

## Part VI: Policies & Actions

This part of the master plan is a summary of the major directions and recommendations identified through the master plan development process, as discussed in this plan – from the issues, vision, principles, and goals in Part II, through the recommendations in Part IV, to the implementation and financing in Part V. They are organized here by general categories.

As used in this plan, a “policy” is a specific statement to be used as a guide in decision making, based on the goals, recommendations, and other components of this plan. “Action items” are implementation measures that are intended to carry out the policies. Where applicable, cross-references to supporting policies and provisions in adopted County General Plan elements are identified by footnotes.

### 18 Management & Operations (M&O) Policies & Actions

#### 18.1 M&O Policies

##### **M&O P-1. County roles in providing and facilitating parks, open space, and recreation.**

The County provides facilities for regional outdoor recreation opportunities in primarily natural settings for residents and visitors. The County assists unincorporated areas meet their parks and recreation needs through such activities as: collecting and re-investing developer fees, providing compatible land use designations and zoning classifications, and assistance with funding and administration.

##### **M&O P-2. High priority for existing park maintenance and infrastructure.**

Maintenance, reduction of deferred maintenance, and provision of necessary infrastructure are high priorities in County park units.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Yolo County General Plan, Open Space and Recreation Element, Recreation Implementation Measure RI-10.

##### **M&O P-3. Compatible recreation and agriculture interface.**

Management and operation of County parks and open space areas near agricultural operations and rural residences shall be conducted to minimize conflicts and maximize compatibility.

##### **M&O P-4. Equality in public access.**

Parks exist for the public, and all residents have the right of access to County parks and recreation areas. County parks may 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.

Handicapped access and provisions for elderly persons should be provided, where appropriate, including sites along Cache Creek. Signs and other information should be provided in languages other than English, where appropriate.

**M&O P-5. Health, safety, welfare, and essential services.**

The County has a responsibility to protect public health, safety, and welfare. The County places a priority on providing essential public facilities – such as parking areas, traffic signs, fencing, lighting (if required for safety), drinking water, sanitation facilities, waste and recycling receptacles, and handicapped access, where appropriate – at County park and open space areas where people gather.

**M&O P-6. Multiple benefit functions of parks and open space areas.**

County-wide park management – while seeking to meet the recreational needs of County residents and visitors – should, where possible, also help to accomplish other goals, such as regional conservation, water supply and replenishment, and floodplain management.

**M&O P-7. Research at County parks.**

Research activities conducted on County park and open space properties by scientific or educational organizations generally should be encouraged. Research requests that may disrupt park activities, potentially disturb wildlife or habitat, or otherwise be inconsistent with this plan shall be reviewed and approved by the County Parks, Recreation, and Wildlife Advisory Committee.

**M&O P-8. Commercial activities at County parks.**

Commercial uses of County park areas involving retail trade where products, merchandise, or services are offered for sale for profit are generally not appropriate on County park properties; however, selected commercial uses may be approved where the services provided or for-sale items:

- Complement and support an appropriate public use;
- Cannot otherwise be provided by the County;
- Do not interfere with public access or uses;
- Do not cause significant environmental effects;
- Do not violate other laws or regulations; and
- Are provided under an approved agreement with the County under specified conditions, which may include appropriate payments to the County.

**18.2 M&O Actions****M&O A-1. Develop a County Parks & Open Space identity program.**

Develop a signature identity for Yolo County parks and open space system, including signs, marketing brochures, website, and other information used in parks and recreation activities. Basic considerations are those as discussed in this plan, including the creation of a unique logo or icon to represent an overall parks identity for Yolo County.

**M&O A-2. Develop signage program and design guide.**

Develop a County signage guidebook that includes detailed design specifications for signs and interpretation displays in County parks and open space areas, as outlined in this plan.

**M&O A-3. Develop structures & furnishings design guide.**

Develop a design guide to provide detailed county-wide design standards for structures and furnishings in County parks and open space areas. Basic considerations should include those

discussed in this plan. References should be provided to current, applicable Best Management Practices promulgated by agencies such as the State Water Resources Control Board, Caltrans, and the Air Resources Boards.

**M&O A-4. Encourage volunteer support.**

Foster the creation of “Friends of Yolo Parks” and “Adopt-A-Park” programs and encourage leadership of such programs by a citizen-based, non-profit organizations.

**M&O A-5. Improve standards and training for park hosts.**

Establish qualifications for park hosts. Require park hosts to attend periodic orientation programs. Provide hosts with a handbook of responsibilities and stewardship goals.

**M&O A-6. Conduct land surveys; designate boundaries.**

As funding allows (possibly in conjunction with other projects), conduct land surveys of all County park units and file a record of survey in order to accurately determine and record the legal property boundaries of these public lands. Where appropriate, install signs to designate boundaries of County park properties.

**M&O A-7. Conduct inventories of parkland resources.**

Conduct inventories of natural and cultural resources within County park units, as needed, to supplement existing information.

**M&O A-8. Develop better data on County recreation needs and user preferences.**

As part of future updates to this plan, conduct and update on a regular basis County-wide recreation needs assessments, user preference surveys, and/or other broad data-gathering efforts to refine and further direct the priorities of County planning for parks, recreation, open space, and related management.

