enhance a visitor's recreation experience. A

brochure or interpretive sign at a recreation site can provide additional information about similar natural, historical, cultural and recreational opportunities in Shasta County. For example, a visitor to a BLM trailhead may want to know about additional BLM trails in the area and a visitor at Ahjumawi Lava Springs State Park may want to learn about other Native American sites in the county.

Central Information Source

As indicated in the Key Resource Inventory (Appendix A), Shasta County has a large number of regional parks. Providing a centralized source to access information is essential to ensure that residents and visitors have up-to-date information about regional parks. This information may include recreation amenities, closures due to weather or projects, fees and contact information.

A centralized source for this information may be both virtual and physical. Having one organization provide this information would be ideal, but not a necessity. At this time, no single website provides a comprehensive central information source of park and recreation activities in Shasta County. Current websites that discuss park and recreation opportunities in Shasta County are either too broad and include information for surrounding counties, or are too focused on a city or specific activity in Shasta County. In addition, some websites are not frequently updated.

An ideal way to feed information to a central information source is through RSS (Really Simple Syndication). This technology can be built into a website and creates an easy-to-use web feed for visitors to review information from many different sources on one website. If the agencies providing regional recreation opportunities could provide a RSS feed of the latest information from their individual websites, any of a number of websites could serve as the all purpose information source for the visitor.

Physical materials are also important. Informational signage and brochures coordinated between the many park and recreation agencies could be placed at access points to parks and trails as well as at public buildings. For example, trail maps identifying the wide range of trails in the county could be placed at all trail heads in the region.

Interagency Parks, Trails and Open Space Committee

As part of this planning process, a Project Advisory Committee was formed to discuss how the plan can make the most of existing resources and what new connections and facilities are needed. The committee consists of representatives from city, county and federal agencies, as well key community organizations that provide recreation opportunities in the county.

This group identified the need for a standing regional coordination group on the topics of parks, trails and open space. This committee should meet quarterly, or as needed to discuss connections between completed, current and future projects. The group should be open to participation by any agency or community group involved in the development of recreational and open space resources. The County should convene and actively participate in these meetings.

TRAILS

Unlike parkland, trails can cross multiple lands requiring careful planning, design and coordination with different property owners, land managers and other affected agencies and users. This section provides recommendations related to the regional network of trails and includes recommended regional linkages and considerations for local connections, trailheads and other trail amenities.

REGIONAL TRAILS CONCEPT

Map 3: Regional Trails Concept shows the conceptual location of potential trails identified in Chapter 3: Needs Analysis. It is important to note that these trails are shown for reference purposes only and that the location of these trails is not binding. While some of these trails may eventually be developed, not all will be feasible or even practicable. However, the map is helpful in showing the preferred location of regional trails based on identified community needs. Unlike parks and open space land, trails cross multiple properties and can affect dozens of adjacent property owners. Future trail planning efforts will require more detailed and on-the-ground identification of potential trail routes than the alignments identified in this plan.

Ultimately, acquisition and public use for trail development and maintenance is best explored on a case-by-case basis. It will be necessary for project staff (and sometimes a public official affiliated with the project) to contact private property owners early in the planning process. A continual line of communication with affected property owners can oftentimes allay concerns and other issues from eventually leading to non-cooperation. Concerns related to liability and use conflicts can be allayed through use agreements, memorandums of understanding, and other legal documentation. It is also necessary to develop alternatives to preferred trail alignments to account for unwilling property owners, land managers and sensitive lands.

REGIONAL LINKAGES

This section includes recommended trail linkages to create an interconnected regional system of multi-use trails and bike routes. Note that many longer routes, and those along highways, are likely to be bike facilities in existing right-of-ways.

As noted previously, Shasta County has many overlapping jurisdictions and the central portions of the county are highly urbanized. It may not be realistic for the County to develop off-street trails in the urbanized areas. Among other considerations, land acquisition for a separated trail may be cost prohibitive. Deeded public access easements can be secured with development entitlements as opportunities allow. As an alternative, the County should coordinate with the various jurisdictions to use existing infrastructure, such as sidewalks and utility right-of-ways, to establish links to the regional trails network. Existing bikeways should be upgraded to provide safe connections between fragmented off-street alignments. These linkages should be designed for both cyclists and pedestrians, and even equestrians if there is sufficient trail width. These bikeway alignments could also be used to connect to the other key destinations. The system created by the total of these regional linkages and the existing major trails is illustrated in Map 3: Regional Trail Network Concept, on page 57.

West/Central Shasta County

- Connect the Westside Trail through Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and beyond.
- Connect Redding to Trinity County with a bike route along Highway 299.
- Connect Whiskeytown National Recreation Area to Shasta Lake through French Gulch.
- Develop trail connection from City of Shasta Lake to the Sacramento River Trail.
- Connect City of Shasta Lake to Anderson along the Old Oregon Trail and Airport Road.
- Connect the Sacramento River Trail to the Westside Trail into Swasey Recreation Area.
- Connect Clear Creek to Cottonwood through Happy Valley, with a connection to Anderson. Focus on community facilities, particularly safe routes to schools and potential parks.
- Complete the Sacramento River Trail from Shasta Lake to Red Bluff.
- Complete the connection from Highway 273 to Clear Creek.

East Shasta County

- Connect Redding with the north entrance of Lassen Volcanic National Park though Shingletown along Highway 44 using the existing right-of-way.
- Create a rail-to-trail connection from Burney north to Burney Falls and beyond.
- Connect river-walk and fishing access between Pit River Park and Hat Creek Park sites.
- Connect Burney with Palo Cedro using existing waterways and a portion of Highway 299.
- Connect Burney with Millville, with a connection to Shingletown and beyond, with consideration for existing utility company right-of-ways.
- Connect Fall River to Burney State Park through Hat Creek Park with a pedestrian trail.
- Connect Pacific Crest Trail to McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park.
- Provide additional connection points to the Pacific Crest Trail to allow for more day use.

CONNECTING TO REGIONAL TRAILS

Shorter connections that link the regional trail to parks and other important destinations are also important to consider. Connecter trails serve as the missing link by providing access in urban areas or neighborhoods to the regional trail. Local trails in other communities or neighborhoods should also be designed to connect with the larger trail network. With many overlapping jurisdictions and urban population centers along the I-5 corridor, it may not be realistic to develop connector or regional trails in urbanized areas. For example, land acquisition for a separate trail may be too costly. As an alternative, the relevant jurisdiction could use existing infrastructure, such as sidewalks and utility rights-of-way, to establish links to the trails network. Such trail design methods have proven their success in many community trail systems. However, as mentioned earlier the joint use of existing rights-or-way would require coordination with property owners, easement holders, or other affected land managers prior to such a consideration. The County should be a supportive partner in these efforts as appropriate.

When identifying and planning for trail projects, it will be critical for the County to have a strategy in place requiring future development to accommodate access to the regional trail network where possible. To avoid potential legal issues, right-of-way

dedication or public easements for public access must be required by local ordinance and related to an identified trail alignment. This is commonly depicted on an adopted parks plan or transportation plan. For development within state right-of-way, or where state or federal funds are involved, proper right-of-way acquisition procedures outlined by California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) should be followed.

Shasta County Parks, Trails and Open Space Plan

Shasta County, California

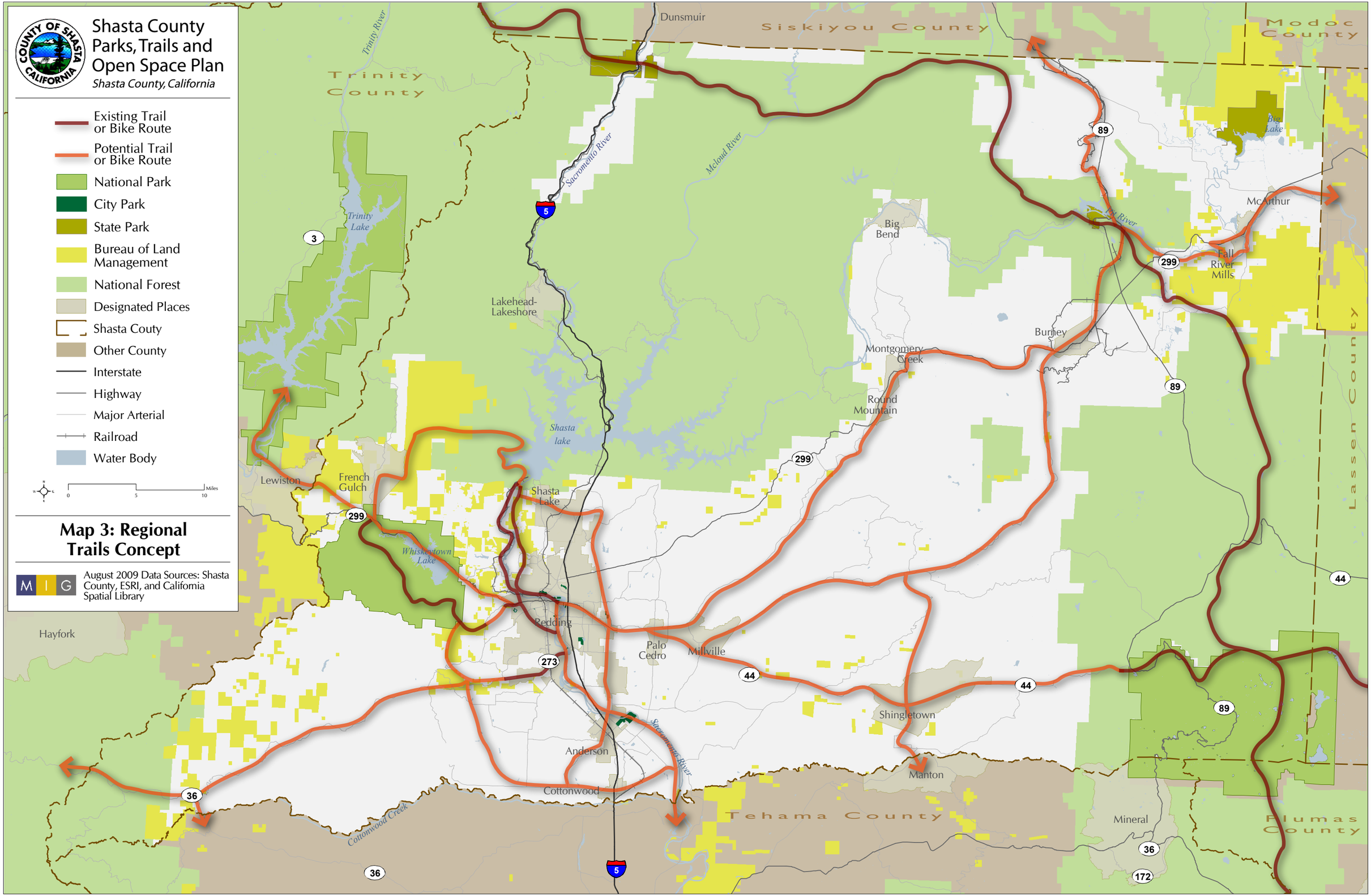
- Existing Trail or Bike Route
- Potential Trail or Bike Route
- National Park
- City Park
- State Park
- Bureau of Land Management
- National Forest
- Designated Places
- Shasta Couty
- Other County
- Interstate
- Highway
- Major Arterial
- Railroad
- Water Body

