

Part II: Issues, Vision, Principles & Goals

This part of the master plan addresses four elements that are intended to set overall direction and reflect County values with respect to parks, open space, and outdoor recreation within a broad context. The first section summarizes a number of major parks- and recreation-related issues that emerged during the plan development process. This is followed by an idealized vision for Yolo County's parks and open space system; related to the vision statement is a general definition of the County's roles as a provider of parklands and outdoor recreation opportunities. These sections are followed by a number of "Guiding Principles." Part II concludes with a set of Goals for the County-wide parks and open space system.

4 Discussion of Major Issues

Issues raised by the public, summarized below, were a major influence in the planning process. Approaches to address those issues have been incorporated throughout this plan.

4.1 Current Condition of County Parks & Open Space Areas

This master planning effort included inventories and reconnaissance-level studies and assessments related to the resources and condition of each of the County's park properties as they existed in 2004-2005. This information is presented in Parts III and IV; additional information is also provided in the appendices.

Generally, over the past fifty years, Yolo County has acquired management responsibility for a diverse collection of public parks and open space properties – including boat launches, river access areas, creek access sites, community parks, and natural open space areas. Over the years, the uses of these existing parklands have evolved, demand for recreation activities on public lands has increased, natural resources have come under additional pressures, and some park facilities and improvements have deteriorated. In most park units, maintenance has been deferred to some extent.

This master plan recommends that projects aimed at resolving operation and maintenance concerns at the existing parks be given a high priority in making future funding decisions. While a limited number of parks are proposed for possible management by a non-County entity, where the County proposes to retain management responsibility, this plan recommends that each park unit should be considered a long-term public asset to be properly maintained and operated.

4.2 Future Parks & Public Open Space Development

Part of the long-term function of a parks and open space master plan such as this, which seeks to anticipate the needs of existing and future populations, is the appropriate consideration of future expansions and additions to the park system.

The plan generally asserts that the County has a legitimate function in providing public parks, recreation, and open space resources, and that acquisition of parks and open space areas for recreation,

conservation, and open space amenities is reasonable and desirable in advance of expected growth and development.

As considered in this plan, “acquisition,” may include, but is not necessarily dependant upon, land ownership by the County in fee title. Acquisition may also include a lesser interest in real property, such as a conservation easement or development rights. Recommendations in this plan include a variety of alternative methods to create new parks and recreation opportunities, including partnerships with landowners and other entities.

In allowing for future acquisition and other opportunities, this plan emphasizes cooperative arrangements with willing sellers. Increases in park lands and opportunities is anticipated to be conducted under mutually agreeable terms for all parties.

In cases where acquisition is appropriate, the County should approach potential, willing sellers with a range of options. Creative acquisition options include park expansion through life estates, right of first refusal, donations, and other mutually agreeable means. The plan also supports the provision of safeguards as well as incentives for private landowners. Where certain types of desirable parks or open space lands are identified, the intent is not to target specific private properties.

This plan also recommends protection of open space resources through the use of easements, which may or may not provide for public access. Both the General Plan and this master plan include the potential use of a land trust or similar, non-profit organization to assist in transactions

related to easements.¹ In a broader sense, and in keeping with expressed concerns of the community, “acquisition” in this plan is meant to be part of a broader program to expand opportunities for public outdoor experiences in the County.

4.3 Eminent Domain

Comments during the plan development process revealed a substantial concern on the part of some commenters that the Parks and Open Space Master Plan could be used as a basis for eminent domain actions by the County or other public agencies aimed at taking private land for public parks, recreation, conservation, or open space uses.

This master plan, however, does not promote the use of eminent domain. It is not the County’s present intent under this plan to rely on eminent domain to obtain lands for the primary purpose of creating new parks or open space areas, nor is implementation of this plan dependent upon the use of eminent domain actions.

4.4 Trails

Public foot trails, bicycle trails, and equestrian trails can provide a number of benefits within a community. Trails can provide access to recreation areas and connections between destinations; they can provide opportunities for popular forms of exercise, as well as alternative modes of transportation.

