

CHAPTER 17 – RECREATION

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the environmental setting (existing conditions and regulatory setting) for the recreational resources in the MTP Plan Area. This chapter also presents the federal, state, and local policies and regulations that determine mitigation requirements and identifies impacts on these resources that may result from implementation of the proposed MTP 2035 projects, and mitigation measures to reduce these impacts where necessary.

The study area consists of transportation routes, including highways, rail alignments, bicycle trails, state routes, roads, and Caltrans right-of-way in the MTP Plan Area. The key sources of data and information used in the preparation of this section are listed below.

SETTING

Environmental Setting

A broad range of recreational activities is available throughout the SACOG region. Park facilities include neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, state parks, parkways, open spaces and school parks. Recreation facilities abound from children/youth centers, senior centers, performing arts centers, recreation centers, aquatic centers, sports complexes, as well as passive recreational facilities such as wildlife viewing areas, nature preserves, and United States Forest Service land. Locations of park and recreation facilities are shown on Figure 16-2, in Chapter 16, *Public Services*. The following is a list of agencies that provide and maintain park and recreation facilities within the SACOG region.

El Dorado County

- El Dorado County Parks & Recreation
- El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD)
- Cameron Park CSD
- Greenstone Country CSD
- Springfield Meadows CSD

Placer County

- Placer County's Parks and Grounds Division
- Auburn Recreation District
- City of Lincoln Recreation Department
- City of Rocklin Parks & Recreation
- City of Roseville Parks and Recreation Department

Sacramento County

- Arcade Creek Recreation and Park District
- Arden Manor Recreation and Park District
- Arden Park Recreation and Park District
- Carmichael Recreation and Park District
- Cordova Recreation and Park District
- Elk Grove Recreation and Park District

- Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District
- City of Folsom Recreation and Park District
- Fulton – El Camino Recreation and Park District
- City of Galt Recreation and Park District
- City of Isleton Recreation and Park District
- Mission Oaks Recreation and Park District
- North Highlands Recreation and Park District
- Orangevale Recreation and Park District
- City of Sacramento Recreation and Park District
- County of Sacramento Recreation and Park District
- Rio Linda – Elverta Recreation and Park District
- Southgate Recreation and Park District
- Sunrise Recreation and Park District
- Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)

Sutter County

- Sutter County Public Works (Parks & Recreation)
- City of Yuba City Recreation
- City of Live Oak Parks and Recreation

Yolo County

- Yolo County Parks and Natural Resources Management Division
- City of Davis Parks and Community Services Department
- City of West Sacramento Parks and Recreation Department
- City of Winters Parks and Recreation Department
- City of Woodland Parks and Recreation Department

Yuba County

- Yuba County Public Works (Parks & Recreation)
- City of Marysville Parks and Facilities

California State Parks

State Parks within the MTP Plan Area include:

- El Dorado County
 - Auburn State Recreation Area
 - Folsom Lake State Recreation Area
 - Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park
- Placer County
 - Auburn State Recreation Area
 - Folsom Lake State Recreation Area
- Sacramento County
 - Brannan Island State Recreation Area
 - California State Capitol
 - California State Railroad Museum
 - Delta Meadows
 - Folsom Lake State Recreation Area
 - Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park

- Governor's Mansion State Historic Park
- Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park
- Old Sacramento State Historic Park
- Prairie City State Vehicular Recreation Area
- State Indian Museum State Historic Park
- Stone Lake
- Sutter's Fort State Historic Park
- Sutter County
 - Sutter Buttes State Park
- Yolo County
 - Woodland Opera House State Historic Park

United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service

The El Dorado National Forest (El Dorado and Placer Counties) and the Tahoe National Forest (Placer and Yuba Counties) provides diverse recreational opportunities to the public:

- Camping: There are numerous developed facilities including family and group campgrounds, picnic areas, boat-ramps, and rental cabins. Most of the land in the National Forest is open to camping, free of charge, except where specifically prohibited
- Fishing
- Rafting, canoeing, kayaking, etc.
- Motorized Use Trails: Off-Highway Vehicle wheeled motor vehicles are allowed to operate only on the designated roads.
- Non-Motorized Use Trails: Many non-motorized trails are open to hikers, cyclists and equestrian users.
- Rental Cabins
- Shooting: Although no designated shooting areas exist on the forest, plinking and target shooting are allowed on National Forest land.
- Cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, etc.
- Snowmobiling: With a minimum snow pack of 12 inches, motorized snow travel is permitted in most areas, barring all ground contact.

