

12 LOCAL RECREATION

The County of Mariposa’s recreation needs and facilities fall within two categories: local recreation and regional tourism. The Local Recreation Element focuses on the recreational needs of the County’s local residents.

12.1 LOCAL PARKS AND RECREATION ISSUES AND FINDINGS

Mariposa County recognizes the need to provide residents with opportunities for recreation facilities and programs. The County Parks and Recreation Department serves this role. This Element addresses the following issues:

- programs, facility development, and maintenance;
- intergovernmental cooperation; and
- park and recreation funding.

12.1.01 PROGRAMS, FACILITY DEVELOPMENT, AND MAINTENANCE

The County of Mariposa operates a park system, which currently includes eight park sites. These park sites provide for recreational activities such as picnicking, swimming, and tennis. Facilities in the County are limited, and Mariposa’s projected population growth is expected to increase demands on recreation facilities and programs.

Growth patterns will not occur equally throughout the County. Most population growth over the next 20 years will occur in the Lake Don Pedro Town Planning Area and the greater Bootjack-Woodland-Ponderosa Basin residential area. This, combined with the need for central facilities in the Mariposa Town Planning Area, will create an emphasis on developing new parks to serve growing areas of the County.

The dispersed settlement patterns in the County are challenges in providing an appropriate distribution of facilities and resources for hosting recreational events and activities countywide. The terrain of the County—conducive to resource-based recreation such as hiking and fishing—provides limited suitable sites for traditional sports fields.

12.1.02 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

Local recreational opportunities in Mariposa County are provided not only by the County, but also by facilities and programs of other public and private agencies including Mariposa Unified School District and the Fair Board. Yosemite National Park and other federal land management agencies offer a direct benefit to the County furnishing residents’ recreational opportunities. Collaboration for land use recreational policy is needed among these agencies, the County, community based organizations, and facility users.

The County has a history of coordinating activities and facilities across county lines, for instance in the Lake Don Pedro Town Planning Area where the subdivision crosses the Mariposa-Tuolumne County line.

As the County grows, school facilities may be sited in response to the location of population growth. When this occurs, the County has a natural opportunity to work with the school district to jointly develop facilities serving both school and community.

12.1.03 PARK AND RECREATION FUNDING

Management and maintenance of existing and new park facilities and recreation programs is expensive. A professional, full-time staff of adequate size and experience is an important component of developing and maintaining the Mariposa County park and recreation system. Mariposa County has no permanently dedicated funding sources for recreation. Funding for local recreation is from the County’s General Fund, state and federal grants, and contributions from private parties. Developing adequate and stable funding for the County recreation system is important.

12.2 GENERAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Goal 12-1: Define and achieve local recreation service levels throughout the County to enhance the quality of life.

Policy 12-1a: Define developed-park service levels for neighborhood, regional, and community populations.

Implementation Measure 12-1a(1): The County shall ensure parks and recreation facilities are distributed in reasonable proximity to the neighborhood, community, or regional populations they are intended to serve.

Timing:	Ongoing review standard
Responsibility:	Public Works Department/Parks and Recreation Division.
Fiscal Impact:	Unknown.
Consequences:	Added recreational activities.

Policy 12-1b: Park and recreation facilities shall be designed for the greatest return on community investment.

Implementation Measure 12-1b(1): Parks shall be designed and developed in a manner to reduce long-term operations and maintenance cost.

Timing: Ongoing review standard
Responsibility: Public Works Department/Parks and Recreation Division.
Fiscal Impact: Cost included in capital improvements when funded.
Consequences: This is a long-range cost-saving measure even though it may mean higher capital costs.

Implementation Measure 12-1b(2): The County shall adopt performance standards for maintenance of parks and recreation facilities preventing premature deterioration.

Timing: Intermediate-term
Responsibility: Public Works Department/Parks and Recreation Division.
Fiscal Impact: Staff time allocation, marginal cost.
Consequences: This is a long-range cost-saving measure even though it may mean higher capital costs.

Goal 12-2: Create a parks and recreation strategic plan to respond to citizen needs.