**M&O A-9. Investigate use of land trusts.**

Investigate the use of non-profit land trusts as a possible means to help protect agricultural, habitat, open space, and parklands and otherwise accomplish park and open space goals and recommendations.

**M&O A-10. Controlled burns.**

If controlled burns are proposed to be used as a management practice in a County park unit, the County shall develop and implement (or require other responsible entities to develop and implement) an operations and fire-suppression plan for the controlled burn, including consultation, as applicable, with other involved fire-suppression agencies.

**M&O A-11. Closure of parks in event of floods.**

Subject to other County policies and potential need for emergency access, the County shall have the authority to close public park facilities near waterways in the event of high water conditions or flooding that may present risks to people using the sites. Entranceways shall be closed by posting and, as available, by gates or other physical means; public notice shall also be given on an appropriate page of the County website.

**M&O A-12. Inadvertent discoveries of cultural and paleontological resources.**

In the event that, during future activities at the site, concentrations of previously unknown archaeological or historical resources (or materials that may be considered to be archaeological or historical resources) are encountered, (1) County staff shall be notified immediately, and they shall notify representatives from the Native American community; and (2) all ground-disturbing work at the location and in the vicinity of the discovery shall temporarily cease and not resume until a qualified archaeologist has been contacted to evaluate the materials and recommend appropriate action. In the event that project-related

activities result in the accidental discovery or recognition of any human remains, the County shall initiate the procedure specified in section 15064.5(e) of the CEQA Guidelines.

In the event that, during future activities at the site, concentrations of previously unknown paleontological resources (or materials that may be considered to be paleontological resources) are encountered, County staff shall be notified, work in the immediate vicinity shall cease, and procedures shall be followed as required under Section 10-4.415 of the County Off-Channel Mining Ordinance.

## 19 Administration & Finance (A&F) Policies & Actions

### 19.1 A&F Policies

#### **A&F P-1. Adequate staff and budget for parks and recreation functions.**

Parks, recreation areas, open spaces, and conservation areas play vital roles in Yolo County's identity, economy, and quality of life; therefore, related County parks, recreation, and conservation management and operations functions should be staffed and funded adequately and appropriately, within the constraints of the County budget.

#### **A&F P-2. Cooperative relationships with other public agency providers.**

Yolo County will continue to work cooperatively with other government agencies, including cities, special districts, school districts, tribal groups, and the university, for purposes related to improving parks and access to open space, recreation, and conservation, when such purposes are found by the County to be cost-efficient and in the public interest of the citizens of Yolo County.

#### **A&F P-3. Cooperative relationships with non-governmental organizations.**

Yolo County will continue to work cooperatively with non-government organizations for purposes related to improving parks and access to open space, recreation, and conservation, when such purposes are found by the County to be cost-efficient and in the public interest of the citizens of Yolo County.

#### **A&F P-4. Partnerships with landowners and the private sector.**

Yolo County will continue to work cooperatively with willing landowners to increase access and recreation opportunities that are currently not available to the public. The County may support new recreation opportunities in the private sector, where such activities are desired by the landowners and found by the County to protect sensitive environmental resources, to be cost-effective, and to be in the public interest of the citizens of Yolo County.

#### **A&F P-5. Interaction between agriculture and recreation.**

The County shall encourage and support constructive and respectful interactions between agriculture and recreation. The County will continue 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 also 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 the Delta region, and other initiatives to increase tourism – such as wine-tasting tours, rural bed and breakfast inns, guest ranches, and "working" vacations – that complement

and do not adversely affect agricultural land uses.<sup>2</sup>

#### **A&F P-6. Volunteer programs.**

Yolo County welcomes and promotes volunteer programs to assist with County park-related functions. The County also welcomes endowments, sponsorships, gifts, donation programs, trusts, “Friends of County parks,” and other similar entities and programs where there is benefit to the citizens of Yolo County and to the management and operations of County parks and recreation resources.

#### **A&F P-7. Tribal relationship.**

The County supports and encourages a constructive and respectful, government-to-government relationship with the Rumsey Band of Wintun Indians. A specific focus for County-Tribe interaction could be park and recreation opportunities and open space in the Cache Creek area and Capay Valley Corridor. There could also be broader County-wide collaboration regarding historical tribal uses, traditions, and lifeways, including related cultural resource interpretation and natural resource protection.

## **19.2 A&F Actions**

#### **A&F A-1. Conduct periodic reviews of the master plan.**

The County Parks, Recreation, and Wildlife Advisory Committee should periodically review this plan and recommend possible updates and revisions to all components, including the goals, policies, recommendations,

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<sup>2</sup> Yolo County Open Space and Recreation Element Recreation Policies RP-24 and RP-25; Yolo County Agricultural Element Agricultural Objective AO-19 and Implementation Measure AI-17.

mitigation measures, and supporting information on a 5-year interval to ensure that the plan continues to meet County needs.

#### **A&F A-2. Consider a County-wide agriculture, open space, recreation, and conservation district.**

The County should investigate the feasibility of a multi-functional, county-wide, non-profit entity, which would be funded by a minimal sales tax, and which would have as its primary purpose the protection and preservation of agricultural lands, open space, habitat conservation, and recreation areas in the County through conservation easements and other mechanisms.

