



CITY OF
FOLSOM
DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE

The Folsom Parks and Recreation Department

Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2015 Plan Update



February 2015

Parks and Recreation Department 2015 Master Plan Update

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Folsom Parks and Recreation Master Plan document has undergone several revisions and updates since it was originally drafted in 1988. These include the City Council adopted 1996 Parks and Recreation Master Plan update and the City Council adopted 2003 Implementation Plan Update. Each of these past endeavors reviewed the status of the community park facility needs against the existing parkland development and projected the remaining park facility development required to meet the citywide need.

The 2003 Implementation Plan Update identified the remaining parkland development fees anticipated through build-out of the city. The projected park development fee revenue was then compared to the projected capital improvement costs associated with the remaining undeveloped parks. This resulted in a projected shortfall of approximately \$33M. To bring the remaining park development into alignment with the projected park development impact fee revenue the 2003 Implementation Plan Update proposed several project changes and deferrals until such time that adequate funding was identified.

The Parks and Recreation Department has achieved many of the goals established in the previously adopted master plans. As a working document the master plan needs to be kept up-to-date and coordinated with the needs of the community. The adoption of the 2003 Implementation Plan Update acknowledged that the plan should undergo another review and update. In addition the city is rapidly approaching build-out within the existing city limits.

An integral component of updating the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is to conduct a statistically valid survey to measure the recreation "Needs" of the community. The 2003 Implementation Plan Update did not include a Needs Assessment Survey; however, one was conducted in 2005. Prior to 2005 the last time this type of survey was prepared was for the 1996 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The Needs Assessment Survey is but one tool in the update process. Several meetings occurred with stakeholder groups (organized youth and adult league representatives), available census data, the 2006 Citywide Satisfaction Survey results, and community meeting/workshops were also utilized in providing background information for use in drafting this Master Plan Update.

The Master Plan Update document also addresses the park planning goals to be used in the land use planning approved for the Folsom Plan Area (FPA) south of Highway 50. This area will add approximately 125 acres of new park development. These parks have been programed for similar recreation elements and need ratios as the previously developed park system.

As with previous Parks and Recreation Master Plan updates, the projected park impact revenues and projected park development costs have been estimated and compared. The results are summarized in the following tables. This update also includes the estimated development costs for newly annexed FPA which includes new park development programming.

ASSESSMENT

The recommendations and strategies developed in the adopted 1996 Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the 2002 implementation Plan Update continue to remain valid. Those recommendations and objectives include:

The objectives include:

- Development of sports, recreation, senior, arts, and cultural programming.
- Development of Community, Neighborhood, and Mini Parks to provide recreational elements and programming venues to the community.
- A parkland standard of 7.3 acres per 1,000 population. *(5 acres per 1,000 population is the practical standard applied through the Folsom Municipal Code (FMC) which is in conformance with the Quimby Act guidelines)*

Population / Parkland Comparison:

Current Population	Current Parkland	Acreage/ 1,000 Pop.	Build-out Population	Build-out Parkland ³	Acreage/ 1,000 Pop.
66,605 ¹	364.3	5.47 Ac.	94,400	586.6	6.21 Ac.

Table No. 1

Population / Open Space Comparison²:

Current Population	Current Acreage	Acreage/ 1,000 Pop.	Build-out Population	Build-out Acreage	Acreage/ 1,000 Pop.
66,605 ¹	499.3	7.50 Ac.	94,400	1,659.6 ³	17.58 Ac.

Table No. 2

1. Does not include the prison populations.
2. Includes all parkland, open space, and bike trails within the Parks and Recreation Department's responsibility)
3. Includes FPA lands; 125-acres parkland, 1,063-acres open space

As illustrated the estimated total parkland, trails, and open space acreage will provide in excess of the 7.3 acre per 1,000-population goal. This is the result of additional property being dedicated to the Parks and Recreation Department over and above the required parkland dedication credit or "Quimby" requirement. For example the developer-required dedication credited for Nisenan Park (Empire Ranch (ER) Park Site #56) is 16 acres. The total parcel is 54± acres. Another example is ER Park Site #51. This site is credited for 10 acres and has been dedicated as a 21± acre parcel.

The credited acreage is only for the "developable" open areas, which can be utilized for more active recreation elements (ball fields, play areas, etc.). The remaining creek / streambeds, hillsides, and water features remain as open space and contribute to the overall 7.3 acre/1,000 population goal. This has led to a well-rounded, balanced park system of active/passive facilities.

