



CHAPTER 3
EXISTING PARKS & FACILITIES

CHAPTER 3: EXISTING PARKS AND FACILITIES

The five cities and Amador County are the primary providers of urban park and recreational facilities in the region. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages small parcels throughout the County but most are not designated for recreational purposes. The Eldorado National Forest offers a wide range of active and diverse activities including camping, hiking, skiing, boating, and wilderness areas. The Forest contains about 652 square miles of land.



Howard Park, Lone

This chapter identifies a proposed park classification system that will be used to inventory parkland, assess need, and form the basis for a future park system.

Key Findings

- Excluding the 652 square miles of land in the County that is occupied by the Eldorado National Forest, there are 278 acres of land that is used for urban recreation and open space purposes. In addition, there are 156 acres of land that are currently undeveloped that will, at some time in the future, be available for recreation purposes.
- A park classification system has been developed that reflects the current conditions in Amador County. This classification system will be used to inventory facilities, assess need and be the foundation for a future park system.
- Because of the small population base in most of the incorporated communities, making a comparison of parkland with communities in other regions is difficult.
- While Howard Park in Lone is classified as a community park, as a practical point it serves most of the County in some instances. This is particularly true in field sports.

- On a county-wide basis and including parkland in the cities, the ratio of parkland is 7.3 acres per 1,000 residents. This excludes the state and federal lands in the County.

3.1 PARK LAND DEFINITIONS

The most effective park system to develop and manage is one made up of different types of parks, natural open space, and recreational venues, each designed to provide a specific type of recreation experience and opportunity. A park system that is classified and used properly is easier to maintain, encounters fewer conflicts between user groups, and minimizes negative impacts on adjoining property. A good park classification system also helps assess what facilities are available for current use and what types of parks will be needed to serve the communities in the future. Because Amador County is rural in nature except for the small cities and the utility service districts, a typical urban classification system does not properly reflect local conditions. As a result, the parks in Amador County have been classified by the following categories:

- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Regional Day Use Parks
- Local Natural Open Space
- Special Use Areas

Design guidelines for each park type are found in Chapter 5.

Neighborhood Parks: Neighborhood Parks are typically combination playgrounds and parks designed for non-organized recreation activities. They are generally small in size (less than five (5) acres) and designed to serve a local neighborhood area. In general they serve people living within one-half mile of the park. Typical facilities found in a neighborhood park includes a children’s playground, picnic areas, open grass areas for passive use, outdoor basketball courts, and multi-use open grass areas for practice field sports. Neighborhood parks in some of the smaller communities in Amador County may be the only park serving the area. As a result, they sometimes are called upon to provide a wider range of recreation opportunity. Fiddletown Park in the community of Fiddletown and Minnie Provis Park in Sutter Creek are examples of neighborhood parks.

Community Parks: A community park is larger than a neighborhood park (15 acres or more), and is designed to provide a broader range of active and passive facilities and use areas. Most often they provide structured recreation facilities such as sport fields, although individual and family activities are also encouraged. Community parks can also provide indoor facilities to meet a wider range of recreation interests. These parks serve a much larger area, and in Amador usually serve an entire community. Because of their size, they offer more activities, and as a result, require more support facilities such as parking, restrooms, and large group picnic facilities. Although large in size, Howard Park in Lone is an example of a community park.

Special Use Areas: Special use areas are sites that are occupied by a specialized facility or fulfill a specialized purpose. Some uses that fall into this park type include boat ramps, landscaped areas, or single purpose sites such as a sport field complex or a community center. Fuller Field in Jackson is an example of a special use area.

Regional Parks: Regional parks are recreational areas that serve the entire County and beyond. They are usually large sites and typically include specific uses or features that make the site unique. Regional parks may also focus on a mixture of active and passive recreational activities. Chaw'Se Indian Grinding Rock is an example of a state regional park.

Local Natural Open Space: Because much of Amador County (particularly the easterly up-county areas) are state or federal lands, Open Space for this study will only include undeveloped land in and around the existing communities. Local Natural Open Space is land primarily left in its natural state with passive recreation use as a secondary objective. It is usually owned or managed by a governmental agency and may or may not have public access. This type of land often includes wetlands, steep hillsides, or other similar spaces that cannot be developed. In some cases, environmentally sensitive areas are considered as open space and may include wildlife habitats, stream and creek corridors, or unique and/or endangered plant species. For this study, farmland is not considered in the open space category.

Landscaped Areas: Landscaped areas are public open spaces that are primarily beautification areas with very little, if any, recreation value. These sites are often street triangles or other small parcels.

3.2 Park Land Inventory

The five cities and the County provide the urban parkland in the region. The Plan recognizes that there are considerable state and federal recreation areas within the County, but this document is intended to focus on the urban areas.