#### **A&F A-3. Consider a parks and open space regional district or authority.**

In conjunction with other local governments and other entities, the County should consider the possible creation of, and participation in, a Regional Parks District or similar regional, multi-agency entity, where such a district or authority would be beneficial to the County. The district or authority would provide management, improvement, and development of parks and open space facilities and outdoor recreation opportunities on a regional basis. The region could be the Sacramento Valley, Blue Ridge-Berryessa, Delta Region, or other.

#### **A&F A-4. Foster partnerships with private landowners.**

County staff should continue working to promote partnerships with rural landowners who may wish to offer outdoor recreational activities. Assistance should be provided to willing landowners in developing opportunities for access to private lands that are not currently

available to the public. Assistance could include County maintenance of a website that identifies participating landowners, as well as other activities, such as the development of liability waivers.

**A&F A-5. Develop better cooperation with adjacent jurisdictions and other resource stewards.**

The County should establish, maintain, and enhance partnerships with neighboring local, state, and federal governments – including but not limited to Solano, Napa, Sacramento, Lake, Colusa, and Sutter Counties, the incorporated cities, the University of California at Davis, Delta Protection Commission, California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Bureau of Land Management – for the purpose of creating or improving public recreation opportunities, and to share associated costs and administrative functions.

**A&F A-6. Implement a park impact fees (Quimby Act) program.**

The County shall implement a park impact fee program (e.g., Quimby Act implementation), including the required ordinance and park impact fees requirements to establish a funding mechanism for local park acquisition, development and management for parks in unincorporated areas.<sup>3</sup>

**A&F A-7. Consider the creation of special districts.**

Special assessment districts or County Service Areas should be required for substantial new residential developments, where necessary to provide funding to maintain local parks in unincorporated areas.

**A&F A-8. Establish user fees – application and updating.**

Reasonable fees shall be charged to users of County park facilities to help offset the cost of maintenance and operation. User fee rate schedules and exaction strategies should be reviewed and approved on an annual basis and shall be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

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<sup>3</sup> Yolo County Open Space and Recreation Element Recreation Implementation Measure R-1.

## 20 Future Park and Open Space Expansion & Development (E&D) Policies and Actions

### 20.1 E&D Policies

#### **E&D P-1. Public involvement & notice for future parks.**

Future County park and open space additions and expansion shall involve meaningful opportunities for public review and comment. Public notice shall be given for items on any agenda of the County Parks, Recreation, and Wildlife Advisory Committee involving consideration of new or expanded parks and open space areas. Particular efforts should be made to involve representatives from the agricultural and environmental communities in the County.

#### **E&D P-2. Essential public facilities and infrastructure.**

Essential public facilities – such as parking areas, traffic signs, fencing and lighting if required for safety, drinking water, restrooms, waste and recycling receptacles, and handicapped access, where appropriate – should be high priorities for all County park facilities where people gather.

#### **E&D P-3. “Nearby-nature” opportunities near population centers.**

The County should pursue park and open space facilities that allow visitors to experience the natural environment close to population centers.

#### **E&D P-4. Parks & recreation needs of unincorporated communities.**

Through the Subdivision Map Act process or other mechanism, the County will strive to plan for community parks in developing unincorporated areas of the County. It is also the County’s policy to

provide planning, technical, and grant-application assistance to unincorporated communities to help meet demand for community parks and recreational opportunities, through partnerships with local advocacy groups, school districts, or other entities, as feasible.

#### **E&D P-5. Public access to public lands.**

The County supports existing public access to public lands. The County also supports increased public access to public (County, state, or federal) lands, including through the use of County “gateways” that would provide access to large areas of non-county-owned lands. Gateways and related access must be compatible with the adopted management programs for the affected public lands, compatible with uses on adjacent or nearby private properties, and protective of sensitive environmental resources.

#### **E&D P-6. Landowner-based and non-profit initiatives.**

The County supports efforts by willing landowners and non-profit groups to provide new opportunities for public access to suitable public or private lands that offer outdoor recreation opportunities. The County acknowledges and appreciates that this component already exists for certain types of recreational activities that can not otherwise take place on County lands, such as hunting and shooting sports. New opportunities may include outdoor recreation activities that are not currently available to the public, or only available in limited ways.

**E&D P-7. Respect for private lands, while enabling public opportunities.**

Yolo County encourages responsible stewardship and a conscientious respect toward private lands, while promoting and enjoying an increase in opportunities to access – particularly for the creeks and waterways, the Sacramento River, and the western mountains and foothills.

Expansion, acquisition, development, access partnerships, management, and use of park and open space facilities must respect the rights and desires of private property owners and protect the sustainability of agricultural interests. Buffer areas shall be provided where feasible on public land between intensive public uses and adjacent private uses.

**E&D P-8. Compatible agriculture-related recreation.**

The County shall promote and encourage compatible recreational uses and activities that combine recreation with agricultural sustainability, such as agricultural tours, “farm trails,” guest ranches, “working” vacations, rural bed and breakfast inns, and agricultural heritage parks.

**E&D P-9. Good neighbor policy.**

In developing and operating parks and open space facilities, adjacent to and nearby private lands, landowner concerns must be considered in terms of separation of uses, designation of onsite use areas, trail locations, seasons of use, and other location-specific management considerations.