0 5 10 Miles

Map 3: Regional Trails Concept

MIG

August 2009 Data Sources: Shasta County, ESRI, and California Spatial Library



TRAILHEADS

The majority of trail users will access the trail network at one of many formal trailheads. Trailheads let users know they have entered or exited the trail system with clearly marked signage and other visual cues such as information kiosks. These facilities provide users with places for vehicle or bicycle parking, may provide staging areas for equestrians and can provide other amenities such as seating and restrooms. Law enforcement, emergency vehicles and maintenance crews also require sufficient trail openings at trailheads designed to allow for occasional vehicle access.

The location and design of trailheads varies. While some users will live close enough to access the trail on foot or by bike, the trail system's regional draw will also require sufficient parking for users traveling by car. Trailheads near urbanized areas should be built at easy to find locations that offer safe and convenient access. Trailheads in rural areas can be designed to accommodate adequate parking and staging areas for equestrian and ATV users, in addition to amenities that may not be maintained on a regular basis. The needs analysis identified two trailhead projects in Shasta County. These include:

- The visitor center at Old Shasta; and
- Keswick Park with a connection to Sacramento River Rail Trail.

SUPPORTING AMENITIES

Trail amenities encourage trail use by providing an experience that is safe, comfortable and convenient. Amenities to consider include lighting, benches, trash and recycling cans and signage. Amenities should be accessible to all users and placed in safe, visible and convenient locations and be vandal resistant. Trail amenities should be made of durable materials that are less maintenance intensive and that last longer. Trail amenities should also have a consistent design throughout individual trail corridors. Sign design, lighting and even benches should all have similar colors, materials and an overall design theme to evoke a nearby or notable local element such as Shasta Lake or the Sacramento River.

OPEN SPACE

The community clearly identified that the natural character of Shasta County is one of the most important defining features. To preserve this important feature, and to attract residents, visitors and businesses that prefer to be closer to a natural environment, the community will need to consider how it will direct growth. There will also be periodic opportunities that arise to acquire or otherwise conserve large parcels of land that had been in private ownership.

HIGH IMPACT OPEN SPACES

To effectively preserve the natural character of Shasta County, the community must first identify the types and locations of areas that will have the most impact on the visual, environmental and economic benefits that open spaces can provide. As a part of land use planning processes, the identification of key lands that offer views, contribute to the sense of openness and benefit the natural processes and habitats should be a priority. High visibility areas that should be considered prior to land development include:

- Ridgelines;
- Hillsides;
- Along major routes of travel; and
- Surrounding water features such as streams and ponds.

Once identified, these lands should be assessed for their ability to not only provide a natural feel but for the impact that this perception could have on the economic value of nearby lands.

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL LANDS

The ongoing Stewardship Council process presents an opportunity to expand the public capacity to manage natural areas and the associated recreation amenities. The County should continue to pursue the application to assume ownership of some portion of the two units of land that are within the county. If the County is selected as the best manager for these lands, the final land conservation and conveyance plan will include ownership of land, as well as details of the conservation and management responsibilities that the County will take on. This will expand the County's capacity to manage other open spaces and recreation amenities as resources allow.

DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS

Acquiring lands or preserving them through regulation is not the only option to ensure that Shasta County continues to be a place known for its natural beauty. Property owners and land developers are increasingly aware of the value of nearby open spaces and are often willing to incorporate them into residential development as a means to increase the value of the resulting homes.

Going one step beyond this, the conservation easement is a tool that allows an owner who values the open, undeveloped nature of a property to sell the rights to develop it. This process is currently being pursued with success by the Shasta Land

Trust to preserve some of the open range lands. By engaging with the Shasta Land Trust, or directly with property owners, additional open space benefits (beyond limiting development) could also be explored. For example, if the property owner is willing to forgo development, there may be a portion of the property that could be purchased (or have an option to purchase) for open space or recreational uses. Presenting this menu of options should be especially important when considering property that is key to other open space or trails projects.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

This planning process has identified projects and policies that are necessary to create the variety of recreation opportunities desired by Shasta County residents. The broad process and recommendations will serve many agencies and community groups with a catalog of needed projects. The implementation of this plan will require the ongoing cooperation of the many agencies responsible for existing park and recreation sites, together with the motivated citizens of Shasta County.

This chapter focuses in on the recommended implementation strategy for the County government. The policies and projects recommended in this plan identify a substantial gap in the park, trail and open space services provided in Shasta County. This gap presents an opportunity for the County to reposition itself in relation to this popular and valued set of services. Recognizing the challenges posed by the current economic cycle and the many obligations that the County has, the short-term implementation of this plan includes projects prioritized based on their feasibility and sustainability with a minimal resource commitment. This plan also addresses long-term implementation items that create a larger role for the County in facilitating and developing local and regional resources.

SHORT-TERM IMPLEMENTATION

Over the next three to five years, Shasta County will likely be in recovery from the recession that has reduced operating revenues to extremely low levels. The implementation over the short-term should focus on preparing for the resumption of housing construction and other land development in the core of the county and in the outlying rural areas. The following recommendations should be considered for the short-term which can start immediately depending on resources available.

- **Policy Updates** – Drawing from the recommended policies for parks, trails, open space and capacity development in Chapter 4 of this plan, the County should clarify the role it will play in relation to other agencies and community groups in providing park and recreation resources. The policies provided are intended to simplify the revision of the County's General Plan policies.

After updating the General Plan policies, the County could consider adopting implementation tools, ordinances and code language for improving or designing new parks and trails, and for protection of natural resources. Though some measures are already used by the County to some degree, the County could consider updating and/or adopting new standards to reflect identified needs. Some possible useful tools include:

- Protection of significant views (ridgelines, valleys, etc.), river banks, steep slopes, wetlands and wildlife corridors;
- Tree protection and retention requirements;
- Transfer of development rights, conservation easements, cluster development, density bonuses and zoning overlays;
- Stormwater design standards and water conservation guidelines;
- Park and trial design standards; and
- Park dedication or fee in-lieu requirements for new development.

- **Interagency Committee on Parks, Trails and Open Space** – The County should convene and contribute to a quarterly meeting of parks, trails and open space interests to coordinate and track the progress of projects with regional significance. The County should assign a staff member to participate in this group and represent the County perspective. Ultimately, the group should be able to establish a regular schedule but in the early stages the County should assist by providing a space and setting a meeting day and time.
- **Local Park Development Guide** – The key to empowering local park development is to create a guide to the process of establishing local funding to support the development and maintenance of new local sites. The County should finalize a process that describes the types of support that are available and the conditions of that support. Appendix B provides an initial framework and description that this guide can be built from.

LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION

As the economy improves, the willingness of residents to pay for services that they see as valuable may increase. Economic upswings present an opportunity to reinvest in public facilities.

- **Improvements to County Park Sites** – Over the long-term, facilities at existing County park sites will require reinvestment to maintain public

assets. This should include the additional amenities noted in the project recommendations.

- **County-Wide Park, Trails and Open Space Agency** – The County should pursue an independently funded regional park authority. The broad range of coordination and project needs identified in the community requires a higher level of commitment than the County can make utilizing its current resources.

  A regional park, trails and open space agency could exist as a separate governmental entity or be closely tied to the county government. In some counties, the district exists as a separate tax authority and has its own board to guide the use of these funds. The district then contracts to the county to provide staffing services for its administration, maintenance and construction needs. In these communities, the tax payers have made a commitment to park and recreation opportunities that is not subject to competition from other important services. In other cases, this type of agency operates as an independent district, separating the responsibility for parks, trails and open space from other County obligations.

  The specific roles recommended for a regional agency include:
  - Coordination of regional park, trail and open space projects;
  - Clearinghouse for regional park and recreation opportunities; and
  - Development and management of regional trails between other public ownerships.

  Other responsibilities that could be taken on include:
  - Ownership or management of additional regional park sites;
  - Technical assistance for local park projects; and
  - Ownership of local park property (with operations funded locally).

  The agency will need to be formed with a dedicated funding source (recognizing that there are no available resources to fund this currently). This funding will allow the agency to take on the current park, trails and open space roles of the County and implement much of the policy recommended directly. However, the County will need to work closely with the new entity to coordinate land-use decisions.

IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING

The funding approach of this plan is to establish the current role that Shasta County is able to sustain in the areas of parks, trails and open spaces and to identify potential additional resources for future efforts. To ensure that any investment in park resources is well spent, the funding discussion is split into two discussions to cover the types of funding that can build park amenities and those that can be used to maintain them.

CAPITAL FUNDING

The capital options for funding park, trail and open space projects in the short-term are relatively limited. The most likely source of funding in this time frame are donations and grant funds, although grants may be limited by available matching funds within the County budget. During this period the County should establish any development fees, including impact fees or Quimby Act fees, to take advantage of the return of residential growth. Impact fees should be collected on a county-wide basis, meaning that they are based on the impact to regional park service. Over time as these funds accumulate, they can be used to fund capacity increases in regional scale facilities offered by the County.