Public recreational trails, however, also raise many concerns among private landowners, particularly in rural areas

¹ For example, Yolo County Open Space and Recreation Element, Open Space (e.g., Implementation Measure OI-6; Recreation Implementation Measure RI-11); Yolo County Agricultural Element, section 3.10.

and for those who have agricultural interests. These concerns are related to issues such as vandalism, wildland fires, theft, litter, noise, pesticide use conflicts, fences and gates, livestock disturbance, insurance and liability, adverse effects to sensitive wildlife habitats, and other issues.

Public comments received during the plan preparation process covered a wide range of positions regarding trails – on the one hand, seeking to encourage the County to create more foot, bicycle, or equestrian trails and, on the other hand, to prohibit them. This plan, recognizing both the public benefits as well as the landowner concerns, takes a collaborative approach to trail development.

During the development of this master plan, the Blue Ridge Trail in particular was the subject of much discussion and debate. The name “Blue Ridge Trail” refers to an existing hiking trail primarily on BLM land, with access from the County’s Cache Creek Canyon Regional Park and Otis Ranch Open Space Park.

The same name has also been used to refer to a conceptual trail route proposed to extend the existing trail through the mountains of western Yolo County or eastern Napa County from Cache Creek to Putah Creek. This concept, while favored by hiking advocates and other interests, has met with opposition for some years from several landowners who own property in the Blue Ridge/Rocky Ridge area.

This master plan recognizes that the Blue Ridge Trail is addressed in the County’s adopted Open Space and Recreation Element, which calls for the County to support efforts to provide public access

and trail improvements in the Blue Ridge Mountains. The Open Space and Recreation Element also states that the County shall work closely with the Bureau of Land Management, adjacent counties, and other landowners to make the Blue Ridge Mountains available to the public. The Element also states that no acquisition of land is expected to occur unless it is from a willing seller.²

This master plan acknowledges the existence of the Blue Ridge Trail north of the Otis Ranch Open Space park unit. It also recognizes the history of the trail concept, in terms of public policy, hiking advocate support, and landowner opposition. Although the plan does not address the future extension of the Blue Ridge Trail, it does generally support public trails on public property, as well as future trails that may be created through landowner incentives, easements, and acquisitions from willing sellers, consistent with this plan.

4.5 Agriculture & Recreation

This plan, which promotes improvements of County’s parks and open space assets, acknowledges the importance and role of agricultural land uses and heritage in Yolo County. Open space in the County is closely related to agricultural land use, and this plan acknowledges that agricultural practices create visual open space, of substantial benefit to County residents.

Private land stewardship helps to preserve visual open space amenities, as well as provide additional, active recreational opportunities such as hunting and target

² Yolo County Open Space and Recreation Element (2002); section 3.7; OP-17; RP-23; and RI-13.

shooting, which are not available or allowed on County lands. Private landowners in rural areas of Yolo County often conduct activities on their lands that reflect good stewardship of natural resources.

This plan acknowledges that there may be potential incompatibility issues between public outdoor recreation and active agricultural practices, as also discussed above under the "Trails" issue. What some people perceive as "open space" may also be a grower's "backyard" or place of work.

Where possible, programmatic policies and action items have incorporated measures to avoid or reduce these effects. The County parks and open space system is not intended to create situations that cause conflicts with agricultural endeavors nor violate the County's right-to-farm ordinance. The plan generally recommends avoiding the establishment of new park and recreation facilities that would result in significant conversion of designated prime farmland. The plan also encourages the creation of an "agricultural heritage" park.

4.6 Public Access

Public lands are lands held in trust for the people by local, state, or federal agencies. In many cases, public access is provided to public lands, and for outdoor recreation advocates, the more public access to public lands, the better.

For various reasons, however, public access may also be appropriately restricted or even prohibited to publicly owned lands (e.g., in cases of military security, for health and safety reasons, or in highly sensitive wildlife preserves in certain seasons).

Public access, of course, does not apply to private lands. One of the rights of private property ownership is the right to exclude others. Even public access in the proximity of private property can raise compatibility concerns.

Generally, this plan supports the public's right to gain access to public lands, where allowed by law and in coordination with the applicable management programs for those public lands. This plan recommends that public access may generally be subject to reasonable controls, as appropriate. Public access objectives should strive to be compatible with uses on adjacent or nearby private properties, as well as protective of environmental resources.

