

4.0 THE OPEN SPACE & RECREATION ELEMENT GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

4.1 Open Space Goals and Objectives

This section presents the goals and objectives of the Open Space Element. By definition, a “goal” is a general expression of community values which sets a direction or ideal future end, condition, or state. An “objective” represents a specific end condition which is viewed as an intermediate step toward attainment of a goal. Each objective below is cross-referenced to its corresponding goal.

The numbering system for goals and objectives, and in subsequent sections policies and implementation measures, is based upon the subject area (O for Open Space) and type of statement. The following abbreviations are used.

- Goal (OG)
- Objective (OO)
- Policy (OP)
- Implementation Measure (OI)

Goals:

OG-1: Preserve open space lands utilizing a variety of land use controls and regulations.

OG-2: Preserve agricultural land as the principal component of the local open space program.

OG-3: Ensure a harmonious relationship between open space users and agriculture.

OG-4: Protect and manage local water resources.

OG-5: Preserve and enhance existing biological resources.

OG-6: Preserve cultural resources.

OG-7: Preserve aesthetic resources and values.

OG-8: Create a continuous open space corridor along Lower Cache Creek and provide expanded public access to the Yolo Bypass, Lower Putah Creek, Willow Slough, the Sacramento River, and the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Objectives:

OO-1: Creation and maintenance of regulatory framework that places a high priority on preservation of public and private open space lands. (OG-1)

- OO-2: Maintenance of Urban Boundaries to direct urban growth into existing towns and cities to protect open space and agricultural lands. (OG-2)
- OO-3: Avoidance of conflicts with agricultural activities. (OG-3)
- OO-4: Clearly demarcated boundaries between public open space and private agricultural lands. (OG-3)
- OO-5: Provision for open space corridors within existing and future development. (OG-4, OG-7)
- OO-6: No net loss of wetland and/or riparian habitat. (OG-5)
- OO-7: Maintenance of unique or sensitive plant or animal habitat. (OG-5)
- OO-8: Protection of identified areas of unique historical or cultural value within the county and preservation of those sites for educational, scientific and aesthetic purposes. (OG-6, OG-7)
- OO-9: Identification and preservation of scenic corridors and viewsheds. (OG-7)
- OO-10: Development of partnerships with local stakeholder watershed organizations to expand existing public open space along Cache Creek, Lower Putah Creek, the Sacramento River and within the Yolo Bypass. (OG-8)

4.2 Open Space Policies

This section presents the policies of the Open Space Element. A policy is a specific statement to be used in guiding decision making, based on Open Space Element goals and objectives.

- OP-1: Urban uses shall be restricted to those areas defined and mapped for such use in the countywide General Plan and urban/community plans as adopted and/or amended.
- OP-2: Open space lands shall be protected from urban uses by limiting the extension of services, particularly sewers.
- OP-3: New schools shall be linked to residential areas by open space corridors where possible.
- OP-4: The County shall encourage and support coordinated efforts by State and federal agencies, cities, special districts, and non-profit and conservation organizations to protect lands containing open space resources.
- OP-5: The County shall utilize the CEQA process to identify significant impacts on open space and shall require new development to implement county-approved mitigation measures that minimize such impacts.

OP-6: The County shall utilize the following objective criteria when considering conversion of open space lands to other uses:

- The use is directly related and essential to an otherwise approved open space, agricultural or recreational activity; and
- Lack of suitable locations in Yolo County prevent the use from locating within an area not designated for open space uses; and
- The site is not located in a conservation easement, contracted agricultural preserve, Farmland Security Zone, flood control bypass or channel, or earthquake fault zone; and
- The use will not diminish or prevent open space, recreational or agricultural use on adjoining lands; and
- The use can be developed without impairing the open space experience, managed resource production and other open space uses and activities in the vicinity; and
- The use does not conflict with any adopted local, State or federal plans for protection of open space resources.

OP-7: Development shall be directed away from naturally occurring riparian areas and wetlands.

OP-8: Open space buffer areas shall be utilized to separate incompatible uses from areas of unique biological or agricultural importance.

OP-9: The County shall require evaluation and protection of archaeological resources discovered in the course of construction and development.

OP-10: Areas subject to flooding shall be avoided when proposing new development unless appropriate protective measures are incorporated.

OP-11: Clustering of dwelling units shall be encouraged when parcels are adjacent to agricultural or open space lands.

OP-12: Within agriculturally designated areas, non-agricultural development (i.e., residences, mining, and non-agricultural industry) shall be directed to marginal agricultural lands, avoiding more productive farmland.

OP-13: Lands reserved for bypass systems such as the Yolo Bypass and Sacramento Bypass shall remain designated as open space in order to prevent flooding hazards.