Land dedications or in-lieu fees should be allocated to land acquisition appropriate for local parks in the area the development is taking place. These lands can then be developed by local community organizations following the process laid out by the County.

In the long-term, the community may be prepared to commit additional resources to new recreation opportunities. The primary source of these capital funds is recommended to be connected to the funding source of the park, trail and open space agency. Using a funding district such as a Landscape and Lighting District will allow the agency to raise not only capital funds through bonding but also operating funds for maintenance and coordination efforts.

The capital funding capacity of the regional agency could also be used to benefit local park capital need. Because these funds are coming from a regional tax base, the key to providing local park capital funding is applying the resources in a fair and equitable manner. The easiest way to accomplish this is to establish a local park grant program. Either regularly or on a two or three year cycle, the regional agency could call for grant proposals for improvements to local parks. These proposals would be evaluated based on criteria that ensures the funding is spread across the community and is spent on projects that have established maintenance funding. Even a relatively

small amount of funding could leverage a considerable amount of community effort and donations.

A local park grant program could be established by the County in advance of a regional agency as a means to distribute one-time funds that may be dedicated to this use by the County or from State or Federal block grants or per-capital allocations. These funds could include a portion of Federal Community Development Block Grant funding allocated to the County or the periodic state-wide bond funded per-capita funds. Although no per-capita funds are available now, establishing a process and assigning responsibility would streamline the distribution of these funds. The County could model a local grant program on the lessons learned in distributing a portion of the tobacco settlement funds through community grants over the past two years.

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS FUNDING

It is critical that capital funding measures are paired with a strategy for a steady, ongoing stream of operating funds to maintain new or renovated resources. The policy of this plan is that the funding applied to the ongoing maintenance of local park facilities should be obtained from the local community. Local communities, with the assistance of the County, should establish funding districts to support local park operations. As the taxing authority over these local areas, the County will need to facilitate the vote to establish a district and manage the collection of funds. These local funding districts will have their own boards to manage the spending of any funds raised.

At the regional level, a basic level of maintenance and operations funding has been provided by the County. The recommended path to an enhanced role for County government is to establish a funding district and create an independent agency responsible for the ongoing operation and development of the parks, trails and open space system.

Resources for capital and operations funding are described in Appendix C: Funding Options. This information is relevant to the County as well as the local park organizations in developing the specific funding for park, trail and open space projects.

CONCLUSION

Shasta County residents enjoy the many great park, trail and open space opportunities available and recognize that the County government is one of many providers responsible for this valuable system. With this plan the County has taken a major step in identifying the potential of the natural and recreational features to benefit employment, development and quality of life in the area. By increasing its presence as a coordinator in this field, the County can add a great deal of value for residents and visitors. Looking into the future, the County has an opportunity to secure a role as a facilitator of regional projects that have great interest across the community. While this plan is complete, the process of expanding park, trail and open space opportunities continues. In order to continue making progress in this area, the community should re-evaluate its priorities and project needs periodically.

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APPENDIX A

KEY RESOURCES SUMMARY

PARK INVENTORY SUMMARY

Shasta County's array of parks, recreation facilities and natural resources can be divided into regional and local resource sites. This inventory describes the sites within each category, as well as a description of the function and scale that each site serves.

REGIONAL RESOURCE SITES

Shasta County's larger regional resources offer residents and visitors with seemingly endless opportunities for enjoying the outdoors. The following provides a complete inventory of regional resource sites in the county including a brief description of the functions they serve users.

Ahjumawi Lava Springs State Park

Recognized for its cultural and natural resource values, Ahjumawi Lava Spring State Park is designated as a wilderness area. The Pit River Native Americans once inhabited the area, and over two thirds of the region is covered by recent (three to five thousand years) lava flows. The waters from Big Lake, Tule River, Ja-She Creek, Lava Creek and Fall River come together to form one of the largest systems of fresh water springs in the country. Hiking and wildlife viewing are popular recreation activities. The park is only accessible by boat, which may be launched from the PG&E public boat launch on Big Lake.

Anderson River Park

Anderson River Park is Anderson's only regional park. The park provides softball and soccer fields, as well as tennis and basketball courts. Visitors have opportunities for boating, fishing, picnicking and barbecuing, wildlife viewing and hiking and use of equestrian trails. A KiddieLand playground, tot lot and amphitheater for community events are also provided.

Balls Ferry Boat Ramp

The Balls Ferry Boat Ramp is located east of the City of Anderson and provides public access to the Sacramento River. It is maintained by the county and provides a restroom and parking area.

Battle Creek Wildlife Area

This 582-acre wildlife refuge includes riparian forests, marshes and oak woodland. It lies adjacent to Coleman National Fish Hatchery, where Battle Creek provides

excellent spawning grounds for Chinook salmon. Wildlife viewing for bald eagles and osprey nests may be found here.

Big League Dreams Ballpark

Big League Dreams Ballpark is a state of the art sports park facility located in Redding. There are three baseball/softball fields, batting cages, outdoor sand volleyball courts, children's play area and an indoor, climate controlled, roller hockey/soccer/basketball field house. Other amenities include benches, drinking fountains, picnic tables and restrooms. The artificial turf and lighting allow for year-round and full-day use.

Caldwell Park

Caldwell Park is a 73-acre regional park located in Redding. The park provides sports fields for baseball, softball and soccer, and also offers basketball courts. Amenities include BBQ pits, benches, picnic tables, playgrounds, restrooms and walking trails. Facilities include a recreation center, teen center, Redding Aquatic Center, Carter House art gallery and skateboard park. The variety in indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities makes this park very popular.

Castle Crags State Park

Castle Crags State Park is situated north of Redding and surrounded by Shasta-Trinity National Forest. The park is named for the 6,000-feet tall glacier-polished crags. Public facilities include 76 developed campsites and six environmental campsites. There are swimming and fishing opportunities in the Sacramento River; and hiking opportunities on the 28 miles of hiking trails, including the Pacific Crest Trial and an access trail to Castle Crags Wilderness.

Chappie Shasta Off-Highway Vehicle Area

This site is 10 miles northwest of Redding and provides 200 miles of trails and roads in 52,000 acres. The primary intended use is for off-road vehicles. The terrain varies from rocky to mild slopes, and the elevation ranges from 600 to 5,000 feet. Camping is located adjacent the staging area below Shasta Dam.

Cloverdale Trailhead

The Cloverdale Trailhead is part of the Clear Creek Greenway Project in southwest Shasta County. The trailhead provides recreation opportunities and access to 12.5 miles of trails and wonderful scenic viewing. The area is managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

Coleman Fish Hatchery

The Coleman Fish Hatchery is located on the north bank of Battle Creek approximately three miles east of the Sacramento River and twenty miles southeast

of the city of Redding. It was built in 1942 to mitigate the loss of natural salmon to historic spawning areas. The hatchery intends to produce over 15 million salmon and trout annually with 1% of released hatchery fish returning to Battle Creek. The site is open to visitors and allows for self-guided tours. The Salmon Festival is an annual event that attracts thousands of visitors. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service operates the facility.

Convention Center & Grounds

The Redding Convention Center is located near downtown Redding in a protected open space, surrounded by the Sacramento River, the Turtle Bay Exploration Park and Sundial Bridge. It will seat over 2,000 people or provide an open floor arrangement for conventions as well as trade and exhibit shows.

Cow-Battle Creek Unit

The Cow-Battle Creek Unit is one of two recreation units that PG&E owns and manages in Shasta County. The unit offers a number of recreation opportunities, including fishing, camping, hunting, hiking, boating and picnicking. The recreation sites are located to the north and south of Highway 44 in the vicinity of Shingletown and Viola. The recreation planning units are Burney Gardens, Kilarc Reservoir, Battle Creek and Cow Creek and comprise a total of 11,085 acres.

Enterprise Park

Enterprise Park is an 84-acre regional park maintained by the City of Redding. Recreational opportunities are provided for soccer, softball, basketball, disc gold, roller hockey and walking. Amenities include picnic tables, restrooms, large turf area and BBQ sites. Facilities include Kids Kingdom, Fantasy Fountain, a community center and a community garden.

French Gulch Park

French Gulch Park is a Cunty-maintained, day use area located next to Clear Creek in French Gulch. Recreational opportunities include picnicking, playing horseshoes and water activities in the creek.

Hat Creek Park

Situated along Highway 299 in the Fall River Valley, Hat Creek Park offers excellent catch and release fly-fishing year round. It is a designated day use area maintained by the County. Picnic tables and a restroom are provided.

Inter-Mountain Fairgrounds

The Inter-Mountain Fairgrounds is located in the north-eastern tip of Shasta County on Hwy 299E in the town of McArthur, CA. The annual fair is held each year in late August and is a regional draw with over 30,000 attendees. The fairgrounds provide

three halls, an outdoor and indoor arena, picnic tables, RV and boat storage and a kitchen. There are 53 RV spaces and a number of tent camping sites available seasonally.

Keswick Reservoir

The Keswick Reservoir is located nine miles downstream from Shasta Dam. The dam has fish trapping facilities in conjunction with the Coleman Fish Hatchery, 25 miles downstream on Battle Creek. Recreation opportunities include fly fishing, spin and bait fishing, boating and shore access. It is open year round and does not charge an entrance fee.

Lake Redding Park

Lake Redding Park is a day use only park located in Redding along the Sacramento River. The 10-acre park provides opportunities for motor boating, horseshoes, fishing, birding and walking. Amenities include paved parking, picnic tables, restrooms and drinking fountains. There is access to the Sacramento River trail.

Lassen National Forest

Lassen National Forest covers much of the eastern edges of Shasta County. The forest covers 1.2 million acres and lies within Shasta, Lassen, Tehama, Butte, Plumas, Siskiyou and Modoc counties. As a national forest, it is managed for a variety of uses, including recreation. Recreational opportunities for nearby and out of town visitors are fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, bicycling, boating, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing. Areas of recreation interest include the Thousand Lake Wilderness, Caribou Wilderness, Ishi Wilderness, Subway Cave Lava Tube and a number of national recreation trails, including the Pacific Crest Trail.

