

Appendix A – Goals and Policies



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Introduction

This Appendix lists the Goals and Policies from the adopted 1996 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan – 2015 Plan Update included a review of the Goals and Policies for relevancy and potential revision.

Every one of the Goals and Policies was found to be relevant to current and future park planning and development.

Edits are indicated by ***bold italics print***. Only one minor edit was made to Policy 37.37.C to acknowledge the use of electronic social media as a method and means to

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GOALS AND POLICIES

"Parks and open space bring beauty to an area while giving people satisfaction and improving their quality of life."

The Benefits of Parks and Recreation, 1992

The Goals and Policies of the Parks and Recreation Element of the General Plan are presented below. Normal typeface text is taken directly from the City of Folsom Park Element. Words that are **bolded/underlined/italicized reflect a revision** to the Goals and Policies of the Park Element due to more current information available from other City of Folsom documents or input from the Parks and Recreation Commission Master Plan Update Sub-Committee members.

The first goal of the General Plan established the tone and direction of all subsequent goals and policies. Goal I is restated here to set the tone of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update (Park Element, 31-5 to 31-10).

Community Identity

GOAL I

To retain and enhance Folsom's quality of life, separate identity and sense of community. Folsom's identity and quality of life are defined by:

1. The diverse natural setting, including the American River, its tributary streams, natural vegetation, topography, native wildlife, and other unique features of the landscape.
2. Developed parks and open space.
3. The historic district and other historic places throughout the community.
4. The State prison site, which provides a large, visual open area in the City.
5. The physical form of Folsom's neighborhoods.
6. Ease of movement.
7. Public access to pedestrian and bicycle trails.

Policy 1.1

New development shall preserve and/or enhance to the maximum degree feasible, the existing natural vegetation, landscape features and open space, consistent with the Goals and Policies of this plan.

Policy 1.2

Existing view sheds and opportunities for view sheds shall be incorporated into the design of new developments.

Policy 1.3

Each residential neighborhood shall be planned with at least one park/recreational/ school area within one half mile of each residential unit.

Policy 1.4

Each new residential development shall provide pedestrian and bicycle access to parks or schools located within or near the development.

Policy 1.5

Each new residential development shall be designed with a system of local streets, collector streets, and access to an arterial road that protects the residents from through-traffic. Street improvements that would enhance circulation in existing developments shall also be identified.

Policy 1.6

Folsom's historic district shall be enhanced and maintained through the improvement of public facilities.

Policy 1.7

Historic buildings or locations shall be preserved or incorporated into the design of new developments whenever possible.

Policy 1.7 A

Enhance the identity of the City of Folsom by preserving the small-town atmosphere of the Historic District.

Policy 1.7 B

Natural and improved open space within the Historic District shall be preserved and enhanced in cooperation with other agencies and organizations. Where feasible, existing power lines shall be put underground.

Policy 1.7 C

Preserve, maintain, restore, and reconstruct sites which represent the history of the Folsom area. In the Historic District, new construction and remodeling shall be consistent with the design of the time period from 1850 to 1950.

Policy 1.7 D

Encourage projects that portray Folsom's historic importance. Facets of Folsom's history which should be portrayed and interpreted within the Plan area include, but are not limited to: railroading, Maidu Indians, Chinese settlement, Negro Bar mining, Pony Express, water delivery, Powerhouse, Folsom Prison, and Rainbow Bridge (Historic District Specific Plan, Policy 2.6).

Policy 1.7 E

Increase residents' and visitors' awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the history of the City and its regional context through interpretive signage and special events.

Policy 1.8

The City shall prepare an inventory of historically and culturally significant building and sites. At the conclusion of the inventory, if it is determined that there are buildings or sites of local, state or national significance, the City or other concerned parties (such as the State or Historical Society) shall be given the first right of refusal for the purchase of the site and/or buildings in the event that development of the site will result in the demolition or significant alteration of the structure.

Policy 1.9

The riparian habitats of the American River, its tributaries, other watercourses, ponds and reservoirs in Folsom, should be preserved in their natural state and/or in conformance with City code.

Policy 1.9 A

Wetland and riparian preserves, or their buffer areas, should have a site-specific management plan specifying protective measures and routine maintenance.