- OP-14: The County shall support the efforts of the Cache Creek Conservancy and the Yolo Bypass Working Group to preserve open space and improve scenic resources within and along Cache Creek and within the Yolo Bypass.
- OP-15: The County shall support the efforts to preserve open space and improve public access to Lower Putah Creek.
- OP-16: The County shall support efforts to enhance and improve public access within the Sacramento River Conservation Area.
- OP-17: The County shall support efforts to provide public access and trail improvements within the Blue Ridge Mountains.
- OP-18: The County, in conjunction with the cities in Yolo County, shall endeavor to adopt a Natural Communities Conservation Plan that protects wildlife resources, open space and agricultural production.

4.3 Open Space Implementation Measures

This section presents the implementation measures for the Open Space Element. Implementation measures are actions, strategies and directives which carry out Open Space policies. For each implementation measure, a lead agency, timing, and funding source are identified.

- OI-1: Utilize all General Plan policies, together with specific plans, zoning ordinances, the Williamson Act, Farmland Security Zones, property assessment practices, coordination with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and any other similar means to preserve all lands defined as “Open Space”.

Lead Agency: Planning and Public Works Department
 Timing: Ongoing
 Funding Source: General Fund, Grants (federal, state and private foundations)

- OI-2: Develop an open space corridor plan(s) that integrates drainage ways, streams, river frontage, and open space adjoining schools and other public lands.

Lead Agency: Planning and Public Works Department
 Timing: Within three years of Plan adoption
 Funding Source: General Fund

- OI-3: Establish and maintain over time well-defined natural or human-created boundaries between urban growth areas and open-space areas.

Lead Agency: Planning and Public Works Department
 Timing: Ongoing
 Funding Source: General Fund

OI-4: Coordinate planning decisions/actions involving agricultural/open space lands with the four cities, adjoining counties, and other public agencies involved in conservation, preservation and protection of natural resources.

Lead Agency: Planning and Public Works Department
Timing: Ongoing
Funding Source: General Fund

OI-5: As part of an adopted Natural Communities Conservation Plan, establish a habitat mitigation-banking program through which environmental mitigation fees can be used to purchase open space for the protection of sensitive habitat.

Lead Agency: Board of Supervisors
Timing: Concurrently with HCP adoption
Funding Source: General Fund and Mitigation Fees

OI-6: Establish a nonprofit Yolo Legacy Trust for the purpose of open space land preservation.

Lead Agency: Planning and Public Works Department
Timing: Within three to five years of Plan adoption
Funding Source: General Fund, grant funds

4.4 Recreation Goals and Objectives

This section presents the goals and objectives of the Recreation Element. By definition, a “goal” is a general expression of community values which sets a direction or ideal future end, condition, or state. An “objective” represents a specific end condition which is viewed as an intermediate step toward attainment of a goal. Each objective below is cross-referenced to its corresponding goal.

The numbering system for goals and objectives, and in subsequent sections policies and implementation measures, is based upon the subject area (R for Recreation) and type of statement. The following abbreviations are used.

- Goal (RG)
- Objective (RO)
- Policy (RP)
- Implementation Measure (RI)

Goals:

RG-1: Provide infrastructure to support community-based recreation.

- RG-2: Establish and maintain sufficient parkland to serve all segments of the population.
- RG-3: Utilize recreational opportunities to attract a greater number of tourists and visitors to Yolo County.
- RG-4: Ensure the compatibility of recreational activities with surrounding land uses.
- RG-5: Design recreational facilities to maintain privacy and security and minimize impacts to surrounding property owners.
- RG-6: Develop new facilities to attract tourists and visitors, including entertainment facilities, restaurants, lodging and shopping, clustered in areas already urbanized, or in areas designated by the General Plan for such uses.
- RG-7: Encourage by various means, including marketing, the potential for growth in visitor spending.

Objectives:

- RO-1: Access to county-sponsored recreation programs in all major unincorporated communities. (RG-1)
- RO-2: Establishment of a variety of outdoor recreational and educational opportunities along Lower Cache Creek, the Sacramento River, Lower Putah Creek, and within the Yolo Bypass for use by the public. (RG-1)
- RO-3: Provision of adequate and diversified recreational opportunities and facilities to meet the demands of an expanding population. (RG-1, RG-2)
- RO-4: Maintenance and application of parkland to population standards in new development. (RG-2)
- RO-5: Creation of mechanisms for funding park acquisition and development, as well as the ongoing costs of park maintenance and recreation services. (RG-2)
- RO-6: Creation of a tourism marketing program for Yolo County focused on recreational opportunities. (RG-3)
- RO-7: Provide for development of a visitor-serving business base in the county that includes a mix of lodging, recreation/amusement services, transportation services, eating and drinking places, food stores and other retail. (RG-3)
- RO-8: Creation of a Yolo County identity that will promote the county's recreational opportunities and assist in attracting visitors. (RG-3)

RO-9: Maintenance of appropriate zoning categories and standards in order to ensure land use compatibility, protection of agricultural lands and consistency with the General Plan when visitor and tourist oriented activities locate in Yolo County. (RG-4, RG-5, RG-6)

RO-10:Improvement of the County tax base and local economy through attraction of visitor and tourist related businesses. (RG-7)

4.5 Recreation Policies

This section presents the policies of the Recreation Element. A policy is a specific statement to be used in guiding decision making, based on Open Space Element goals and objectives.