Lassen Volcanic National Park

Located about 50 miles east of Redding, Lassen Volcanic National Park (LVNP) attracts about 400,000 visitors annually. Popular sites in the park include Mt. Lassen, Brokeoff Mountain, Manzanita Lake, Juniper Lake and Warner Valley. Established in 1916, 75% of the park's 106,372 acres is designated wilderness. A variety of nature interpretive programs and activities are provided to park visitors throughout the year. These include auto-touring on the park's main road, backpacking, bird-watching, snowshoeing and skiing, boating and kayaking, camping, fishing, hiking and horse packing. Over 150 miles of trail, including the Lassen Peak trail and a section of the Pacific Crest Trail, are found in the park. Camp sites are available in a number of improved and unimproved sites throughout the park.

Vehicle access to the park is available on the main park road from either the north entrance station at Manzanita Lake or the southwest entrance station via Highway 36; Juniper Lake and Warner Valley roads from Chester; and Butte Lake Road via

Highway 44. Hikers may access the park from the north or south from the Pacific Crest Trail, from the east through the Caribou Wilderness on the Lassen National Forest and on Nobles Immigrant Trail (the original park road) through the Manzanita Lake area. Year round access is available, though the main park road is closed in the winter.

Latour State Forest

Latour State Forest is located south of Burney and east of Redding along the edge of Lassen National Forest. Ten coniferous tree species are grown for their commercial value. These include sugar, ponderosa, Jeffery, western white and lodge-pole pine, Douglas fir, white and red fir, incense cedar and mountain hemlock. Recreational activities include bicycling, hiking, camping, snowmobiling, fishing, hunting and horse riding. Campsites include picnic tables, fire rings and restroom facilities as water is available. The forest is accessible to vehicles from late June until November.

Lower Clear Creek

This area is managed by the Bureau of Land Management. A parking lot and hiking trails are provided in the area.

Mary Lake Park

Mary Lake Park is a 30-acre nature park located in west Redding. The focal point is the 17-acre lake with a mile long trail. There is a connection with the Westside Trail that allows walkers and bikers access to the local trail network.

McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park

The park is located north of the town Burney on Highway 89. The main feature is the 129-foot National Natural Landmark Burney Falls which is formed from Burney Creek, underground springs and Lake Britton. Five miles of stream and lake shoreline exist in the park. Located on the Cascade Range and Modoc Plateau, the terrain is primarily volcanic rock with evergreen forests. Activities in the park include hiking, boating, swimming, fishing, wildlife viewing and camping. A concessionaire in the park provides rentals for a swan boat, canoes or paddle boats. Educational activities include a junior ranger program for children and ranger led interpretive hikes and evening campfire programs. Vehicle access to the park is available from Highway 89. Hikers may access the area from the Pacific Crest Trail that bisects the park.

Millville Plains

The Millville Plains is the area located along the Sierra foothills stretching from Redding south to Anderson. It is primarily oak and grassland habitat that provides excellent opportunities for bird watching and spring wildflower viewing. The area is

primarily private land, though a number of pullouts allow visitors to stop and view the area.

Parkview Riverfront Park

Parkview Riverfront Park is a 12-acre nature park located on the Sacramento River in central Redding. The southern trailhead for accessing the Sacramento River Trail is located here.

Peppertree Natural Area Park

Peppertree Natural Area Park is a 26-acre nature park in north Redding. The park provides walking and wildlife viewing opportunities.

Pit-McCloud River Unit

The Pit-McCloud River Unit is one of two recreation units that PG&E owns in Shasta County. The unit offers a number of recreation opportunities, including fishing, camping, hunting, hiking, boating and picnicking. The recreation sites are located in the vicinity of the Highway 89 and 299 intersections. The recreation planning units are Fall River Valley, McArthur Swamp, Fall River Mills, Hat Creek, Lake Britton, Tunnel Reservoir, Pit River, Iron Canyon Reservoir and Lake McCloud and comprise a total of 38,223 acres.

Reading Island Recreation Area

Reading Island Recreation Area is a Bureau of Land Management recreation unit located near the confluence of the Sacramento River and Cottonwood Creek. The vegetation is primarily oak, willow, cottonwood, blackberries and elderberry. The area provides a number of recreation opportunities, but is only accessible by permit. Recreation opportunities include fishing, boating, camping and picnicking. Amenities include picnic tables, restrooms, a bulletin board and a primitive boat ramp. The surrounding waterways are currently infested with invasive species and not easily accessible for boats.

Redding Soccer Park

Redding Soccer Park is adjacent to Big League Dreams Ballpark. The 22-acre site provides four lighted, synthetic turf fields for year round play. Amenities include paved walkways, elevated seating, full service restaurant, covered seating and a large play structure with climbing walls, slides and ladders for children.

Riverfront Park

Riverfront Park is managed by Redding and is located on the same grounds as the Redding Convention Center. Two acres are developed and 17 acres are undeveloped. Restrooms and walking trails along the Sacramento River are provided.

Sacramento River Bend Area

This Bureau of Land Management protected area is located along the Sacramento River in southern Shasta County. The northern portion is found in Shasta County and the southern portion is located in Tehama County. The area is valued for its historic and natural resources such as habitats for bald eagles, osprey, migratory and song birds, deer and salmon. Early explorers and the Yana and Nomlaki Native American Indian tribes frequented the area. Paynes Creek Wetlands and Yana Trail are two recreation attractions in this area. Other activities include hunting, horseback riding, camping, hiking, boating, picnicking and wildlife viewing.

Shasta District Fairgrounds

The Shasta District Fairgrounds are situated on 65 acres in the City of Anderson. With over 50,000 square feet of exhibit space and three large parking lots to accommodate 2,500 cars, the Fairgrounds can easily accommodate the 105,000 people that attend the annual Shasta District Fair. This June event is the largest event in Shasta County and features livestock exhibits, carnival rides, entertainment, art and crafts and food.

Shasta-Trinity National Forest

The Shasta-Trinity National Forest is the largest in California with a diverse landscape ranging from 1,000 to 14,162 feet. The 2.1 million-acre forest encompasses five wilderness areas, hundreds of mountain lakes and 6,278 miles of streams and rivers. A wide range of recreational activities is offered in the area. Some of these include hiking, backpacking, mountain climbing, horseback riding, camping, boating, fishing, sightseeing, downhill skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. Only a portion of Shasta-Trinity National Forest lies in Shasta County. This area is managed by the U.S. Forest Service.

Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area

Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area is a part of Shasta-Trinity National Forest. The area is comprised of Shasta Lake, Shasta Dam and the surrounding waterfront. Shasta Lake forms the core of the Shasta Unit and offers recreationist a variety of outdoor activities including: boating, water-skiing, swimming, fishing, camping, picnicking, hiking, hunting and mountain biking. Shasta Dam is managed by the Bureau of Reclamation and is not accessible by the general public. Shasta Lake and the forest are managed by the U.S. Forest Service and are open to the public. A number of private concessionaires are found along the waterfront and provide

watercraft rentals. Forest service and commercially operated boat ramps are available to boaters.

Shasta State Historic Park

Shasta State Historic Park is a collection of historic sites six miles west of Redding on Highway 299. Historic exhibits and art work educate visitors of the areas rich gold mining history. The sites include half-ruined brick buildings, cottages, cemeteries and a restored County Courthouse. Picnic tables and restrooms are provided.

South Bonnyview Boat Launch

Owned by California Department of Fish and Game and operated by the City of Redding, the boat launch offers easy and convenient access to the Sacramento River. The area provides a paved lot, walkways and a restroom.

Swasey Recreation Area

Swasey Recreation Area is a rural, unimproved recreation area managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The northwest section is adjacent to the southeast corner of Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Mule Mountain Pass Trail allows visitors to travel by foot or bike between the two areas. There are 16 miles of hiking and biking trails in the area, most of which is signed and unimproved. There are two picnic areas and a great restroom, but water is not available.

Thousand Lakes Wilderness Area

Thousand Lakes Wilderness is one of three wilderness areas on the Lassen National Forest, but is the only national wilderness area in Shasta County. The area is 16,335 acres and is located between Highway 44 and 299. As a designated wilderness area, the area is open to non-mechanized activities such as hiking, backpacking, canoeing and horse packing. Some of the natural resources include lodgepole pine, red fir, rocky ravines, mountain meadows, seven major lakes, black-tailed deer, black bear, spotted owl and trout. Crater Peak, the highest point on Lassen National Forest, is found in Thousand Lakes wilderness area and rises to 8,677 ft. Trail access into the wilderness area is available from Tamarack, Bunchgrass, and Cypress trailheads. There is no road access available into the wilderness area.

Turtle Bay Boat Launch

The Turtle Bay Exploration Park is a 300-acre site that is connected by the Sundial Bridge at Turtle Bay. It provides education and entertaining activities that explore the relationship between humans and nature. Facilities include a museum, art gallery, summer butterfly house, amphitheater and arboretum and gardens. A couple of recreational activities include wildlife exhibits and forest camps. The park offers

numerous access points to the Sacramento River, including a boat ramp near the civic auditorium.

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area is 8 miles west of Redding and provides over 3,600 acres of surface area recreation and 36 miles of shoreline. Its close proximity to Redding coupled with its abundance of water activities, including fishing, boating, kayaking, diving and an extensive trail network for hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking make the area a popular destination. Popular sites within the area include Whiskeytown Lake and the Camden House Historic District. Ranger guided activities include kayak tours, the Junior Ranger and Junior Firefighter programs, Camden House tours and gold panning. Vehicle access to the park is available on Highway 299.

LOCAL RESOURCE SITES

There are a handful of local park sites that provide near-by recreation opportunities for Shasta residents. This section lists local resource sites in Shasta County with a brief description of the functions they offer users. These sites are valuable to local residents and in the case of smaller rural towns, some sites may provide the only park land in town.