Policy 1.9 B

Wetland and riparian preserves should be provided with trails and roads for public access.

Policy 1.9 C

Wetland and riparian preserves should be developed to provide public education in a manner compatible with preservation of important resource values.

Policy 1.9 D

Wetland and riparian preserves, including their buffers, should exceed 5 acres in size, unless adequate protection of functions and values can be ensured in smaller preserves.

Policy 1.9 E

Wetland and riparian preserves should be physically connected with the City's planned and existing park systems and/or open space corridors.

Policy 1.9 F

Wetland and riparian preserves should be adequately buffered from adjacent land uses.

Policy 1.9 G

Wetland and riparian preserves should be rezoned into the City's Habitat Conservation Zone.

Policy 1.9 H

Wetland and riparian preserves with functions in addition to wetland preservation, (e.g., water quality protection and stormwater detention) shall require a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the responsible agencies.

Policy 1.9 I

A title report of the wetland or riparian preserve area shall be submitted with the request for accepting the land dedication. The preserve area shall have a title clear of property taxes, liens, assessments or similar encumbrances.

Policy 1.9 J

Wetland or riparian preserve areas subject to pending or existing litigation shall not be considered for dedication until the issue of litigation has been resolved to the satisfaction of the City attorney.

Policy 1.9 K

The preserve area shall be free of hazardous substances, trash or other public safety concerns.

Policy 1.10

When development incentives are required for the preservation of identified resources and open spaces, the City and public shall cumulatively receive the greater short-term and long-term benefits of such incentives.

Policy 1.10 A

Provide pedestrian links that connect the City's open space corridors with development projects adjacent to the open space.

The goals and policies of the Parks and Recreation Element are:

Quality Of Facilities

GOAL 35

To achieve and maintain quality parks and open space which provide optimum satisfaction to the leisure and recreation needs of the citizens.

Policy 35.1

The City shall construct parks with originality and innovation in design that provide challenge and self-renewal to the user and viewer.

Policy 35.1 A

Use parks and open space to enhance the City's overall beauty, quality of design, variety, and uniqueness and to support the City's strong community identity.

Policy 35.2

The City shall develop a listing of equipment standards and design guidelines for parks and recreation facilities.

Policy 35.3

The City shall maintain its parks and recreation facilities in accordance with City adopted maintenance policies.

Policy 35.3 A

Maintain all parks and trails to provide a pleasant and safe experience for users.

Policy 35.3 B

Manage the natural and ornamental landscape areas of Folsom by properly scheduling maintenance activities and by carefully assigning the use of resources that help keep the landscape viable and functioning.

Policy 35.3 C

Maintenance shall maximize safety of users, promote full enjoyment of the landscape, and protect the visual, horticultural and environmental qualities of the landscape.

Policy 35.3 D

Protect and carefully maintain the landscape to foster its value for air pollution mitigation, fire safety, wildlife habitat and recreation activities.

Policy 35.3 E

Cooperation between private and governmental agencies will ensure that the best management practices are utilized (i.e. Soil Conservation Service, California Conservation Corps, etc.).

Policy 35.3 F

Design park facilities to minimize water use and maintenance demands.

Policy 35.3 G

The City shall strive to protect the native vegetation and wildlife habitat in the City's open space areas and preserve wildlife corridors.

Policy 35.3 H

Recognize the fundamental limits of resources, and use these resource for the highest and best purposes.

Policy 35.3 I

Save water, control maintenance costs, reduce trash, and economize wherever possible through design, construction and management without sacrificing the quality of the landscape.

Policy 35.3 J

Follow water conservation principles in all aspects of landscape maintenance including plant selection and development of irrigation systems.

Policy 35.3 K

Use reclaimed water for irrigation of the City's landscapes when this source of water becomes available.

Policy 35.3 L

Develop a program for recycling green waste from City sites.

Policy 35.3 M

Develop and maintain requirements for maintenance personnel on a per acre basis.

Policy 35.4

The City shall encourage, where appropriate, the inclusion of bikeways, pedestrian, and equestrian trails in parks, parkways, and open space acreage.

Policy 35.5

Where feasible, park sites throughout the City shall be integrated with the Bikeways Master Plan and with existing and planned bicycle facilities outside the City such as the American River Bike Trail.

