

City of Vacaville

RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

MAY 17, 2013





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PREPARED FOR

**THE CITY OF VACAVILLE
COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

BY

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Executive Summary

Introduction

The City of Vacaville Community Services Department plays a vital role in shaping the quality of community life by providing recreation and leisure opportunities that contribute to the physical, mental, social and environmental health of the City and its residents. The Department provides a wide array of programs for all ages, numerous community events, organized sports leagues, programs and outlets for performing arts, and a variety of public facilities. The Community Services Department is responsible for developing short-term and long-term plans and strategies that build upon existing recreation facilities and services, provide an equitable balance of recreational resources, and adapt to future recreation needs.

To assist in this planning effort, the City commissioned The Sports Management Group to conduct a Recreation Needs Assessment. The Needs Assessment identified current and future recreational needs and interests; identified the gaps in programs, services, and facilities; and developed short-term, mid-term, and long-term recommendations that address deficiencies and service delivery. The Needs Assessment will also serve as the foundation for other long-range planning activities.

Study Approach

The Needs Assessment used quantitative and qualitative needs identification tools to assess current and future demand. The quantitative analysis included:

- An analysis of forecast populations and demographic trends for the residents of the City of Vacaville
- A random, statistically projectable, telephone survey
- An inventory of existing and planned recreation facilities and programs in the City. The facilities inventory included City and commercial facilities

Qualitative assessment included:

- Public workshop
- A “Virtual Town Hall” where 306 residents participated in an online survey to express their views and opinions
- Interviews with staff regarding their perceptions of the quantity and quality of city recreation facilities, user interest and demand, unmet demand, short-term and long-term needs
- Review of previous studies and reports, class participation data, budget reports, physical observations, and stakeholder interviews



Demographic Analysis

Demographic analysis identifies the population characteristics that shape demand for services, programs, parks, and facilities.

It is also an effective tool in providing a community profile and making conclusions about recreation participation or interests as they vary based on age, income, education, and race/ethnicity. The following summarizes the changing community profile and the implications for parks and recreation facilities and services.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Three distinct population segments will influence programming for Community Services now and in the future, children and youth, Baby Boomers, and a growing Hispanic/Latino population. Pre-school children, ages 0 to 5 years, comprise 6.4% (5,837) of the total population of Vacaville. School age youth from 5-17 years comprise 12.7% (11,690) of the population. Combined, children and youth make-up roughly 19.3% of population. This large group drives demand for pre-school, after-school and summer camp programs; youth sport programs, and teen programs. There will be continued demand for programming that targets these young and teen age groups. This group typically relies on community recreation for their leisure services.

There will be a significant increase in the population of residents aged 55 and older. The younger senior (55-64) age group will nearly double in size, from 6.9% to 12.5% , between 2000 and 2016. Those aged 65 and older are projected to increase from 8.3% to 12.7% over the same time period. This marked increase is a result of the Baby Boomer population aging in place. The projected increase in this population creates a demand for increased services and programming to keep this age group active and engaged.

Vacaville will also become increasingly culturally diverse with the Hispanic/Latino population expected to comprise 25% of the residents in 2030. Awareness of cultural differences in the approach to leisure activities, interests, and park use is important to serving the needs and engaging diverse populations as reflected in the Spanish immersion preschool program.

The Demographic and Trends Analysis section of this report provides a full analysis of the community composition and a description of how local demographics impact the City's program and facility needs.

Trends

State and national social, economic, and environmental trends will continue to have an impact on the demand and the delivery of recreation services in the City of Vacaville. Trend analysis is one forecasting tool applied to assist in determining the societal interest and potential use of amenities and services for recreation and leisure pursuits. The Sports Management Group analyzed the trends impacting Vacaville, the level of awareness and response from Community Services, and provided recommendations for addressing trends.

The most significant trends are:

- Baby Boomers
- Sandwich Generation
- Pandemic of childhood obesity
- Program sustainability and the fiscal strains
- Multi-generational facility development and simultaneous age appropriate programming
- Environmental sensitivity in design, operations, and materials



The population of Vacaville is expected to reach 129,200¹ by the year 2030 according to Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). Trends analysis provides useful planning data to anticipate the preferences and needs of the growing population. A significant challenge facing the City and the Community Services Department is funding for the services and facilities needed for this growing population.

TRENDS IMPACTING PARK AND RECREATION

Sandwich Generation

Many of today's boomers are part of the "sandwich generation." Approximately 1 in 8 are raising a child and providing financial assistance to parents. 44% of Americans between the ages of 45 and 55 have an aging parent(s) and children under the age of 21.

The impact on recreation has been the increased interest in programs and facilities that are designed to serve the needs and interests of children, adults, and older adults at a single location and often, simultaneously. The "multi-generational" needs of these extended families may be served through careful planning of facility amenities and programming. Simultaneous age appropriate programming and event planning with a broader age group focus will better serve these families.

Childhood Obesity

The pandemic of childhood obesity is a health crisis that requires the action of parents, schools and the City. According to the California Center for Public Health Advocacy, 36.3% of Vacaville's children are overweight or obese. Community Services offers physically active programs for youth and teens but currently cannot meet the demand due to facility deficiencies.

Studies indicate that children and adolescents are more likely to become physically active and fit if they have a wide range of accessible, safe, and affordable recreation opportunities. The need to address childhood obesity and healthy children initiatives will continue to be an important element of the service delivery of the Vacaville Community Services Department.

Environmental Design

Parks and recreation departments have a long history of stewardship of the environment. The trend towards environmental sensitivity in design, operations, and materials, known by the acronym of LEED - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, can be a benefit to the Vacaville Community Services Department. Green building components can be included in almost any facility or park and they can have a significant impact on the cost to operate the facility. Environmental sensitivity in design may be accomplished by reclaiming land, preserving open space, acknowledging environmental principles, recycling water, conserving resources and using environmentally friendly "green" materials.

Cultural Diversity

As Vacaville becomes more culturally diverse, the Community Services Department will need to respond to cultural interests and traditions. For example, Hispanic populations tend to value leisure, and within leisure, casual and informal gatherings of friends and family is the preferred activity. This creates a need for a variety of facilities, both parks and indoor facilities, for social gathering to serve this group. The impact of other trends is discussed in the Demographics and Trends Analysis section of the report. The Community Services Department is proactive in tracking trends and the impact on current and future service delivery, programs, and facilities.

¹ This population number includes the prison population. The prison population in 2013 is reported at 7,989.



Community Input Process

A successful planning process must incorporate community input to assess the community's preferences and interests and ultimately the need for park and recreation facilities and programs. The community input process included a statistical public opinion survey, an online survey or "virtual town hall", a public workshop, and stakeholder interviews.

PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

The Sports Management Group commissioned Strategic Research Associates to conduct a telephone survey of Vacaville residents aged 18 and older. The statistically valid survey had a margin of error of + or - 4.9% (95% confidence) when projecting the findings to the broader Vacaville community.

The survey took place between November 30, 2011 and December 9, 2011. The phone survey was conducted through a random digit dialing of 410 participants.

The primary objectives of the survey were to:

1. Determine the current use of Vacaville park and recreation facilities
2. Measure perceptions about Vacaville's park and recreation system, including facilities and programs
3. Assess the degree of support for additional funding of park system upgrades
4. Gauge perceptions and preferences about Vacaville's recreation activities
5. Measure voter reactions to potential tax extension proposals
6. Identify any differences related to respondent background characteristics

The survey's findings indicate a strong level of support and favorable perception of Vacaville's recreation services. Overall, residents were satisfied with the quality, maintenance, and safety of Vacaville's park and recreation amenities, as well as the amount of land given to Vacaville parks. A majority (81%) of respondents were also aware of Community Services Department offerings and services through its Events Guide. Seven in ten (69%) reported having recently visited a Vacaville public park other than Lagoon Valley or Centennial Parks and, among parents or guardians of children aged 17 and younger, 65% reported that at least one child had participated in a Community Services Department program, activity, or event over the previous 12 months.

More importantly, a high percentage of respondents indicated support for funding upgrades to the parks and recreation system, including funding to parks and recreation programs. Those participating in the survey also indicated a high degree of support to fund access to more natural open-space for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and other activities, and to expand and improve the city's bikeway system (60% or more favored each). Five options - to provide space for community gardens; to add more gym space for basketball, volleyball, dance, and fitness; to provide more fenced dog parks; to build a new multi-use recreation center large enough to host indoor sports tournaments; and to build another pool or aquatic center - also had high levels of support (between 46-50% of reported favoring each).

In general, hiking, biking and jogging trails emerged as a popular and top-ranking feature of the Vacaville parks and recreation system, followed by picnic areas and sports fields. Improvements related to these features were also a top choice among respondents. Half of respondents (51%) had used the city's hiking, biking, and jogging trails; 46% , a city-operated community center, and 43% , Lagoon Valley Park.



Fewer (between 25% and 35%) had visited a city group picnic area, a city baseball or softball field, a city soccer field, or Centennial Park. When respondents were asked to identify, unaided, their favorite Vacaville area recreational activity, the most-mentioned responses were for the use of walking trails, Lagoon Valley Park, activities in various city parks, baseball or softball, soccer, hiking, and the use of biking trails.

In regards to Measure I, of the residents surveyed, 58% favored a tax extension to maintain funding for existing community parks and related facilities and services. This information was one of several deciding factors in placing the proposed extension of Measure I on the November 6, 2012 ballot. Measure I passed with an overwhelming 80% voter support. Measure I continues the city's existing excise tax for an additional twenty-five years without increasing current tax rates and with all funds staying locally with the City of Vacaville. The funding continues for essential City services, such as libraries, street/park maintenance, public safety, Performing Arts Center, and local programs as residents recognize the need to provide funds for a healthier and vibrant community.

The full survey results are reported in the "Community Input" section of this document.

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

Strategic Research Associates also conducted an online survey; the City of Vacaville posted the survey on its website and invited community residents to complete it. The survey contained the same 65 questions as the phone survey and an ad campaign was launched to promote community participation. Residents were encouraged to help guide the City's decisions regarding the future of parks, recreation, and community services by voicing their opinion through the online survey. A total of 306 surveys were tabulated.

The online data is not weighted. Online respondents selected themselves for participation rather than being randomly chosen. Online respondents were much more likely than those in the telephone sample to be frequent park users, female, middle-aged (aged 35 to 54), a parent or guardian of at least one child living in Vacaville, and relatively affluent.

Online Survey Findings

Online survey respondents tended to use parks and services more frequently and broadly than phone survey participants. Ninety-five percent (95%) were aware of the Community Services Department's Events Guide, and over sixty percent had participated in a city event, program, or activity. Eighty-five percent (85%) of online respondents reported having recently visited a Vacaville public park other than Lagoon Valley or Centennial Parks. Three-quarters (75%) had used the city's hiking, biking, and jogging trails; 73% , Lagoon Valley Park; and 68% , a city-operated community center.

When online respondents were asked to identify, unaided, their favorite Vacaville area recreational activity, twenty-one percent (21%) cited baseball or softball; 20% , using the walking trails; 14% , soccer; 13% , swimming or pool activities; 11% , using cycling or biking trails; 11% , hiking; and 10% , using Lagoon Valley Park. Of online respondents, 18% wanted to have access to more baseball and softball fields. Online percentages were at least ten percentage points higher than those in the telephone survey for better/more baseball and softball fields, more soccer fields, and aquatics facilities. They were between four and five points higher for adding trails, adding natural open space, more safety and security, and tennis or pickleball.



Sixty percent (60%) or more of the surveyed respondents were enthusiastic about providing access to more natural open space for hiking biking, horseback riding and other open-space activities, and expanding and improving the city’s bikeway system. Three other options - to add more gym space for basketball, volleyball, dance, and fitness, to build a new multi-use recreation center large enough to host indoor sports tournaments, to provide space for community gardens - received very favorable ratings of 46-50% from respondents.

As frequent park and recreation system users, online respondents produced higher rating averages than their telephone survey counterparts to support measures for funding. Online consistent voters were 1.3 times more likely than those in the telephone survey to support the extension of Measure I, and about half as likely to report that they “oppose.”

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

A Needs Assessment Community Workshop was held in June 2012 at the McBride Senior Center. The purpose of the workshop was to seek additional public input regarding recreation and park needs of the community and their vision for Parks, Recreation and Community services in the future. The public was invited using flyers, city bus billboard ads, newspaper ads, emails, radio public service announcement, and posted on the City website. There were approximately 30 attendees.

This interactive workshop was designed to gather individual responses to a series of questions in addition to small group consensus responses from the attendees. The individual responses reflected the survey results with high satisfaction with the recreation services, and support to continue the current level of service. The need for more trails (biking, hiking, walking) was expressed, as was the desire for more outdoor spaces, and a gymnasium for youth sports.

Availability of gym space and resources are restricted to the extent that adult sports are only accommodated on a very limited basis, resulting in inadequate program development or provision.

The group responses also reflected the survey results demonstrating the desire for indoor basketball / volleyball courts, trails, and increased restrooms available along trails. Funding awareness and support to maintain the desired level of services was high. The community is engaged, active, appreciates the outdoors and is willing to fund the level of service the parks and the Community Services Department provides.

INDOOR SPORTS STAKEHOLDERS

Seven sports organizations and the City responded to a questionnaire regarding their need for access to indoor courts. Respondents represented:

- One youth basketball league serving 400+ participants
- Two in-line hockey leagues serving 600+ participants
- One youth volleyball club serving 70+ participants
- Two youth cheerleading clubs serving 140+ participants
- 1 youth soccer league serving 2,500 participants
- City sponsored sports programs serving 4,000 participants with basketball, the largest participating program

All non-city sports groups are using school facilities (middle schools, high schools, private schools) for practices, weekend games, and local tournaments. The City does not currently use school facilities for their sport programs as their availability and affordability is limited.



All respondents indicated they would be interested in training or competing in a sports facility and preferably, at the same rates they currently pay. The sports groups and the City reported that they limit their number of participants due to the lack of indoor courts for practice and games. Consistent availability of court space is a challenge to these user groups.

