

# 8. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

## 8.1 Introduction

Open space is both a land use designation and a way of referring to land that is not developed with buildings or other intensive land uses. As a land use designation, open space is discussed in the Land Use Element and shown on the Land Use Map and if used for conservation of natural resources would be discussed in the Conservation Element. This element refers to the consideration of open space as it is applied to land that is set aside for recreation, and parks. Each of these is important to the identity of the town as a rural community, and to the preservation of the natural beauty of Loomis. The Town of Loomis is proud of its partnership with schools and other agencies to meet the recreational needs of its residents. This element recognizes the significant benefit residents gain from these partnerships and continues the practice of working with others to improve the quality of life in Loomis.

The Town is fortunate to have riparian areas, natural creeks, and natural rural beauty. The Conservation Element preserves these areas to maintain the Town’s rural character and natural resources. This Element encourages additional areas near the resource that could be developed with park and recreational facilities to allow residents to enjoy the preserved natural beauty. Combined with trails and sidewalks, the addition of trails along natural features of the Town should incentivize walking to schools, employment and recreation.

Within this element the following definitions are important:

- **Park.** A park is an area of active or passive land that usually contains improvements such as baseball fields, skateboard parks, playground equipment, amphitheater, soccer fields and other amenities intended for organized play or individual recreation. A park may also contain support structures such as restrooms, parking, picnic facilities, gazebos, and similar facilities.
- **Open Space.** Open space is generally an area where improvements are minimal, but could include a trail, shade structure, bench, or similar small facilities designed for passive enjoyment.
- **Active Use Park.** A developed public area used for active or organized recreation (e.g., soccer fields, playgrounds, equestrian arenas, golf courses).
- **Passive Park.** A public area of predominantly undisturbed or restored natural land containing no principle structures, with little disturbance to topography and vegetation, that provides passive recreational activities (e.g., walking/jogging, photography wildlife viewing, picnicking, biking, other non-motorized uses).

## 8.2 Trails

As envisioned by this element, trails would extend from the center of Town to the extents in nearly all directions. As often as possible the trails would be along waterways, drainages, and other natural features to encourage walking. When not along these features, the trails may be along roadways. Usually, it will be a combination of both, that will serve the needs of residents. Trails are more than recreational amenities. Trails are part of the high quality of life in Loomis and provide options for

**Commented [A1]:** This might not be the best choice of wording. Perhaps ‘fewer’ structures. If not should this be principal structures? (Definition from the glossary)

**Commented [A2]:** delete containing no principle structures. The goal is clear there is little disturbance and this allows the Town discretion to develop facilities needed to support the space.

1 mobility and access without need of an automobile. The trail system will connect homes with schools,  
2 but also with businesses, employment, and of course, parks. In addition to the Town trails, wherever  
3 possible the trails will connect to the regional trail network. More detailed information on bikeways  
4 can be found in Chapter 4. Circulation Element.

5 **8.3 Park Standard**

6 As envisioned by this element, new parks would be designed closer to the downtown to provide green  
7 space near the library and businesses in the Town Core, but also near where people will live. The  
8 higher density housing on smaller parcels than the periphery of Town, increases the need for park  
9 nearby. It is also hoped that by building parks nearer to density that more residents can walk to the  
10 facilities. As there is little vacant land near the Town center, creative design and a mix of development  
11 types will be important in meeting new park demand.

12 **8.2 Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Implementation Measures**

13 ~~PROS-1: To ensure adequate park and recreation facilities to meet the needs of Loomis residents as~~  
14 ~~the Town's population grows.~~

15 ~~PROS-2: To provide for a multi-use community center.~~

**Commented [A3]:** Moved to Implementation Measure 1.2.1.2

16 ~~PROS-2: To protect natural riparian (aquatic) areas, oak woodland, and drainages and incorporate~~  
17 ~~incorporating these natural features into project design, and including the placement of trails,~~  
18 ~~pathways, and open space.~~

19 ~~PROS-3: To preserve the rural character of Loomis, ensure active parks and passive open space~~  
20 ~~areas are provided, protected for Town aesthetic and to preserve the rural character of Loomis.~~

21 ~~PROS-5: To connect schools, parks, and trails with homes, employment centers and regional trails.~~

**Commented [A4]:** Moved to Implementation Measure 2.1.1.3

22 ~~PROS-6: To provide a community park near the Town Core.~~

**Commented [A5]:** Moved to Implementation Measure 1.2.1.1

23 **8.2.1 Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Implementation Measures**

24 **PROS-1:** To ensure adequate park and recreation facilities to meet the needs of Loomis residents as  
25 the Town's population grows.

26 **Objective PROS-1.1: Adequate parkland, trails, and open space that supports the rural vision of the**  
27 **Town and the recreation needs of the residents.**

28 **Policy PROS-1.1.1:** The Town will seek to achieve five acres of park land for each 1,000 residents.  
29 All parkland and open space will either be owned by the Town, or the Town will have legal interest in  
30 the land through a long-term joint use agreement or entitlement.