Policy 12-2a: The Public Works Department/Parks and Recreation Division should respond to the diverse needs of neighborhood, community, and regional residents.

Implementation Measure 12-2a(1): The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee shall report annually on the implementation of the Parks and Recreation programs.

Timing: Ongoing
Responsibility: Public Works Department/Parks and Recreation Division.
Fiscal Impact: Staff time for report preparation.
Consequences: Adds another report to the annual review.

Goal 12-3: Create programs to provide a range of recreation opportunities and facilities to meet diverse needs of the County’s population.

Policy 12-3a: The Public Works Department/Parks and Recreation Division should address programs intended to meet special recreation needs.

Implementation Measure 12-3a(1): The Parks and Recreation Department should implement youth programs for both “after school” and times of the year when school is not in session.

Timing: Intermediate-term
Responsibility: Public Works Department/Parks and Recreation Division.
Fiscal Impact: Operational costs associated with implementing the programs.
Consequences: Enhanced recreation programs.

Implementation Measure 12-3a(2): The Public Works Department/Parks and Recreation Division should identify a broad range of recreation opportunities and facilities needed to serve the County’s diverse population.

Timing: Intermediate-term
Responsibility: Public Works Department/Parks and Recreation Division.
Fiscal Impact: None.
Consequences: Keeps a fluid and flexible planning process in place.

Goal 12-4: Cooperate with regional agencies to develop a range of recreation opportunities for the County.

Policy 12-4a: Collaborate with local and regional agencies in facility development and programs serving local recreation needs.

Implementation Measure 12-4a(1): When other agencies propose to develop park or recreation facilities, the County should participate when a local recreation need can also be served.

Timing: Ongoing
Responsibility: Public Works Department/Parks and Recreation Division.
Fiscal Impact: Unknown capital cost commitment.
Consequences: Collaborative planning.

Implementation Measure 12-4a(2): The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee should meet with the School District at least once each fiscal year to learn of school capital facility proposals that may benefit from County participation or partnership.

Timing: Ongoing
Responsibility: Public Works Department/Parks and Recreation Division.
Fiscal Impact: None.
Consequences: This is another measure designed to keep public agencies talking with each other about issues of interest.

Implementation Measure 12-4a(3): The County should explore with Federal land management agencies issues of mutual concern regarding the effects of agency and County policies on their respective users and resources.

Timing: Intermediate-term
Responsibility: Public Works Department/Parks and Recreation Division.
Fiscal Impact: None.
Consequences: This is another measure designed to keep public agencies talking with each other about issues of interest.

Goal 12-5: Continue funding to maintain Parks and Recreation programs.

Policy 12-5a: Identify funding for financing park and recreation capital improvements, maintenance, and programs.

Implementation Measure 12-5a(1): The Parks and Recreation programs shall identify short-, intermediate-, and long-term revenue sources.

Timing: Ongoing
Responsibility: Public Works Department/Parks and Recreation.
Fiscal Impact: Possible commitment to ongoing General Fund.
Consequences: Enhanced recreation programs.

12.3 RELATED GENERAL PLAN ELEMENTS

12.3.01 LAND USE

The Land Use Element contains policies allowing public facilities, including public parks and recreation facilities, in many land use classifications, subject to siting criteria.

12.3.02 CIRCULATION, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND SERVICES

The Circulation, Infrastructure, and Services Element addresses the provision of recreational trails and other facilities for bicycle, pedestrian, equestrian, and motorized vehicle use, which are implemented through the County's Bike, Pedestrian and Equestrian Plan.

12.3.03 CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE

The County's natural resources and open space contribute to recreation opportunities for residents. The Conservation and Open Space Element defines policies and implementation measures to preserve significant natural resources and open space that contribute to the County's recreational base.

12.3.04 REGIONAL TOURISM

The County's major tourist attractions, such as Yosemite National Park provide significant opportunities for local residents to enjoy wilderness and other types of recreation not available in the County's park system. The Regional Tourism Element defines policies and implementation measures for maintaining and enhancing recreational opportunities as part of the County's tourism base.