Parks and access locations, design, and uses must strive to be a “good neighbor,” with minimal adverse effects to adjacent private landowners and adjacent land uses. Where appropriate and feasible, buffer lands should be provided on the

public land side to provide separation between the park or recreation use and the adjacent land uses to help ensure unencumbered agricultural operations.

**E&D P-10. Environmental protection.**

In developing and operating parks and open space facilities that could result in increased public access to sensitive environmental areas, potential environmental effects should be assessed and mitigated, as feasible.

Parks and access locations, design, and uses should not result in the long-term degradation of environmental resources. Intensive uses, such as parking, restrooms, and picnic areas, should be located away from riparian habitats and other sensitive environmental elements. Where appropriate, buffer lands should be provided to provide separation between identified sensitive environmental elements and active public uses.

**E&D P-11. Context-sensitive design.**

In the design of park and open space lands and facilities, designated areas and uses should be well-suited to the site’s natural resources, topography, and environmental setting. Recreational use and environmental conservation or restoration activities at each park and open space area should be “context sensitive” and adapted to the site’s intrinsic resource values. The site’s natural resources should be considered in the design stage.

**E&D P-12. Working with willing participants.**

Future park and open space development planning involving possible conversion of private lands to public lands, including acquisitions, easements, and partnerships, should not proceed without the express consent of the applicable property

owner(s). The County shall make reasonable efforts to notify private landowners early in the planning process.

**E&D P-13. Avoiding conversion of agricultural land.**

In future park and open space development planning, the County should generally avoid siting new parks and open space areas on lands designated Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. Allowable uses of County open space areas shall include agricultural activities through leases or other arrangements, as appropriate. This policy is not intended to preclude the creation of a possible “agricultural heritage” County or State park, which may be suitable for locating on lands having agricultural value.

**20.2 E&D Actions**

**E&D A-1. Develop public access in the lower Cache Creek vicinity.**

Pursuant to the Cache Creek Resources Management Plan, develop public point access along lower Cache Creek through a variety of means, including acquisitions, easements, and landowner programs.

In cooperation with non-profit watershed groups, aggregate companies, and private landowners, as appropriate, re-use former gravel mining sites for recreation, open space, and conservation purposes. Access should, where feasible, be provided for elderly and for handicapped persons.

**E&D A-2. Consider a multi-use regional park in the Woodland vicinity.**

In cooperation with non-profit organizations, landowners, and other agencies as applicable, investigate the feasibility of and, if feasible, pursue a multi-use regional park in the vicinity of

Woodland, preferably adjacent to Cache Creek or Willow Slough.

**E&D A-3. Encourage greater public access in the Yolo Bypass vicinity.**

Seek to develop and enhance recreational opportunities in the vicinity of the Yolo Bypass in cooperation with other agencies, non-profit organizations, private landowners, and other entities. Provide access to public lands within or adjacent to the Yolo Bypass, consistent and compatible with applicable and adopted management plans of the responsible land steward agencies. Consideration should be given to the development of a multi-use trail along the Toe Drain Levee in partnership with the Port of Sacramento, the City of West Sacramento, the California Department of Fish and Game, and Yolo Basin Foundation, if feasible.

**E&D A-4. Enhance access in the Putah Creek resource area.**

Acquire and enhance areas along Putah Creek. Work with Solano County, the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee, UCD, and private landowners to enhance the Putah Creek corridor.

Cooperate with Solano County to create enhanced opportunities within the corridor near Lake Solano Park. Also, work with the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee and its partners to interpret such features as salmon and native fisheries restoration. Support continued planning and facilitation of the dam-to-dam trail.

**E&D A-5. Pursue park opportunities along the Sacramento River Corridor.**

In conjunction with the City of West Sacramento, the City of Sacramento, and Sacramento County, pursue parks and

open space opportunities along the Sacramento River corridor.

**E&D A-6. Additional opportunities in the western foothills.**

Pursue additional parks and recreation opportunities in the western foothill areas through a variety of means, including landowner cooperative programs, easements, cooperation with other resource agencies, and acquisitions in real property interests, where compatible with surrounding land uses.

Pursue cooperative agreements with willing private landowners for managed access, and acquire or participate in the acquisition of land in the western foothills for parks and open space facilities, consistent with this plan.

**E&D A-7. Pursue opportunities to partner with the California Department of Parks and Recreation.**

Pursue the establishment of California State parks or recreation areas in Yolo County that meet the criteria of the state and are consistent with Yolo County policies and values, such as a “Central Valley Agricultural Heritage Park” or an Off-Highway Vehicle park. The County should request and encourage further County-related park and recreation development studies by the state.

**E&D A-8. Evaluate the potential for an off-highway vehicle recreation area.**

As part of the above action (A-7), or separately, investigate the potential demand and possible funding availability for a designated and enforceable area for off-highway vehicle recreation, as discussed in this plan (Part IV).

**E&D A-9. Consider potential opportunities at Conaway Ranch.**

If the property is acquired by the County, existing uses on the property should be given paramount consideration, including open space, agricultural uses, floodway management, bird-watching and passive recreation, and habitat conservation.

**E&D A-10. Coordinate with the Delta Protection Commission.**

County staff should participate in Delta-related parks planning with the Delta Protection Commission. This may include, but is not limited to, regional trail concepts, agri-tourism and Delta branding in the Clarksburg planning area, ecotourism, “clean boating” programs on the river, and promotion of other boating activities.