While the 1996 Master Plan Update acknowledged development of community and neighborhood parks it also recommended no further development of mini parks. This recommendation is based on the maintenance expense in relation to the limited

recreation value for the size of the parks. No new mini parks have been developed or credited for parkland since the Parkway. This update does not propose any change to that policy with the exception of Briggs Mini Park remaining in the plan update recommendation.

Goals and Policies

The basis for two decades of park development is the adopted 1996 Parks and Recreation Master Plan for which the latest update has been prepared. The 1996 plan included an updated statement of Goals and Policies (Appendix A) to be utilized in planning, programming, and development of the City of Folsom park system. These included the areas of:

- Community Identity
- Quality of Facilities
- Meeting Recreational Needs through Facilities
- Programs
- Community Participation
- Coordination between Agencies

This plan update reviewed the existing Goals and Policies and found nothing needing to be revised or updated in the stated Goals and Policies with the exception of Policy 37.37.C. The reference Policy recommends the use of newsletters, local newspapers and temporary banners to notify residents of City activities and events.

The recommended change is minor and refers to adding “electronic social media” as another means of notification. Otherwise the Goals and Policies are as relevant now as they were in 1996.

This update process also included in the assessment a look at where the existing park system is in relation to recreation facilities identified and planned in the 1996 Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the 2002 Implementation Plan Update. The previous update included deferred and/or deleted Park Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) in the assessment. These options are also reviewed in other sections of this update.

The following discussion reviews and assesses the existing facilities and current community sports, recreation, arts, and cultural service needs.

Existing Facilities

Significant accomplishments in park development since the 2002 Implementation Plan update have continued to furnish the community with high quality recreation facilities. The City of Folsom Parks and Recreation Department manages 46 developed parks totaling approximately 340 developed acres, 500 acres of open space, 35-miles of Class I Bike Trail (51 ac.), a sports complex, 3-pool aquatic center, a community center, Rotary community clubhouse, bicycle track/skate park, cross-country course, and zoo sanctuary.

The following table illustrates the park development completed or initiated since the 2002 Implementation Plan Update:

	Year	Park Name	Park Development
1	05	Bud and Artie Davies Park	Hill top landscape and irrigation completed
2	06	Hinkle Creek Center	Master Plan complete, nature center remodel completed
3	02/03	Lembi Sports Complex	Picnic shelters and concrete pavement completed
4	03/04	John Kemp Community Park	Park Development completed
5	06	Willow Hill Reservoir Community Park	Phase 2 completed
6	04	Beacon Hill Park	Picnic shelter and group picnic area completed
7	03/04	Handy Family Park	Park Development completed
8	03	Hazel McFarland Park	Park Development completed
9	03/04	Cummings Family Park (Lot K)	Park Development completed
10	05	Nisenan Community Park (ER Park Site #56)	Park Development completed
11	04/05	Elvie Perazzo Briggs Park (Briggs Neighborhood Park)	Park Development Completed
12	04	The Parkway Village D Tot-Lot	Park Development completed
13	04	The Parkway Village F Tot-Lot	Park Development completed
14	04	The Parkway Village G Tot-Lot	Park Development completed
15	06/07	Livermore Community Park	\$1.5M Phase 4 completed
16	06/07	Senior and Arts Facility	Remodel of 48 Natoma (former FS #35) completed
17	06	Teen Center & Community Gym	Purchase of 68 Clarksville Road, Folsom Sports Complex and construction of the "Edge" Teen Center completed

Table No. 3

Significant progress, as illustrated in the above table, has been made in the completion of planned parks and recreation facilities. Most importantly several major, community-serving projects identified in the 2002 Implementation Plan Update have been fulfilled:

1. John Kemp Community Park – multiple lighted ballfields and synthetic turf soccer fields
2. Folsom Sports Complex – community gymnasium
3. Livermore Community Park – Phase 4 development
4. 48 Natoma Senior and Arts Center – community senior and arts programming center.

While these "community-wide" projects attract justifiable recognition there are several other ways in which the Department has been meeting the goals of the master plan and needs of the community.

Appendix A includes descriptions of existing park site specific program elements. The depth of recreational elements, diversity and quality of the developed park system are illustrated by the existing park development.