Program Assessment

The Sports Management Group performed an analysis of the programs and services offered through the Community Services Department to identify service gaps and make recommendations. This was accomplished through:

- Analysis of program registrations, waitlists, cancellations, and filled classes
- Review of the Events Guide
- Staff interviews
- Facility tour

Overall, the Community Services Department provides a comprehensive menu of programs. Offerings are current and trendy, align with statewide program principles, respond to participant evaluations, and are benchmarked against similar cities programs. Many of its programs have strong levels of enrollment, indicating popularity.

Program expansion and optimization is inhibited; however, by certain factors, including scheduling and lack of adequate space. For example, the Department reported high participation in their youth and adult basketball leagues and adult volleyball leagues. League offerings are limited, especially in volleyball, by court availability. A variety of group exercise and fitness programs cannot expand, or the opportunity to provide new offerings is limited, due to the lack of court or wood floor studio space.

2011 program enrollment information was analyzed to determine classes that are either at-capacity (90% enrollment or higher) or beyond their full limit (waitlisted). Youth classes with high enrollment and/or long wait lists include swim instruction, summer camps, PAL classes, and teen events. For adults, Jazzercise has very high enrollment and, for seniors, Yoga Therapy draws regular, high levels of enrollment. Overall, enrichment activities and youth sports draw the highest enrollment. Summer programming draws high levels of waitlist and at-capacity registrants; the demand for summer activity (primarily youth) options is evident, and suggests that families seek pastime options for their children while schools are closed.

Based on findings, it is suggested to optimize already high-performing offerings by expanding class size limits or offering more sessions/times in popular areas, particularly during the summer season. It is also important to remove inhibitors of growth and quality of these programs, such as inadequate court and field quality and availability, and scheduling influences.

Economic pressures necessitate that community services departments operate in terms of sustainability, competitiveness in the marketplace, and by incorporating entrepreneurial business practices in their operational planning. The City of Vacaville and the Community Services Department objective is to be deliberate and sufficient in meeting operational costs of public space and to collect sufficient fees to support new programs and facility operations. The Department budget policy must support community priorities by establishing a priority system based on core services.

Cost recovery objectives should be reviewed in the context of affordability, community benefit, and inclusion.



Facility & Park Standards

The City of Vacaville adopted park and recreation facility standards as part of the 1992 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. The 1992 Master Plan included goals and policies to ensure adequate parks and recreation facilities are available to the community now and with future growth.

The Sports Management Group reviewed the standards, assessed deficiencies, and developed recommendations for updating the standards. The facility standards are identified on the table that follows, along with the current and projected facility deficiencies. A complete discussion of the

deficiencies and recommendations is located in the “Facility & Park Standards” section of the report.

The General Plan identifies a citywide standard service level for parkland area of 4.5 acres per thousand residents. In September 2010, the City issued an Existing Conditions Technical Memorandum update to the park standards in association with the City’s current effort to update the General Plan.

The City has 260 acres of developed parkland comprising 111.1 acres of neighborhood parks, 113.2 acres of community parks, and 35.7 acres of city parks. The City owns 265 acres of land that are designated as City Park, of which only 35.7 acres have been developed.

Figure 1.1 - Existing Deficiencies Compared to Approved Facility Standards (Based on Existing City Standards)

FACILITY	FACILITY STANDARD RESIDENTS SERVED*	EXISTING FACILITIES (2012)	ESTIMATED FACILITY NEED BASED ON 2011 POPULATION*	CURRENT # DEFICIENT FACILITIES	ESTIMATED FACILITY NEED BASED ON 2030 POPULATION**	FACILITIES NEEDED FOR 2030 BASED ON 2012 EXISTING
Community Centers	32,000	2	2.6	.6	3.8	1.8
Senior Centers	64,000	1	1.3	.3	1.75	.75
Neighborhood Centers	13,000	11	6.4	0	8.6	0
Gymnasiums	32,000	1.3	2.6	1.6	3.5	2.2
Pools	32,000	3.15	2.6	0	3.5	.35
Baseball/Softball Fields	2,750	55	30.5	0	40.8	0
Football/Soccer Fields	4,000	18	20.9	2.9	28.05	10.5
Basketball Courts	5,000	15.5	16.7	1.2	22.4	6.9
Tennis Courts	5,000	17	16.7	.3	22.4	5.4
Volleyball Courts	10,000	2	8.4	6.4	11.2	9.2

*Population estimate for 2011 is 91,762. The 2010 Census reported an institutionalized population of 7,989 for the City of Vacaville. For the purpose of this study, the non-institutionalized population total of 83,773 was used for the above calculations.

**2030 population estimate for Vacaville 129,200 according to the Association of Bay Area Governments. The 2010 Census reported an institutionalized population of 7,989 for the City of Vacaville. For the purpose of this study, the 2030 projection total was used, not including the 2010 reported institutionalized population, for a total of 121,211.



Based on the estimated current population of 83,240 the overall provision of developed parkland is 3.1 acres per 1,000 residents or 1.4 acres per 1,000 below the City’s standard. There are deficiencies in achieving two of the existing park standards: 0.5 neighborhood park acres and 0.3 city park acres per 1,000 residents. Without developing new parks, the deficiencies are exacerbated as the population grows to the projected 2030 population of 121,211. There is a current deficit of 115 park acres; if the allotted park acreage remains unchanged, the city will be deficient 285 acres in 2030.

The park standards are identified in Figure 1.2, along with current and projected acreage needs.

Facilities Inventory

To assess the capacity of the park and recreation system to serve the recreation demand, a facilities inventory was completed. This included both City-owned facilities and local commercial facilities.

The evaluation of the City facilities included assessment of the capacity to meet the intended purpose, an assessment of the program offerings, and conclusions and/or recommendations.

The facilities are:

- Three Oaks Community Center
- Walter V. Graham Aquatic Center
- Georgie Duke Sports Center
- John A. McBride Senior Center
- Ulatis Community Center
- Performing Arts Center
- Vacaville Recreation Center

Additional program sites:

- Neighborhood Centers (TGIF and Prime Time programs sites)
- Peña Adobe Park
- Buildings at Jepson and Vaca-Peña Middle schools

The full list of recommendations for City parks, facilities, and programs are provided at the end of the Executive Summary. The complete discussion of the facilities and programs is found in the “Facilities Inventory” and “Program Assessment” sections and of this report.

Figure 1.2 - Parkland Service Levels

PARK	SIZE	PARK STANDARD	EXISTING PARK ACREAGE (2012)*	ESTIMATED PARK ACREAGE NEED BASED ON EXISTING POPULATION	ESTIMATED PARK ACREAGE NEED BASED ON 2030 POPULATION
Neighborhood Park	6-9 acres	1.8acres/1000	111.1	150	218
Community Park*	10-40 acres	1.7acres/1000	113.2	142	206
City Park*	100+ acres	1.0acres/1000	35.7	83	121
Total		4.5/1000	260	375	545

* The only City Park is Centennial Park at 35.7 developed acres. Figures based on 2011 projected total population of 83,240.



COMMERCIAL SERVICE PROVIDER INVENTORY

Public, private, and commercial providers appeal to different segments of the recreation market and each serve a role in the delivery of leisure services to the community. When assessing demand and the capacity of the market to serve that demand, commercial service providers must be included in the inventory. The City of Vacaville has a diverse inventory of service providers ranging from small, specialized studios for dance to large sports centers for ice skating, indoor soccer and golf. Commercial and private providers supplement the City's offerings and often provide services that the City cannot afford to provide or are specialized and better served by the commercial sector. Vacaville has a number of commercial health clubs, offering a range of pricing and services and the citizens rely on these commercial health clubs to meet the public's need for working out with fitness equipment.

The Facilities section of this report provides a listing and map illustrating the location of the commercial service providers. The detailed inventory of the commercial service providers is found in the Appendix.

Recommendations

The City has developed a quality park and recreation system and established park and facility standards as identified in the current General Plan. There are existing deficiencies in meeting the facility standards, specifically gymnasium with indoor sport courts and outdoor football/soccer fields. There are several facility standards that do not reflect the resident's desires and are recommended for change. If the Community Services Department is to fulfill its role and commitment to the community, now and in the future, the City must address the deficiencies in the current facility inventory as defined by the approved facility standards.

Facility deficiencies are reflected in programs and service delivery, and are attributable to: (1) aging infrastructure, (2) inadequate space for current use, and (3) insufficient inventory to meet the demands. In order to fulfill the City's commitment to maintain a small town feel, family-oriented community while providing quality leisure experiences, several issues must be addressed:

- The provision of adequate facilities to meet current demand and a plan for serving future needs
- The provision of sustainable operational funding for staffing and maintenance
- Adequate funding for future enhancements and development

Identification of service gaps in programs, services, and facilities assists the City in effectively addressing current deficiencies and planning for future needs. The provision of adequate facilities, indoor and outdoor, is necessary to maintain the level of core services and provide quality leisure experiences. Operational sustainability is also required to maintain these core services and corresponding facilities. Adequate funding for operations is necessary to maintain facilities and enhance the user experience, user safety, and instills civic pride that is associated with well maintained and high quality public parks and facilities. To this end, staffing levels should be maintained to provide quality programs, classes, events, rentals, and customer service at a level of service expected by the Vacaville Community.

Funding

Funding for public projects and on-going maintenance is very difficult to secure in the current economic environment. No single financing source is likely to provide all of the resources required to construct the facilities identified in the Needs Assessment.



The capital costs to capture some of the existing deficiency of public facilities and parks will most likely require funding from a variety of sources including some form of voter-approved or landowner-approved initiative such as a bond or tax assessment. Although the current economic conditions are not conducive for voter-approved financing, this is a good time to develop a funding strategy, select a preferred mechanism(s), and begin the planning process.

The City's intent to have new development pay for additional public facilities and parks in support of the influx of residents is a common funding strategy. However, the City's current policies do not capture adequate capital funding to build the required facilities as City standards dictate. Adjustments are required in current funding policies to facilitate adequate funding resources to maintain standards as well as new public development. Funding for capital development will require a strategy and flexibility to respond to opportunities. Several funding recommendations will require a change in policy such as establishing a Quimby Ordinance, initiating a ballot measure for a citywide Lighting and Landscaping Maintenance Assessment District, and adjusting Park and Recreation Development Impact fees. The Funding Strategies section of the Needs Assessment provides a detailed description of each of the funding mechanisms.

Recommendations of the Needs Assessment

The purpose of the Needs Assessment Study is to identify current and future recreational needs and interests; identify gaps in programs, services, and facilities; and develop recommendations to address the deficiencies and system improvements.

Proposed strategies and actions are included in this assessment; however, implementation of an action plan will require a detailed master and strategic planning process. This is the next step once the Needs Assessment is approved.

Next steps include: 1) establishing a plan for directing financial resources to priority projects through a policy change on fund allocation, 2) establishing project priority through community input, 3) developing a general time line framework, and 4) beginning the master planning. A detailed list of recommendations are provided on page 57.



Introduction

Study Objectives

The City of Vacaville Community Services Department plays a vital role in shaping the quality of community life by providing recreation and leisure opportunities that contribute to the physical, mental, social and environmental health of the City and its residents. It is the role of the Community Services Department to develop short-term and long-term recommendations and strategies that build upon existing recreation facilities and services, provide a balance of recreational resources with facilities and parks, and plan and adapt to future recreation needs.

“The Vacaville Community Services Department offers a diverse selection of activities to make your life more active, healthy and fun. This includes our local parks, performing arts theatre, state-of-the-art aquatic center, bike trails, and community recreational programs and activities! We are committed to establishing and maintaining facilities, parks and services that enhance the quality of life for our community.”

Source: City of Vacaville website

To assist in this planning effort, the City commissioned The Sports Management Group to conduct a Recreation Needs Assessment. The Needs Assessment identifies current and future recreational needs and interests; identifies the gaps in programs, services, and facilities; and develops short-term, mid-term, and long-term recommendations.

The City’s Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, adopted in 1992, has guided the development of parks, recreation, and open space over the past twenty years. Many of the Master Plan recommendations have been accomplished. This needs assessment updates existing conditions and Facility Standards, and includes policy recommendations and goals to assist the City in meeting the community vision for the provision of leisure services.

Study Approach

To assess the community’s recreational needs and interests, the study utilized two methods of analysis. The first is quantitative analysis, which offers the greatest statistical reliability and provides data that is projectable to the entire population of the City of Vacaville. Quantitative strategies include:

- An analysis of historical and forecasted populations and demographic trends for the residents of the City of Vacaville. This data was used to develop a community profile.



- A random, statistically projectable, telephone survey of Vacaville residents.
- An inventory of existing City recreation facilities and programs in addition to commercial facilities located in Vacaville.

Qualitative analysis is the second method of research conducted for this study. Qualitative analysis utilizes information based on perception, deduction from research, public input, and observations to make broader assumptions. This included:

- A Public Workshop, which invited the participation of Vacaville residents. Community members were encouraged to voice their opinions on questions relating to the future of parks, recreation, and community services in Vacaville.
- A “Virtual Town Hall” where 306 residents self-selected to participate in an online survey to express their views and opinions.
- Interviews with City staff regarding their perceptions on the quantity and quality of city recreation facilities, user interest and demand, unmet demand, as well as short-term and long-term program and facility needs.
- Interviews with Stakeholder Groups
- Stakeholder Groups survey

Using the quantitative and qualitative data collected for the needs assessment, The Sports Management Group identified gaps in programs, services, and facilities, and developed options to address the deficiencies. Community outreach was an important component of the study, as the recommendations that evolved are an expression of the community’s desires for recreation in the City of Vacaville.



Demographics & Trends

Geographic Setting

The City of Vacaville is located in northern Solano County, nearly halfway between Sacramento and San Francisco. It encompasses a total land area of 27 square miles containing rich farmland, bordered by rolling hills. During the last few decades, Vacaville has transformed from a primarily agricultural town into a progressive mid-sized city, making it the third largest city in the County, with a population of 91,700. The City of Vacaville takes pride in being “a mid-size city with a small town feel” that is family-friendly and community-focused. Affordable housing, quality schools, vibrant parks and recreation system, a low crime rate, and well-educated citizens make the City attractive to employers. Corporations including Genentech, Alza Corporation (parent company Johnson & Johnson), Novartis, State Compensation Insurance Fund, Mariani Packing Co., and Kaiser Permanente have located in Vacaville.