**E&D A-11. Investigate potential Delta area aquatic park.**

In cooperation with the County of Solano, the Delta Protection Commission, and other state and federal land steward agencies, investigate the feasibility of an aquatic recreation gateway park in the Yolo County Delta Area, possibly in the vicinity of Liberty Island.

**E&D A-12. Investigate potential for a Capay Valley bike trail.**

Investigate and, if feasible, pursue a Class I bike trail in the Capay Valley.

**E&D A-13. Pursue greater cooperation with Rumsey Band.**

Investigate the possibility of park, open space and conservation projects in cooperation with the Rumsey Band of Wintun Indians, including the possible sharing of lands for use as open space amenities, recreation, and conservation; interpretation of cultural resources and

history; and protection of environmental resources.

**E&D A-14. Conduct preliminary geotechnical studies, as needed.**

Prior to construction or reconstruction of park structures or other major visitor-serving facilities or improvements, the County shall conduct, or shall require others to conduct, preliminary geotechnical evaluations and site-specific design studies in order to identify and remediate geotechnical conditions that may affect the specific proposed use. As used here, "structures" shall include permanent restrooms and other buildings intended for human use, but not minor park furnishings like kiosks or benches.

The County shall incorporate the recommendations of the studies into the approved designs, pursuant to County policies.

**E&D A-15. Soils investigation for septic design purposes.**

Prior to development of onsite septic disposal systems, the County shall conduct or require others to conduct pre-design soils evaluations in order to establish the suitability of local soils conditions for such use. The County shall incorporate the recommendations of the assessment into any designs that are approved for such projects.

## 21 Resources Management & Interpretation (RMI) Policies & Actions

### 21.1 RMI Policies

#### **RMI P-1. Low-impact on the environment.**

Design, operation, and management of the park system should be conducted in such ways as to have minimal impact on the environment, including, but not limited to, biological and cultural resources. Environmental protection must be balanced with recreational use and other public uses within County park sites and open space areas.

Adaptive management methods should be implemented to track the condition of the resources, and mitigation measures should be prescribed and carried out when potentially significant effects are identified.

#### **RMI P-2. Role of County as a conservation steward.**

In environmentally sensitive areas within County parks and open space areas, public access locations should be controlled; the degree of use may be limited or prohibited, if necessary, to protect the resources. Access restrictions may be enforced during periods of high sensitivity, such as nesting seasons.

In addition, the County shall avoid siting major new park facilities structures, improvements, and other intensive uses within riparian areas and other sensitive habitats to the extent possible. New trails shall be located to the extent possible outside riparian corridors. If planned improvements would result in unavoidable loss or degradation of riparian vegetation, comparable areas within or adjacent to the park unit or

within an approved mitigation bank shall be restored, based on recommendations from qualified professionals.

#### **RMI P-4. Native vegetation.**

Native grasses, shrubs, and trees should be the primary palette for landscaping and restoration in County park resources, to the extent feasible. Regionally derived native plant stock should be maintained, planted, and enhanced where possible in all County park units. Planting in existing vernal pools, functional wetlands, and other areas with existing and substantial habitat value should generally be avoided but, if conducted, should be conducted for specified objectives under a plan approved by public resource agencies and land managers.

#### **RMI P-5. Protection of water quality.**

Construction of park components, including, but not limited to parking, intensive use areas, rest rooms, and equipment/materials storage areas, should include best management practices (BMP) provisions to retain and filter runoff onsite before it enters surface waters. BMPs shall be incorporated as applicable into implementation activities involving construction.

#### **RMI P-6. General interpretation.**

Yolo County parks and open space areas provide settings for appreciating the unique “landscape stories” of Yolo County. Interpretation of County history, environmental resources, and cultural resources is an appropriate function for County parks and open space areas.

Interpretive materials should be developed in consultation with volunteers, non-profit groups, tribes, environmental organizations, and other interested parties.

**RMI P-7. Interpretation in restored areas.**

When County land is restored for habitat, a portion should be made available for compatible education and recreation purposes, where appropriate. Public access, if appropriate, should be designed to minimize potential disturbances to habitat resources and management for access.

**RMI P-8. Park units and mitigation.**

County parks and open space areas may be enhanced, restored, and otherwise used as mitigation sites, subject to agreement by responsible regulatory agencies. County lands used for mitigation areas may contain a public access component, if that use does not reduce the mitigation values for which the site was established.

**RMI P-9. Scientific information for resources planning and interpretation.**

Resource interpretation, protection measures for sensitive resources, and environmental conservation objectives should be developed from current scientific and technical information.

**RMI P-10. Coordination with conservation efforts, including HCP/NCCP.**

Conservation efforts at County parks and open spaces should be coordinated with the Yolo HCP/NCCP Joint Powers Authority when coordination would result in a benefit to County park and open space facilities.

**RMI P-11. Native American consultation.**

The County shall consult with local Native American Tribes regarding proposed parks and open space planning for the purpose of protecting traditional tribal cultural places, as may be required for implementation of this plan.<sup>4</sup>

**21.2 RMI Actions**

**RMI A-1. Increase cooperative efforts with non-profit organizations and landowners.**

County park and open space management staff should enlist the aid of non-profit watershed and conservation groups and landowners in the restoration of habitat, including wetlands and native ecosystems, and to help address problems associated with invasive and non-native plant species in County parks and open space areas.