Needs Assessment

The Needs Assessment Study prepared for the 1996 Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified strongly supported recreation elements. An updated Needs Assessment Survey was conducted in May 2006 to be used in the preparation of this master plan update. The 2006 survey asked questions related to respondents participation and or

use of recreation facilities and programs as well as arts and cultural programs. The 2006 survey also asked questions related to the “importance” of a particular recreation facility of program to the respondent.

Many of the elements identified by the community as “strongly-important” in the 1996 study remain strongly supported today. The following top ten activities were identified in both needs assessment surveys based on recreation participation:

Rank	1996 Element	2006 Element
1	Picnicking	Open Space
2	Zoo	Walking / Hiking (Trails)
3	Swimming	Children’s Play Areas
4	Group BBQ	Picnic Areas
5	Arena / Amphitheater	Zoo
6	Trails	Swimming / Aquatic Center
7	Children’s Play Areas	Cycling
8	Jogging	Fairs and Festivals (Arena/Amphitheater)
9	Educational Programs	Concerts and live Performances
10	Social Programs	Jogging

Table No. 4

It is interesting to note that relatively passive recreational activities were important to the community prior to the decade-long, high growth residential development activity. Note that seven (7) of the Top Ten important/usage activities and recreational pursuits are common to both studies (shown bold).

The raw data ranking (Chart No. 1) is slightly different then the weighted ranking due to the statistical analysis used and the relatively small differences between the top ranked

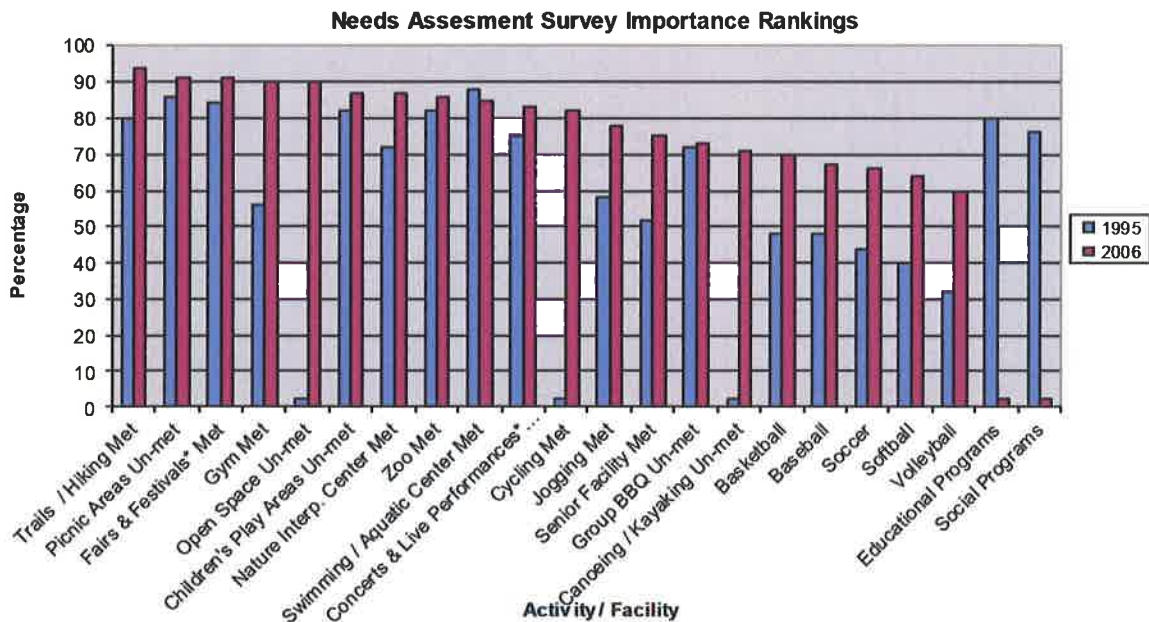


Chart No. 1

elements. For example the raw data indicates that hiking / walking was the highest ranked combined very important & somewhat important category responses. However, open space has a higher proportion of “very important” to “somewhat important” responses when compared to walking/hiking (73%:17% vs. 66%:28% respectively).

Within the top ten for both the 1996 and 2006 Needs assessment Studies have been recreation, cultural, arts, and seniors programming. These programs require both specialized and multi-purpose facilities in order to provide the most flexible, adaptive, and efficient management possible. As an example the Folsom Community Center provides a venue for weddings while also being a concert and banquet venue and meeting space. Folsom City Lions Park and Livermore Community Park offer a variety of programmed sports and passive recreation. They have also been used for the Music in the Park Concert series, Renaissance Faire, and Gourd Festival.