Bailey Park

Burney has a long-standing community park that includes an outdoor swimming pool and tot lot playground. This park is maintained by the County Community Network.

Bella Vista Park

Located 9 miles east of Redding, Bella Vista Park is located on the grounds of Bella Vista School. The site includes an open grass area and baseball field.

Benton Dog Park

Benton Dog Park is situated on the west side of Redding. It is a 2-acre off-leash, fenced in area. The Benton Dog Park Association, a non-profit organization, provides continued education and volunteer support for the dog park.

Big Bend Community Park

Located adjacent to the Indian Springs Elementary School, Big Bend Community Park is largely undeveloped and is in the rural community of Big Bend.

Castella Mini-Park
The small community of Castella has one mini-park on the east side of I-5 along the Sacramento River.

Churn Creek
The McConnell Foundation manages Churn Creek Open Space. The area is 180 acres and provides four miles of paved and unpaved hiking trails within oak woodland habitat. Activities allowed on the trails include walking, bicycling and running. Dogs are allowed. The Churn Creek trails provide a link between adjacent disconnected neighborhoods. Wildlife species include ducks, woodpeckers, egrets, red-winged blackbirds, otters and muskrats. The area is located adjacent to Lema Ranch off Shasta View Drive and can be accessed from either Highway 299 or Highway 44. There are a number of access points from adjacent neighborhoods for walkers and bicyclists.

Cottonwood Community Center and Park
The Cottonwood Community Center is a one room center that hosts a number of community events. The events include a focus on arts and culture, children and youth, seniors and sports and recreation. The adjacent park included a tot-lot playground and two baseball fields.

Cottonwood Downtown Park
Cottonwood Park is located in downtown Cottonwood and provides a small community space to relax and picnic. The only amenity in the area is a picnic table.

Fall River Lions Community Park and Hall
The Fall River Lions Community Park is the only park facility in Fall River. It was established and is maintained by the Fall River Lions Club. The park includes a lighted baseball field with bleachers and dugouts. A covered picnic area, play structure, large grass area, community center, paved parking lot and restrooms are also provided.

Fall River Lions Pit River Community Park
This river edge park provides fishing and picnicking opportunities. The property is a part of the PG&E holdings along the Pit River and has no formal agreement for park use.

Lema Ranch
The McConnell Foundation manages Lema Ranch. Located on the grounds of Lema Ranch are the Foundation's headquarters, four man-made ponds and numerous meeting facilities. The natural resources are protected to provide wildlife habitat and to improve water quality. The area offers four miles of paved hiking trails within 200

acres of oak woodland habitat. Walking is permitted, although bicycling and dogs are not allowed in Lema Ranch. The area is adjacent to Churn Creek located off Shasta View Drive and can be accessed from either Highway 299 or Highway 44.

Millville Preschool

The Millville Preschool provides a tot-lot playground for local residents.

Montgomery Creek Park

Montgomery Creek is situated between Redding and Burney on Highway 299. The park is located on the grounds of Montgomery Creek School and includes two baseball fields.

Palo Cedro Community Park

Palo Cedro Community Park is an 18-acre site in the center of Palo Cedro. The Palo Cedro Community Park Association, a non-profit organization, manages the land. The park is currently in Phase I of a three phase implementation plan being developed though the park is open to community gatherings, such as picnics, weddings, reunions, and parties. Future development includes sports fields for baseball and soccer, as well as tennis, basketball, and bocce ball courts. Public education on the local ecology and history will be provided through kiosks, bulletin boards, and signage. Other amenities will include walking trails, picnic tables, barbecue areas, and restrooms.

Shingletown Park

Shingletown Park is associated with Black Butte Junior High School. The site includes a tot-lot playground and large grass area.

Volonte Park

Volante Park is located in Anderson. The park includes ball fields, walking trails, senior exercise equipment, a skate park and a wetlands area.

TRAILS

The network of trails in the Shasta region includes both local and nationally recognized trails. Trails provide an opportunity to improve connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists. These trails attract visitors from other states and countries and provide an opportunity to share the natural beauty of Shasta County. The inventory includes major trail corridors and sites that have significant internal trail systems.

Blue Gravel Trail

The Blue Gravel Trail parallels Buenaventura Blvd. between Canyon Road and Placer Street in west Redding. The trail is 1¾ miles one way. Water is available, but restrooms are not. Walking, bicycling and dogs on leash are allowed. The City of Redding maintains the trail.

Buenaventura Trail

The Buenaventura Trail primarily runs along Gold Run Creek and connects with the Sacramento River Trail. The trail is paved from Lakeside to Sunflower Drive, and unpaved from Sunflower Drive to the Sacramento River Trail. Walking, bicycling and dogs on leash are allowed. The City of Redding maintains the trail.

Hart Trail (Upper Sacramento Ditch Trail)

The Hart Trail (Upper Sacramento Ditch Trail) lies on the east side of the Sacramento River and runs from Walker Road to the Shasta Dam access road just below Shasta Dam. The trail is 4.4 miles one way and is extremely rocky with steep grades. The elevation ranges are from 614 ft. to 1010 ft. The trail is maintained by the Bureau of Land Management and provides a key link on the east side of the Sacramento River between Redding and the Shasta Lake area.

Hornbeck Trail

The Hornbeck Trail is a four-mile trail on Bureau of Land Management land near Keswick Reservoir. The northern trailhead is at the end of Walker Mine Road and the southern trailhead is at Quartz Hill Road. The trail lies on the east side of the Sacramento River and provides offshoot trails to allow for water access. The Lower Sacramento Ditch Trail is 2.8 miles and is an offshoot of the trail.

Mule Mountain Pass Trail

Mule Mountain Pass Trail is located in Swasey Recreation Area and Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. This dirt trail is accessible for hikers, bicyclists and equestrians. Water is not available.

Nobles Emigrant Trail

The Nobles Emigrant Trail is an historic trail used by emigrants heading to gold country in northern California in the mid 19th century. The wagon route begins just east of Susanville on the east side of the Sierras and ends in Anderson on the west side. The trail enters Shasta County through Lassen National Forest and Lassen Volcanic National Park and generally follows Highway 44 to the valley. Lassen Volcanic National Park offers the most intact continuous stretch of trail. Most of the trail follows roads and is not well marked.

Pacific Crest Trail

The Pacific Crest Tail is a nationally recognized scenic trail that extends from Mexico to Canada through California, Oregon and Washington. Within Shasta County, the trail meanders through Lassen and Shasta-Trinity National Forests, Lassen Volcanic National Park, Castle Crags State Park and McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park. The total length of the trail is 2,650 miles, with about 130 miles within Shasta County.

Sacramento River Rail Trail

The Sacramento River Rail Trail is managed by the Bureau of Land Management and is accessible from Shasta dam, Metheson, Keswick and Rock Creek trailheads. The trail is 8.4 miles long with relatively flat terrain, and is mostly unpaved, although a short paved section exists. No motorized vehicles are allowed. This trail connects the Sacramento River Trails in Redding to the Shasta Dam area.

Sacramento River Trail

The Sacramento River Trail is located along the Sacramento River within the City of Redding. The 9.5 mile trail is relatively flat and crosses over the Ribbon Bridge and Sundial Bridge. Attractions along this urban trail include the Turtle Bay Museum, the Arboretum and Lake Redding and Caldwell Park. The trail can be accessed from the southern Sacramento River Rail Trailhead, Buenaventura Trail, Standford Hills trail, Palatine Trail and other streets and urban pathways. This trail connects with the Sacramento River Rail Trail providing a vital link between Redding and the Shasta Dam area.

Shasta Trinity Trail

The Shasta Trinity Trail is a partially completed trail with the vision of linking Redding and the Trinity Alps. The trail is complete from Redding to Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. In Whiskeytown, a 2.5 mile section between Papoose Gulch and East Fork of Boulder Creek is still undeveloped. The status of the trail west of Whiskeytown is not known.

Westside Hiking Trails

The Westside Hiking Trails are a series of trails near Mary Lake Park. The trails are maintained by the City of Redding and are accessible from trailheads at Mary Lake Park, Dillard Road and Valparaiso Road. The trails are available for walking and bicycling. Water is available, although restrooms are not. The trails do not have a connection to the greater Redding area.