31 **Implementation Measure PROS-1.1.1.1: The Town will update the Zoning Code to require park land,**  
32 **dedication of land, and/or payment of in lieu fees for new development.**

**Commented [A6]:** residential, commercial, industrial? Question for committee

33 **Implementation Measure PROS-1.1.1.2: The Town will update the Zoning Code to consider**  
34 **different methods of achieving parkland for new development and may consider the following:**

**Commented [A7]:** Currently in the Subdivision Code (14.60.020) Currently indicates 5 acres of active park per 1,000 persons and 5 acres of passive park/open space per 1,000 persons

- 1 a. ~~The Town will develop an ordinance to~~ Provisions that might allow an applicant to count  
 2 additional park land or open space toward the total acreage used to calculate allowed  
 3 development in order to encourage additional parkland without loss of development  
 4 potential.
- 5 b. The relocation of development potential within a project to preserve additional land adjacent  
 6 to or within riparian areas, oak woodland, conservation areas, and natural drainages that  
 7 would allow extension of trails.
- 8 c. Standards that might allow some private amenities in new multiple family development to  
 9 count toward parkland.
- 10 d. Emphasize provision of parkland over payment of in-lieu fees.

11 Objective PROS-1.2. New recreational facilities serving the Town Core and that expand existing  
 12 community facilities.

13 Implementation Measure PROS-1.2.1.1: The Town will seek new park and recreation areas near  
 14 the Downtown Core, Library, and Heritage Park.

15 Implementation Measure PROS-1.2.1.2: The Town will pursue the creation of a multi-use  
 16 community center.

17 Objective PROS-1.3: ~~Loomis will continue to work with local school districts, and the County~~ and  
 18 ~~other organizations to~~ Extend the park and recreation opportunities of Loomis residents through  
 19 joint-use facilities and trails.

20 Policy PROS-1.3.1: The Town will continue and expand upon the mutually beneficial relationship  
 21 between the Town of Loomis and the School Districts in providing active use recreation facilities and  
 22 allowing Town residents greater access to those facilities. The Town ~~may will~~ also seek new  
 23 partnerships with Placer County, Loomis Basin Horseman's Association, Placer Land Trust, and ~~other~~  
 24 similar groups to jointly construct and operate parks, recreational facilities, and open space.

25 Implementation Measure PROS-1.3.1.1: As appropriate, the Town will support and cooperate with  
 26 volunteer groups and organizations that provide recreational activities for Town residents.

27 Implementation Measure PROS-1.3.1.2: Open space areas within proposed developments shall be  
 28 designed as part of an integrated Town-wide network, in conjunction with bicycle, safe routes to  
 29 schools, pedestrian and equestrian trails.

30 PROS-2: To expand trails, pathways, and open space, by incorporating them into plans that protect  
 31 natural riparian (aquatic) areas, oak woodland, and drainages. Incorporate these natural features into  
 32 project design, and include the placement of trails, pathways, and open space.

33 Objective PROS-2.1: Connect the riparian and conservation areas, trails, observation areas, and  
 34 recreation facilities with existing and planned regional facilities.

35 Policy PROS-2.1: Allow for the development and operation of smaller parks such as tot lots, exercise  
 36 pads, and green space throughout the Town and linked by trails, sidewalks and open space.

1 **Implementation Measure PROS-2.1.1.3: Loomis shall work with Placer County (or non-profit,**  
2 **businesses, or others) in the provision of public recreation facilities.**

3 **Policy PROS-2.1.1:** ~~Loomis shall~~ **The Town will encourage** the compatible recreational use of riparian  
4 and stream corridors, ~~where feasible.~~

5 **Implementation Measures PROS-2.1.1.1: Designate linear trail corridors along riparian areas, Sierra**  
6 **College Boulevard, Interstate 80, and north of the Union Pacific railroad as open space to maintain**  
7 **native landscaping and provide a visual buffer between uses and major transportation corridors.**

8 **Implementation Measure PROS-2.1.1.2: Allow linear preservation corridors along riparian areas,**  
9 **natural features, transportation routes, ensuring that the Town is not responsible for maintenance.**  
10 **shall be maintained by private owners, homeowner associations, land trusts, or other private**  
11 **entities.**

12 **Implementation Measure PROS-2.1.1.3: Ensure that local trails are extended to connect to regional**  
13 **trails.**

14 **PROS-3:** To **preserve the rural character of Loomis,** ensure active parks and passive open space  
15 areas are **provided.**

16 **Objective PROS-3.1: Park standards that are consistent with the Town’s rural vision.**

17 **Policy PROS-3.1.1: The Town will establish design standards for community parks and other**  
18 **recreational and open spaces as stand alone, and/or in conjunction with private development.**

19 **Implementation Measure PROS-3.1.1.1: The Town will prepare a Park Master Plan that will**  
20 **include concepts for:**

21 a. **Trail design including adjacent amenities.**

22 b. **Park types including design elements.**

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