Vacaville’s central location provides many leisure opportunities. Within a reasonable driving distance is access to coastal beaches, vacation destinations such as Napa Valley, and the major metropolitan areas of San Francisco and Sacramento. Residents, however, do not need to leave the city to recreate. There are a variety of leisure opportunities that include a large retail center, the Vacaville Performing Arts Theater, a swim center, parks, trails and open space, the downtown Creekwalk Plaza with its summertime concert series, venues for movies, and ice-skating, to name a few of the options.



Demographic Analysis

Demographic analysis identifies population characteristics that shape demands on services, programs, parks, and facilities. Recreation participation and interests vary depending on demographic characteristics such as age, income, education, and race/ethnicity. Leisure choices are also influenced by weather, availability of natural resources, and personal preferences of the user. Developing a community demographic profile provides the foundation for making conclusions and forecasting projections based on this information. This type of analysis is also useful for understanding how local demographics are either similar or different from state and national trends. The following section provides an analysis of the community composition and a description of how local demographics impact the City’s program and facility needs.



POPULATION FORECAST

The population of the City of Vacaville has grown only slightly in the last decade, up from 88,625 at the time of the 2000 Census, to a projected 91,762 in 2011-- an increase of 3.5% . * Over the next 25 years, the City's population is expected to grow at a greater rate, as the City approves and develops in-fill projects and residential development. By 2016, the population is expected to reach 95,321 - a 3.9% increase from 2011, and a combined 7.4% increase from 2000. By 2030, the Vacaville population is projected to reach 129,200 -- double the percentage increase of the overall state. ¹

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY

The average length of owner occupied residency is 14 years and the length of renter occupied residency is 7 years. Vacaville's length of residency is in line with the state of California, with owner occupied residency at 16 years and renter occupied residency at 8 years. This suggests that the community is rooted and vested in their hometown and hold an appreciation for their surroundings.

AGE DISTRIBUTION

A profile of the population's age breakdown provides important information that impacts programming and facility development planning, as age groups have differing needs, desires and expectations.

Figure 3.1 - Vacaville Population By Age Groups*

	2000		2011		2016	
Age Groups	88,625		91,762		95,321	
Children	27,211	30.7%	25,111	27.4%	25,289	26.5%
Pre-School (4 & under)	5,891	6.6%	5,837	6.4%	6,160	6.5%
Youth (5-14)	13,907	15.7%	11,690	12.7%	11,933	12.5%
Teens (15-19)	7,413	8.4%	7,584	8.3%	7,196	7.5%
Family Forming Adults	36,061	40.8%	32,364	35.3%	32,734	34.3%
20-24	4,654	5.3%	5,664	6.2%	5,827	6.1%
25-34	14,420	16.3%	13,561	14.8%	14,563	15.3%
35-44	16,987	19.2%	13,139	14.3%	12,344	12.9%
Mature Adults	18,033	20.3%	24,194	26.4%	25,148	26.4%
45-54	11,898	13.4%	13,833	15.1%	13,247	13.9%
55-64	6,135	6.9%	10,361	11.3%	11,901	12.5%
Retirement Age	7,320	8.3%	10,093	11.0%	12,150	12.7%
65 and over	7,320	8.3%	10,093	11.0%	12,150	12.7%
Median Age	33.6		36.2		36.6	

*Demographics and population totals used in this analysis are provided by Nielsen SiteReports and The Association of Bay Area Governments, and include institutionalized population totals. 2010 Census data for the City of Vacaville reports an institutionalized total of 7,989 persons.



The City’s age profile is roughly in-line with the State of California, with adults 20-44 years in age (termed “Family Forming”) making up the largest age group at 35.3% (32,364) of the city’s population, versus 33.9% for the state. Worthy of note it that the 45-54 age group is the largest sub-section of the age group categories, and diverges the most from the state’s profile. That age group makes up 15.1% of the population of Vacaville (13,833), a 1.2% difference from the state, with 13.9% .

Pre-school children, ages 0 to 5 years, comprise 6.4 percent (5,837) of the total population of Vacaville. School age youth from 5-17 years comprise 12.7% (11,690) of the population. Combined children and youth comprise roughly 19.3% of population. This large group drives demand for pre-school, after-school and summer camp programs; youth sport programs, and teen focused programs such as music and pool parties, and social opportunities. There will be continued demand for programming that targets these young and teen age groups. In addition, the greater need for community services and amenities will persist, as this age group, in addition to family-forming segments of the population, typically relies on community recreation for their leisure services.

Although the total population of Vacaville has not experienced rapid growth, there are projected to be shifts in the population as it ages, according to the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). Two subsets, “younger” seniors (ages 55-64 years) and “older” seniors (65 and older) comprise the senior population. Both age groups are close in numbers, with younger seniors comprising 11.3% (10,361) of the population and older seniors comprising 11.0% (10,093), for a combined total of 22.3% (20,454). This combined group comprises a large segment of the population—a segment for which the Community Services Department provides specific programs.

These “younger seniors” are in search of non-sedentary, higher risk activities resulting in a change in programming approaches.

Vacaville has experienced a dramatic increase in the population of residents aged 55 and older since the 2000 census. The younger senior (55-64) age group nearly doubled from 6.9% in 2000 to 11.3% in 2011. It is expected to grow to 12.5% in the next three years. Those aged 65 and older are projected to increase to 12.7% by 2016. This marked increase is a result of the Baby Boomer population aging in place and is a trend expected to continue. The projected increase in this population creates a demand for increased services and programming to keep this age group active and engaged. This growth in the older segment of the population, coupled with more active and engaged aging adults, will account for increased demands on senior programming and activities. Vacaville Community Services Department should plan strategically to address the demands of a larger community segment of active, senior citizens over an increased span of ages.

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

There are currently 29,344 households in Vacaville. Of this number, 41.8% include children under the age of 18, which is 4.1% greater than the state, at 37.7% . In addition, the age group termed “family forming” is projected to become the largest age group in Vacaville’s population. ² These two factors indicate that there will be a continued high level of interest in activities for youth, as well as activities and facilities that serve families. Although the percentage of families living below the poverty line in Vacaville is less than that of the state (6.3% for the city versus 10.1% for the state), 2011 projected data indicates that a greater percentage of these are families with children, compared to the State of California.



Nearly 10% of families with children in the City of Vacaville are living in poverty. In comparison, Vacaville’s poverty level is less than that of the state of California, with an average of 22% of families with children living in poverty. Vacaville residents, especially youth, living in poverty will continue to benefit from subsidized programming offered by the Vacaville Community Services Department (CSD) and scholarship partners.

A strategy that both provides for program scholarships and subsidized fees for specific income levels and includes goals for cost recovery will be important to sustain the inclusion of all community members. The CSD provides several avenues for subsidized programming such as scholarships through Police Athletic League (PAL) and the Parks and Recreation Foundation, as well as reduced fee programs. These practices should be continued, and supported, in their fundraising efforts to provide access to programs for individuals and families who may not be able to afford full fees.

RACE/ETHNICITY

Race and ethnicity play a role in the population’s community service needs and desires. Racial and cultural groups tend to use parks and recreation facilities differently and seek different types of programming. Caucasians make up the largest racial/ethnic group of the city, at 71.7% , although the community also has high percentages of Hispanic/Latino (22.7%), African American (14.2%), and Asian populations (6.5%). Important to note is that these latter percentages are expected to rise within the next five years: the percentage of African Americans is expected to increase to roughly 15% of the population; the Asian population up to 7.2% ; and, the Hispanic/Latino population is expected to comprise roughly 25% of the population of Vacaville. In addition, currently 17.4% of the total population speaks a language other than English at home. These statistics indicate that the population of Vacaville will become increasingly diverse. This diversity presents opportunities to offer a variety of community services programs such as the language immersion preschool that celebrate the varied interests and cultures of its residents.

Figure 3.2 - Vacaville Population By Race/Ethnicity*

RACE / ETHNICITY	2000		2011		2016	
Caucasian	68,241	77.0%	65,793	71.7%	66,248	69.5%
Asian	4,343	4.9%	5,965	6.5%	6,863	7.2%
African-American	10,546	11.9%	13,030	14.2%	14,203	14.9%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pac. Islander	443	0.5%	551	0.6%	572	0.6%
American Indian & Alaska Native	709	0.8%	826	0.9%	953	1.0%
Other Race	177	0.2%	184	0.2%	191	0.2%
Two or More Races	4,077	4.6%	5,414	5.9%	6,291	6.6%
Hispanic	15,864	17.9%	20,830	22.7%	23,926	25.1%
Not Hispanic or Latino	72,761	82.1%	70,932	77.3%	71,395	74.9%

*Demographics and population totals used in this analysis are provided by Nielsen SiteReports and The Association of Bay Area Governments, and include institutionalized population totals. 2010 Census data for the City of Vacaville reports an institutionalized total of 7,989 persons.



INCOME

Per Capita Income and Average Household Income for the City of Vacaville are very similar to those of California (\$27,133 compared to \$26,967, and \$82,575 compared to \$79,806, respectively). Median Household Income in Vacaville is higher than that of the State, at \$69,683 - a difference of roughly \$10,000. In the next five years, income averages are expected to rise.

This indicates that a majority of Vacaville's residents have the ability to pay program fees, which has an impact on cost recovery, subsidy levels, and scholarship thresholds. Vacaville's residents have the ability to contribute to the cost recovery of programs and special events at a subsidized rate.

Children from higher income families are more likely to participate in enrichment programs including before- and after-school programs, summer camps, school extracurricular activities, and sports and recreation classes and leagues. According to the Vacaville survey results, the least affluent respondents (with under \$50,000 in annual household income) were 1.7 times less likely than their more affluent counterparts to report a higher visiting frequency of Vacaville park and recreation facilities. This is a factor to consider when assessing program fees and outreach efforts.

TRAVEL TIME TO WORK

The average travel time to work for a Vacaville resident is approximately 29 minutes. This suggests that the community commutes and leisure activities are pursued later in the day, after work and travel, and there is demand for after-school and summer day programming that responds to this time frame.

Recreation Trends Analysis

State and national social, economic, and environmental trends have, and will continue to have, an impact on the demand and the delivery of recreation services in the City of Vacaville as analyzed in the following section. Recreation trend analysis identifies and forecasts larger societal progressions and shifts, which influence the future demands on park and recreation amenities and services. The Sports Management Group analyzed the trends impacting Vacaville, the level of awareness and response from Community Services, and made recommendations for addressing trends.

The most significant trends that affect the City of Vacaville are the aging of the Boomer population (those born from 1946-1964), the pandemic of childhood obesity, program sustainability, and the economic conditions that have placed a strain on the General Fund of Vacaville as well as the State of California. Responding to the growing and changing population of Vacaville requires planning that addresses these trends. The population of Vacaville grew 22.4% from 1990 - 2000 to 88,625 according to the 2000 Census. It is projected from the years 2000 to 2030 the population of Vacaville is expected to grow by 35.5% to 129,200 (includes institutionalized population). Preparing for potential population shifts and growth, and anticipating changing preferences and needs, is a critical task facing the City of Vacaville.

TREND IMPACTS

Ruth V. Russell, in a report for Indiana State University,³ discussed the following "extreme impacts" on parks and recreation services:

- Deteriorating park and recreation infrastructure
- Increasing crime (violence, drug use, vandalism, gangs) in communities and parks



- Declining park and recreation budgets relative to costs
- Increasing competition for shrinking federal, state, and local tax resources
- Massive public sector debt

Vacaville has experienced these same impacts in varying degrees and finds these are issues to be addressed. The result of these impacts is an increased public demand for participation, accountability, and productivity in government. Recreation departments are required to think in terms of sustainability, being competitive in the marketplace, and incorporating business practices in their operational planning.

The Vacaville Community Services Department has experienced these impacts as operating budgets have been trimmed, development funds fall short of meeting current needs, and local tax measures experience competing municipal demands.

TRENDS REVIEW

Baby Boomers

A steadily aging population is having a tremendous impact at both a national and state level. The demographic projection for the City of Vacaville shows a significant growth of 4.4% between 2000 and 2016 for those 65 and over. The projection for those 45-64 years of age is an increase of 6.1% .

Many of today’s older adults will not relocate as they age. A study by the National Association of Home Builders reports that, annually, only 5 percent of people age 55 and up will relocate. As baby boomers approach what was formerly retirement age, most do not plan to retire like the generations before them. A recent study found that 7 in 10 Americans plan to work following retirement from their mainstay career.



An additional 14 percent plan to continue their work as volunteers. ⁴ Those who are retiring have a new set of expectations; they wish to participate in meaningful volunteer experiences, have time for recreation and exercise, and pursue special interests or participate in a hobby. An AARP study found that 87% want to take better care of their physical health; 72% plan to spend more time on their interests and hobbies; and 47% want to do more volunteering. ⁵

These trends will influence delivery methods for traditional “senior” services. In the past, senior/adult community center hours were during the workday with classes or activities also held during workday hours.

Even though the population is “graying”, their desires are to live independently and stay active and engaged, resulting in increased demand for spaces, services, and a variety of programming. Parks and recreation departments can facilitate Boomers’ needs in physical health, interests and hobbies, resource accessibility, and volunteerism. Program offerings should include wellness, fitness, and sports programs, adventure travel, environmental programs and activities, and a wide range of special interest classes and hobbies.



Vacaville Community Services have already embraced the trend of active seniors and are encouraged to continue redefining typical older adult program services. Offering programs targeting this population, in the evenings and weekends, is important.

Sandwich Generation

Many of today’s Boomers are part of the “sandwich generation.” Forty-four percent (44%) of Americans between the ages of 45 and 55 have an aging parent(s) and children under the age of 21. Approximately 1 in 8 are raising a child and providing financial assistance to parents. This brings an increased demand on recreation programs and facilities that serve the needs and interests of multiple age groups -- children, adults, and older adults -- at a single location and often, simultaneously.