4.7 Conservation

One of the uses or potential uses of larger, natural public parks and open space lands is for conservation of environmental resources. This plan supports the position that existing and future County parks and open space areas with significant natural resource values play a role in the conservation of environmental resources on a County-wide and regional scale.

4.8 Financing & Implementation

This plan is designed to give consideration to a broad range of possible financing and implementation methods. A menu of funding sources is identified to provide as many options as possible for County parks and open space projects.

Implementation of this plan is seen to include not just County-sponsored activities, but also cooperative partnerships between the County and other recreation-providers, including those from other government agencies,

non-profit groups, private landowners, and others in the private sector. This approach is aimed at an administrative strategy where the type of implementation project can be matched with the type of funding and potential partners. None of the identified mechanisms are specifically “required” by this plan.

Administration of possible park expansions and open space protection might also be structured to provide potential advantages for agricultural land preservation. A multi-purpose district supported by a minimal sales tax is offered in this plan as a possible consideration. Such a district could provide benefits for the County in many areas, including agricultural preservation, open space and greenbelts, recreation opportunities, and wildlife habitat conservation.

4.9 Timing of Plan Implementation

A number of public comments indicated that the initial draft plan was unclear regarding the long-range nature of plan components, including possible future parks and open space areas. Concerns were expressed which suggested that readers may have perceived the proposed actions as being initiated immediately upon approval of the plan.

As discussed in the Introduction, timeframe for this master plan is both near-term and long-term. While a major focus of the plan is on near-term management and improvement of existing (2004-05) County parks and open space units, the master plan is also intended to be a long-range plan with a 20-year horizon.

The timeline for implementation is 20 years with five-year reviews that allow for adaptability to meet changing needs. It is also recognized that all elements in this plan may not necessarily be implemented.

5 Vision Statement

Imagine an idealized future for Yolo County's parklands – one which may occur 20 or more years from now – in a time when a new generation of people are living here. What does it look like; how will it function?

From the perspective of the existing set of County park units in 2005, welcomed and positive changes have occurred in County-wide parks, recreational opportunities, and open space resources – within an overall context that reflects the County decision makers' long-standing commitment to agricultural viability and respect for the rights and responsibilities inherent in private property ownership.

5.1 An Integrated System

In the future envisioned by this plan, the citizens of Yolo County enjoy an integrated system of parklands, open space areas, outdoor recreation opportunities, and connecting linkages. As the region's population has grown and evolved, there has been a corresponding response in meeting the increased and diversified demands. The County-wide system provides adequate and diversified recreational opportunities to meet the demands of an expanding population.³

Older County park units have been improved and expanded in area, as appropriate. Additional public parks, open space areas, and public access opportunities have been made available through a variety of means. All outdoor recreation areas are well-designed, well-maintained, safe, accessible, and fully

³ Yolo County Open Space and Recreation Element (2002)

operational. All parts of the system employ careful, context-sensitive design and management to ensure compatibility with surrounding land uses. County parks and open space lands also contribute to the regional conservation of agricultural resources, natural and cultural resources, wildlife habitat, and other beneficial uses.

5.2 Respectful Collaboration

In the future envisioned by this plan, there is balance between public and private uses, between recreation and agriculture, and between recreational uses and the protection of sensitive environmental resources. While promoting and enjoying an increase in both access and conservation opportunities on public lands, the County continues to encourage responsible stewardship of all lands and a conscientious respect for private property.

In this future, residents and visitors can depend on County government for parks, recreation, and open space, but they also benefit through the County's partnerships with other government land stewards, non-profit entities, volunteers, and rural landowners and entrepreneurs. Yolo County's parks and open space facilities are augmented by a wide range of innovative recreational opportunities in the private sector. County facilities are also part of a broader, regional inventory of parks, open space areas, conservation areas, and outdoor recreation opportunities, both on public lands as well as within the private sector.

Overall, this collaborative, multi-functional system keeps pace well with the

needs and expectations of our residents and visitors of all ages and groups.

5.3 Tradition & Innovation

Traditional recreational activities – including fishing, boating, and water-related pursuits – are combined with innovative new forms of recreation. There are gathering places for social events and day use. There are remote places to explore, as well as “nearby nature” areas to visit just outside of town. Facilities within the parks and open space system function as “gateways” to other public lands. There are Delta trails, farm-trails, and ecotourism opportunities.