Policy 35.5 A

Develop trail heads or staging areas as focal points for trail activities for those who must drive to the trail.

Policy 35.5 B

Provide trail users with rest areas in parks and open space, including bike racks, hitching posts, water, shade and picnic facilities where appropriate.

Policy 35.5 C

Pedestrian and bicycle circulation shall be encouraged through construction and improvement of pathways and safety features. Such paths shall connect to existing and future routes to serve both tourist and commute needs.

Policy 35.6

The City shall encourage the development of parks with night-time use capability.

Policy 35.6 A

Maintain lighting levels suitable for safety as well as the night time use of community facilities while limiting glare impacts on nearby residential areas using the most feasible technology available.

Policy 35.6 B

Insure through the park design guidelines that such issues as setbacks, noise, and lighting are addressed to minimize undesirable noise and glare from intruding on residential areas that are adjacent to parks and recreation facilities.

Policy 35.7

The City shall encourage construction of shelters, such as pavilions, arbors, lattice canopies, etc. to form shade and shelter for year round use. In conjunction with the shelters, the planting of trees shall be encouraged to increase the shade areas and aesthetics of the parks.

Policy 35.8

Park sites shall be accepted by the City if judged to be useful for passive and/or active uses. Land constrained by drainage, slopes, and structures which limit the full recreational use of the site shall not be accepted as parkland acreage. Such lands may be accepted as open space or parkway acreage. Credit or partial credit for constrained lands may be allowed if they are found to be useable or can be made useable in compliance with the standards for parkland dedication included in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and Parkland Dedication Ordinance.

Policy 35.9

Easements and designated open space/natural areas shall not be credited for parkland acreage. These areas may be used for parkland, but shall not be credited for Parkland pursuant to the parkland dedication ordinance.

These easements, natural areas and designated open spaces are an existing resource within Folsom as identified in the General Plan and that to credit these lands for Parkland would reduce the full potential of open space that the City requires in order to achieve and maintain the desired quality of life.

Policy 35.10

The City shall actively encourage the protection and preservation of natural habitats identified in the Open Space and Conservation Element.

Policy 35.10 A

The City shall protect and retain open space lands in perpetuity, monitoring the protection of these areas, and developing funding mechanisms for accomplishing these tasks.

Policy 35.10 B

The City shall accept and maintain Humbug/Willow Creek open space areas for recreation and open space purposes.

Policy 35.11

The City shall strive to acquire and develop parklands within existing neighborhoods which comply with the standards of this Element of the General Plan.

Policy 35.11 A

Discourage future development of mini parks due to their limited effectiveness for meeting the City's recreation needs. When mini parks are developed they shall meet minimum design criteria established in Table 22 Park Category Descriptions. Mini parks may be given only partial acreage credit towards the Parkland Acreage Standard as determined by City staff.

Policy 35.12

The following standards are the minimum acceptable standards for parks, open space and recreation facilities in the City of Folsom:

Minimum Standards for Parks and Recreation Facilities

City desired Parkland Acreage Standard--7.3 acres per thousand population (7.3 acres/1,000 persons).

Parkland--Generalized areas are designated on the Land Use Map of the General Plan for park acreage credit. Those lands which are consistent with the goals and policies of this element and the general plan shall be credited as parkland. Utility easements, floodplains and parkway acreage, those lands already committed to a use shall not be credited as parkland.

Park Categories--In order to provide a balance, parks have been categorized in terms of their function and sizes. The acreages listed are approximate desirable sizes.

Table 22 Park Category Descriptions

PARK CATEGORY	SIZE IN ACRES	DESCRIPTION
Mini Parks	1 to 2 acres	Specialized facilities that usually serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as children or senior citizens. May feature children's play areas, quiet game areas, landscaping and some sport activities such as multi-purpose courts if space allows. Ideal in close proximity to apartment complexes, townhouses, or elderly housing. May be used to enhance the beauty of the City.
Neighborhood Parks	10 to 20 acres (5 acres minimum)	A recreation area which provides for indoor and outdoor programs and activities. Neighborhood recreation parks should serve one neighborhood and be centralized within that neighborhood.