The “multi-generational” needs of these extended families may be served through careful planning of facility amenities and programming. Simultaneous age appropriate programming and event planning with a broader age group focus best serves these families. This has an impact on the design of facilities as well as programming.

In communities across the country, active adult community centers and multi-generational community centers are often preferred over traditional senior centers due to Sandwich and Boomer Generations.

The new multi-generational service model, rather than the traditional senior center, must be contemporary, active, service oriented, and dynamic in its offerings. These centers approach education, work, recreation, and leisure as lifelong activities, which span the entire continuum of adult life and no longer view retirement as a slowing down of activity pursuits. This is something for Vacaville to consider in the planning and development of community and recreation centers to meet future needs and preferences.

Youth

Over the past five years, there has been increased awareness of a youth obesity crisis in the United States. In the past two decades, obesity rates have doubled in children (aged 6-11) and tripled in adolescents (aged 12-17). Currently, thirty percent (30%) of children in the United States over age 6 are overweight. Of these children, one in three born after the year 2000 will develop diabetes.

This trend is directly impacted by the loss of free time that children have available. Over the past two decades, children have lost 12 hours of free time a week, including eight hours of unstructured play and outdoor activities. Two recent studies have reported alarming trends - 43% of adolescents watch more than 2 hours of television each day,⁶ and on a typical day, a child is six times more likely to play a computer game than ride a bike.⁷ The health consequences for children resulting from the disappearance of play are already apparent and include greater risks of lung disease, diabetes, asthma, and cancer.^{8,9}

If current trends in obesity and physical inactivity continue, today’s youth will be the first generation in this nation’s history to face a shorter life expectancy than their parents.¹⁰



In contrast, over the past two decades, participation in organized sports has doubled. However, sports participation does not ensure the necessary levels of physical activity required for health and physical fitness. According to SGMA 2010 U.S. Trends in Team Sports, there is a sharp reduction in casual play and a trend towards sport specialization and year round competition in a single sport and the growth of traveling competitive teams. This trend contributes to the pressure and lack of “fun” formerly associated with team sports. In addition, specialization excludes less adept players who then do not feel valued. According to the November 2012 publication of *Trendscan*:¹¹

- Nearly 70% of children (age 6-17) in the US are playing team sports
- Three out of four teenagers play at least one team sport
- 12-14 year olds are fueling the growth in youth sports since 2009
- Institute for the Study of Youth Sports found young athletes in the 12-14 age group start to focus on one sport even if they are multiple sport athletes

Community Services can play a major role by offering a variety of sports programming and sports that are not as competitive in nature. Studies indicate that children and adolescents are more likely to become physically active and fit if they have a wide range of accessible, safe, and affordable recreation opportunities. The provision of youth and teen programs within the City of Vacaville is critical to fighting childhood obesity and instilling healthy habits that contribute to the wellness of the community’s youth and teens. The CSD should also program to appeal to youth who are not sports-oriented and prefer activities such as outdoor exploration, science/art in the park, animal husbandry, gardening, kite flying, and game playing.

Millennials

Youth born between 1982 and 2000 are referred to as the Millennial Generation (also known as Generation Y or Echo Boomers). Millennials are now between the ages of 12-30 years and number about 11 million in California. This generation is the most educated generation of Americans, is the most ethnically diverse generation in U.S. history, and possesses the most disposable income.¹² Millennials are achievers, team-oriented, tech savvy, and pressured. However, Millennials are the only generation “significantly less likely to agree that all people should be connected with nature...[and] that it is important to be outside as much as possible.”

As a result, this generation faces increased health and obesity risks, and is less connected with their natural environment and community. The City of Vacaville Community Services should continue to use social media and web applications to connect with this group and, additionally, programs need to be kept “fresh”, less competitive emphasis, and increase the opportunities to connect with nature to maintain the interest of the Millennials.

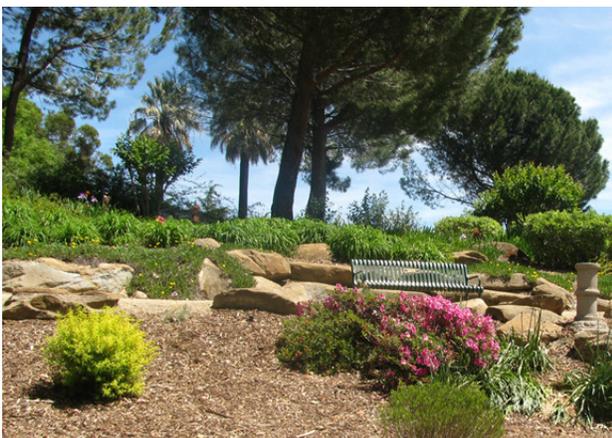


Incorporating WiFi and park HotSpots would encourage Millennials to visit these locations and establish a connection with the outdoors.

Community Design

Cities throughout the state and the nation are working to address the issue of social alienation and physical inactivity through community design. As inactivity and social isolation increase, so does the incidence of obesity, heart disease, diabetes, depression, and mental illness.¹³ Additionally, thriving public spaces promote the familiarity and social bonds that make neighborhoods safer and healthier. The City of Vacaville has begun to address this type of community design with the successful Creekwalk Plaza and concert venue.

The trend for parks and recreation departments is toward making parks usable and vibrant social meeting places. WiFi and HotSpots is one tool to promote sociability. A report titled Project for Public Spaces discusses the attributes that most social places share.¹⁴ The report states, “a good place provides a range of things to do (‘uses and activities’); is easy to get to and connected to the surrounding community (‘access’); is safe, clean, attractive (‘comfort and image’); and, perhaps, most important, is a place to meet other people (‘sociability’).”



Not only are departments concerned with making parks social meeting places they are also responding to the needs of extended families and members of the Sandwich Generation by making parks multi-generational family destinations. No longer is a mother dropping her child off at the ball field. Today, a mother will join her child with perhaps a grandparent to enjoy park and recreational time while her child is nearby. There is need for park design to combine active and passive uses and provide for a variety of leisure activities within close proximity of each other.

Sustainability & Environmental Design

Parks and recreation departments have a long history of environmental stewardship. There is a growing trend towards environmental sensitivity in design, operations, and materials -- standardized by the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED Program (“Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design”). Utilizing sustainable methods can be a benefit to the Vacaville Community Services Department.

Green building components and systems can be included in almost any facility or park and they can have a significant impact on the cost to operate the facility. Environmental sensitivity in design may be accomplished by reclaiming land, preserving open space, launching recycling initiatives, acknowledging environmental principles, recycling water, conserving resources and using environmentally friendly “green” materials. At the onset, green materials, components, and designs may seem financially prohibitive yet “going green” has a significant impact on the cost to operate and maintain facilities and generally pays off over the life span of the building. This is an area that the City may choose to lead by example and incorporate sustainability in its park design, even when the capital costs may be higher.



Parks

Despite the current economic climate of budgetary cutbacks and deficits in cities across the country, nearly two-thirds of parks respondents (Midwest 28% , West 22.9% , South Atlantic 22.5% , Northeast 14.5% , and South Central 11.7%) included in a survey by Recreation Management said they are planning construction of some kind in the next three years.¹⁵ Of those planning construction, the following are the top five features currently included in parks and recreation respondents' responses:

1. Playgrounds
2. Park structures, such as shelters, restroom buildings
3. Open spaces, including gardens, natural areas
4. Outdoor sports courts, such as basketball, tennis
5. Trails

This list reflects a growing trend towards unstructured play, access to green spaces, and outdoor fitness. Linking parks together with green corridors and trails is a feature of community design that encourages mobility, accessibility, socialization, fitness, and an appreciation of the natural environment. According to California State Parks, Baby Boomers consider parks as a location preference for outdoor activity, and Baby Boomers have been a strong influence of park design and development. Public outreach findings substantiate this demand with a call for increased trails and open spaces in Vacaville (see section titled "Community Input").

Playgrounds

Playgrounds are one of the most common amenities found in parks. There is a growing trend toward "natural" play areas or traditional playground design, incorporating natural colors and use of the playground

as a gateway to nature.¹⁶ In response to fitness and movement, playgrounds invite children outdoors for recreation, imaginative play, and spontaneous learning, helping them to develop an appreciation for the natural environment and outdoor activity. These promote confidence and lifelong skills. Through the development of neighborhood and community parks, Vacaville Community Services can instill neighborhood pride by incorporating playground themes reflecting the neighborhood character or creating a park identity for which neighborhoods can relate, and special interests incorporating natural themes. A good example is the reconstruction of the Great Wonders Playground with volunteer effort and design.

Aquatics

According to national surveys, swimming is second only to walking as the most popular form of exercise in the U.S., with more than 368 million visits annually to swimming pools. A variety of surveys and studies provide evidence of the importance of swimming as a leisure activity. In response to this tremendous demand, aquatic facilities and programming have changed dramatically in recent years to better serve the public.

The family aquatic center responds to a need for increased and more varied programming, as well as accessibility. Aquatic centers are a social gathering place for the community, especially during summer. Features such as a zero-depth (beach) entry, water slides, leisure and activity areas, and interactive water play features provide the attraction for families and varied age groups. These features are critical to the annual participation and the financial success of the facility. Vacaville's Walter V. Graham Aquatic Center responds to these varied uses, by incorporating waterslides, children's activity area, and barbeque areas.



Spray Play

The addition of spraygrounds as park elements illustrates a current trend toward accessibility, safety, innovation, and affordability. According to the Recreation Management Magazine’s 2010 Trends Report, the top feature added to parks in development is a splash/spray play area. Installed over zero-depth pads, splash/spray play features allow facility owners and directors to provide fun outdoor destinations for water recreation without having to hire additional staff to keep watch. Vacaville has installed two park spray play features and has plans to continue incorporating this element in park design. This is in addition to the water play area at the Aquatics Center.

Cultural Diversity

Cultural diversity has an important influence on parks and recreation services, as segments of the population have differing recreation and leisure pursuits. Vacaville remains predominately Caucasian; however, Hispanic/Latino demographics are estimated to reach 25% of the City’s population in five years. African Americans will reach 15% of the population, and the Asian population is projected to be at 7.2% in this same five-year time span. These minority groups will continue to be a substantial and growing portion of participants in Community Services offerings. In order to encourage participation, program offerings need to address a diverse range of interests and needs. The Community Services Department should address the cultural preferences, desires and interests of population subsets while being prepared to provide programs, services, and events that engage and interest a wide variety of residents. For instance, according to *Reaching Out to Hispanics in Recreation* by McChesney and McDonald:¹⁷

Hispanics have identifiable recreational characteristics due to their culture, traditions and family relationships that are necessary to determine in the successful provision of facilities and programs. The Hispanic population values leisure, and 74 percent report that leisure time is spent mostly or exclusively with other Hispanics. Within the realm of “leisure,” casual, informal gathering of friends and family is the preferred activity. The influence of socialization plays a large part on the recreation experience, thus the need to provide a variety of facilities for social gathering usage.

At the McBride Senior Center, programming has “reached out” to a diverse community through cultural programming and special events held at the Center. A consideration for McBride Senior Center is to remove the term “senior” from the name to reflect the multi-use of the facility. The Community Services Department is encouraged to continue cultural specific programming and provide opportunities that accommodate diversity. This may be accommodated through hosting multi-cultural events, classes, activities, and targeted marketing at all of the community centers. Outdoor field events could feature different country sports, camps with cultural themes, and heritage events as examples of cultural programming. Increased popularity with the soccer program may be influenced by cultural preferences and its popularity within the Hispanic communities.

Programming

Parks and recreation departments typically offer a diverse range of programming service to their communities, from preschool programs to trips for older adults. Creative and up-to-date programming, as well as effective marketing, makes the difference between falling revenue and steady performance.



According to a survey conducted by Recreation Management,¹⁸ the top ten parks and recreation agency programs planned over the next three years include:

- Teen Programs
- Fitness Programs
- Environmental education
- Educational programs
- Active older adult programs
- Mind-body/balance programs
- Day camps and summer camps
- Holiday events and other special events
- Arts and crafts
- Adult sports teams

Vacaville survey results provided no consensus on recommendations for new programs, activities, or events they would like to see offered by the city. Four percent (4%) recommended more youth activities or programs; 2% swimming; 2% golf, 2% gun or archery instruction; 2% tennis instruction; and 2% dance or ballet. Sixty-eight percent [68%] offered no opinion. Vacaville CSD has been effective in adapting to changing program trends, responding to public input, and changes in services within the community. For example, the Community Services Department has enhanced its music programs to offset the reduction of the program by the School District.

Fitness & Health Benefits

Nearly 26 million Americans have diabetes, according to new (2011) estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CDC projected that as many as 1 in 3 U.S. adults could have diabetes by 2050 if current trends continue.

A new study released by The Trust for America’s Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation projects that one half of American adults will be obese by 2030.¹⁹ Community Services can lead in stemming this trend by providing popular fitness activities and amenities for community members of all ages. The five most popular fitness activities in the U.S. are walking for fitness, treadmill use, running/jogging, stretching, and using hand weights. According to the Vacaville survey, half of the respondents had used the city’s hiking, biking, and jogging trails.

Providing opportunities for these types of activities, indoor and out, should be considered in park and facility design. In Vacaville, park design and development has responded to these program areas, enabling “opportunistic recreation” that is spontaneous as with the outdoor track, which supports walking, jogging, and running. Further development of a trail system, which connects to destination points within the city, will also serve community fitness interest. The popularity of the outdoor track, as well as recent survey findings (see Community Input section) suggest the community desires this type of amenity.

Research has also shown that the availability of opportunities to engage in physical activity is positively correlated with the amount of physical activity people engage in. The availability of parks and recreation services are vital to increasing physical activity across all age groups and play an essential role in reducing obesity rates. When evaluating the availability of these opportunities, an important consideration is their accessibility and proximity to residents in addition to their existence. Physical barriers, safety concerns, and distance to parks and facilities can prevent residents from using the facilities and programs.