Table A-1: Shasta County Key Resources Inventory

Park / Recreation Site	Ownership	Existing / Proposed	River / Water Access	Natural / Scenic	Historical / Cultural	Trail	Camping	Competitive Sports	Community Space	Regional Event / Venue Space	Visitor Amenities	OHV
Regional Sites												
Ahjumawi Lava Springs State Park	California State Parks	Existing	✓	✓	✓		✓					
Anderson River Park	City of Anderson	Existing	✓			✓		✓			✓	
Anderson-Sacramento River Park	California State Parks	Proposed	✓			✓	✓		✓			
Balls Ferry Boat Ramp	Shasta County	Existing	✓								✓	
Battle Creek Wildlife Area	California Dept. Fish and Game	Existing	✓	✓		✓						
Benton Dog Park	City of Redding	Existing							✓		✓	
Big League Dreams Ballpark	City of Redding	Existing						✓		✓	✓	
Caldwell Park	City of Redding	Existing	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Castle Crags State Park	California State Parks	Existing		✓		✓	✓				✓	
Chappie Shasta Off-Highway Vehicle Area	Bureau of Land Management	Existing	✓			✓					✓	✓
Cloverdale Trailhead	Bureau of Land Management	Existing		✓		✓						
Coleman Fish Hatchery	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Existing		✓		✓						
Convention Center & Grounds - regional	City of Redding	Existing								✓		
Cow-Battle Creek Unit	Pacific Gas & Electric / Stewardship Council	Existing	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	
Enterprise Park	City of Redding	Existing				✓		✓	✓		✓	
French Gulch	Shasta County	Existing	✓						✓		✓	
Hat Creek	Shasta County	Existing	✓						✓		✓	
Inter-Mountain Fairgrounds	Shasta County	Existing							✓	✓		
Keswick Reservoir	Bureau of Reclamation	Existing	✓			✓			✓			
Lake Redding Park	City of Redding	Existing	✓						✓		✓	
Lassen National Forest	U.S. Forest Service	Existing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Lassen Volcanic National Park	National Park Service	Existing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	
Latour State Forest	California Department of Forestry and Fire	Existing		✓		✓						
Lower Clear Creek	Bureau of Land Management	Existing	✓	✓		✓			✓			
Margaret Polf Park	City of Shasta Lake	Existing				✓		✓			✓	
Mary Lake Park	City of Redding	Existing	✓			✓						
McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park	California State Parks	Existing	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	
Millville Plains	Private Land	Existing		✓								
Parkview Riverfront Park	City of Redding	Existing	✓			✓						
Peppertree Natural Area Park	City of Redding	Existing		✓		✓						
Pit-McCloud River Unit	Pacific Gas & Electric / Stewardship Council	Existing	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	
Reading Auquatic Center	City of Redding	Existing						✓		✓	✓	
Reading Island Recreation Area	Bureau of Land Management	Existing	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	
Redding Soccer Park	City of Redding	Existing						✓		✓	✓	
Riverfront Park	City of Redding	Existing	✓								✓	
Sacramento River Bend Area	Bureau of Land Management	Existing	✓			✓	✓		✓		✓	
Shasta District Fairgrounds	Shasta District Fair	Existing							✓	✓	✓	
Shasta-Trinity National Forest	U.S. Forest Service	Existing	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	
Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area	U.S. Forest Service	Existing	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Shasta State Historic Park	California State Parks	Existing			✓				✓		✓	
South Bonnyview Boat Launch	City of Redding	Existing	✓								✓	
Swasey Recreation Area	Burea of Land Management	Existing	✓			✓						
Turtle Bay Boat Launch	City of Redding	Existing	✓									
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area	National Park Service	Existing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Local Sites												
Bailey Park	County Community Network	Existing							✓		✓	
Bella Vista Park	Local school district	Existing							✓		✓	
Big Bend Community Park	Local school district	Existing							✓			
Castella Mini-Park	Castle Rock Community Preschool	Existing							✓			
Churn Creek	McConnell Foundation	Existing		✓		✓			✓		✓	
Cottonwood Community Center and Park	Cottonwood Community Foundation	Existing						✓	✓		✓	
Cottonwood Downtown Park	Information not available	Existing							✓		✓	
Fall River Lions Community Park and Hall	Fall River Lions Club	Existing							✓		✓	
Fall River Lions Pit River Community Park	Pacific Gas & Electric / Stewardship Council	Existing	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	
Happy Valley Community Park	Happy Valley Park Committee	Proposed				✓			✓		✓	
Lema Ranch	McConnell Foundation	Existing				✓			✓		✓	
Millville Preschool Playground	Millville Preschool	Existing							✓			
Montgomery Creek Park	Local school district	Existing							✓		✓	
Palo Cedro Community Park	Palo Cedro Community Action Team	Proposed				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Shingletown Park	Local school district	Existing							✓			
Volonte Park	City of Anderson	Existing	✓	✓		✓		✓				
Trails												
Blue Gravel Trail	City of Redding	Existing	✓			✓					✓	
Buenaventura Trail	City of Redding	Existing	✓			✓						
Burney/McArthur-Burney Falls State Park Rail Trail	Information not available	Proposed				✓						
Hart Trail / Upper Sacramento Ditch Trail	Bureau of Land Management	Existing	✓			✓						
Hornbeck Trail	Bureau of Land Management	Existing	✓			✓						
Mule Mountain Pass Trail	Bureau of Land Management	Existing				✓						
Nobles Emigrant Trail	LVNP, Lassen NF	Existing			✓	✓						
Pacific Crest Trail	LVNP, USFS, CA State Parks	Existing				✓						
Sacramento River Rail Trail	Bureau of Land Management	Existing				✓						
Sacramento River Trail	City of Redding	Existing	✓			✓						
Sacramento River Water Trail	California State Parks	Proposed				✓						
Shasta Trinity Trail	Redding, WNRA, Shasta-Trinity NF	Existing				✓						
Westside Hiking Trail	City of Redding	Existing				✓						

APPENDIX B

LOCAL PARK DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

THE LOCAL PARK DEVELOPMENT PROCESS: A GUIDE TO PARK DEVELOPMENT

A great park usually begins with the interests and ideas of an individual or group. Yet the road to park development can be long and challenging, causing project supporters to become discouraged and lose interest. *The Local Park Development Process: A Guide to Park Development* is designed to assist unincorporated communities in Shasta County through the decision and review process, with the ultimate goal of establishing a local park that the community can be proud of. Some of the points in this guide require additional detail to be developed by the County about legal and other conditions that would be required for critical steps such as taking on property ownership for a local park project. In the future, the County can update this guide based on outcomes of completed projects.

Some park sites in Shasta County are already partially developed. In these cases, information in this guide can be applied at the necessary stage of park development. Each step identified in this guide describes the role that the County government can play in facilitating this process. This guide is organized similar to the park development process, and includes discussion of the following topics: park concept, planning & design, development and maintenance.

PHASE I: PARK CONCEPT

Someone has mentioned the idea of a new park in the community and is questioning what to do next. The new park could contain several amenities and there are a number of great locations where the new park could be located. A wide variety of possibilities present themselves:

- A play area for local children;
- A new ball field for the community;
- A place to hold a Fourth of July community picnic;
- River access for fishing; or a
- A community center for meetings and events.

After the idea becomes more detailed, the next step is to identify a project champion responsible for building momentum for the idea and carrying it through the park development process.

PROJECT CHAMPION

Key to the success of a park development effort is to have a committed champion of the project. This can be an organization established specifically for this purpose, an existing community group willing to take the project on or simply a dedicated individual. This person or group will also be the point of contact for information about the project.

PUBLIC SUPPORT

At this stage in the process it is important to build community support for the idea of a new park. With a basic outline of the idea, the project champion should collect 100 or more signatures of community members who support the idea of developing and maintaining a new community park. It is very important that this step include an internal community discussion of funding needs including on-going maintenance costs, such as a local tax measure, with potential park supporters. This initial statement of community support will be useful in recruiting user groups and individuals for volunteering, and in acquiring funding and other support from public agencies in later stages. This is typically required for many grant funded programs. This step is also helpful to identify possible issues or foreseeable project roadblocks that will need to be addressed if the project is to succeed.

CONCEPT PLAN

The next step is to further develop the park idea into a basic park concept plan that describes and illustrates what the new park could look like. The plan also serves as a draft of the site master plan that should occur in the following step. The concept plan should include the desired location of the park, a list of amenities, overall park design, as well as concept alternatives. The concept plan should consider breaking the overall project into phases or even individual projects to be completed over time, and as funding allows.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT'S ROLE

The County's role is limited at this point. Initial contact with the County's point person for parks, trails and open space would be appropriate following the initial show of support from a project champion. If land dedication or any development fees have been targeted for the community this can be discussed.

PHASE II: LOCATION & DESIGN

Finding the appropriate location for your park and acquiring access or ownership is a critical step before any features can be added. Once a site is identified and secured (either acquired or legally held), a basic site design will help guide the development of the property.

LOCATION GUIDELINES

The community park location should aim to have the following features:

- Size of 5 to 25 acres, room to grow is a plus;
- Good visibility from a major street, nearby homes or businesses;
- Centrally located and accessible to the community it is intended to serve;
- Connected to any existing or planned local trails; and
- Adjacent to complementary uses, such as schools, community buildings, etc.

PROPERTY USE AGREEMENTS

In some cases, the land for your park may already be in public hands, such as a portion of a school property. If this is the case, then the purchase of land many not be necessary. However, if a site is to be used as a park while in other ownership it is important to have a clear understanding of the relationship between the user groups and the responsibilities for covering costs and approving any projects.

With a school district a working agreement may be informal, explaining the available facilities and how and when community members or groups can access them. This agreement should include the cost of using an indoor facility (gym or classroom rental) and the necessary contacts to suggest improvement projects on the property.

With many other property owners, a much more formal use agreement is preferred. In order to ensure that the investments of time and resources are protected, a long-term lease of 25 or more years would be ideal. Depending on the property, a lease may be available for a relatively small amount of money and would clearly explain what is and is not allowed on the site. Leasing, rather than owning, property can be a limiting factor for some funding sources (who prefer to spend money on land that is guaranteed to remain a park) and the liability concerns of the property owner may limit what can be developed on the site.

LAND ACQUISITION

Some park sites are the result of a property donation, but in most cases, the property for the new park will need to be purchased. This is often the first major challenge of a local park effort. One difficulty arises from the need to generate funding. It is typically much easier to raise funds with a specific property in mind, however the time it takes to raise the funding makes holding the property difficult. If the land owner is willing to work with the community while a funding mechanism is put in place, a sale price might be able to be negotiated contingent on securing funding.

SITE MASTER PLAN

Following the identification and securing of a site for the community park, the concept plan should be elaborated on to include:

- Site plan identifying where specific amenities are planned,
- The development phasing,
- Estimated cost of improvements,
- Anticipated capital funding sources, and
- Maintenance and operations plan.

This master plan would ideally be developed by a qualified professional landscape architect or park specialist.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT'S ROLE

Establishing a Funding District

The County's Parks, Trails and Open Space plan recommends requiring a locally based funding measure to support any new local parks. If the property for the park is to be owned by the County a funding measure must be approved by the local voters or property owners to cover the acquisition cost and the cost of ongoing maintenance. The PTOS plan includes information about funding measures that can support not only the acquisition but the maintenance as well. If the community is ready to formally support the park, the County will, in its role as tax authority, call for a vote (of residents or property owners depending on the type of funding measure) and if successful, manage the funds. The community will be responsible for building support to pass the measure and any project commitments that require County assistance must be contingent on or follow the establishing of this funding district.

Land Acquisition

If the park project requires land acquisition, and will be held by the County, the property and master plan will need to be evaluated to ensure that it is suitable for park uses. The cost of these services will be drawn from the local funding district.

Land Use Review

The County will need to review the site plan to ensure that the infrastructure needs will be met. Depending on the zoning of the land acquired, the County may need to issue a permit for park uses on the property.