PARK CATEGORY	SIZE IN ACRES	DESCRIPTION
Special Use Areas	Varies	Within the City there are special use areas which do not fit easily within other categories.
Community Parks	0 to 60 acres	A recreation area which provides recreational opportunities for several neighborhoods. Community parks should avoid duplication of facilities already provided in neighborhood recreation parks, and where suitable, be located adjacent to a secondary school. It should include such facilities as an aquatic center, provision for evening recreation, indoor facilities, amphitheater, specialized athletic fields, tennis, handball, basketball courts, large and small picnic areas, and barbecue facilities, convenient parking, tot play apparatus and restrooms.
Regional Parks	200+ acres	A recreation area which provides some remoteness from the urban setting or has features of regional significance including opportunities not possible in other parks within the City park system. This type of park serves a population within a large region--usually those within an hour's travel time. A regional park may be the joint effort of more than one government agency. It should be developed to preserve existing natural areas, areas of great scenic beauty, or areas of historical interest. A regional park could include such facilities as arboretums, camping areas, boating and fishing facilities, bicycling, equestrian and hiking trails, golf courses, and other special use facilities.
Open Space /Natural Areas /Parkways	Varies	Natural habitat areas, stream courses, utility easements or other corridors designated in the Open Space and Conservation Element and/or Circulation Element for purpose of preservation of natural features or circulation. Open space is clearly distinguished from park acreage and shall not be calculated or credited as parkland acreage. Parkways shall be preserved in their natural state with a network of trails for walking, cycling, and horseback riding. Parkways are classified as open space for preservation of natural resources and shall not be credited as parkland acreage.

PARK CATEGORY	SERVICE AREA	DESIRABLE	POPULATION SIZE
Mini Park	Less than 1/4 mile radius	1 to 2 acres	1,000 to 2,000
Neighborhood Park	1 ½ to 1/2 mile radius	15 acres	2,000 to 5,000
Community Park	Several neighborhoods 1 to 2 miles	45 acres	12,000 to 25,000
Special Use Recreation Areal Natural Areal Wildlife Areal Parkway	Not applicable	Variable depending on desired size	Within community 25,000 to 50,000
Regional	Several communities within one hour driving time	200+ acres	Contiguous to or encompassing natural resources

Policy 35.12 A

Insure that all existing and future recreation facilities are accessible to everyone and consistent with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Policy 35.12 B

Provide adequate parking at each location when possible to minimize parking problems on residential and arterial streets.

Policy 35.12 C

Locate the community parks and community centers where they are accessible to public transportation systems.

Policy 35.12 D

Develop an on-going program to monitor the City's parks, recreation, and open space needs in the future.

Policy 35.12 E

Develop identification signage for the major City parks that is consistent with the desired City image and complementary to the character of each site.

Policy 35.12 F

Design water quality ponds with safety in mind so that fencing is not needed around the ponds.

Policy 35.12 G

Strive to provide restroom facilities in all parks above the mini park level.

Meeting Recreation Needs Through Facilities

GOAL 36

To acquire and improve land and facilities for recreational use in pace with local needs.

Policy 36.1

The City shall acquire and develop sufficient lands to meet the recreational needs of the citizens.

Policy 36.2

The City shall encourage the creation of a series of community parks that serve as focal points for surrounding neighborhoods.

Policy 36.3

The City shall encourage the development of parkways and greenbelts as an integral link between the City-wide park system.

Policy 36.4

The City shall monitor the condition of all facilities in order to repair and replace equipment as needed, and insure that state safety standards and guidelines are being met.

Policy 36.5

The City shall strive to develop programs to identify and attain alternative sources of funding for the acquisition and development of parklands and financing of recreation programs.

Policy 36.6

The City shall improve undeveloped and developed parkland as financially feasible.

Policy 36.7

The City shall develop and maintain a capital improvement program for long term and short term recreation projects.

Policy 36.7 A

Regularly review priorities for acquisition, development and improvement of existing and proposed facilities and site specific master plans.

Policy 36.7 B

Review and evaluate on a regular basis established goals and priorities and assess progress of the Master Plan proposals.

Policy 36.7 C

The City should designate a department responsible for trails.

Policy 36.7 D

Provide areas for bicyclists, equestrians, and pedestrians to safely cross roads by providing specially located buttons for trail users where trails cross vehicular streets.