Research has found that larger sized parks and open spaces do not increase the frequency or intensity of use, but rather distance to parks or open spaces is the greatest deterring factor. The Center for City Park Excellence supports the validity of both quarter-mile and half-mile distance goals, depending on perceptions of the built environment, safety, and time constraints.²⁰ Vacaville has addressed this through the distribution of parks throughout the City.

SUMMARY

Vacaville’s Community Services Department is cognizant of parks and recreation trends, which is evident in its program and event offerings. The ability to stay “current and fresh” is important in maintaining community interest and support. The Department understands the leisure needs of an active, aging population, including the desire to be in natural settings. It also is aware of the correlation between greater activity and fitness, and lower levels of obesity and disease. Providing amenities and programs that accommodate a multi-generational and diverse population, is also key. The Community Services Department aspires to promote active and healthy lifestyles for all of its community members through thoughtful and deliberate park and facility planning. The Department also seeks to contribute to the quality of life for Vacaville residents through the provision of quality facilities and engaging programs.



¹ Association of Bay Area Governments, Projections 2007.

² Claritas. (2011). Demographic Trend Report. Retrieved April 21, 2011, from www.sitereports.com

³ Russell, Ruth V. Public Park and Recreation Trends: A Status Report, Dept. of Recreation and Park Administration, Indiana University

⁴ John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey Center for Survey Research and Analysis, and the University of Connecticut. (2005). Work Trends: Americans Attitudes About Work, Employers, and Government. Retrieved July 6, 2007 from [www.heldrich.rutgers.edu/Resources/Publication/192/WT16% 20Press% 20Release.pdf](http://www.heldrich.rutgers.edu/Resources/Publication/192/WT16%20Press%20Release.pdf)

⁵ AARP. (2006). Boomers Turning 60. Retrieved July 6, 2007 from <http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/general/boomers60.pdf>

⁶ Health Link. (2002). The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity. Retrieved July 6, 2007 from www.surgeongeneral.gov/topics/obesity/calltoaction/fact_adolescents.htm

⁷ Elkind, D. (2007). The Power of Play: How Spontaneous, Imaginative Activities Lead to Happier, Healthier Children. Cambridge, MA: Da Capo Press.

⁸ California Center for Public Health Advocacy. (2002). An Epidemic: Overweight and Unfit Children in California Assembly Districts . Retrieved July 6, 2007 from http://www.publichealthadvocacy.org/policy_briefs/study_documents/Full_Report1.pdf

⁹ Elkind, D. (2007). The Power of Play: How Spontaneous, Imaginative Activities Lead to Happier, Healthier Children. Cambridge, MA: Da Capo Press.

¹⁰ National Institutes of Health. (2005). Obesity Threatens to Cut U.S. Life Expectancy, New Analysis Suggests. <http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/mar2005/nia-16.htm>

¹¹ O'Sullivan, Ellen. (2012, November). TrendsCan: Parks and Recreation. Retrieved from [http://www.cprs.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=837:trendscan](http://www.cprs.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=837:trendscan-november-2012&catid=59:trendscan&Itemid=56)

[n-november-2012&catid=59:trendscan&Itemid=56](http://www.cprs.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=837:trendscan-november-2012&catid=59:trendscan&Itemid=56)

¹² California State Parks, Recreation Opportunities publication, March 2010

¹³ California State Parks, Recreation Opportunities publication, March 2010

¹⁴ Project for Public Spaces. (2006). Health and Community Design, Project for Public Places. Retrieved July 18, 2007 from http://www.pps.org/info/placemakingtools/issuepapers/health_community

¹⁵ Recreation Management (2010). Parks & Recreation: A Look at Trends in Parks & Recreation. Retrieved from http://www.recmanagement.com/feature_print.php?fid=201006fe04

¹⁶ Project for Public Spaces. (2006). Health and Community Design, Project for Public Places. Retrieved July 18, 2007 from http://www.pps.org/info/placemakingtools/issuepapers/health_community

¹⁷ McChesney, J., Gerken, M., and Kelly McDonald. "Reaching Out to Hispanics in Recreation." Parks and Recreation 40.3 (2005): 75-78.

¹⁸ Recreation Management (2010). Parks & Recreation: A Look at Trends in Parks & Recreation. Retrieved from http://www.recmanagement.com/feature_print.php?fid=201006fe04

¹⁹ The Trust for America's Health, www.healthyamericans.org/reports/obesity2010/

²⁰ Center For City Park Excellence (2011). Pedestrians and Park Planning: How Far Will People Walk? Retrieved May 7, 2013 from <http://cityparksblog.org/2011/05/13/pedestrians-and-park-planning-how-far-will-people-walk/>



Community Input

A critical component of the Needs Assessment was community outreach and input. This process employed several methods:

- Community Opinion Survey
- Virtual Town Hall
- Stakeholders Interviews
- Public Workshop

Information gathered aided in developing this report, and will also be used into the near future in determining current use of Vacaville's park and recreation facilities, measure perceptions regarding the park and recreation system and programs, and identify current, and future needs.

Community Opinion Survey

OVERVIEW

The Sports Management Group, on behalf of the City of Vacaville, commissioned Strategic Research Associates to conduct a telephone survey of Vacaville residents aged 18 and older. The primary objectives of the survey were to measure current perceptions about Vacaville's park and recreation system, explore the desirability of funding proposed changes to this system, and investigate voters' reactions to a potential ballot measure to fund park-related community facilities and services. Other objectives included measuring use of Vacaville's park system and assessing attitudes and preferences about the city's recreation programs and events.

GENERAL RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The survey's primary objectives were to:

1. Determine the current use of Vacaville park and recreation facilities
2. Measure perceptions about Vacaville's park and recreation system, including facilities and programs
3. Assess the degree of support for additional funding of park system upgrades
4. Gauge perceptions and preferences about Vacaville's recreation activities
5. Measure voter reactions to potential tax extension proposals
6. Identify any differences related to respondent background characteristics

METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted as a landline telephone interview, taken between November 30 and December 9, 2011. Cell phone numbers were not included in the listing as simple landline access is of itself not a predictive factor for behaviors and attitudes towards parks. To address age related factors regarding cell phone use, the survey calculations impose age by gender target quotas and weight the data after the sampling to address discrepancies. Most interviews were conducted between 4PM and 9PM on weekdays and between 10AM and 5PM on weekends. A few interviews were administered during weekday daytime hours to contact those difficult to reach in the evening.



Adults aged 18 and older, currently living within the boundaries Vacaville (zip codes 95687 and 95688), were asked to participate in the survey. 410 interviews were completed.

Weights were applied to the data to account for sample imbalances. This ensured that no age or gender group would be over- or under-represented and helped to diminish sample-versus-population discrepancies for measurements such as parental status. With weighting, the survey's precision was slightly reduced. The survey's margin of error, at 95% confidence, was plus or minus 5.2% ; at 90% confidence, it was plus or minus 4.4% .

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The survey's findings indicate a strong level of support for and favorable perception of Vacaville's recreation services. Overall, residents were satisfied with the quality, maintenance, and safety of Vacaville's park and recreation amenities, as well as the amount of land given to Vacaville parks. A majority (8 in 10) of respondents were also aware of Community Services Department offerings and services. More importantly, a high percentage of respondents indicated support for funding upgrades to the parks and recreation system, including funding to parks and recreation programs. Among the sample's 271 consistent voters – those registered to vote and voting “always” or “most of the time” in Vacaville municipal elections – 58% said they would “favor” extending Measure I, 2.5 times the percentage (23%) opposing it. Those participating in the survey also indicated a high degree of support to fund access to more nature open space for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and other open-space activities, and to expand and improve the city's bikeway system (60% or more favored each).

Five options – to provide space for community gardens, to add more gym space for basketball, volleyball, dance, and fitness, to provide more fenced dog parks, to build a new multi-use recreation center large enough to host indoor sports tournaments, and to build another pool or aquatic center – also had high levels of support (between 46-50% of reported favoring each).

In general, hiking, biking and jogging trails emerged as a well-used and top-ranking feature of the Vacaville parks and recreation system. Improvements related to this feature were also a top choice among respondents. Half of respondents (51%) had used the city's hiking, biking, and jogging trails; 46% , a city-operated community center, and 43% , Lagoon Valley Park. Fewer (between 25% and 35%) had visited a city group picnic area, a city baseball or softball field, a city soccer field, or Centennial Park. When respondents were asked to identify, unaided, their favorite Vacaville-area recreational activity, the most-mentioned responses were for the use of walking trails, Lagoon Valley Park, activities in various city parks, baseball or softball, soccer, hiking, and the use of biking trails.

Current Use of Vacaville Park and Recreation Facilities

Respondents were asked to identify, among 13 locations, those they had visited within the last six months. In general, Vacaville's park and recreation system is well used. While only three in ten (31%) said that they had visited Vacaville park and recreational facilities “four or more times a month” and one-quarter (25%) reported “two or three times a month” over the last six months, many respondents indicated they had used city park and recreation facilities recently. Vacaville's parks, hiking, biking, and jogging trails, and community facilities receive the most use.



Asked to identify, unaided, their favorite Vacaville area recreational activity, 10% of respondents cited use of walking trails; 9% , Lagoon Valley Park; 9% , activities in various city parks; and 8% , baseball or softball. Of the 410 respondents:

- Seven in ten (69%) reported having recently visited a Vacaville public park other than Lagoon Valley or Centennial Parks. This visiting rate was significantly higher than others.
- Half (51%) had used the city’s hiking, biking, and jogging trails; 46% , a city-operated community center, and 43% , Lagoon Valley Park which is recognized for its access to trails for hiking, biking and equestrian use.
- Thirty-six percent (36%) had visited a city group picnic area; 27% , a city baseball or softball field; 26% , a city soccer field; and 25% , Centennial Park. Less than one in five recalled visiting the pool at Graham Aquatic Center, the dog park at Lagoon Valley Park, any city tennis court, the McBride Center to participate in senior activities, and the Georgie Duke Sports Center or the gymnasium on Davis Street.

Between 229 frequent park and recreation users, responses produced a rank ordering similar to that outlined above, with outcome percentages, on average, eight percentage points higher. (86% of respondents indicated they had visited a Vacaville public park (other than Lagoon Valley or Centennial Parks); 71% had used off-street trails; 62% , a city community center; 60% , Lagoon Valley Park; and 48% , any of the city’s group picnic areas.) Frequent park users were over four times more likely than other respondents to have visited the Graham Aquatic Center pool or to have used any city tennis court.

They were at least 2-1/2 times more likely to have visited Centennial Park, a city-operated soccer field, Lagoon Valley Park, any of the city’s off-street trails, and the Georgie Duke Sports Center/Davis Street gym.

Frequency of visitation varied by age, parental status, and household income. On average, younger to middle-aged respondents (aged 18 to 54) were twice as likely as those aged 55 and older to report visiting twice a month or more. Parents or guardians of children living in Vacaville and aged 17 or younger were about 1.7 times more likely than others to report a visiting rate of at least twice a month. In addition, the least affluent were 1.7 times less likely to report a higher visiting frequency.

Perceptions About Vacaville’s Existing Park And Recreation System

Asked about the overall quality, maintenance, and safety of Vacaville’s park and recreation amenities, a combined 95% responded they were “very satisfied” or “moderately” satisfied with the overall quality (50% and 45% respectively); another 92% were “very satisfied” or “moderately” satisfied with the system’s maintenance (54% and 38% respectively); and 86% were “very satisfied” or “moderately” satisfied with the system’s safety (45% and 41% respectively).

Perceptions about Vacaville park system land allocations were favorable. (About 3 in 4 reported the amount of land allocated to neighborhood and community parks to be “about right.” About 6 in 10 reported the land allocation to be “about right” for Centennial Park.)

When asked which characteristic(s) residents liked most about Vacaville’s park system, twenty-four percent (24%) noted the park system’s easy accessibility; 20% , its cleanliness; and 20% , its well-maintained state. Respondents were also asked to identify, unaided, the one most desirable improvement or addition to the Vacaville park system.



The dominant recommendation, mentioned by 17% , was to improve the number and quality of restrooms. When asked to suggest, unaided, ways to improve or add to Centennial Park, six percent (6%) recommended adding hiking, biking, or jogging trails; 6% , adding a dog park; and 5% , increasing the variety of activities or facilities.

Support For Additional Funding Of Park System Changes

Respondents were asked to rate (using a five-point scale) their degree of support or opposition to additional public funding to support each of 14 potential park system changes. Two options - to provide access to more nature open space for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and other open-space activities, and to expand and improve the city's bikeway system - produced average scores significantly higher than those for other test items (64% and 60% "Strongly" or "Mildly" favoring each). Five options - to provide space for community gardens, to add more gym space for basketball, volleyball, dance, and fitness, to provide more fenced dog parks, to build a new multi-use recreation center large enough to host indoor sports tournaments, and to build another pool or aquatic center - also had high scores. Between 46% and 50% of respondents reported favoring each.

Younger to middle-aged respondents, the less affluent, and those visiting Vacaville park system facilities once a month or more all exhibited a higher propensity than others to say they would "favor" additional funding of one or more options.

Respondents were also asked if they would "favor," "be neutral to," or "oppose" funding for each of four park programs or facilities (programs for disadvantaged youth, programs for seniors, Vacaville's performing arts theater, and pools or other facilities for aquatic programs). For each, those favoring funding greatly outnumbered those opposed.

Respondents exhibited the most enthusiasm for funding programs for disadvantaged youth (65% in favor), then for seniors' programs (56% in favor), then for the theater (49% in favor), and finally, for aquatic facilities (43% in favor). Females, the less affluent, those with children, and frequent park visitors were statistically more likely to be in favor of one or more of these options.

Behaviors And Perceptions About Vacaville's Recreation Activities

Eight in ten (81%) respondents noted they are aware of the Event Guide and 74% stated they had reviewed a printed copy of the guide within the last six months. Over the previous twelve months, 41% of respondents indicated that they had participated in a community services activity, event or program. Among parents or guardians of children aged 17 and younger, 65% reported that at least one child had participated in a Community Services Department program, activity, or event over the previous 12 months. Those with children, the mid- to more affluent, and frequent park users were statistically more likely than others to indicate involvement in Community Services Department offerings.