There are three wilderness areas within these two National Forests: Granite Chief Wilderness Area (Tahoe NF), Desolation Wilderness (El Dorado NF), and Mokelumne Wilderness (El Dorado NF). All three of these are outside of the SACOG planning area.

Regulatory Setting

Federal Regulations

United States Department of Transportation Act, Section 4(f)

Section 4(f) of the Transportation Act was enacted to preserve the natural beauty of the countryside and public park and recreation lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites. Section 4(f) requires a comprehensive evaluation of all environmental impacts resulting from federal-aid transportation projects administered by the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and Federal Aviation Administration that involve the use – or interference with use – of the following types of land.

- Public park lands
- Recreation areas

- Wildlife and waterfowl refuges
- Publicly or privately owned historic properties of federal, state, or local significance

This evaluation – called the Section 4(f) statement – must be sufficiently detailed to permit the U.S. Secretary of Transportation to determine that:

- there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of such land;
- the program includes all possible planning to minimize harm to any park, recreation area, wildlife and waterfowl refuge, or historic site that would result from the use of such lands; or that
- if there is a feasible and prudent alternative, a proposed project using Section 4(f) lands cannot be approved by the Secretary; or if there is no feasible and prudent alternative, the proposed project must include all possible planning to minimize harm to the affected lands.

Detailed inventories of the locations and likely impacts on resources that fall into the Section 4(f) category are required in project-level environmental assessments.

In August 2005, Section 4(f) was amended to simplify the process and approval of projects that have only de minimis impacts on lands affected by Section 4(f). Under the new provisions, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation may find such a de minimis impact if consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) results in a determination that a transportation project will have no adverse effect on the historic site or that there will be no historic properties affected by the proposed action. In this instance, analysis of avoidance alternatives is not required and the Section 4(f) evaluation process is complete.

Section 6(f)(3) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act

Section 6(f)(3) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCF Act) (16 USC Section 4601-4) contains provisions to protect federal investments in park and recreation resources and the quality of those assisted resources. The law recognizes the likelihood that changes in land use or development may make park use of some areas purchased with LWCF funds obsolete over time, particularly in rapidly changing urban areas, and provides for conversion to other use pursuant to certain specific conditions.

Section 6(f)(3) - No property acquired or developed with assistance under this section shall, without the approval of the Secretary, be converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses. The Secretary shall approve such conversion only if he finds it to be in accord with the then existing comprehensive statewide outdoor recreation plan and only upon such conditions as he deems necessary to assure the substitution of other recreation properties of at least equal fair market value and of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location.

This requirement applies to all parks and other sites that have been the subject of LWCF grants of any type, and includes acquisition of park land and development or rehabilitation of park facilities. If a transportation project would have an effect upon a park or site that has received LWCF funds, the requirements of Section 6(f)(3) would apply.

State Regulations

California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR)

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) has as its principal mission to provide sites for a variety of recreational and outdoor activities. In addition, natural resource management and protection is also a part of the mission of CDPR. Different park designations dictate the extent to which natural resources are a management priority; natural preserves, state parks, state reserves and state wilderness designations indicate that the area has outstanding natural features. The California

Department of Parks and Recreation is a trustee agency that owns and operates all state parks and participates in land use planning that affects state parkland.

Quimby Act

Cities and counties have been authorized since the passage of the 1975 Quimby Act (California Government Code §66477) to pass ordinances requiring that developers set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay fees for park improvements. Revenues generated through the Quimby Act cannot be used for the operation and maintenance of park facilities.

The goal of the Quimby Act was to require developers to help mitigate the impacts of property improvements. The act gives authority for passage of land dedication ordinances only to cities and counties. Special districts must work with cities, and/or counties to receive parkland dedication and/or in-lieu fees. The fees must be paid and land conveyed directly to the local public agencies that provide park and recreation services community-wide.