It appears that the City has enough facilities to meet the arts, cultural and educational programming needs of the community. Where the development needs to occur may be in the publicity and/or venue enhancements. As an example the, Dan Russell Arena may be more suitable for outdoor events if it received infrastructure and site upgrades. Lighting, sound system, and seating improvements would make it more desirable for attendees and therefore increase use potential. Increasing the use potential will lead to more programming for the community.

Another example is the Hinkle Creek Center. This project will provide a venue for increased cultural and environmental education programming. It can also be utilized for environmental/nature based arts and cultural programs as well (bird watching, watercolor/oil painting, etc.)

Needs Assessment Recreation Findings:

Element	Met	Un-Met
Picnic Areas	-	X
Fairs & Festivals	X	-
Gym	X	-
Open space	-	X
Children’s Play Areas	-	X
Nature Interpretive Center	X	-
Zoo	X	-
Swimming – Aquatic Center	X	-
Concerts & Live Performances	-	X
Cycling	X	-
Jogging	X	-
Senior Facility	X	-
Group BBQ	-	X

Table 5

These interpretations are based on the following:

- Picnic areas are easily developed and there is continuing strong interest by respondents. Therefore the un-met need.
- Fairs and Festivals are currently being met using existing facilities.
- The Folsom Sports Complex purchase fulfills the City gymnasium need.

- Children's Play Areas, similar to picnicking, continues to have strong interest by respondents.
- Development of the Hinkle Creek Center fulfills the nature center need.
- The Folsom Zoo Sanctuary, as master planned, will fulfill the need.
- The Lembi Aquatic Center & future Vista del Lago High School pool meet the swimming pool need north of Highway 50.
- Adequate venues for concerts and live performances are not currently provided.
- Continued implementation of the Bikeway Master Plan provides the facilities to meet cyclists, joggers', and walkers' needs.
- Renovation of 48 Natoma as the Senior and Arts Center fulfills the projected senior and arts facility needs.

The top arts, cultural and specialized program priorities identified in the 1996 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update included a community center with teen and senior center, educational programs, cultural programs, children's activities, and teen activities.

Since 1996, programming in these areas has grown significantly through expanded programming as follows:

Teens:

- Development of the CAVE teen centers for middle school students at Folsom and Sutter Middle Schools. These serve approximately 700 youth per week .
- Development of a CAVE Club summer program for middle school teens
- Creation of the Folsom Teen Council to advise the department on issues important to teens and to provide teen-based programs to the community.
- Providing a variety of special interest programs and events for teens including photo classes, skate classes, art camps and culinary classes, late night activities, dances and band nights,
- Development of the roller hockey courts in answer to teen requests for services
- Development of the Skate and Bike Park at Cummings Family Park in answer to teen requests for services.

Seniors:

- Providing a variety of special interest classes directed specifically for seniors including physical fitness, brain gain, aquacise, driver's safety, bridge, etc.
- Creating a shuffleboard program
- Providing a senior nutrition lunch program
- Hosting a senior citizens club at the community center
- Renovating 48 Natoma Street to be used for senior programming
- Elevating interest in Pickle Ball at the Folsom Sports Complex

Children's Activities:

- Development of extensive summer programs including Vacation Zone and numerous specialty camps (fine arts, photo, Legos, science, soccer, basketball, etc.)
- Development of a variety of special interest classes serving 3-17 year olds in dance, art, science, babysitting and more.
- Development of the Fun Factory preschool year round and summer programs and added a second location in 2006.

Cultural Programs:

- Creating the Folsom Arts and Cultural Committee, which was elevated to a Commission in 2000, to advise the City Council on art related matters and to promote art opportunities in the community.
- Creating the Cultural Arts Grants program to foster art opportunities in the community and has awarded over \$100,000 to arts and educational institutions since 1996 (currently unavailable)
- Completing the remodel of 48 Natoma Street for provision of Arts Services to the community – two arts classrooms and a fine arts gallery
- Creating a new Community and Cultural Services Division of the Parks and Recreation Department in FY04/05 in response to the City Council's desire to enhance services in two underserved areas: arts and senior services.
- Creating a new manager position In FY04/05 to help direct attention to the arts and senior services areas.
- Creating a new senior program coordinator position was created to concentrate on arts services.
- Offering a variety of performing arts classes.
- Supporting a number of arts and cultural events in the community including:
- Participation in and/or support of community activities such as Yesterfest, CelebraTRAIN, Hunt for History, the Second Saturday Art Walk program, the annual Gourd Festival and Folsom Focus photography contest, Family Night Out Entertainment Series, City Hall art exhibits, "Get Wired" and "Feast of Clay" High School Art Exhibitions.
- Administration of public art installations such as the Veteran's Memorial, Rock n' River and the Johnny Cash Trail Art Expedience.
- Public art advocacy resulting in several installations such as at Palladio.

Needs Assessment Sports Findings:

The needs of the sports programs have continued to increase with the City's build-out and population growth.

An analysis of the growth in participation and interest for the various youth sports follows in Chart No. 2:

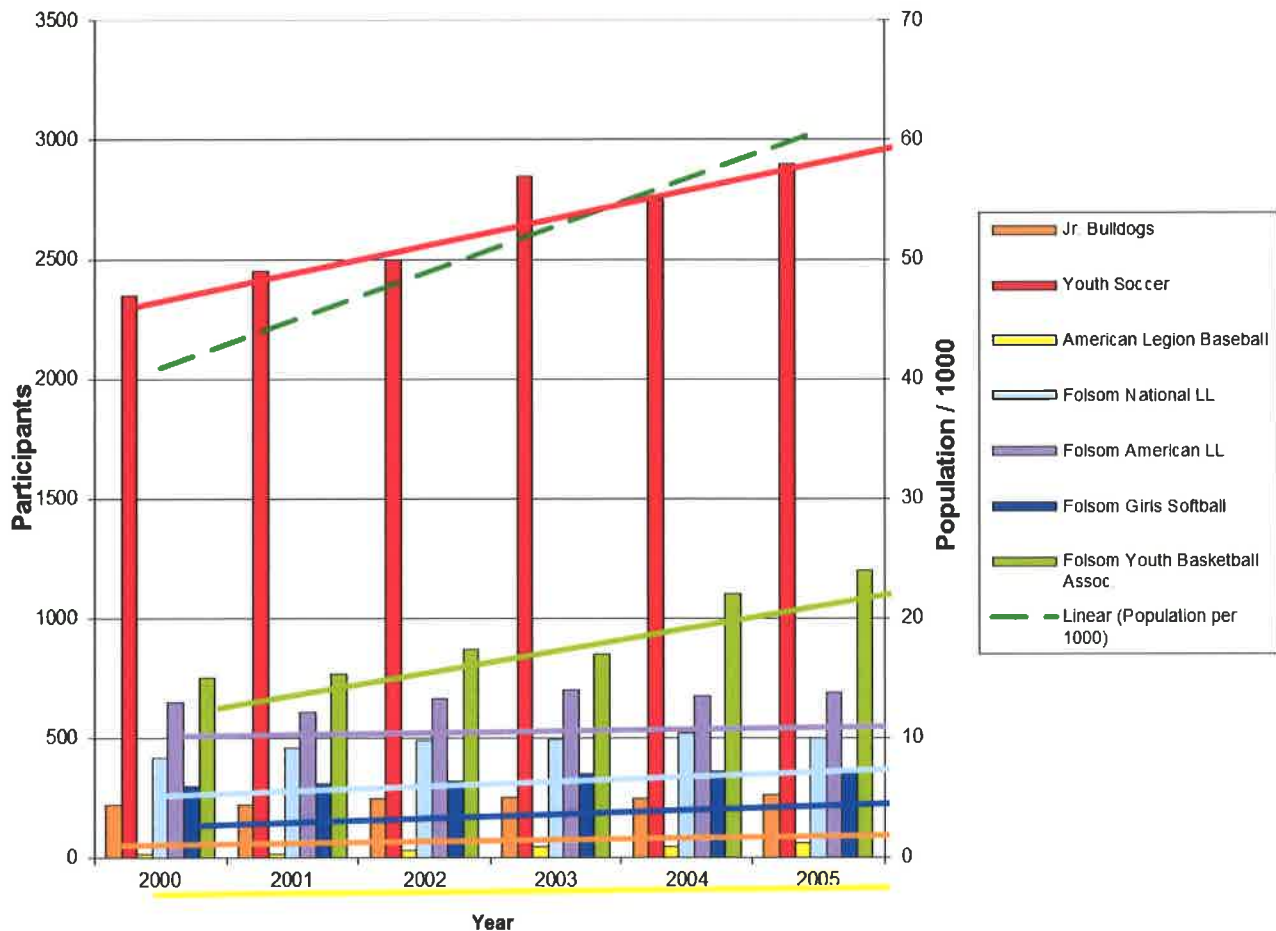


Chart No. 2

As illustrated by Chart No. 2, youth sports have grown along with the population. However, only soccer has grown in a direct proportion to the population increase. The reason behind this is not known.