Policy 36.7 E

Complete park build out in a timely manner consistent with the overall build out of the City

Policy 36.7 F

Provide major community-level facilities in several locations in the City.

Policy 36.7 G

Avoid reliance on multi-use facilities to meet recreation needs when conflicts between the multiple activities is likely to result, such as football and soccer.

Programs

GOAL 37

To achieve and maintain quality recreation activities which provide optimum satisfaction to the leisure and recreation needs of the citizens.

Policy 37.1

The City shall encourage the provision of programs and activities designed to meet the recreational needs of the residents of Folsom.

Policy 37.2

The City shall continue to develop facilities and programs for indoor and outdoor activities directed toward the needs of the neighborhoods served.

Policy 37.3

The City shall encourage the incorporation into parks and recreation planning the needs of all age groups, handicapped, and special interest groups.

Policy 37.4

The City shall encourage the expansion of services to senior citizens and latch key children.

Policy 37.5

The City shall encourage and/or co-sponsor various ethnic programs and activities of local interest.

Policy 37.6

The City shall encourage that residents of Folsom be given first priority in participation of recreation sponsored programs, activities, and leagues.

Policy 37.7

The City shall encourage or co-sponsor programs that involve the entire family, e.g. Family Fun Faire, Sports and Field Day, community picnics, and Kite Day.

Policy 37.7 A

Recreational programs offered by the City shall be economically self-sustaining where possible.

Policy 37.7 B

Seek community input and community support on development of park and recreation programs.

Policy 37.7 C

Use newsletters, local newspapers, *electronic social media*¹, and temporary banners to notify residents of City activities and events.

Policy 37.7 D

Develop cultural and environmental interpretive centers to complement the Humbug-Willow Creek resources.

Policy 37.7 E

Develop interpretive information, guidebooks, and a signage system to enhance the enjoyment and increase the understanding of the natural habitat of Folsom's opens space areas.

Policy 37.8 (formerly Policy 38.1)

The City shall strive to implement registration procedures which require minimal paperwork for individuals and groups.

Community Participation

GOAL 38

To involve and inform the residents, merchants, and visitors of the need for public participation in planning, development, and proper maintenance of recreation facilities.

Note: Policy 38.1 has been moved to Goal 37.

Policy 38.2

The City shall encourage citizen participation in park and recreation planning through the Park and Recreation Commission.

Policy 38.2 A

Encourage individual and group participation in support and development of new park and recreation facilities and programs.

Policy 38.2 B

Include public participation in the building of future parks to create a pride of ownership. Such activities could include painting tiles and purchasing bricks.

Policy 38.2 C

Work with business and special interest groups to create facilities and programs that benefit the City.

Policy 38.2 D

Explore options for community participation in park operations and maintenance through a park sponsorship or "Adopt-a-Park" program.

Policy 38.3

The City shall encourage neighborhood beautification projects, anti-pollution drives, recycling and other conservation activities that enhance the environment.

Policy 38.4

The City shall develop an informational brochure that describes the policies and maintenance requirements governing the use of City facilities by individuals and groups.

Policy 38.5

The City shall continue to publish and advertise recreation programs, leagues, and special events at a minimum of three times per year.

Coordination Between Agencies

GOAL 39

To effectively use the resources of the City of Folsom and other governmental entities (such as school

districts, county state, and federal agencies) to accomplish coordinated, effective planning of recreation and leisure activities.

Policy 39.1

The City shall encourage those agencies actively providing recreational programs and activities to continue those programs and activities.

Policy 39.2

The City shall encourage the use of college interns in all areas of parks and recreation.

Policy 39.3

The City shall encourage the use of community residents to instruct special interest programs; e.g. fishing, fly-tying, gun safety, dance, etc. The City may serve as coordinator for such programs by providing facilities, public relations, instructors, and by paying instructors fees.

Policy 39.4

The City shall encourage the aid of State or County park rangers, i.e. Folsom Lake State Recreation Area, to provide leadership in programs that inform the community on topics such as conservation and fire safety.

Policy 39.5

The City shall continue the execution of a joint use, and development arrangement with the Folsom Cordova Unified School District and the Los Rios Community College District.

Policy 39.6

The City shall work cooperatively with the County Department of Parks and Recreation, State Department of Parks and Recreation, State Department of Fish and Game in coordinating facility development and program offerings.