Voter Reactions To Potential Tax Extension Proposals

Respondents were asked about whether they tended to "favor, be neutral to, or oppose extending" Measure I, a general tax used to maintain funding for existing and new community facilities and services. Among the sample's 271 consistent voters - those registered to vote and voting "always" or "most of the time" in Vacaville municipal elections - 58% said they would "favor" extending the tax measure, 2.5 times the percentage (23%) opposing it. Voters aged 18 to 34 - a group with a relatively high average park usage rate - were 1.4 times more likely than others to "favor" the extension.



Steady park users (visiting at least once a month) were 1.8 times more likely than others to do the same.

Vacaville voters passed Measure I with 80% voter support in November 2012. This establishes an extension of a long-standing excise tax. At the same time, Measure M was passed with 68% of the vote to enact a 0.25% sales tax to help augment city services in danger of being cut over the previous four years.

Virtual Town Hall

OVERVIEW

Following the Community Opinion Survey, SRA was tasked by The Sports Management Group to create an internet-based survey, or Virtual Town Hall. The Virtual Town Hall used the telephone survey's same 65 questions (some slightly rewritten for online use); the City of Vacaville posted the online survey on its website and invited community residents to complete it. The last responses from the online survey were accepted on February 10, 2012. Full results are provided in the Appendix of this report.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The primary survey objectives were to assess current use of Vacaville park and recreation facilities, explore perceptions about the city's existing park and recreation system, evaluate the degrees of support for additional funding of some proposed park system changes, measure behaviors regarding Vacaville recreation activities, and test voter reactions to potential tax extension proposals.

METHODOLOGY

The City of Vacaville invited adult residents, through social media and local advertising, to participate in a survey posted on the city's website.

Between January 23 and February 10, 2012, 313 surveys were completed online. A sample total of 306 surveys were used for analysis. The online data is not weighted. While the telephone survey sample was representative of the community - respondents were randomly selected and the results weighted - the online sample is not. Online respondents selected themselves for participation rather than being randomly chosen. Online respondents were much more likely than those in the telephone sample to be frequent park users, female, middle-aged (aged 35 to 54), a parent or guardian of at least one child living in Vacaville, and relatively affluent.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Online survey respondents tended to be well engaged and familiar with the city's parks and recreation system, using parks and services more broadly and frequently. Like the telephone survey, participants were largely satisfied with the quality, maintenance, and safety of Vacaville's park and recreation amenities, although less satisfied with the amount of land given to Vacaville parks. On average, online respondents were better able to provide recommendations for additional city programs, events, and activities. 95% of respondents were aware of Community Services Department offerings and services, and a majority (62%) were frequent users of the park system.

Similar to the phone survey, hiking, biking and jogging trails were popular and received high ratings for additional funding. However, spaces for recreation (gym and court space) and sports fields also emerged as a key priority for online survey participants. While 75% reported using the city's hiking, biking and jogging trails, another 52% had visited a city group picnic area; 51% , a city baseball or softball field; and 41% , a city soccer field.



As frequent park and recreation system users, online respondents produced higher rating averages than their telephone survey counterparts to support measures for funding. Online consistent voters were 1.3 times more likely than those in the telephone survey to support the extension of Measure I, and about half as likely to report that they “oppose.” As a group, respondents were enthusiastic about providing access to more natural open space for hiking biking, horseback riding and other open-space activities, and expanding and improving the city’s bikeway system. Three other options - to add more gym space for basketball, volleyball, dance, and fitness, to build a new multi-use recreation center large enough to host indoor sports tournaments, to provide space for community gardens - received very favorable scores.

Current Use of Vacaville Park and Recreation Facilities

Online respondents were asked to identify, among 13 locations, those they had visited within the last six months. Online respondents tended to visit park and recreation facilities more frequently than those interviewed by phone.

Among the 306 online respondents, a substantial majority (62%) said that, within the last six months, they had been visiting Vacaville park and recreational facilities “four or more times a month,” while one-quarter (20%) reported “two or three times a month,” and 17% , a lower visiting rate. Of the 306 respondents:

- Eighty-five percent (85%) of online respondents reported having recently visited a Vacaville public park other than Lagoon Valley or Centennial Parks.
- Three-quarters (75%) had used the city’s hiking, biking, and jogging trails; 73% , Lagoon Valley Park; and 68% , a city-operated community center.

- Another fifty-two percent (52%) had visited a city group picnic area; 51% , a city baseball or softball field; 43% , Centennial Park; and 41% , a city soccer field, including those in Centennial Park.
- Less than four in ten had visited the Graham Aquatic Center, a city tennis court, the dog park at Lagoon Valley Park, the Georgie Duke Sports Center or gymnasium on Davis Street, or the McBride Center.

When online respondents were asked to identify, unaided, their favorite Vacaville-area recreational activity, twenty-one percent (21%) cited baseball or softball; 20% , using the walking trails; 14% , soccer; 13% , swimming or pool activities; 11% , using cycling or biking trails; 11% , hiking; and 10% , using Lagoon Valley Park.

Perceptions About Vacaville’s Existing Park and Recreation System

As with the telephone survey, perceptions about Vacaville’s park system were generally favorable. Online respondents were asked whether the right amount of land was allocated to each of Vacaville’s three categories of public parks (Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, and Centennial Park). Three in four (72%) said the amount of land allocated is “about right” for Neighborhood parks; another 60% and 46% also indicated they were satisfied with the amount of land for Community Parks and Centennial Park, respectively. Online respondents were twice as likely, however, as those questioned by phone to say that “too little” land had been allocated to community parks and to Centennial Park.



When asked about recommendations to improve Centennial Park, 18% of respondents suggested adding or upgrading baseball or softball fields; 12% , adding soccer fields; 11% , add hiking, biking or jogging trails; 11% , adding aquatics facilities or swimming pools; 9% , adding natural open space or other landscaping; 8% , adding a dog park; and 8% , improving safety and security. Online percentages were at least ten percentage points higher than those in the telephone survey for better/more baseball and softball fields, more soccer fields, and aquatics facilities. They were between four and five points higher for adding trails, adding natural open space, more park safety and security, and tennis or pickleball.

Similar to the phone interview, online survey takers were satisfied with Vacaville parks and recreation amenities. A combined 88% (33% and 55% , respectively) rated themselves “very satisfied” or “moderately satisfied” with the overall quality; another 85% (39% and 46% , respectively) rated themselves “very satisfied” or “moderately satisfied with maintenance; and 88% (37% and 51% , respectively) rated themselves “very satisfied” or “moderately satisfied with safety.

Respondents were asked to identify, unaided, the characteristic(s) liked most about Vacaville’s park system. Twenty-four percent (24%) noted the well-maintained state of the park system; 19% , its easy accessibility; 17% , its cleanliness; 12% , its walking or hiking trails; and 10% , the variety of activities. Like their telephone survey counterparts, online respondents were most likely to recommend better or more restrooms (16%). Twelve percent (12%) wanted to add to or improve baseball or softball fields; 8% , have more hiking, biking and/or jogging trails; 7% , add aquatics facilities; and 7% , improve maintenance or cleanliness.

Support for Additional Funding of Park System Changes

Online respondents were asked (using a five-point scale) about their degree of support or opposition to additional public funding to 14 different potential park system changes. As a group, respondents were enthusiastic about providing access to more natural open space for hiking biking, horseback riding and other open-space activities, and expanding and improving the city’s bikeway system. More than 7 in 10 “strongly” or “mildly” favored each. Three other options – to add more gym space for basketball, volleyball, dance, and fitness, to build a new multi-use recreation center large enough to host indoor sports tournaments, to provide space for community gardens – received very favorable scores. Between 53% and 56% said they “strongly” or “mildly” favor each. Online respondents produced higher rating averages than their telephone survey counterparts on 11 of the 14 tested items (at least 9 points higher). Online respondents were less enthusiastic than telephone survey respondents regarding building a senior center, providing overnight camping areas, and building a community center.

When asked about additional funding for programs related to disadvantaged youth, aquatics, seniors, and Vacaville’s performing arts theater, online respondents, similar to telephone respondents, had a far greater percentage of those in favor compared to those in opposition. Programs for disadvantaged youth had the highest level of support, at 54% (compared to 12% opposed). On average, online respondents were less likely than telephone survey respondents to favor additional public funding.



Behaviors and Perceptions About Vacaville Recreation Activities

Online respondents were more likely than those from the telephone survey to engage in city recreational activities. 95% were aware of the Community Services Department Event Guide, and 60% had participated in a city program, event, or activity. When parents or guardians were asked if one or more of their children had participated in any program, activity, or event offered by Vacaville’s Community Services Department within the past 12 months, Eight in ten (81%) of online respondents said “yes,” versus 65% in the telephone survey.

On average, online respondents were better able to provide recommendations for additional city programs, events, and activities. Asked to specify, unaided, what they would like to see offered, 8% recommended adding youth activities or programs; 6% , baseball or softball; 5% , swimming; and 5% , tennis or pickleball.

Voter Reactions to Potential Tax Extension Proposals

Online consistent voters were 1.3 times more likely than those in the telephone survey to support the extension of Measure I, and about half as likely to report that they “oppose.” Among the online sample’s 245 consistent voters - those registered to vote and voting “always” or “most of the time” in Vacaville municipal elections - 75% said they would “favor” extending the tax measure and 11% , “oppose” it. Among the 184 online respondents favoring an extension, 35% indicated a belief “that services need to be continued as in the past” and “that facility and infrastructure improvements are important.”

Indoor Sports Stakeholders

In a recent study to assess the community’s need for indoor sports (Sports & Event Center Feasibility Study, May 31, 2011), The Sports Management Group interviewed potential community user groups regarding their needs. Nineteen potential user groups were contacted by phone and emailed an indoor sport facility assessment questionnaire.

Seven sports organizations and the City of Vacaville Community Services Department responded to the questionnaire and indicated high interest in use of a sports facility. The responding groups are local to the I-80 corridor representing participant age groups ranging from 5 to 18 years.

Sports organization respondents included:

- Fairfield Youth Basketball Club serving 400+ participants
- Norcal Indoor Sports Center and Sierra In-Line Hockey League serving 600 participants
- Five Starz Volleyball Club serving 70+ participants
- Fairfield Falcons Youth Football/Cheerleading and Suisun City Titans Youth Football/ Cheerleading serving 140+ cheerleading participants
- Vacaville United Soccer serving 2,500 participants
- City of Vacaville sponsored Youth Sports programs serving 4,000 participants with basketball the largest program

All sports groups, not including the city, are using school facilities (middle schools, high schools, private schools) for practices, weekend games, and tournaments.



All respondents indicated they would be interested in training or competing in a sport facility and at the same rates they are paying for space today. User groups and the City reported that they limit their number of participants due to the lack of indoor spaces for practice and play. Consistent availability of space is a challenge to these user groups. Interviews were conducted with two additional sports organizations:

Police Activities League (PAL) of Vacaville

PAL serves 200 youth participants a quarter using City facilities, including the Ulatis Community Center, Georgie Duke Sports Center, and Walter Graham Aquatic Center. PAL also hosts tournaments through the Community Services Department.

Vacaville Chapter of the National Junior Basketball (NJB)

The organization was involved in youth basketball tournament play, prior to folding before the 2008-09 season. NJB could not host tournaments due to lack of a facility and lack of access to courts for practice and play. NJB has need for a facility to host a tournament once a quarter. Additionally, they need access to 2-3 full basketball courts on evenings and weekends for practice and play. There are currently no structured leagues other than city leagues.

Community Workshop

A Needs Assessment Community Workshop was held in June 2012 at the McBride Senior Center. The purpose of the workshop was to seek additional public input regarding recreation and park needs of the community and their vision for Parks, Recreation and Community services in the future.

The public was invited through flyers, city bus billboard ads, newspaper ads, direct emails, local radio station KUIC public service announcement, and posted on the City website. There were approximately 30 attendees.

This interactive workshop was designed to gather individual responses to a series of questions in addition to small group consensus responses from the attendees. The individual responses reflected the survey results with high satisfaction with the recreation services, and support to continue the current level of service. The need for more trails (biking, hiking, walking) was expressed, as was the desire for more outdoor spaces, and a gymnasium for youth sports.

The group responses also echoed the survey findings, suggesting a strong a desire for indoor basketball / volleyball courts, trails, and increased restrooms at parks. Funding awareness and support to maintain the desired level of services is high. The community is engaged, active, appreciates the outdoors and is willing to fund the level of service the Community Services Department provides.

The detailed summary of this Community Workshop is found in the Appendix.



Facilities Inventory

The City of Vacaville provides a number of outdoor and indoor venues for recreation. Vacaville’s inventory of facilities and parks includes 33 developed parks, 6 community buildings/special facilities, 2 neighborhood centers, and 27 areas of existing city open space. Vacaville public schools also provide potential additional recreation resources.

Existing Community Facilities

Special Facilities are structures that provide space for indoor recreation, community education, cultural arts, social gathering, and other community needs. The aquatic center is also included in special facilities. These facilities host a wide variety of community events, from concerts, craft fairs, holiday events and rentals. This category includes a community center, senior center, aquatic center, indoor gymnasium, and the recreation center located with Vacaville Ice Sports.



The following provides an overview of each of the Special Facilities including the intended purpose, program offerings, and conclusions and/or recommendations.

THREE OAKS COMMUNITY CENTER

1100 Alamo Drive
(707) 469-4020
Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm
Saturday, 9am-12pm

Primary Purpose

Recreation Programming, Preschool, Rentals

Facility Overview

The Three Oaks Community Center is located at the intersection of Marshall Road and Alamo Drive on the western edge of town. It sits adjacent to the Walter V. Graham Aquatics Center, the skate park, and tennis courts within Three Oaks Community Park. The center has five rentable spaces that include an assembly hall with large stage and sound system, an activity room, a multi-purpose room, and two meeting rooms.

