

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 land open to the public for recreational purposes;
 - **Active Park.** ~~active or passive land~~ Park 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.
 - **Passive Park.** Park that is primarily 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).
- **Open Space.** Open space is ~~generally~~ an area where there are no improvements but rather an emphasis on keeping the land in its natural state and may include conservations areas. Open space may surround areas of passive or active park. improvements are minimal, but could include a trail, shade structure, bench, or similar small facilities designed for passive enjoyment.
- **Conservation Area.** A public or private area protected in order to maintain or improve sensitive or highly valued resources and functions including natural, scenic, ecological, historic, agricultural, hydrological, or geological resources. Secondary uses may be accommodated in conservation areas (e.g., passive park recreational uses) provided they do not impact the primary uses for which the area is protected.

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- ~~▪ **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).

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

8.3 Park Standard

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

8.2 Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Implementation Measures

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

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

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

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

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

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

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8.2.1 Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Implementation Measures

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

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

5 **Policy PROS-1.1.1:** The Town will seek to achieve five acres of park ~~land~~ for each 1,000 residents.

6 **Policy PROS-1.1.2:** All park ~~land~~ and open space will either be owned by the Town, or the Town will
7 have legal interest in the land through a long-term joint use agreement or entitlement.

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

10 Implementation Measure PROS-1.1.1.2: The Town will update the ~~Zoning-Municipal Code~~ to
11 consider different methods of achieving park ~~land~~ for new development and may consider the
12 following:

13 a. The Town will develop an ordinance to Provisions that might allow an applicant to count
14 additional park ~~land~~ or open space toward the total acreage used to calculate allowed
15 development in order to encourage additional park ~~land~~ without loss of development
16 potential.

17 b. The relocation of development potential within a project to preserve additional land adjacent
18 to or within riparian areas, oak woodland, conservation areas, and natural drainages that
19 would allow extension of trails.

20 c. Standards that ~~might may~~ allow some private amenities in new multiple family development
21 to count toward park ~~land~~.

22 d. Emphasize provision of park ~~land~~ over payment of in-lieu fees.

23 Objective PROS-1.2. New recreational facilities serving the ~~Town Core~~ Downtown and that expand
24 existing community facilities.

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

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

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

32 Policy PROS-1.3.1: The Town will continue and expand upon the mutually beneficial relationship
33 between the Town of Loomis and the School Districts in providing ~~active-use~~ recreation facilities and
34 allowing Town residents greater access to those facilities. The Town ~~may will also~~ seek new
35 partnerships with ~~Placer County, Loomis Basin Horseman’s Association, Placer Land Trust, and other~~
36 similar ~~group~~ governmental agencies or other organizations to jointly ~~construct and operate~~ parks.

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Question for committee

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Commented [A11]: 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 (adopted 1998)

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1 ~~recreational facilities, and open space.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1 ***b. Park types including design elements.***
- 2
- 3