It may be due to soccer being a more international sport while baseball, softball, and American football are more closely associated with the United States. With California's ethnically diverse population and historic immigration of residents, soccer may be the more "comfortable" sport. Soccer can be played across the world with as little as a ball. In poorer countries the "ball" may not even be a traditional ball, as we know it. Baseball and football require significantly more pieces of equipment to play the sports.

An analysis of the growth in participation and interest for the various adult sports follows in Chart No. 3:

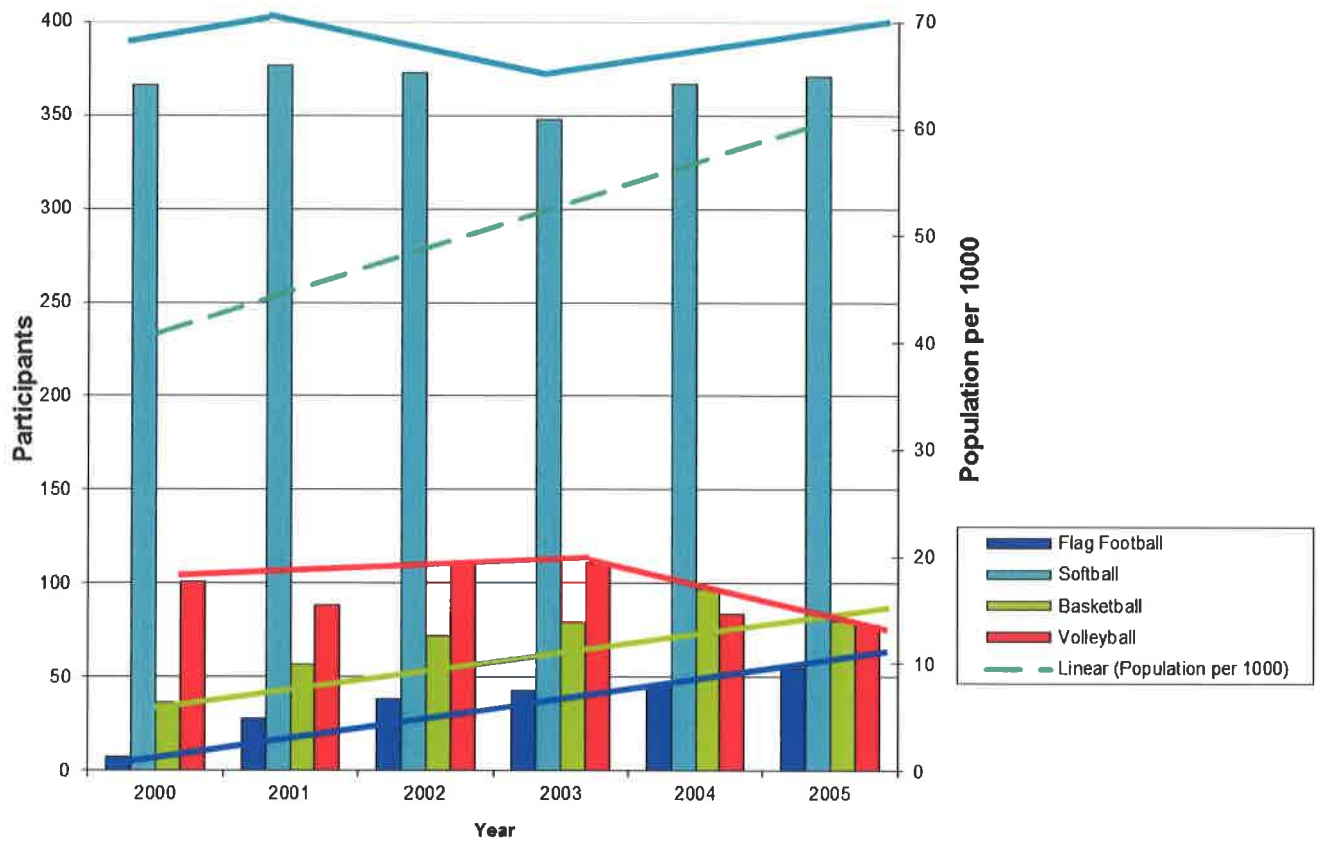


Chart No. 3

Sports Facilities Analysis:

The Parks and Recreation Department, in coordination and teamwork with the youth sports groups, has endeavored to provide high quality facilities to meet the practice and playing venue demands from a mix of sports. Table 6 illustrates the existing facilities being programmed and provided for recognized league use. It also identifies the projected build-out need based on the current ratio of facilities being provided.

Facility	Exist. No.	Ratio (Pop. Per facility)	Current Need		Build-out Need
			Met	Un-Met	(Based on 3,500 additional Pop.)
Little League ¹	12	4,923	X	-	1
Sr. LL ²	1	64,000	X	-	-
Youth Softball ³	6	8,000	X	-	1
Adult Baseball ⁴	2	33,302	X	X	1
Adult Softball	5	13,321	X	-	-
Youth Soccer (U10-)	13	5,123	X	-	1
Adult Soccer (U12+) ⁵	12	5,550		X	2
Youth Football ⁶	1	66,605		X	1
Outdoor Basketball	16	4,162	X	-	2
Tennis	19	3,505	-	X	2
Volleyball	11	6,055	-	X	1

Table 6

1. 3 LL fields are lighted and are counted as 2 fields.
2. Nisenan Community Park has a 90' base path field.
3. Includes 2 lighted fields counted as 2 fields each.
4. 2 fields w/ 1 lighted which is counted as 2 fields.
5. Kemp lighted soccer fields are counted as four fields. Livermore synthetic field counted as 2.
6. Vista del Lago Jr. Eagles share Livermore Community Park football field.

It is an increasingly challenging task to balance the unfilled active sports needs placed on the remaining undeveloped parkland with available development funding and increasing operations and maintenance (O & M) expenses. The City's Joint Use Agreement with the Folsom Cordova Unified School District FCUSD will continue to play a critical role in meeting the demand for sports fields. The increasing use and demand for adult soccer, baseball, and softball programs as well as steady demand by the youth sports organizations will require the efficient use of all facilities available.

These may consist of FCUSD fields which are currently not utilized due to poor conditions (Facilities not currently utilized due to condition, maintenance, and/or scheduling priorities). It is through the development of individual recreation facilities that the Parks and Recreation Department is able to provide to the community the venues in which to recreate and participate in programs.

Park Facilities:

This master plan analysis considered the remaining park development programming, recreational "Needs" of the community based on historic use and current trends, as well as balancing the remaining park development with projected impact fee and parkland in-lieu fee collections together with reasonable and conservative estimates for community, grant and partnership based park development.

The estimated programming cost for the identified park elements directly correlates with the park development costs identified for the Folsom Plan Area (FPA). The FPA park costs were reviewed and approved by the city, FPA landowners, and development

representatives. Those costs are recognized as being necessary for providing the same quality of Folsom parks in the FPA as currently exist. The remaining undeveloped parks in the current parks system will also require development to the existing standards.

To provide the detailed results of the park facilities analysis and review information the Parks and Recreation Master Plan – 2015 Plan Update is presented broken into:

1. Unbuilt Parks / Parks with Incomplete Master Planned Program Development
2. Developed Parks
3. Folsom Plan Area (FPA) – Approved Park Sites and Programming
4. Estimated Development Costs for Unbuilt and Remaining Phase of Existing Parks
5. Folsom Plan Area Estimated Park Development Costs

This information is attached as Exhibits B through F.

Appendix B exhibits illustrates site by site the programming recommendations for each unbuilt park and remaining phases of existing parks within the park system. Each site is accompanied by the estimated development cost for build-out.

Appendix C includes descriptions and exhibits for existing developed park site program elements.

Appendix D includes the locations of approved park sites and programming planned for the Folsom Planning Area (FPA).

Appendix E provides summary tables for the estimated development costs associated with build-out of the existing park system.

Appendix F provides summary tables for the estimated development costs associated with development of parks in the Folsom Plan Area.