RP-1: Open space and wildlife conservation areas shall be combined with parks and trails where appropriate.

RP-2: Parks shall be developed and utilized to buffer wildlife areas from development that would impact wildlife habitat.

RP-3: The County shall ensure that the signage allowance in rural areas is adequate to assist businesses in attracting visitors.

RP-4: The County shall support the development of visitor-serving businesses that retain and complement its rural character such as bed and breakfast facilities and eateries, particularly in the Delta region and the Capay Valley.

RP-5: The County shall promote and support the clustering of commercial/recreational opportunities in an effort to provide “linked” activities for tourists (i.e., activities tourists can link together in a single trip, such as eating, rafting, gaming, shopping, lodging, gas stations, wine tasting, visiting a museum, etc.)

RP-6: The County shall support the development of tourist services in the unincorporated areas along I-5 (at Yolo and Zamora), in Clarksburg, Dunnigan, Esparto and Knights Landing .

RP-7: The County shall support and facilitate events that showcase its products such as wine, produce, and arts and crafts.

RP-8: The County shall encourage and support the development of private recreational facilities that preserve scenic and environmentally sensitive resources and that do not result in the creation of land use conflicts.

RP-9: The County shall work with all unincorporated communities to develop adequate recreational infrastructure and facilities.

RP-10: The County shall work with willing landowners to create a continuous corridor of natural open space along Lower Cache Creek, Lower Putah Creek, the Sacramento River and within the Yolo Bypass with provision for limited access at specific locations to

recreational and educational uses from a County road or highway. The County shall also consider establishing bicycle access to select areas.

- RP-11: Only those uses that are river- or creek-dependent, such as fishing, canoeing, boating, and nature observation shall be directly located on Cache Creek, Lower Putah Creek, and the Sacramento River. More active uses, including parking, restrooms, and picnic areas shall be located in areas away from sensitive habitat.
- RP-12: Recreational uses shall be clustered at locations along Cache Creek, Lower Putah Creek, and the Sacramento River, in order to minimize habitat disturbance and provide efficient and cost-effective management by the County. All access, whether by road or by trail, shall be through an entry point which can be controlled.
- RP-13: Recreational uses that tend to be land and water intensive (such as golf courses) shall locate in areas with adequate infrastructure, with the potential for multiple uses (e.g. hiking, equestrian, retreat conference centers, etc.) and shall not conflict with agricultural and other open space activities.
- RP-14: Airport related commercial uses such as flying services shall be located at the Yolo County Airport. Visitor-serving facilities to support such activities should be encouraged in the Airport vicinity.
- RP-15: The County shall endeavor to coordinate the activities of all county, federal and state agencies and of private operators to manage recreational activities so that such activities do not interfere with agricultural operations, infringe on private property, or harm existing wildlife and vegetative habitat.
- RP-16: To lower long term public costs and enhance public security, wherever practicable the County shall partner with private businesses to individually and collectively supervise and manage adjacent and nearby public facilities (for instance, local parks, creek and river access, overlooks, piers, picnic areas, and parking areas).
- RP-17: The County shall support improved access for bank fishing where safe and adequate parking can be provided and with acquisition of proper rights-of-access from the landowner. Adequate policing, garbage cleanup, sanitation facilities, and fire suppression for such access shall be provided.
- RP-18: The County shall support the location of additional recreational and traveler service facilities in unincorporated communities, so that these facilities do not significantly harm agricultural operations or open space values.
- RP-19: Downtown revitalization in unincorporated communities shall be supported as an integral component of increased visitor spending.
- RP-20: The County shall target development in those areas currently under-served to fill specific gaps in visitor serving and retail services. Encourage development of critical services for

travelers where needed, such as public-access restrooms, mini marts, first aid centers and gasoline stations.

RP-21: Through policy and leadership, the County shall support the marketing of Yolo County as a destination for vacations and day trips.

RP-22: The County shall work with interested groups to complete construction of a bicycle trail system. Ensure that bicycle access is an integral part of future recreational facility design and facility operations.

RP-23: The County shall work closely with BLM, adjacent counties and other landowners to establish needed facilities and access in order to make the Blue Ridge Mountains available for mountain biking, hiking, wilderness experiences, equestrian activities, possible Off Road Vehicle activities, and wildlife viewing.