**Table 3.1
Summary of Parks and Facilities (All Agencies)
Amador County**

Park Site	Acres	Park Type
Amador County		
Fiddletown Park	2.5	Neighborhood Park
Fiddletown Community Center	0.10	Special Use Area
Kennedy Mines Park	100.00	Local Open Space
Molly Joyce Park (1)	71.0	Community Park
Pioneer Park	28.0	Community Park
River Pines Park	1.6	Undeveloped
Schmidt Park	0.5	Landscaped Area
Total Amador County	203.7	
City of Amador		
Culbert Park	7.0	Local Open Space
School House Park	0.3	Neighborhood Park
Pocket Park	0.2	Neighborhood Park
Total Amador City	7.5	
Amador Recreation Agency		
Lions Park	6.2	Regional Day Use Park
Total Amador Recreation Agency	6.2	
City of Ione		
Grover Park	2.0	Neighborhood Park
Heath Knoll	0.2	Landscaped Area
Perry Earl Park	1.0	Neighborhood Park
Howard Park	89.7	Community Park
Train Park	0.3	Neighborhood Park
Oakridge Park	0.3	Neighborhood Park
Total City of Ione	93.5	

Table 3.1 (cont'd)

Park Site	Acres	Park Type
City of Jackson		
Detert Park	6.5	Community Park
Oro de Amador	155.0	Undeveloped
Woodside Park	1.9	Neighborhood Park
Petkovich Park	1.5	Neighborhood Park
Tailing Wheels	8.4	Local Open Space
Fuller Field (leased)	7.0	Special Use Area
Total City of Jackson	180.3	
Pine Grove Services District		
Pine Grove Community Park	0.5	Neighborhood Park
Total Pine Grove Services District	0.5	
City of Plymouth		
Lodge Hill Park	1.9	Special Use Area
Norm Waters Park	25.0	Local Open Space
Sharkey Begovich Community Park	0.3	Neighborhood Park
McGee Park	1.0	Landscaped Area
Public Pool (on Fairgrounds property)	1.0	Special Use Area
Total City of Plymouth	29.2	
City of Sutter Creek		
Bryson Park	1.5	Neighborhood Park
Eureka Mine	21.0	Undeveloped
Minnie Provis Park	2.5	Neighborhood Park
Total City of Sutter Creek	25.0	
Volcano Community Services District		
Soldiers Gulch Park	0.3	Special Use Area
Volcano Memorial Park	8.7	Neighborhood Park
Amphitheatre	0.2	Special Use Area
Total Volcano Community Services District	9.2	
Total	555.1	

(1) Molly Joyce Park is owned by the Sacramento School District. The upper portion which contains the park is leased to the County. The lower portion consists of a farmstead. Its original purpose was to use it as an environmental education site.

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Insert Figure 3.1: Existing Facilities Map

Figure 3.1: Existing Facilities Map (Back)

Table 3.2
Summary of Total Parkland by Type
(Excluding State and Federal Lands)
 Amador County

Park Type	Total Acres	No. Sites
Neighborhood Parks	23.5	14
Community Parks	195.2	4
Special Use Areas	10.5	6
Regional Day Use park	6.2	1
Local Open Space	140.4	4
Landscaped Areas	1.7	3
Undeveloped Areas	177.6	3
TOTAL	555.1	35

Most often, total parkland needs are expressed in terms of acres per 1,000 population. In the Sacramento area most communities average 4-8 acres of active parkland per 1,000 population. Table 3.3 provides the current ratio of parkland for the incorporated cities in Amador County.

Table 3.3
Ratio of Parkland Per Population
Incorporated Cites and Amador County as a Whole

Agency	Population	Parkland (Acres)	Ratio (2)
Amador City	213	7.5	35.2 acres/1,000
lone (1)	3,613	93.5	25.9
Jackson	3,350	25.3 (3)	5.8
Plymouth	1,060	29.2	27.5
Sutter Creek	2,944	25.0	8.5
Amador County (4)	38,133	219.6 (3)	5.8

- (1) Excludes 4,000 residents of the Mule Creek Prison
- (2) Ratio of park land per 1,000 population
- (3) Excludes 155 acres of undeveloped park land in Jackson
- (4) Excludes population and parkland of above cities

The reader must be cautioned about forming any conclusions from the above table. For example, Amador City has one average-sized park but because of its small population base, appears to have a high ratio of parkland.

Table 3.5
Summary of Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Areas

Park Area Services Matrix	Play Structure	Tennis Courts	Horseshoe Pits	Restrooms	Open Space	Picnic Tables	Group Picnic Areas	Soccer Fields	Football Fields	Baseball/Softball Fields	Basketball Court	Parking	Trails and Pathways	Community Building	Other
Amador County															
Fiddletown Park															
Fiddletown Comm. Park															Kitchen
Molly Joyce Park										2					
Pioneer Park										2					Comm. Bldg
River Pines Park															
Schmidt Park															Undeveloped
Amador City															
Culbert Park															
School House Park															
Pocket Park															
Amador Recreation Agency															
Lions Park															
City of Ione															
Grover Park															
Heath Knoll Park															
Perry Earl Park															
Howard Park								4		4					
Train Park															
Oakridge Park															
City of Jackson															
Detert Park										1					Pool; Scout Hut
Oro de Amador Area															Undeveloped
Woodside Park															
Petkovich Park															
Tailing Wheels Park															
Fuller Field										2					
Pine Grove Service District															
Pine Grove Park															
City of Plymouth															
Lodge Hill Park															Old lodge bldg.

Table 3.5
Summary of Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Areas
(Cont'd)

Park Area Services Matrix	Play Structure	Tennis Courts	Horseshoe Pits	Restrooms	Open Space	Picnic Tables	Group Picnic Areas	Soccer Fields	Football Fields	Baseball/Softball Fields	Basketball Court	Parking	Trails and Pathways	Community Building	Other
Norm Waters Park															
Sharkey Begovich Park															
McGee Park															Landscaping
Public Pool															Outdoor Pool
City of Sutter Creek															
Bryson Park															
Minnie Provis Park									1	1					Volleyball Court
Volcano Comm. Svc. Dist.															
Soldiers Gulch Park															Memorial
Volcano Memorial Park															
Amphitheatre															Amphitheatre

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