Working landscapes, green buffers, and open space play a role in keeping our communities distinct and separate.⁴ The County park system includes places that celebrate important the natural and cultural heritage values of our communities.

People enjoy multi-function regional parks located a short distance from home. They enjoy riverside park areas along the Sacramento River and Yolo Bypass, as well as enhanced access to Cache Creek, Putah Creek, and other tributaries. Interpretive trails are available for walking along the creeks and the river.

An integrated corridor along lower Cache Creek provides natural open space with controlled public access for recreational and educational purposes.⁵ Former gravel mining areas have been reused for recreational activities and wildlife habitat, and ponds and wetlands have been

created or restored, consistent with other County directives and plans. Dedicated equestrian and bike trails within public rights-of-way connect parks to urban areas. Through careful planning, a designated and enforceable area has been provided for off-highway vehicle recreation. Concession services appropriately supplement the recreation activities and enhance rather than impede use by the general public. These improvements are designed and operated to minimize impacts to adjoining private uses and to the environment.

5.4 Yolo’s Signature Identity

In this future, Yolo County’s signature identity helps to promotes ecotourism, agri-tourism, and other sustainable recreational opportunities that attract visitors⁶ and stimulate local economies. The County parks and open space system contributes to local economies while helping to preserve the County’s resources, agricultural lands, watershed and ecological functions, open space uses and amenities, and quality of life.

5.5 A Legacy for the Future

In the future envisioned by this plan, the County, its partners, and private entrepreneurs provide a wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities for residents and visitors. We have a County-wide system of parks, and open spaces that helps to bring people together to share, appreciate, and protect significant aspects of Yolo County’s natural, cultural, and agricultural heritage. We have a parks and open space legacy that we can be proud to pass on to future generations.

⁴ Yolo County General Plan Update Vision Statement.

⁵ Cache Creek Resources Management Plan.

⁶ Yolo County Agricultural Element (2002); Yolo County Open Space and Recreation Element (2002)

6 The County's Roles as a Parkland Provider

The planning process for this master plan included consideration and clarification of the County's roles as a provider of outdoor recreation opportunities.

Defining these roles helps to guide park planning efforts and to set management priorities.

As defined in this plan, the County provides a variety of parks and recreation opportunities for Yolo County residents in three general ways, by:

- Directly providing facilities for outdoor recreation in primarily natural settings;
- Assisting unincorporated communities in meeting their recreational needs; and
- Providing support for private landowners initiatives and other private entrepreneurs, as consistent with County policies and values.

Given these roles, Yolo County's responsibilities often falls between that assumed by the incorporated cities on the one hand and by the state and federal agencies on the other. Somewhat more indirectly, the County also provides outdoor recreation opportunities of regional benefit; this is consistent with adopted County policies supporting sustainable tourism. These roles are discussed further below; related funding mechanisms are discussed in Part V.

6.1 Directly Providing Parks & Open Space Facilities

In the first category, the County generally provides the land areas for parks and open space areas by acquiring management responsibility through a variety of means.

As explained above (Section 4), "acquisition," may include, but is not necessarily dependant upon, land ownership by the County in fee title. Acquisition may also include a lesser interest in real property, such as a conservation easement or development rights.

In directly providing park and open space facility, the County typically provides the land, the basic infrastructure, and possible some limited recreation facilities; other entities (e.g., agencies, special districts, concessionaires, non-profit groups, special interest groups, volunteers) provide supplementary funding, services, activities, and programs.

County-acquired lands are considered public lands available for all residents and visitors. Access, however, may be limited to certain hours and user fees may be assessed, as appropriate. Parklands may include the various categories defined in this plan (Part III), including County open space areas, regional parks, "gateway" parks, parklands held in reserve, and natural resource conservation areas with limited recreation functions.

6.2 Assisting Unincorporated Communities

In the second category, the County assists unincorporated communities. In this plan, this category is considered no less important the first. Unincorporated communities in the County include: Dunnigan, Capay, Esparto, Guinda, Madison, Knights Landing, Clarksburg, Rumsey, Zamora, Brooks, Yolo, and Monument Hills.

Generally, the County helps facilitate parks and open space areas for unincorporated communities primarily through the exercise of appropriate planning and zoning mechanisms and tools. The County's role includes ensuring that parks are properly maintained, either directly or through other arrangements.