RP-24: The County shall promote and support the growth of individual and collective private-sector agri-tourism and eco-tourism operations of all sizes that benefit from wide expanses of open space and agricultural land, including overnight agricultural adventures (staying overnight and working on a farm), other lodging, markets and farmers markets, restaurants, wineries, bird watching, fishing and hunting lodges and clubs and equestrian centers. The County shall work with those operators to encourage regional marketing programs and to ensure that public and private efforts are complementary.

RP-25: The County shall encourage development of small-scale/niche visitor services and attractions such as wineries, bed and breakfasts, cafes, etc. in areas that would cater to interested travelers.

RP-26: The County shall encourage and work with the cities of Yolo County to facilitate development of a regional sports park at an appropriate location between population centers.

4.6 Recreation Implementation Measures

This section presents the implementation measures for the Recreation Element. Implementation measures are actions, strategies and directives which carry out Recreation policies. For each implementation measure, a lead agency, timing, and funding source are identified.

RI-1: Adopt a Quimby Ordinance and park impact fees to establish funding mechanisms for park acquisition and development.

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| Lead Agency: | Board of Supervisors |
| Timing: | Within one year of Plan adoption |
| Funding Source: | General Fund, Developer Fees, Impact Fees |

RI-2: Direct a review and update of the County's sign ordinance for off-site signage provisions.

Lead Agency: Board of Supervisors
Timing: Within one year of Plan adoption
Funding Source: General Fund

RI-3: Work with local businesses to promote the development of a marketing program and advertising campaign that promote the county's recreational opportunities and cultural attractions.

Lead Agency: Board of Supervisors
Timing: Within one year of Plan adoption
Funding Source: General Fund, Transient Occupancy Tax

RI-4: Complete the preparation of a Parks Master Plan. This Plan would identify needed recreation infrastructure and facilities and potential funding sources.

Lead Agency: Board of Supervisors
Timing: Within one year of Plan adoption
Funding Source: General Fund, Transient Occupancy Tax

RI-5: In order to attract more visitors to Yolo County, improve funding for ongoing maintenance at the County's various recreational facilities and catch up on deferred maintenance items. Evaluation of fee structures for resident and non-resident use fees for certain recreation facilities shall be conducted including the appropriate recommendations.

Lead Agency: Parks Department
Timing: Ongoing
Funding Source: Various

RI-6: Fully support and participate in the formation of a cooperative Yolo County visitors and tourism council, including the County, the various cities and communities, the casino, merchants, restaurants, wineries, motels, campgrounds, water attractions, museums and wildlife areas, agricultural exhibits and other visitor destinations.

Lead Agencies: Board of Supervisors, Economic Development Coordinator
Timing: Immediate
Funding Source: Cooperative, including general fund, special funds and private

RI-7: Identify and participate with other groups and organizations to establish new and promote existing programs for tourism (e.g. "Duck Days", "A Day in the Country," a "Blossom Trail," etc.)

Lead Agencies: Parks Department, Economic Development Coordinator
Timing: Within two years of Plan adoption
Funding Source: Cooperative, including General Fund, special funds and private

RI-8: Seek cooperative state and federal funding for tourism promotion, and for enhancing park and visitor facilities. Further develop a use fee structure for resident and non-resident users of recreation services and facilities where possible

Lead Agencies: Parks Department, Economic Development Coordinator
Timing: Ongoing
Funding Source: Various, including grants

RI-9: Join multi-county and regional tourism programs.

Lead Agency: Economic Development Coordinator
Timing: Ongoing
Funding Source: Various

RI-10: Develop necessary infrastructure for park users (e.g. restrooms, pumpout facilities, trash containers, oily waste disposal facilities and other facilities to meet the needs of boaters). Include opportunities for concessions where practicable. Enhance security and public safety at County parks.

Lead Agency: Parks Department
Timing: Ongoing
Funding Source: Various, including grants

RI-11: Support continued acquisition of open space by land trusts, government agencies and conservancies that are consistent with this Element and where efforts have been coordinated with the County.

Lead Agencies: Board of Supervisors, Parks Department, Planning and Public Works Department
Timing: Ongoing
Funding Source: Various, mostly through the trusts and conservancies

RI-12: Identify and improve key road segments, including provision of flood protection. Improve road name and directional signs.

Lead Agency: Planning and Public Works Agency, Board of Supervisors
Timing: Ongoing
Funding Source: Road Fund

RI-13: Seek opportunities to acquire or participate in acquisition of land in the Blue Ridge Mountains for trailheads, an equestrian center, and other recreational experiences.

Lead Agency: Parks Department
Timing: As soon as practicable
Funding Source: To be determined

RI-14: Meet with the cities of Yolo County to identify potential sites and funding sources for a regional park/sports park. Possibilities include a regional soccer tournament complex.

Lead Agency: Parks Department, Economic Development Director
Timing: Ongoing
Funding Source: To be determined