PHASE III: DEVELOPMENT

Development of the park may or may not have been a part of the initial funding measure. If, for example, the capital portion of the funding measure went entirely to the acquisition of the property, then the initial phases(s) of development may need to be funded by grants, donations or other local fund raising efforts.

As major construction projects are planned, the budget should include professional project management to oversee the installation of facilities and ensure that all details have been covered.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT'S ROLE

The PTOS plan recommends that the County consider establishing a local park grant program that could assist in funding projects on a competitive basis. Projects could also qualify for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds which are distributed by the County. The County could also consider co-applying for grant funds as a partner in a local park project.

PHASE IV: MAINTENANCE

The community should be prepared, through a funding district, to keep up the property and amenities that have been added to the site. If there is an existing public agency doing maintenance work on other facilities, such as a utility district maintaining their own sites, they may be able to enter into a contract to efficiently provide regular maintenance of the community park site. Alternately, the board of the local park funding district should look to contract privately with a local individual or company to keep up facilities. Contracted maintenance can be off-set by volunteer work but the core tasks should be handled professionally.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT'S ROLE

Depending on the location of the park, it is possible that the County Public Works Department would be interested in a contract to maintain the property. The County also has the ability to work with local communities to apply for grant support. Otherwise, the County's only role at this point is managing the funds that come in from the assessment.

APPENDIX C

FUNDING OPTIONS

FUNDING OPTIONS

This appendix provides a variety of funding options that have been used in various settings and jurisdictions for funding the types of park, trails and open space projects recommended in this plan.

General Fund: This is the County's primary source for operating revenue and comes primarily from taxes. Since park and recreation services must compete with other County operations for these funds, this source can change from year to year.

Park and Recreation Impact Fees: This is a fee paid by developers for the impact of their project on the existing park system. The money received can be used for the acquisition and development of parks, open space, trails and other recreational facilities. The current fees for park and recreation impacts vary throughout the county. The County government is responsible for collecting impact fees for all unincorporated areas of the county. Within incorporated cities, the local government is the sole authority authorized to collect impact fees.

Park and Recreation In-Lieu Fees: Fees charged under the Quimby Act are calculated based on the cost of land acquisition and a state standard allowing a ratio of 3-5 acres per 1,000 population. The specific ratio is based on the current standard but cannot exceed five acres per 1,000 in population. The revenue from Quimby Fees (often referred to as in-lieu parkland fees) can be used to purchase parkland or improve existing parkland. The Quimby Act applies to subdivided single-family property and is applied at the time of subdivision approval. It does not apply to apartments or home additions. The County currently does not have a Quimby Act program in place.

Mitigation Fees: Governments can impose fees to mitigate other impacts of development or improvement of property. For example, some Counties have created mitigation funds to off-set the removal of important mature trees that contribute to habitats and the view and landscape of an area. These mitigation funds can be applied to improving park sites by funding the replacement of these lost trees in publicly protected lands.

Landscaping and Lighting Act: This funding mechanism permits a public agency to assess housing units or land parcels for a variety of services. The assessment revenues can be used for park land acquisition, development and/or maintenance. The agency can choose to use the revenue generated on a pay-as-you-go basis or can sell bonds in order to receive a lump sum amount. The bonds are then paid back from the annual revenue generated from the assessment. Establishment of a district

or revision to an assessment district requires a simple majority vote of property owners following proper notification and a public meeting. Because establishing a landscape and lighting district requires only a simple majority vote, it has become more popular than seeking approval of a general obligation bond.

County Service Areas (CSAs): Special districts called County Service Areas can be formed for a wide variety of purposes including parks; these assessment districts collect a fixed fee. A CSA is initiated by a petition of registered voters or by adoption of a resolution at the county level. Once proposed, the formation of the CSA will be subject to public notice and a public hearing. If more than 50% of registered voters or landowners protest, the CSA may need to be subject to voter approval at a special election. When a CSA exists, the property owner will pay taxes and fees to the CSA instead of the county for the services provided. These will be billed as line items on the county property tax bill. The taxes may take a variety of forms:

- General property taxes may be levied depending upon Prop. 13 constraints. These taxes, referred to as "ad valorem taxes," are based on assessed value.
- Special taxes may be levied for specific purposes. These taxes must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of CSA residents.
- Benefit assessments may be levied for specific purposes and are based on the direct benefit each parcel receives from the improvements or services financed. These charges are subject to annual approval at a public hearing.

Mello-Roos Community Facility District: The Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 allows any county, city, special district, school district or joint powers authority to establish a Mello-Roos Community Facilities District (a "CFD") to finance public improvements and services. The services and improvements that Mello-Roos CFDs can finance include streets, sewer systems and other basic infrastructure, police protection, fire protection, ambulance services, schools, parks, libraries, museums and other cultural facilities. Formation of a CFD requires a two thirds vote of residents living within the proposed boundaries. If there are fewer than 12 residents then the vote is instead conducted of current landowners. The assessment cannot be based on property value; instead it is based on the size of the property or square footage of structures. By law, the CFD is also entitled to recover expenses needed to form the CFD and administer the annual special taxes and bonded debt. The special assessment continues until bonds are paid off and then is typically reduced to a level to maintain the investments.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds: Grants from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are available for a

wide variety of projects. These funds are mainly used for projects and programs in the lower income areas of the community, which are determined by Federal guidelines.

General Obligation Bond: These are voter-approved bonds with the assessment placed on real property. The money can only be used for capital improvements but not maintenance. This property tax is levied for a specified period of time (usually 15-20 years). Passage requires a two-thirds majority approval by the voters. Major disadvantages of this funding option are the high approval requirement and the high interest costs.

Revenue Bonds: These bonds are sold and paid from the revenue produced from the operation of a facility. These bonds are a good fit for improvements that will eventually involve user fees, such as community centers, swimming pools and some types of regional parks.

Donations: The donations of labor, land or cash by service agencies, private groups or individuals, are a popular way to raise small amounts of money for specific projects. Such service agencies as Lions and Rotary often fund small projects such as playground improvements.

Exchange or Sale of Property: If the County has an excess piece of property with some development value, it could be traded for a private piece of property more suitable for park use.

Joint Public/Private Partnership: This concept has become increasingly popular for park and recreation agencies. The basic approach is for a public agency to enter into a working agreement with a private corporation to help fund, build and/or operate a public facility. Generally, the three primary incentives that a public agency can offer is free land to place a facility (usually a park or other piece of public land), certain tax advantages and access to the facility. While the public agency may have to give up certain responsibilities or control, it is one way of obtaining public facilities at a lower cost.

Exactions: Costs of necessary public improvements that are passed on to the adjacent landowners.

Public Land Trusts: Private land trusts such as the Trust for Public Land, Inc. and the Nature Conservancy can acquire and hold land for eventual acquisition by a public agency.

Government Grant Programs: There are a number of government grant programs for park and recreation projects. Key programs are:

a. **Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU):** Originally called The *Intermodal Surface*

Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), this federal program has funded a wide variety of transportation-related projects. Funding is passed through the states. In 2005 the latest version of this legislation was authorized as SAFETEA-LU for the 5-year period of 2005-2009. Over the years, California has received considerable revenue for trail-related projects from these funds. In terms of recreation, the program primarily funds landscape and amenity improvements related to trail and transportation projects. The money can be used for both maintenance and capital construction, and is primarily focused on regional systems and not local neighborhood trails.

b. **Land and Water Conservation Funds**: This grant program is funded by the National Park Service and administered by California State Parks. In the past, this was one of the major sources of grant money for local agencies. In the 1990s, funding at the federal level was severely cut, but in recent times more money has become available. The funds can be used for acquisition and development of outdoor facilities and requires a 50% match.

c. **Urban Forestry Grants:** There are several grant programs that provide money for urban forestry projects. One is funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration and provides grants to purchase and plant trees. This program sometimes funds urban street tree planting programs.

d. **US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW):** USFW may provide technical assistance and administer funding for projects that enhance water quality, including debris removal, flood mitigation and enhancements to water crossings.

e. **California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW):** CDFW may provide technical assistance and administer funding for projects that enhance water quality, including debris removal, flood mitigation and enhancements to water crossings.

f. **State Bicycle Funds:** This is revenue from state gas taxes that is distributed to California cities for the development of bicycle lanes. This can be a good funding source for developing bicycle lanes and off street bicycle trails.

g. **Recreation Trails Program:** This is a grant program funded through the California Parks and Recreation Department. Projects eligible under this program include 1) maintenance and restoration of existing trails, 2) development and rehabilitation of trailhead facilities, 3) construction of new recreation trails, and 4) acquisition of easements and fee simple title to property. Grants are distributed on an annual basis and require a 20% match.

h. **Statewide Park Bond (Proposition 40)**: In recent years, California has passed two statewide bond measures for funding parks and open space

projects. The funding program has several elements including a grant based on a per capita allocation, a matching grant and several competitive grant programs.

Private Grants and Foundations: Grants and foundations provide money for a wide range of projects. They are sometimes difficult to find and equally difficult to secure because of the open competition. They usually fund unique projects or ones of extreme need.

APPENDIX D

PREVIOUS PLANNING EFFORTS

RELEVANT PLANNING DOCUMENTS

Various County and City documents and reports will be significant in the development of the *Shasta County Parks, Trails and Open Space Plan*. Key documents are summarized in this appendix to provide a background context for the plan. The following documents are noted:

- *Shasta County General Plan* (2004)
- *Shasta County Regional Transportation Plan 2004 Update*
- *2000 Shasta County Bikeway Plan* (2003)
- *City of Redding General Plan 2000-2020*
- *Redding Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan* (2004)
- *City of Shasta Lake General Plan* (1999)
- *City of Shasta Lake Park System Master Plan* (2005)
- *City of Anderson General Plan*
- *Shasta Trinity Trail Draft Concept Plan* (2000)
- *Interlakes Special Recreation Management Area Final Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* (1997)
- *Redding Resource Management Plan* (1993)

SHASTA COUNTY GENERAL PLAN 2004

The General Plan is the official guiding document for Shasta County on policies addressing how the county continues to develop while maintaining a high quality of life. Open space and recreation are closely related and, therefore, addressed in the same chapter. Recreation as it pertains to the County tourist industry, recreation at the community level (local parks and playgrounds), and recreation at the Countywide level are discussed. A regional trail network is encouraged to provide access to open space areas that may be developed around. The bicycle trail network is addressed in the *2000 Shasta County Bikeway Plan*. It is recognized that the County holds very little open space land for public access and most of it lies on State and Federal lands. Therefore, future development in the County should not visually impair these open space areas.