Local Regulations

The cities and counties within the Sacramento Region have stated goals, objectives and policies in their respective General Plan Documents related to parks and recreation. Proponents of specific MTP projects must comply with the goals, objectives and policies stated in respective City and/or County General Plan. Table 17 -1 lists the specific general plan elements/sections that apply to recreational resources.

IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Methods and Assumptions

This analysis evaluates those recreation facilities most likely to be affected by the construction and implementation of the various types of projects identified in the MTP for 2035.

Criteria for Determining Significance

According to the State CEQA Guidelines, significant impacts to recreation facilities would occur if the plan would:

- Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated
- Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Project

This section describes potential impacts on recreation that could result from the MTP 2035. Some projects within the MTP 2035 could significantly affect recreation. However, prior to final approval of each project considered in the MTP 2035, the implementing agency will conduct the appropriate project-specific environmental review.

Impact REC - 1: Increased Use or Degradation of Recreation Facilities

The proposed projects included in the MTP 2035 would help to accommodate planned growth in the Sacramento Region. However, the projects within the MTP 2035 would not directly result in an increase in population that would substantially increase the use of recreation facilities or lead to their degradation. Rather, the development that is planned by local jurisdictions, and which creates the need for many of the MTP 2035 improvement projects, would also be responsible for the direct contributions in population growth that could result in the increased use or degradation of recreation facilities. These development projects would be required to undergo environmental review and mitigate any potential impacts if and when they are constructed. Impacts resulting from the road, bridge, non-motorized and transit improvement projects are therefore considered less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Table 17 – 1. Applicable Local General Plans

Jurisdiction	Document	Section
El Dorado County	General Plan (2004)	Parks and Recreation Element
Placer County	Countywide General Plan Policy Document (1994)	Recreation and Cultural Resources section
Sacramento County	General Plan (1993)	Local Park Acquisition and Maintenance Element
Sutter County	General Plan Policy Document (1996)	Conservation/Open Space-Recreation and Cultural Resources Section
Yolo County	General Plan (1983)	Open Space & Recreation Element
Yuba County	General Plan Draft EIR (1994)	Land Use Element
City of Auburn	General Plan (1993)	Open Space/Conservation Element
City of Citrus Heights	General Plan (2000)	Community Development, Resource Conservation, and Community Health Sections
City of Colfax	General Plan (1998)	Natural Environment Element
City of Davis	General Plan (2001)	Parks, Recreation and Open Space, and Youth and Education Chapters
City of Elk Grove	General Plan (2003)	Parks, Trails, and Open Space Element
City of Folsom	General Plan (1993)	Parks and Recreation Element
City of Galt	General Plan (1990)	Parks and Recreational Resources Element
City of Isleton	General Plan (2000)	Resource Management Element
City of Lincoln	General Plan (1988)	Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation Element
City of Live Oak	General Plan (1993)	Land Use Element
Town of Loomis	General Plan (2001)	Parks and Recreation Element
City of Marysville	General Plan (1985)	Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation Element
City of Placerville	General Plan (1989)	Parks and Recreation section of the Public Facilities and Services Chapter
City of Rancho Cordova	General Plan (2006)	Land Use, Economic Development, Circulation, and Open Space, Parks and Trails Elements
City of Rocklin	General Plan (1991)	Open Space, Conservation and Recreation Element
City of Roseville	General Plan(1992)	Parks and Recreation Element
City of Sacramento	General Plan (1998)	Conservation and Open Space, and Public Services and Facilities Elements
City of Sacramento	Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2004)	Entire document applies to recreation
City of West Sacramento	General Plan (1990)	Recreational and Cultural Resources Element
City of Wheatland	General Plan (2006)	Recreational, Educational, and Community Services Chapter
City of Winters	General Plan (1992)	Recreational and Cultural Resources Element
City of Woodland	General Plan (2002)	Recreational, Educational and Community Services
City of Yuba City	General Plan (2004)	Land Use, and Parks, Schools, and Community Facilities Elements

Sources: City and county general plans as noted