**RMI A-2. Develop interpretive brochures.**

Interpretive brochures and maps should be developed for each of the major park properties and open space areas.

**RMI A-3. Maintain list of research needs.**

Develop and maintain, with meaningful public involvement, a working list of technical and scientific research needs for the County park system.

**RMI A-4. Conduct reconnaissance-level surveys and inventories for all new components of park system.**

Prior to acquisition, purchase of a conservation easement, or other park creation or expansion, conduct site-specific reconnaissance-level environmental surveys for all lands considered for parkland

<sup>4</sup> See Senate Bill 18 (2004) (and related consultation requirements, including State Office of Planning and Research (OPR)'s Tribal Consultation Guidelines (April 15, 2005)).

acquisition in order to identify opportunities and constraints affecting the candidate sites.

**RMI A-5. Conduct cultural resource inventories.**

Conduct reconnaissance-level cultural resource surveys and inventories in existing and proposed park and open space properties containing areas where development and other human disturbance have been minimal to identify and protect archaeologically or culturally significant sites and artifacts.

**RMI A-6. Conduct site-specific field surveys and evaluations.**

Prior to any on-site development involving construction activities or other significant ground surface disturbance, conduct site-specific field surveys for state- and federally listed species and other sensitive species and habitats. Prior to any on-site development that may involve ground surface disturbance, conduct site-specific field surveys for archaeological sites, historical properties, and other cultural resources.

**RMI A-7. Support regional conservation planning.**

In conjunction with conservation planning efforts for Yolo County and other parts of the region, support conservation planning projects and regional or site-specific inventory surveys that could identify important biological and conservation elements in the vicinity of existing parklands.

**RMI A-8. Environmental review and compliance.**

The County should institute a procedure or protocol to consistently ensure that activities related to park and open space acquisition, development, management, and use comply with applicable local, state, and federal environmental laws and regulations.

**RMI A-9. Focus on high biodiversity areas, including riparian corridors and mountain open space.**

Maintain and enhance open space corridors along Lower Cache Creek and, with willing partners, including private landowners, non-profit organizations, and public agencies, support public access to public areas associated with the Yolo Bypass, Lower Putah Creek, Willow Slough, the Sacramento River, and the western hills, where such access will not be associated with significant adverse effects to private land or the environment.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Yolo County General Plan, Open Space and Recreation Element, Open Space Goal OG-8, Open Space Objective OO-10, Open Space Policies OP-15 and OP-17, Recreation Policy RP-23.

## 22 Park-Specific Actions

### 22.1 Cache Creek Canyon Regional Park (CC)

#### **PS/CC A-1. Investigate access improvement across Cache Creek.**

Investigate design strategies for creating all-season access across the creek for pedestrians, equestrians, mountain bikes, and service vehicles. Among these considerations should be a footbridge across Cache Creek at the middle Cache Creek Canyon Regional Park site.

#### **PS/CC A-2. Develop trails linking sites, if feasible.**

Trails linking the three sites should be designed and implemented, if feasible and environmentally benign.

#### **PS/CC A-3. Review rafting concessions management.**

Review and, if appropriate, limit rafting concessions on Cache Creek to curtail potential overuse and interference with general public access and use. At all locations used by concessionaires, including parking areas, designate areas that are available for use by the general public.

Find alternative locations for the concession groups so that they do not dominate the parking lot and adjacent areas. Manage the size of rafting parties. Continue formal contract relationships with concessionaires and prescribe limits and define the extent and character of the physical improvements.

#### **PS/CC A-4. Establish better defined trailhead area, Lower Site.**

Designate the area in the vicinity of the Blue Ridge Trailhead at the Lower Site

for the public. Allow small group camping by reservation only. In time, relocate concessionaire use out of this area and restore the streamside habitat.

#### **PS/CC A-5. Strengthen BLM partnership.**

Further develop and strengthen the partnership with BLM regarding mutual management and public access objectives to formalize the Gateway relationship.

#### **PS/CC A-6. Improve campground.**

Continue replacing and improving campground furnishings as needed. Make campground infrastructure improvements a higher priority, including the water system and upgraded campsite furnishings.

#### **PS/CC A-7. Implement non-native vegetation removal.**

Escalate the campaign to eradicate invasive and non-native vegetation (including tamarisk and arundo) with, if feasible, the assistance of non-profit organizations and other government agencies.

#### **PS/CC A-8. Protect important habitat areas.**

Manage the park to protect and enhance the habitat values of riparian areas and oak woodlands. Trails and other development should avoid areas that have high environmental value, to the extent feasible. (See RMI P-2.)

#### **PS/CC A-9. Improve signage.**

Improve and consolidate signs throughout these three sites, including trail and interpretive signs.

## **22.2 Camp Haswell Park (CH) / Otis Ranch Open Space Area (OR)**

### **PS/CH-OR A-1. Develop a site-specific park management plan.**

Through a public process allowing meaningful public input, develop a site-specific plan for these combined park units that defines a desired mix of possible day-use improvements, including the items addressed below and other pertinent recommendations in this plan.