SHASTA COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN 2004 UPDATE

The Transportation Plan provides a framework for road building and improvement in the region. The plan provides a list of project and, recognizing a budget shortfall, prioritizes projects. Parks and recreation areas with identified short-term and long-term improvements to roads and bridges include Lassen Volcanic National Park,

Whiskeytown Recreation Area, McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park, Castle Crags State Park, Shasta Historic Park, and areas in the cities of Redding, Anderson, and Shasta Lake.

2000 SHASTA COUNTY BIKEWAY PLAN (2003)

This plan is an update to the *1995 Bikeway Plan* and provides an update of laws, costs, and changes to any facilities. The bike plan was created to comply with the State requirement that a bicycle transportation plan must be created if a city or county government wants to apply for Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) funds.

The plan addresses recreation specifically in Goal 4: Recreation Goal. The objective states "Provide access to parks and recreational points of interest within the County." The two policies to meet this goal are:

Policy 1: Promote bike routes that link urban area with recreation facilities

Policy 2: Encourage extension of the Sacramento River trail.

This plan is focused along the I-5 corridor in the cities of Redding, Anderson, and Shasta Lake.

As a result of the 1995 and 2000 planning efforts, the cities of Redding, Anderson, and Shasta Lake all adopted their own bikeway plans. Most of the goals, objectives, and policies in Shasta Lake County Bike Plan and Regional Bikeway Plan were adopted into the city bike plans. The city bike plans are as follows:

- *City of Shasta Lake Bikeway Plan (1995)*
- *City of Redding Bikeway Plan (2003)*
- *City of Anderson Bikeway Plan (2007)*

CITY OF REDDING GENERAL PLAN 2000-2020

Developed in 2003, the plan reflects the values of the community for future growth. In ensuring a high quality of life for the residents of Redding, a recreation element is included. The Recreation Element identifies and documents park facilities; compares facilities with current and long-term needs; and develops and adopts programs and plans which will accomplish the community's recreation goals. Topics include natural and scenic open areas; regional river parkway; archeological and historic resources; park planning and development; compatibility with adjacent land uses; facility funding and management; recreation programs; citywide trail system; and vandalism and user safety.

The components of the General Plan that relate to recreation are:

1. Recreation Policy R4A directs the City to develop and implement a Citywide Parks and Recreation Master Plan so that suitable sites for public parks and other recreational features can be identified and acquired well in advance of their actual need.

2. Recreation Policy R11A calls for a Citywide Trails Master Plan that links neighborhoods to other land uses and significant destination points, separates bicyclists and pedestrians from vehicular traffic, and provides continuous trail connections and a looped system around the City.

3. Policy T8A in the Transportation Element provides for the development and maintenance of a Comprehensive Bikeway Plan geared to establishing an integrated bicycle transportation system.

4. Finally, a Comprehensive Open Space Plan is required in Natural Resources Policy NR11A, which must develop a framework for open space lands, define the role of public and private open spaces, address agricultural land preservation, identify important ecological areas, and address the acquisition and management of public open space opportunities.

REDDING PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN (2004)

The Master Plan provides the long-range vision on the development of recreational sites and community open spaces. The plan looks at parks and recreation within the current city boundary and the projected growth and expanded boundary in the next 20 years. It was derived as an implementing tool of Redding's *2000-2020 General Plan* to meet the four major components pertaining to parks and recreation.

The major recommendations of this plan include:

- Strive to locate a developed park within walking distance of most residential areas.
- Promote and facilitate the development of a regional trail and bikeway system.
- Obtain land and develop parks at a ratio of 10 acres of improved parkland per one thousand residents.
- Wherever possible, new neighborhood parks should have a useable size of not less than 5 acres.

- Seek opportunities to partner with schools, developers, and other organizations.
- Accept only parkland dedications that are consistent with the updated park development standards.
- Design and construct park sites that will provide quality recreation facilities for all segments of the population.
- Preserve and protect significant habitats, plants, and wildlife in the planning area.
- Adopt an open, consistent, and objective decision-making process for acquisition of open spaces.
- Increase park development funding.

CITY OF SHASTA LAKE GENERAL PLAN (1999)

The General Plan addresses land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise and safety elements for the City of Shasta Lake. Specific areas of concern surrounding open space, parks, and recreation were identified, and a set of objectives and policies were established to address the concerns. The specific areas of concern include:

- Integrating open space, bike and trail routes, and flood plains with existing and proposed land uses.
- Designating greenbelts to provide visual quality and preserve natural habitat.
- Identifying parkland for meet future development needs.
- Providing off-road bicycle recreation.

Some implementation strategies that were developed to address the areas of concern are:

- Provide five acres of neighborhood, community, and creekside parks per 1,000 new residents.
- Evaluate the establishment of a network of bike and trail systems extending throughout the City.
- Evaluate the feasibility of developing smaller neighborhood parks, of about two acres, in selected areas.
- Encourage development of future detention basins for joint storm water management/park use, where feasible.

CITY OF SHASTA LAKE PARK SYSTEM MASTER PLAN (2005)

The first Park System Master Plan for the City of Shasta Lake recommended specific improvements to existing parks and an expanded system of neighborhood and community parks. This system would be focused on a redesigned Clair Engle Park that serves as the central gathering place for the community. The expanding park system will also take advantage of natural lands owned by the City and Federal agencies to protect natural space and provide local and regional trail opportunities. In order to build support for the park system, a small scale recreation program was proposed as well.

CITY OF ANDERSON GENERAL PLAN

The City of Anderson General Plan is a set of policies that guide growth through 2027. The plan "strives to maintain Anderson's 'small town' character and sense of community in a number of ways, including an emphasis on infill development, neighborhood integrity, community design and creation of community and neighborhood gathering places." Under the Quimby Act, the City dedicates park land at a maximum five acres per 1,000 population. The development of a multipurpose regional trail network is encouraged through the coordination with other government agencies. Private-public partnerships are considered to supplement public facilities and programs. In addition, "parking facilities for parks shall be located so as to provide shared-use opportunities with other public facilities such as schools."

SHASTA TRINITY TRAIL DRAFT CONCEPT PLAN 2001

The *Shasta Trinity Trail Draft Concept Plan* is the result of a collaborative effort from representatives from 35 government agencies or stakeholder groups to develop the concept for a trail linking Redding with the Trinity Alps to the northwest. Some segments of this trail are built while others are still proposed.

Vision

Image…a trail linking Redding with the Trinity Alps. Leaving your car behind, hiking or riding from the Sacramento River to a nearby lake. From your front door, following Clear Creek towards its headwaters. Imagine a trail linking the region's many special places – historic gold mining areas, beautiful mountain vistas, river canyons, and lakes. This could all become possible with the creation of the Shasta-Trinity Trail.

Goals

When completed, the Shasta-Trinity Trail will:

- Be a major regional trail, extending nearly 200 miles;
- Connect some of the best destinations in the region – the Sacramento River, Clear Creek, and Shasta, Trinity, and Whiskeytown lakes – as well as connect Shasta and Trinity counties;
- Provide close-to-home recreation and opportunities to travel from town to the backcountry via a trail;
- Serve as a backbone trail linking existing trails to create a regional system of trails;
- Accommodate equestrians, hikers, mountain bikers (and when traversing official off-highway vehicle areas such as the Shasta-Chappie, motorized users) on a shared trail;
- Connect communities and thereby encourage the development of local trail systems;
- Make maximum use of the extensive public lands in and around Redding and link those areas together;
- Collaborate with neighboring landowners to identify and develop the trail appropriately; and
- Serve as an educational tool for broadening residents' awareness and understanding of its surrounding resources.

The document provides the project's history, benefits of expanding the trail system, specific regions the trail will bisect, and specific action steps to create the trail, including organizational development, route planning, public involvement, and marketing and promotion.

INTERLAKES SPECIAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA FINAL PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT 1997

The Interlakes Special Recreation Management Area is located west of Redding and encompasses lands from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and private landowners.

This plan provides a coordinated effort to address issues related to recreation management, emergency response, hazard reduction, visual resources management, and road access and transportation in this area.

For each issue, the natural and social environment was described, a set of alternates was proposed to address an issue, the environmental consequences of each alternative was analyzed, and best management practices and monitoring were developed for the management of the area.

REDDING RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN 1993

The *Redding Resource Management Plan* identifies the direction for the management of public lands and Federal mineral estate administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) within the Redding Resource Area of north central California.

The document addressed planning issues in access, forest management, land tenure adjustment, and recreation management. Recreation management is important because, in many cases, public lands provide the only "open space" requirements of the recreation elements of county and city general plans. Access is a concern due to BLM's scattered ownership pattern and the many restrictions that private landowners place on their property to prevent physical access to public lands.

Recommendations in this plan that are applicable to the planning area are:

- Public ownership would be increased in the Shasta River Canyons to protect riparian and salmonid values while enhancing recreation;
- BLM would develop a cooperative agreement, if feasible, with a local organization to manage Quartz Hill;
- Acquisition would be made in a portion of the Shasta Valley to protect wetland and waterfowl;
- Public land surrounding the Trinity River corridor and spanning eastward to French Gulch would be managed principally for sustained yield forestry, deer winter range habitat, special status species protection, and dispersed recreation;
- The Interlakes Special Recreation Management Area between Kett, Central Valley, Whiskeytown and French Gulch would be managed for a spectrum of recreation opportunities; and
- BLM would improve lower Clear Creek anadromous salmonid habitat and the scenic values of Clear Creek canyon (above Clear Creek Road).