



8 Parks and Recreation

Folsom’s parks, open spaces, and recreation amenities contribute to the city’s excellent quality of life. Folsom’s connection to the outdoors and its active recreational lifestyle are central to its identity. Residents can walk, bike, paddle, row, hike, and play in Folsom’s extensive network of parks and trails. Lake Natoma, Folsom Lake, and the American River also provide excellent recreation opportunities.

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Park Development and Maintenance

Policies in this section provide for the maintenance and development of parkland and recreation facilities. Folsom has a wide range of existing parks, including small neighborhood parks and larger parks such as Lembi Community Park and Nisenan Community Park. Parks provide locations for playgrounds, ball fields, paths, picnics, and community gatherings as well as undisturbed open space and natural resources. The continued development of new parks and maintenance of existing parks will help ensure existing and future residents will have an excellent quality of life.

Goal PR 1.1

Develop and maintain quality parks that support the diverse needs of the community.

PR 1.1.1 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Maintain and continue to implement a Parks and Recreation Master Plan to carry out the goals and policies of this General Plan. **MPSP**

PR 1.1.2 Complete System

Develop and maintain a robust system of parks, recreation facilities, and open space areas throughout Folsom that provide opportunities for both passive and active recreation. **SO**

PR 1.1.3 Park Design

Develop well-designed parks that enrich and delight park users through innovative and context appropriate design. **SO**

PR 1.1.4 Park Acreage Service Level Goal

Strive to develop and maintain a minimum of five acres of neighborhood and community parks and other recreational facilities/sites per 1,000 population. **MPSP**

PR 1.1.5 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Consistency

Require parks and recreation facilities be consistent with Folsom's Bikeway Master Plan and Pedestrian Master Plan and connect to the bikeway system whenever possible. **MPSP**

PR 1.1.6 Late-Night Park Use

Develop and maintain parks with night-use capability. **SO**



PR 1.1.7 Universal Access

Require new parks and open spaces be easily accessible to the public, including providing disabled access. **SO**

PR 1.1.8 Shade and Hydration

Ensure water fountains, trees, pavilions, arbors, and canopies are provided in Folsom’s parks and playgrounds, as well as along bike paths, trails, and other active transportation corridors, where appropriate and feasible, to provide important safeguards on hot days. **SO**

PR 1.1.9 Water-Wise Landscaping

Employ low water use landscaping in the development of City parks. **SO**

PR 1.1.10 Appropriate Land for Parks

Land accepted for parks shall not be constrained by drainage, slopes, easements, regulated species/habitats, dense natural vegetation, and/or structures that limit the full recreational use. **RDR**

PR 1.1.11 Parkland Acreage

Do not accept easements and designated open space/natural areas as parkland acreage. These areas may be used for parkland; but shall not be credited as parkland under the parkland dedication ordinance. **RDR**

PR 1.1.12 Neighborhood Parks

Strive to ensure all neighborhoods, new and established, have parks that serve as community focal points. **MPSP**

PR 1.1.13 Community Gardens

Encourage community gardens consistent with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. **MPSP**

PR 1.1.14 Parkways

Encourage the development of parkways and greenbelts to connect the citywide parks system. **MPSP**

PR 1.1.15 Repair and Maintenance

Maintain all facilities and equipment to ensure that State and industry safety standards and guidelines are met. The City shall monitor, repair, and replace facilities and equipment as needed. **SO**

PR 1.1.16 Alternative Funding Sources

Develop programs to identify and attain alternative sources of funding for the acquisition, development, and renovation of parklands and financing of recreation programs. **FB**

PR 1.1.17 Capital Improvement Program

Maintain and implement a capital improvement program for long-term and short-term recreation projects. **FB**

Recreational Programs

Access to a broad range of recreational activities is important to improving public health through exercise, social connections, and leisure/educational pursuits. Recreational programs foster community cohesion and provide companionship. The City's recreational program offerings provide a myriad of benefits to all Folsom residents. Policies in this section ensure Folsom provides recreation programs that meet the needs of residents.

Goal PR 2.1

Develop, maintain, and implement quality recreation activities that meet the diverse needs of the community.

PR 2.1.1 Diversity of Users

Provide recreation programming, special events and venues, and educational opportunities that honor, interpret, and celebrate the diversity, history, cultural heritage, and traditions of Folsom. **SO**

PR 2.1.2 Priority for Folsom Residents

Ensure that Folsom residents be given first priority for the participation in City-sponsored recreation programs, activities, and leagues. **SO**

PR 2.1.3 Families

Encourage or co-sponsor programs that involve the entire family. **SO**

Community Involvement

Folsom is well known for its extensive parks network with many recreational program offerings. To ensure Folsom’s parks and recreation programs continue to meet the needs of all residents, the City must seek the input of community members. Policies in this section improve Folsom’s parks and recreation programs by encouraging public input on parks planning and the menu of recreation programs offered by the City.

Goal PR 3.1

Encourage community members and organizations to participate in the planning, development, and maintenance of recreation facilities and programs.

PR 3.1.1 Simple Registration

Encourage registration procedures for recreation programs that require minimal paperwork and are easy to understand.

SO

PR 3.1.2 Community Participation

Encourage community participation in park and recreation planning through the Park and Recreation Commission and Arts and Cultural Commission and other relevant community meetings and forums, and by providing public information on recreation programs and activities. **PI**

PR 3.1.3 Community Expertise

Encourage community members to share their expertise as instructors of special programs (e.g., fishing, dance, cycling). The City may serve as coordinator for such programs by providing facilities and public outreach. **MPSP**


Governmental Coordination

Recreation opportunities for Folsom residents are enhanced by the open space provided by the Folsom Cordova Unified School District and nearby State and regional parks. Policies in this section optimize Folsom's park planning by coordinating with other public entities on the provision of park and recreation facilities.


Goal PR 4.1

Effectively use City resources and the resources of other public entities to plan for recreation programs and facilities.


PR 4.1.1 Coordination with State and County Parks

Coordinate with State and County park officials to provide education in programs that inform the community on topics such as local natural resources, conservation efforts, and fire safety. 


PR 4.1.2 School Cooperation

Strive to maintain a joint use arrangement of park and school facilities with the Folsom Cordova Unified School District. 

PR 4.1.3 County, State, and Federal Cooperation

Cooperate with the County Department of Regional Parks, State Department of Parks and Recreation, State Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, State Department of Fish and Wildlife, and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation on facility development and program offerings as appropriate. 

PR 4.1.4 Connections

Coordinate with Sacramento Regional Transit and the State Department of Parks and Recreation on establishing trail linkages from light rail stations in Folsom to Lake Natoma, Folsom Lake, and the American River Parkway. 

PR 4.1.5 Waterway Recreation and Access

Coordinate with appropriate Federal and State agencies, Sacramento County Regional Parks, private landowners, and developers to manage, preserve, and enhance the American River Parkway, urban waterways, and riparian corridors, including public access for active and passive recreation. **IGC**