The County's assistance to unincorporated areas is typically provided in terms of collecting and re-investing developer fees, providing compatible land use designations and zoning classifications, and helping to coordinate grant funding, administration, and planning. The County also helps to plan for parks by requiring parkland dedication or in-lieu fees under the Subdivision Map Act process.

Parks within or near unincorporated communities may be funded and managed by local entities, such as special assessment districts or school districts, rather than funded and managed directly by the County.

The County supports the creation of park assessment districts and other local

funding mechanisms. Local park support groups are encouraged to arrange participatory events to improve their local parks.

6.3 Supporting Private Landowners

In the third category, the County supports mutually beneficial partnerships with private landowners to provide additional recreation opportunities. Landowners and the County can work together in a variety of ways, as discussed in subsequent parts of this plan.

The County can support these efforts primarily through administrative and regulatory means. Examples include sponsoring a website page that provides information about landowner-offered public recreation. For certain specified uses, zoning ordinances and permit processes could be modified to streamline approvals. Assistance from non-profit organizations can also help facilitate implementation.

7 Guiding Principles

The following ten “Guiding Principles” are intended to reflect County values and general direction with respect to parks, open space, and outdoor recreation within a broad context.

7.1 Parks & Open Space Areas are Vital to the County

Parks, recreation areas, open spaces, and conservation areas play vital roles in Yolo County’s identity, economy, and quality of life. A flourishing County-wide parks and open space system benefits all County residents, as well as adds value for property owners. Open space, including both agriculture and wildlife habitat, should be protected.⁷ Parks and open space areas provide places to enjoy outdoor activities, thus promoting health and well-being. Parks and recreation activities provide economic engines that provide local economic benefits. A parks system that includes important habitat areas helps to protect sensitive species and critical functions in terms of regional ecology, which in turn, benefits human communities.

7.2 Parklands Serve the Public

Parks exist for the public. All residents have the right to use County parks and recreation areas. County parks accommodate appropriate long-term uses by groups that obtain County approval according to reasonable rules and regulations; however, public accessibility takes precedence over exclusive use by specific interest groups. Parks provide gathering places for people to share special activities or events; they provide settings for “generational outings,” where families and other visitor groups made up of people of various ages can all find

⁷ Yolo County General Plan Update Vision Statement.

activities that suit their ages and activity levels.

7.3 Parklands are Intended for All Ages and Groups

Yolo County parks and open space areas are intended for people of all ages and groups. Parks and recreation areas serve all segments of the population, including non-English-speaking and ethnic communities, persons with disabilities, and the increasing number of elderly users who live here. Accommodation should be made for the elderly and for persons with disabilities⁸ as required and where appropriate, including sites along Cache Creek. Parks can also provide places where young people can enjoy positive experiences in outdoor recreational and educational activities.

7.4 The County Promotes & Protects Public Health, Safety & Welfare

In providing public lands and encouraging the public to use them, the County has a responsibility to protect public health, safety, and welfare. This principle acknowledges that substantial public health benefits can be derived from outdoor recreation activities.

⁸ The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), a federal civil rights statute, covers many provisions for people with disabilities. Generally, for public accommodations, all new construction must be accessible to people with disabilities; for existing facilities, barriers to services must be removed if readily achievable.

It also means that the County places a priority on providing essential improvements, such as drinking water and sanitation facilities at places where people gather. In the event of high water conditions and potential flooding, closure of public park facilities near water courses may be an appropriate action to reduce risk. This principle also may mean the County must enforce requirements prohibiting unsafe or anti-social activities.

7.5 The County Supports Public Access to Public Lands

The County promotes existing, new, and enhanced public access to public lands in ways that are compatible with the adopted management programs for those lands, protective of natural and cultural resources, and considerate of adjacent and nearby private properties.

The County seeks opportunities and supports the efforts of other agencies and non-profit groups to work with willing sellers of real property interests to allow for public access to publicly owned parcels where access is currently limited or unavailable.

7.6 County Parks Strive to Adhere to the “Good Neighbor” Policy

Yolo County encourages responsible stewardship and a conscientious respect toward private lands, while promoting and enjoying an increase in recreation opportunities.