### **PS/CH-OR A-2. Investigate re-use of stone cabin.**

Assess the structural viability (and potential historical significance) of the old stone cabin structure at Camp Haswell, and restore its functionality, if feasible, to allow its use as an information facility or self-service kiosk for the County park system.

### **PS/ CH-OR A-3. Better control concessionaire parking.**

Define all locations at Camp Haswell used by concessionaires, including parking areas. Clearly designate the general public use areas through signage, landscaping, furnishings, and/or other means.

### **PS/CH-OR A-4. Implement selective restoration of disturbed areas.**

Restore and enhance vegetative cover in areas not used for parking or other developed uses, particularly in the riparian corridor.

## **22.3 Capay Open Space Park (COS)**

### **PS/COS A-1. Implement the Capay Open Space Park master plan.**

The design recommendations, improvements and furnishings, and management recommendations of the approved Capay Open Space Master Plan should be implemented to provide day use, recreation opportunities, educational and interpretive opportunities, and environmental restoration.

### **PS/COS A-2. Provide a park host.**

As specified in the approved plan, provide accommodations for an on-site park host.

### **PS/COS A-3. Provide handicapped access.**

As specified in the approved plan, provide an ADA-compatible trail to the creek.

### **PS/COS A-4. Establish connections with other recreation areas.**

Implement the plan's connections with other recreation and open space areas in adjacent areas, including the areas under the Cache Creek Resources Management Plan.

### **PS/COS A-5. Implement non-native vegetation removal.**

Continue efforts to eradicate invasive and non-native vegetation (including tamarisk and arundo) with, if feasible, the assistance of non-profit organizations and other stakeholders and government agencies.

## **22.4 Clarksburg River Access Site & Boat Launch (CRA)**

### **PS/CRA A-1. Establish a park host.**

For improved public safety and to help encourage better stewardship, appoint a park host who could live offsite but regularly patrol the area, interact with the public, and conduct routine maintenance.

### **PS/CRA A-2. Control access, require day-use fee.**

Similar to other County park units, for improved public safety and to help reduce vandalism, install park entry gates. Consider establishing a reasonable fee for day use and installing fee collection deposit boxes.

### **PS/CRA A-3. Conduct site improvements.**

With additional security measures in place, continue to upgrade essential public facilities, including toilet facilities and water supply.

### **PS/CRA A-4. Investigate possible expansion.**

With willing participants under amiable circumstances, and with or without other agency partnerships, expand public uses to adjacent areas, if feasible.

### **PS/CRA A-5. Restore riparian habitat.**

Continue to restore riparian habitat and native plants where feasible.

## **22.5 Dunnigan Community Park (DC)**

### **PS/DC A-1. Define long-term operations and maintenance.**

Investigate the possibility of turning the day-to-day operations and maintenance over to a local entity, such as a special district created and funded for that purpose.

## **22.6 Elkhorn Regional Park (ELK)**

### **PS/ELK A-1. Improve day use functions.**

While retaining the boat ramp function, accommodate other uses including picnicking and birdwatching through carefully designed improvements. Provide educational and interpretive features.

### **PS/ELK A-2. Protect important habitat areas.**

Manage the park unit to protect the riparian habitat and nesting areas. Evaluate seasonal sensitivities for wildlife, and identify disturbance thresholds and potential times when public trail access to habitat areas may need to be restricted. (See RMI P-2.)

### **PS/ELK A-3. Design and establish a nature interpretive trail.**

With support from non-profit organizations and other volunteers, including conservation organizations and a possible docent group, the County should investigate the feasibility of developing a minimally intrusive nature trail loop with a separate access, river views, and interpretive features.

**PS/ELK A-4. Improve signage and traffic safety.**

Improve directional signage to the park as well as entrance signage to identify the location. Improve traffic safety at the park entrance, based on recommendations from qualified traffic safety professionals.

**PS/ELK A-5. Formalize agreement with train concession.**

Formalize the agreement with the excursion train concessionaire for periodic use of the site for picnicking.

**PS/ELK A-6. Explore potential bike trail link.**

Investigate the feasibility and, if feasible, construct a Class I bicycle trail to the east of the railroad track for partial or the full extent of the property, consistent with County bicycle plans.

**PS/ELK A-7. Develop education-related improvements.**

In cooperation with educational groups and non-profit organizations, develop education-related improvements, such as an interpretive kiosk, bird-viewing blinds, and docent-led programs.

**PS/ ELK A-8. Cooperate with City.**

Continue to work with the City of West Sacramento, as may be appropriate under the amended pass-through agreement (see PS/HO A-5).

**22.7 Esparto Community Park (EC)****PS/EC A-1. Define long-term operations and maintenance.**

Investigate the possibility of turning the day-to-day operations and maintenance over to a local entity, such as a special

district created and funded for that purpose. Encourage the creation of a local “friends of” type organization to assist in ongoing operations and maintenance.

**PS/EC A-2. Support special functions.**

Continue to support the use of the park for community functions, including the Farmers Market and Almond Festival.

**22.8 Grasslands Regional Park (GR)****PS/GR A-1. Implement the park master plan.**

The County, stakeholders, lessees, user groups, and the public should continue to participate in implementation of the Grasslands Park Master Plan.