Programs

The facility houses a variety of recreation activities and is a key location for classes and program offerings provided by the Community Services Department. Primary programs at this location include youth camps, pre-school, dance and music instruction, special interest and enrichment classes, karate, and Jazzercise (which schedules up to 15 classes per week).



It is available for rentals for weddings, receptions, and meetings primarily on the weekends.

Conclusions & Recommendations

The facility is active and accessible. The popular preschool program is located in a large multi-use room. The outdoor enclosed playground area was under renovation at the time of site review. The facility hosts rentals on the weekends. The kitchen is undersized, worn, and inadequate as a catering kitchen. Local caterers are aware of the limitations and plan accordingly. An assessment of the kitchen is recommended to determine whether upgrades would result in greater use and/or justify increased rental fees.

The preschool must be set-up and dismantled when the room is needed for other uses (specifically rentals), making the program transient. It is recommended that the room be renovated to provide a dedicated space assigned for preschool use, with the adjacent enclosed playground outside. This space could then be rented for child birthday parties on the weekend, or used for additional childcare by on-going church rentals, with minimal adjustments to the room.

The assembly hall should have the lighting evaluated for possible improvements and energy-efficiency upgrades. The general room lighting appears dimmed and not conducive to many potential uses.



WALTER V. GRAHAM AQUATIC CENTER

1100 Alamo Drive

(707) 469-4028

Hours Vary By Season

Lap Swim Hours:

Monday-Friday: 5:30-8:00am, 11:00am-1:30pm, 7:30-9:00pm

Weekends: 11:00am-1:00pm

Primary Purpose:

Public Swim, Lessons, Vacaville Swim Team

Facility Overview

The Walter V. Graham Aquatic Center is located adjacent to Three Oaks Community Center, in Three Oaks Community Park and shares parking. The center was expanded and refurbished in 2002 and includes four bodies of water: a 10 lane 25 yard x 25 meter pool, an 8 lane 25 yard pool, splash down pool for two (2) 35-foot water slides, and a child's water playground with structure. The 25 yard x 25 meter pool features starting blocks, one and three meter diving boards, and water polo goals. There are also areas for group picnics.



Programs

Program offerings include swim instruction, lifeguarding classes, water fitness classes, lap swimming, masters swim, and water aerobics. Birthday party rentals are also popular. The swim center provides public open swim during the summer and is home to the Vacaville Swim Club, which practices year-round in both pools.

Conclusions & Recommendations

The year-round operation of the pools is a financial obstacle for the aquatic center. An analysis to study the option of closing during winter months was completed by staff. It was determined that closing the center during the off-season did not create significant cost savings. The Vacaville Swim Club is a primary user of the facility during the cold months. A review of the Vacaville Swim Club contract and possible renegotiation of the monthly use fee is under consideration. The City is currently re-negotiating the monthly use fee with the Swim Club with objective of recovering the City's direct cost for keeping the pool open during the winter months.

The aquatic center lacks adequate shaded areas, which if provided, would improve guest satisfaction and increase rental opportunities. The City is developing a proposal to install a permanent shade structure with a secondary use of solar collectors on the roof to increase efficiency of heating the pool water. There is insufficient office space that negatively impacts supervision of the facility, programming, and customer service. A study of expansion opportunities to develop the necessary office space is recommended. The half-acre of vacant land southwest of the existing pool fencing should be master planned to provide increased picnic space for party rentals and guest satisfaction.

Wind can be an impact at the aquatic center site. It is recommended that the City study the potential design and cost for increased windbreaks along the fence line or incorporated in the recommended additional shade structures. To stay competitive with the three commercial indoor pools available in Vacaville, it is important to make the outdoor setting as pleasant an experience as possible.



GEORGIE DUKE SPORTS CENTER, "THE DUKE"

720 East Monte Vista Avenue
(707) 449-6285

Current Hours:

Monday & Saturday, 9am-9pm
Tuesday/Thursday, 8am-10pm
Wednesday, 12-10pm
Friday, 3-10pm
Sunday, 3-7pm

Hours vary by week and month. Facility is open 7 days a week and hours are generally focused on evening use.

Primary Purpose:

Court Play, Georgie Duke Boxing Program



Facility Overview

Located within Andrews Park, and adjacent to the Vacaville Art League & Gallery and Country High School, the Georgie Duke Sports Center is a 12,600 SF indoor gymnasium and multi-purpose room. Georgie Duke provides one feature basketball court (or two cross courts) and a combined boxing and weight room.

Programs

Georgie Duke offers indoor basketball, volleyball, badminton, and boxing for adults and children, in addition to open gym and sport leagues. Programs are offered at affordable prices and facility rules allow drop-in use by youth. The Georgie Duke Boxing Program is located at Georgie Duke in a room dedicated to boxing and fitness training programs.

Conclusions & Recommendations

The facility is well used by the community, specifically, by youth leagues. Use is largely in the early evenings for league play and drop-in, pick-up games for youth and teens.

There is insufficient space in the lobby or elsewhere in the facility for team participants to meet before and after a game or practice. The lack of spectator seating, specifically bleachers in the gym, makes it difficult to observe court play. Chairs are available, but require set-up, teardown, and storage. This study recommends the expansion of the gymnasium to provide additional court space and retractable bleacher seating. The facility has non-working heating and ventilation system that is being evaluated for replacement and the roof is in need of major repair. The addition of an HVAC system is planned for this facility. It is recommended that the City continue with the addition of the HVAC system in a location that will not impact any potential future facility expansion.



JOHN A. MCBRIDE SENIOR CENTER

91 Town Square Place
(707) 469-6660

Current Hours:

Monday-Friday, 8:30am-5:30pm (Office)
Monday - Friday, 8:30am-3:30pm (Older Adult specific programming)

Primary Purpose:

Active Adult Programming, Rentals

Facility Overview

The John A. McBride Senior Center is located adjacent to Andrews Park and the Ulatis Creekwalk in downtown Vacaville. The sole senior center in Vacaville, this two-story facility houses an assembly hall and five rentable meeting spaces with a professional kitchen with convection and conventional oven, commercial refrigerator, and multiple prep and work spaces. It also offers a small stage and sound system.



Programs

The Senior Center houses a variety of recreation classes and programs for those aged 50 and older. These include workshops, group activities, field trips and tours, special-interest classes, enrichment and health classes, counseling, and volunteer opportunities. It also offers social services, support groups, health guidance and counseling specific to older adults. The center offers space for on-going drop-in activities, such as crafts, ceramics, cards, bingo, pool, and exercise. In addition to “Active Aging” programming, the center is used for children, teen, and adult programs, such as arts, enrichment, and special interest classes. It is available for rentals and has a banquet-seating capacity of 200 people. The Center is transitioning from a strictly senior destination to an expanded (age spectrum) programming and rental facility. This move towards a “multi-generational” approach should be continued to increase use of the facility and to address the identity that it may only be for seniors.

The Senior Center program partners with Faith in Action, a non-profit agency offering free transportation to homebound elderly; Meals on Wheels of Solano County lunch program; HiCap Counseling and Advocacy Program; and Sutter Care at Home.

Conclusions & Recommendations

The facility’s “Senior Center” designation limits user interest in the facility and its programs. Over time, the perception should evolve into that of an active aging adult venue. Staff works to dispel the misperception that the Center is used solely for senior programming. Referring to the center as “multi-generational” -- a term that embraces all age groups - might be used for marketing purposes. Senior spaces are made available for cross-age programming, and the allocation of senior programming-specific hours (before 3pm) helps open the space for multi-use later in the day.

Parking is a challenge during weekday operating hours, when spaces are shared with the library and commercial and retail business in the downtown area. At times, there is a deficiency of convenient, available parking for senior program participants.

The Senior Club is a non-profit organization with a long-standing relationship with the City and is allocated dedicated office space and room use privileges at the Senior Center. Charging the Senior Club a discounted rental rate is a consideration. Recognizing that the Senior Club is a volunteer-based organization with limited sources of revenue, considering alternative ways the Club can contribute to the cost recovery (other than a direct rental payment) could be a strategy. The Senior Club may be able to sponsor an annual fundraiser on behalf of the center, or the Club may directly sponsor selected programming or free classes on behalf of the center, in exchange for space. Redefining this partnership to be equitable for both parties and contribute to the overall quality of senior programming is important, due to the long-standing relationship of the Club with the city.

ULATIS COMMUNITY CENTER AND GARDENS

1000 Ulatis Drive
(707) 469-4000

Current Hours:

Monday-Thursday, 8am-7pm
Friday, 8am-5pm

Primary Purpose:

Community Center, Enrichment Classes, Rentals

Facility Overview

The Ulatis Community Center and Wedding Gardens are centrally located at the Vacaville Cultural Center, with the Performing Arts Theater and Library.



The primary space is an 8,000 SF multi-purpose room, which can be divided into four separate chambers with the use of movable walls. The multi-purpose rooms can be configured for a variety of activities, including banquet seating for 400. Amenities include a commercial kitchen, sound system, and off-street parking. The facility has beautiful landscaped gardens with a patio area. The lobby is large enough to be used for displays.

Programs

The Ulatis Community Center is one of three buildings, (Library, VPAT, Community Center) which is referenced as the cultural center of the Vacaville Community Services Department and is adjacent to an event garden area, the Vacaville Performing Arts Theater, and the Library. The center and gardens are an ideal setting for rentals and events, large and small, such as weddings, conferences, and trainings. The center is considered a premier rental facility, complete with an outdoor event (wedding) venue and ample parking.

The Ulatis Community Center is scheduled for community programming, such as arts (drawing, painting) and other enrichment classes, 6th grade socials, health and fitness classes, theater rehearsals, and PAL events. The spaces are adaptable for large

class and program participation; however, for smaller classes, the spaces feel cold and vast. Afternoons are a slow time for the facility and there is capacity to accommodate increased programming.

Conclusions & Recommendations

Staff reports the large room to be adequately flexible for large group programming and rental purposes. Programming and event use may be increased by the use of the patio areas located at each end of the multipurpose rooms. These areas could be designated for outdoor event hosting in support of the larger room spaces. They could serve as an adjunct host family meeting area or a separate activity space for rental event participants. Opportunities to showcase these smaller, quaint spaces will provide long-term marketing exposure.

Spaces are available during the slow afternoon periods and further outreach to user groups to market this underutilized period is recommended. A former office space has been converted to classroom space for smaller-size programs such as *Conversational Spanish* and *Introduction to Band*. This renovation project will help bring foot traffic to the Center during low-use hours.



VACAVILLE PERFORMING ARTS THEATER

1010 Ulatis Dr.
(707) 469-4013

Facility Overview

Located at the Vacaville Cultural Center on Ulatis Drive & Allison Drive is the Vacaville Performing Arts Center (VPAT) located between the Library and the Ulatis Community Center. Opened in 1993, the theater is a state-of-the-art performance facility with 80' x 40' stage and 40' x 20' proscenium, professional sound and lighting systems, full orchestra pit, a professional-height fly system capable of moving stage scenery, two large dressing rooms, and an outdoor patio. The theater includes a 9-foot concert grand piano, an upright piano, music stands, conductor's podium, and lecterns. The theater has 500 seats and is managed through an agreement with VenueTech Management Group, the City, and volunteers.

Programs

VPAT hosts performing arts and enrichment activities for all ages, business and community events, and is currently home to many local performance groups like the Vacaville Ballet Theatre Company, Solano Community Symphony, and Vacaville Concert Society.

The theater also attracts popular headline performers. It is available for rentals. The theater's efforts are aided by "On Stage Vacaville," a local non-profit organization that works to promote and develop an appreciation for the performing arts and arts programming at the theater. The organization's goals are to:

- Expand the theatre's programming focus
- Manage a Cultural Growth Fund with the purpose of providing seed money for funding new creative work
- Facilitate education and exposure to the arts for the youth of Vacaville

Conclusions & Recommendations

The theater functions at a very high level. Its programming is diverse and creative, and the theater's operations capitalize on well-established community relationships, such as partnerships, volunteers, and sponsoring agencies.

The theater's enclosed outdoor patio is currently under-utilized. The patio lacks a required emergency exit from the patio. This study recommends the installation of a gate to provide a route of egress from the patio to the outdoor event area, which will increase the opportunities for larger group events and event rentals. The patio would also be enhanced with the addition of shade awnings or structures.



VACAVILLE RECREATION CENTER

551 Davis Street (inside the Vacaville Ice Skating Center)
(707) 449-6101

Primary Purpose:

Gymnastics, Cheer, Basketball, Volleyball, Camps

Facility Overview

The Recreation Center shares its entrance and lobby with the Vacaville Ice Center and is divided into two main areas, the Gymnastics/Tumbling program area and the Indoor Sport Court program area. The gymnastics/tumbling programming consists of cheer, tumbling, introductory and competitive team gymnastics, and birthday parties. The indoor sport courts host basketball leagues for 4th grade and above, volleyball camps, sport camps and volleyball leagues. There is a bleacher area for spectator seating. Floor surface for the indoor court area is interlocking tiles over a concrete floor. The building is cleared of all equipment annually for the City's Festival of Trees during each Christmas Holiday season. The building is leased from the adjacent Vacaville Ice-Sports Facility.

Conclusions & Recommendations

The gymnastics, tumbling, and cheer programs at the Recreation Center are popular and in high demand. The variety of programs offered in the gymnastics/tumbling area have addressed the recreational and competitive needs of the participants and are popular with neighboring (non-resident) participants. The use of the space for the annual Festival of Trees event imposes a significant hardship on the gymnastics program. The gymnastics program is suspended during this annual event which results in a loss of training time and continuity in training. Sustainable program membership is desired.



The basketball/volleyball area of the facility is heavily programmed with leagues and camps. The bleacher area is an appreciated feature for spectators and waiting family. For most of the programs offered in this gym a sprung wood floor would be preferred. As is, the court area would be more appropriate for elementary and preschool sport uses, as the court area is too small to properly accommodate a full size court. Despite the court constraints, the facility is heavily used due to lack of alternative courts available.