Acquisition, development, management, and use of outdoor recreation facilities must respect the rights and desires of private property owners and strive to protect agricultural interests in the County.

In developing new parks and open space areas, private landowner concerns must be respected. Acquisition of land in fee title or by easement should be through negotiation with willing landowners.

Parks and trail access locations, design, and uses must strive to meet “good neighbor” policies, with little to no adverse effects to adjacent private landowners and adjacent land uses. Where possible, buffer lands should be provided on the public land side to separate the park or recreation uses from the adjacent land uses.

7.7 County Parks & Recreation Contribute to the Vitality of Local Economies

It is appropriate for the County to promote parks and recreation activities that support “sustainable” recreation-related tourism. In addition to traditional recreation activities such as rafting and camping, the County supports the growth of individual and collective private-sector agri-tourism and ecotourism operations.

The County supports and encourages the establishment of “farm trails,” branding of agricultural products, and other initiatives to increase tourism – such as wine tasting tours and farm trails – that complement agricultural land uses. In drawing visitors to outdoor recreation areas and ecotourism opportunities in the County, access to public land must be promoted in such ways as to not infringe upon, or cause adverse effects to, private property.

7.8 County Parks Help Conserve Valuable Resources

County parks are instrumental in protecting regionally important areas of exceptional scenic, environmental, and

cultural heritage significance. Promotion of conservation values is recognized as also enhancing the recreational value for a spectrum of people who use the parks.

Resource protection must be considered in conjunction with recreation and other public uses. Environmental impacts should be reduced to the greatest extent feasible.⁹ The County’s protection for special-status species and their habitats must meet and may exceed its legal responsibilities to protect these species and the habitats on which they depend. It is in the public interest, including the interests of generations to come, to protect exceptional natural resource areas, particularly those representative of Yolo County and those that contribute to regional conservation.

County parks and open space areas may contain and help to conserve and enhance environmental values. In environmentally sensitive areas, including cultural resource areas, it may be appropriate to limit or even prohibit access. Environmental compatibility and sustainability is essential to parks planning and management.

7.9 Public Participation is Essential

Yolo County encourages public participation in planning and management activities related to parks and open space areas. The County welcomes, appreciates, and promotes the efforts of volunteers and non-profit organizations, as well as the generosity of businesses and individuals. Such groups and individuals offer many services,

⁹ Yolo County General Plan Update Vision Statement.

programs, and functions that the County itself may be unable to provide.

7.10 Partnering with Other Agencies, Landowners, & Groups

Cooperative agreements between and among Yolo County and other entities are appropriate for purposes related to parks, recreation, and conservation when found to be in the public interest and in best interest of the County.

Partnerships with landowners may help provide types of recreation activities that the County could not otherwise provide. Non-profit organizations can serve useful “middle-management” roles between landowners and government.

County partnerships with the cities, adjacent counties, state and federal agencies, tribes, water and reclamation districts, school districts, non-profit organizations, and private businesses provide mutual advantages in the acquisition, development and administration of recreation facilities and resources.

<p>Yolo County Parks & Open Space Master Plan Guiding Principles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Parks & Open Space Areas are Vital to the County ➤ Parklands Serve the Public ➤ Parklands Intended for All Ages & Groups ➤ The County Promotes & Protects Public Health, Safety & Welfare ➤ The County Supports Public Access to Public Lands ➤ County Parks Should Strive to Adhere to the “Good Neighbor” Policy ➤ County Parks & Recreation Contribute to the Vitality of Local Economies ➤ County Parks Help Conserve and Protect Valuable Resources ➤ Public Participation is Essential ➤ Partnering with Other Agencies, Landowners, & Groups
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8 Goals

Goals in this master plan apply broadly to the County-wide park system overall. As used in this plan, a “goal” is a general expression of long-range intent, which sets a direction toward an ideal future end, condition, or state. Aspects of some of the goals in this plan intentionally reflect County goals set forth in elements of the County General Plan. Goals are of equal importance and are presented below in no particular order.

8.1 High Quality Park System

G-1: A high-quality County-wide park system that meets local recreation demands.