The design recommendations, improvements, use area designations, and management recommendations of the approved Grasslands Park Master Plan should be implemented to provide appropriate uses in leased areas, other recreation and day use opportunities, educational and interpretive opportunities, and environmental restoration.

**PS/GR A-2. Complete the annexation.**

Continue to pursue annexation of the federal property adjacent to Grasslands Park and continue to plan for associated uses and resources management.

**PS/GR A-3. Improve signage.**

Consolidate and improve signage. Provide park information in languages for non-English speakers.

**PS/GR A-4. Protect vernal pools and other identified important resource areas.**

Protect vernal pools and the conditions that cause them to exist. Encourage the formation of a “Friend of Grasslands” group to sponsor docent-led tours. Incorporate an adaptive management and monitoring component for tracking environmental factors related to sensitive species and habitats.

**22.9 Helvetia Oak Grove (HO)****PS/HO A-1. Verify boundaries and easements.**

Verify and physically establish on the site the park unit boundaries and the ingress-egress easement.

**PS/HO A-2. Conduct habitat improvement.**

Conduct habitat improvement, including invasive weed removal.

**PS/HO A-3. Develop minimal site improvements.**

Develop minimal site improvements and furnishings to establish a venue for supervised group activities by reservation, including overnight camping and picnics by small groups.

**PS/HO A-4. Establish reservation system.**

Pursue partnerships with non-profit or quasi-public organizations that require such venues and establish a reservation system.

**PS/HO A-5. Cooperate with City.**

Continue to work with the City of West Sacramento, as may be appropriate under the amended pass-through agreement (see section 12.2.9).

**22.10 Knights Landing Boat Launch (KL)****PS/KL A-1. Develop site-specific park management plan.**

Through a public process allowing meaningful public input, develop a site-specific plan for this park unit that defines a desired mix of possible day-use improvements, including picnic and shore-fishing facilities, permanent restroom facilities, and possible fish-cleaning station.

**PS/KL A-2. Investigate expansion.**

Investigate the potential and feasibility for expanding the area of this park unit for the purposes of day-use areas and/or habitat conservation; if appropriate, seek to execute further agreements with the Department of Fish and Game for cooperative management.

**PS/KL A-3. Provide additional tree planting.**

Plant additional trees in areas currently lacking tree cover. If feasible, using native tree species, increase the tree canopy in and around the parking lot.

**PS/KL A-4. Incorporate a storm water runoff management system.**

In future improvements, incorporate stormwater best management provisions to retain and filter runoff before it enters the river system.

**PS/KL A-5. Establish park host.**

Establish an on-site park host facility at a suitable location, such as near the parking area entry.

## **22.11 Putah Creek Access Parks (PC)**

### **PS/PC A-1. Develop site-specific park management plan.**

Through a public process allowing meaningful public input, develop a site-specific plan for this park unit that defines a desired mix of possible day-use improvements, including the items addressed below and as discussed in Part IV, "Recommendations."

### **PS/PC A-2. Resolve parking issues.**

Through consultation with Caltrans and with public input, investigate options for the future disposition or use of paved onsite areas and for possible solutions for on-highway parking. Additional studies may be conducted to determine a possible course of action. Consider an entire revamping of access and parking infrastructure, including possible removal of some existing paving.

### **PS/PC A-3. Improve usability of lower sites.**

Pursue conceptual design of trail locations, shade tree planting, day-use areas, and picnicking facilities in upland areas located at Sites 4 and 5. Investigate feasibility of overnight camping at these lower site; higher intensity uses should be located outside high-value riparian areas and screened to the extent possible from views from the highway.

### **PS/PC A-4. Improve interpretation and signage appearance.**

Working with other interested parties, create and furnish environmental and cultural resource interpretation materials. Consolidate signage to reduce clutter and improve the entrances to the park sites to be more welcoming to visitors.

### **PS/PC A-5. Ensure riparian protection.**

Protect and enhance the riparian corridor. Future trails along the creek should be sited outside the riparian corridor to the extent possible. (See RMI P-2.)

### **PS/PC A-6. Maintain & improve inter-agency & NGO cooperation.**

Continue to coordinate with Solano County and non-government organizations regarding enhancements of recreational uses, including the proposed "Dam-to-Dam Trail" concept. Formalize agreements, if appropriate.

## **22.12 Vernon A. Nichols Park (VN)**

### **PS/VN A-1. Develop a site-specific park management plan.**

Through a public process allowing meaningful public input, develop a site-specific plan that re-creates this park unit as an attractive destination for day-use activities. The relationship between upland areas and the creek should be emphasized by site and facility design and interpretation.

### **PS/VN A-2. Conduct improvements.**

Establish areas with tree canopy coverage to provide shade for the primary day use areas. Relocate the park host campsite to a less conspicuous location. Consider opportunities for installing interpretive features and demonstration gardens or orchards. Improve physical access to the creek, with consideration for ADA requirements.

### **PS/VN A-3. Ensure stream bank and riparian habitat protection.**

Maintain channel protection features, including the rip-rap and protect native riparian plant species (e.g., willow and cottonwood) that provide habitat value.

**PS/VN A-4. Implement non-native vegetation removal.**

Eradicate stands of invasive non-native vegetation (including tamarisk and arundo) with, if feasible, the assistance of non-profit organizations and other government agencies.