It is a goal of this plan to strive for continuous improvement in developing a coherent, recognizable, high-quality, destination-oriented, County-wide system of parks, open space areas, and diversified recreation opportunities that meet the demands of an expanding population.¹⁰

8.2 Best Use of Financial Resources

G-2: Best use of financial resources on a system-wide basis.

It is a goal of this plan to have a County-wide system that makes the best use of limited financial resources, actively pursues available grant money, and conserves expenditures through cooperative agreements with other agencies, voluntary participation of interested non-profit groups, and private landowner initiatives.

8.3 Working with Other Park and Recreation Providers

G-3: Productive relationships with other park and recreation providers, with positive access results as experienced by the public.

It is a goal of this plan that, collectively, the County, the cities and communities, the University, school districts, Tribal organizations, and state and federal agencies provide public parks, open space, and recreation opportunities through an inter-connected and diverse collection of park resources. This goal includes the establishment and maintenance of the necessary arrangements for “gateways” and other management partnerships.

8.4 Facilities Both Near & Remote

G-4: Parks, open space, and recreation near population centers and in more remote areas.

It is a goal of this plan that parks, open space areas, and recreation opportunities are available near population centers, allowing allow ease of day-use and “nearby nature” experiences for County residents. It is also a goal that parks, open space areas, and recreation opportunities are available in more remote areas where County residents can go to get away from congestion.

¹⁰ Yolo County General Plan, Open Space and Recreation Element, Recreation Objective RO-3.

8.5 Balance between Public Uses & Private Rights

G-5: Balance of public uses with private rights and concerns.

It is a goal of this plan that public parks and open space areas accommodate public recreation needs, while respecting and protecting the rights and concerns of private property owners, public safety and health, and the environment.

8.6 Innovative Opportunities

G-6: Innovative public / private recreation opportunities.

It is a goal of this plan that the County promote a socio-economic and regulatory environment that supports agri-tourism, ecotourism, education, and recreational entrepreneurs in the provision of innovative, public- or private-sector recreational opportunities that are appropriate for Yolo County, without causing adverse impacts to agriculture.¹¹

8.7 Increase in Available Area

G-7: Increase in net parkland and open space available.

It is a goal of this plan that the County increase the amount of area available for public use and/or conservation, through collaboration with landowners, acquisition from willing sellers, donations, voluntary easements, and other appropriate mechanisms.

¹¹ Yolo County General Plan, Open Space and Recreation Element, Recreation Policy RP-24; Agricultural Element Objective AO-19, Agricultural Policy AP-14.

8.8 Increase in Range & Types of Recreation

G-8: Increase in the range & availability of outdoor recreation opportunities.

It is a goal of this plan that more variety in available types of outdoor recreation be provided through County initiative, partnerships with other agencies and organizations, private enterprise, and landowner invitation.

8.9 Preservation of Open Space

G-9: Preservation of open space.

It is a goal of this plan that open space be preserved for any and all its beneficial uses – as a visual amenity on public or private property, as agricultural production lands and working landscapes, for environmental protection and conservation, and for public uses on public lands.¹²

8.10 Increase in Resource-Based Tourism

G-10: Increased, resource-based tourism.

It is a goal of this plan that there be increased opportunities for recreation, tourism, small-scale/niche visitor service and associated support services in appropriate locations based on the County's historic, natural, and agricultural resources.¹³

¹² Yolo County General Plan, Open Space and Recreation Element, Open Space Goals OG-1 and OG-2.

¹³ Yolo County General Plan, Open Space and Recreation Element, Recreation Goals RG-3, RG-6, and RG-7, and Recreation Policy RP-25; Agricultural Element Goal AG-6 and Objective AO-19.

8.11 Land Use Compatibility

G-11: Compatibility of parks and recreation facilities with surrounding uses.

It is a goal of this plan that County parks, open space area, and recreation facilities are designed and managed to maintain privacy and security for surrounding property owners, to maximize compatibility, and to avoid or minimize undesirable effects.¹⁴

8.12 Maintenance of Public Assets

G-12: Maintenance of public assets.

It is a goal of this plan that County parks and open space areas be considered long-term public assets to be properly maintained and operated. Projects aimed at resolving operation and maintenance concerns at the existing parks should be given a high priority in making funding decisions.

¹⁴ Yolo County General Plan, Open Space and Recreation Element, Recreation Goals RG-4 and RG-5.