If sports programming is relocated, it is recommended that the courts be remodeled to provide space for popular birthday party rentals and an expansion of the tumbling and gymnastic space. This area lacks a defined space for participant check-in with staff or adequate storage. Staff reports the roof leaks have been an ongoing issue resulting in water damage of equipment and increased maintenance. The facility is cold and damp for spectators. The roof should be evaluated for repair and/or replacement.



Implementation of Master Plan

The City has accomplished many of the goals outlined in the 1992 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan. Major improvements include, but are not limited to:

- Walter Graham Aquatic Center Renovation
- Renovation of McBride Senior Center
- Ulatis Community Center
- Performing Arts Theater
- Centennial Park Soccer Complex
- Lagoon Valley Park (taken over by the City in 1994 from Solano County. The City assumed operations in 1995)

NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS

Neighborhood centers host after-school recreational programming, as well as drop-in activities. Drop-in activities may include organized sports, educational and recreational computer use, tutoring, English as a Second Language classes, arts and crafts, Kids Unlimited Homework Club, and summer programs. These centers also host the TGIFun Club.

In addition to the City centers, the following centers are operated by a non-profit provider:

- Mariposa Neighborhood Center, 1625 Alamo Drive
- Trower Neighborhood Center, 100 Holly Lane

Schools

Public schools provide additional recreation resources to the community. School facilities made available for community use include sport fields, gymnasiums, pool, and multi-purpose rooms.

For a number of years, shared use was provided under the terms of a City and Vacaville Unified School District Joint Use Agreement. Both the City and the School District have struggled with declining funding and increased demands for space. Community access to the gymnasiums at the two high schools is extremely limited. Vacaville High School (VHS) has one gymnasium for its athletic program, which is insufficient to meet high school program needs. VHS uses a middle school gymnasium for some team practices. Will C. Wood High School has two gymnasiums that adequately meet the school's needs; however, the swim team's needs are not being adequately met due to lack of a pool at the school site. Due to the high demand for athletic team use of school facilities, there is very limited availability to the community. Vacaville Unified School District closes their fields from December through January each year for field maintenance, further limiting the availability of those fields. After an assessment of needs, space availability, and funding, the entities decided not to renegotiate the joint use agreement.

Recently, the City of Vacaville and the Vacaville Unified School District entered into a pilot joint use agreement, which stipulates a \$5,000 cap per year for approved subsidized (free) use. Facility uses must be approved by City and school district administration to qualify for the subsidized fee, otherwise approved fee rates are applied. This agreement is in its infancy, and it is too early to evaluate its effectiveness. Both agencies are revisiting their facility needs and looking within their own inventory to fill requests.



Community user groups continue to be served by both organizations for their meeting room, field, and gymnasium needs. To manage the user group field and facility use requests, both agencies have implemented defined scheduling processes and meetings with user groups to address competing space and field scheduling requests. The fields, gym space, VHS pool, and meeting room availability does not adequately meet the demand. The following school districts serve Vacaville residents and rent facilities to user groups:

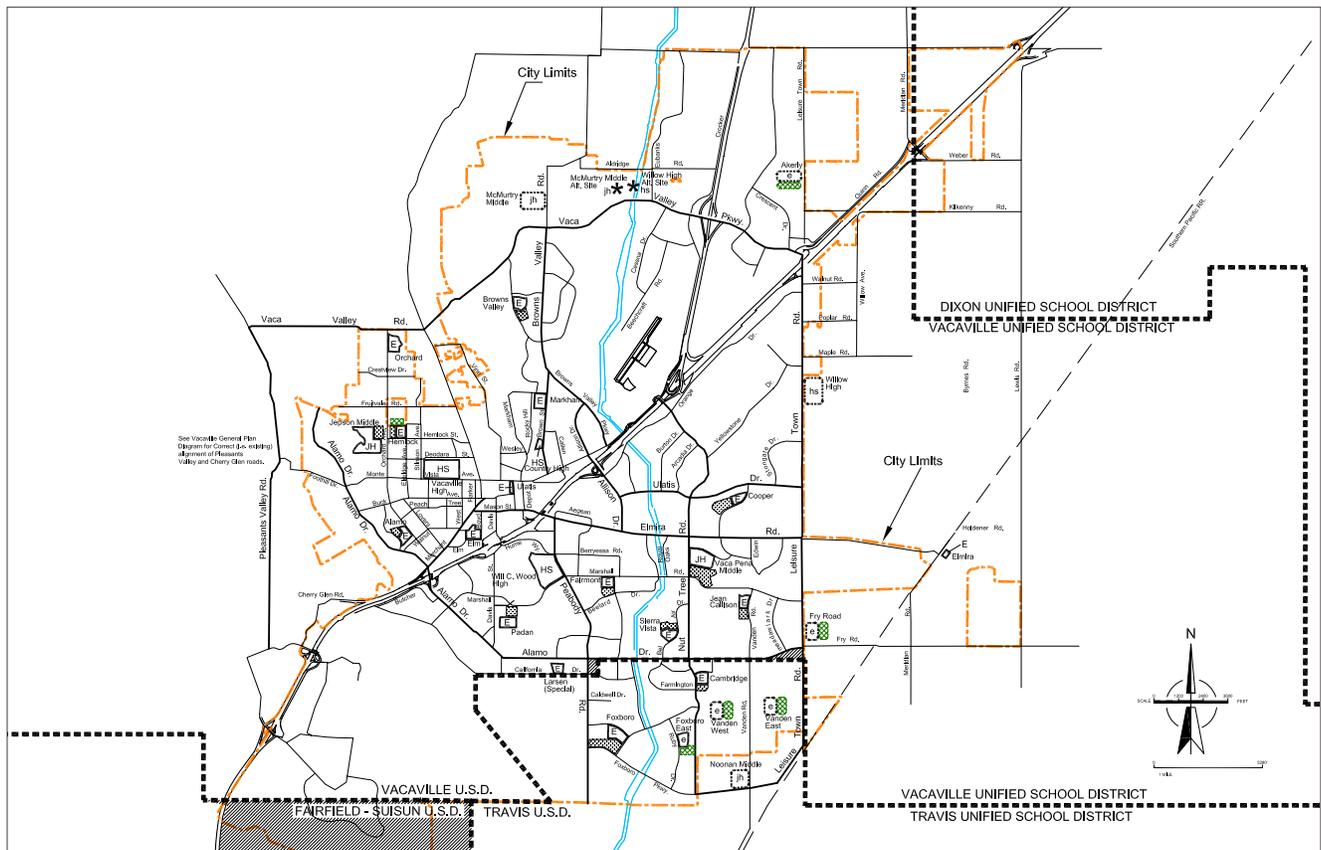
- Vacaville Unified School District
- Travis Unified School District
- Dixon Unified School District
- Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District

Parks

The City of Vacaville has an extensive park system, and the recent Community Opinion Survey (see Community Input section) affirmed that parks and open space are in high demand. The City is proposing six classifications of city parks and open space based on their size, function and character as part of the General Plan update process. The classifications are: Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, Regional Park, Accessible Open Space, Special Purpose Facilities, and Bikeways, Multi-Use Trails and Nature Trails. A new classification, School District Owned Properties, would result in those parks no longer counted as City parks.

Figure 5.1 - Vacaville School District Boundaries

Source: <http://www.cityofvacaville.com/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=260>





The Public Works Department is responsible for maintenance of all facilities and parks with the exception of the Aquatic Center. A majority of Neighborhood Park maintenance is funded under separate Lighting and Landscape Districts and additional general fund support; otherwise, the maintenance is primarily funded through the General Fund. The inventory of all parks and open spaces follow below. A full map of Vacaville parks is provided in the Appendix of this report.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood Parks serve the daily recreation needs of nearby residents (within ½ mile or approximately a 10-minute walking distance), with primarily passive and informal recreation facilities. Neighborhood Parks often include play areas, picnic areas, open turf areas or green space, basketball courts, tennis courts, and may contain sport practice play fields. Some Neighborhood Parks are home to afterschool programs. The desired size for a Neighborhood Park is 6 to 10 acres. In addition to the Neighborhood Parks listed in Figure 5.2, Vacaville has 8 planned Neighborhood Parks.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Community Parks are mid-sized parks with a recommended minimum size of 10 acres, and a desired size of 20 acres or more, ranging up to 60 acres according to the existing standards. Community parks are destination parks generally serve those living within a 1.5-mile radius but can serve the needs of people from several neighborhoods up to an entire city. They typically contain a wide variety of facilities for active and passive recreation, organized sports, and night use. Community park amenities may include shaded picnic areas, community buildings, lighted sport fields, and restroom buildings. They also provide amenities typical of neighborhood parks for use by the surrounding residents. Vacaville’s existing Community Parks include:

- Andrews Park
- Arlington Park (John)
- Keating Park (William)
- Nelson Park (Eleanor)
- Patch Park (Al)
- Three Oaks Park

In addition to the existing Community Parks, Vacaville has the following planned Community Park additions:

- Elmira Rd/ Leisure Town Rd Park
- Keating Park (expansion)
- Nelson Park (expansion)
- Patch Park (expansion)

CITY PARKS

According to the existing standard, City parks are large parks that serve the entire city population. They are typically 100 acres or more in size and centrally located, acting as a focal point for recreational activity and a key attraction. A city park may include sport fields, a swimming complex, tennis courts, a dog park, or indoor sports center, as well as open spaces for passive recreational use.

Centennial Park is currently Vacaville’s only park classified as a City Park. Located centrally within the city, it is accessible to all residents. Centennial Park is 265 acres, of which 35.7 acres have been developed. Its facilities include four baseball fields (one lighted), four soccer fields (two lighted), one outdoor roller hockey court (marked on a parking lot with backstop), four tennis courts, nature trails, multi-use paved trail, on-site parking for approximately 1,673 vehicles, restrooms, and a concession complex.



Figure 5.2 - Vacaville Park Inventory

NAME	LOCATION	ACRES
EXISTING PARKS		
Alamo Creek Park	Alamo Dr. and Buck Ave.	9.5
Arbor Oaks Park	Arbor Oaks Dr. at Leeward Ct.	2.5
Browns Valley Park	Wrentham Dr.	4.4
Cambridge Park	Nut Tree Rd. and Cambridge Dr.	3.4
Cannon Station Park	Nut Tree Rd. and Opal Wy.	6.6
City Hall Park	Walnut Ave. at City Hall	1.6
Cooper School Park	830 Christine Dr.	6.6
Fairmont-Beelard Park	Beelard Dr. and Matthews Ct.	5.2
Hawkins Park	Summerfield Dr. and Newport Cir.	3.1
Larsen Park (Irene)	Alamo Dr. at Rosewood Dr.	4.3
Little Oak Park	Turnbridge St. at Salisbury Ct.	1.1
Meadowlands Park	Vanden Rd. at Bluebird Dr.	8.1
Normandy Meadows Park	Meadowlark Dr. and Chateau Cir.	0.3
North Orchard Park	Orchard Ave. and Crestview Dr.	7.9
Padan Park	Alonzo Rd. and Padan School Rd.	6.5
Patwin Park	Elmira Rd. and Leisure Town Rd.	4.7
Pheasant Country Park	Madison Ave. and Nancy Cir.	7.0
Pocket Park	East of Ralph Ave. on Elmira Rd.	0.9
Ridgeview Park	Tipperary Dr. and Bluewater Dr.	7.3
Sierra Vista Park	West of Bel Air Dr. on Greenwich Cir.	4.2
Southwood Park	Southwood Dr. and Sherwood Ct.	3.8
Stonegate Park	Stonegate Dr. and Stonewood Dr.	6.0
Trower Park	Markham Ave. and Holly Ln.	4.0
Willows Park	South of Catalina Ct. on Ogden Wy.	2.0
PLANNED NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS		
Corderos Park	Parkside Dr. (North Village)	6.0
Fry Road Park	Leisure Town Rd. and Fry Rd.	TBD
Hemlock Park	Eldridge Ave and Hemlock St	4.2
Lower Lagoon Valley Park	TBD	7.9
Magnolia Park (under construction)	Cogburn Cir. & Vanden Rd.	12.0
North Village AP-2	South of Midway Rd.	TBD
Southtown Pocket Park #2	Vanden Rd.	1.3
Wellsite Bike Rest 2	East of Christine Drive on Elmira Rd.	0.9



The park also includes three soccer “hobby fields” which are no longer functional due to worn-out artificial turf. There are plans for park expansion.

It is recommended that the “City Park” classification be eliminated and that Centennial Park, which serves the same purpose as community parks, be reclassified under the “Community Park” category. It is noted that Centennial Park’s size is an exception to the standard for community parks.

- Centennial Park - 35.7 developed acres. Potential developed acreage: 265

PARK AMENITIES

Vacaville parks include the following total amenities. A full chart is provided in the Appendix of this report.

- Baseball/Softball Fields (Lighted) - 14
- Baseball/Softball Fields (w/o Lights) - 30
- Basketball (Full Courts) - 15.5
- Barbeque Grills or Pits - 67
- Bocce Ball Court - 1
- Community Youth Buildings - 7
- Concession Buildings - 8
- Dog Run (Off Leash Area) - 1
- Fishing Area - 1 (Lagoon is no longer stocked with fish)
- Fitness Circuits/Exercise Course - 7
- Horseshoe Pits - 6
- Natural Areas (w/ Pathways) - 4
- Off-Street Parking Spaces - 1,673
- Picnic Tables - 171
- Sheltered Picnic Tables - 68

- Pieces of Play Structures - 42
- Restrooms - 8
- Skate Areas - 2
- Soccer/Football Fields - 18
- Swimming Pools - 3 at one site
- Tennis Courts (Lighted) - 4
- Tennis Courts (w/o Lights) - 13
- Turfed Areas (Play Fields) - 12
- Volleyball Courts - 2
- Over 2,000 acres of open space

EXISTING OPEN SPACES & TRAILS

City open spaces are parcels of land owned by the City of Vacaville and intended for maintenance or preservation in a natural or less-intensive developed state. Open Space areas are lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, open space, and public education. There are over 2,000 acres of open space in Vacaville. Accessible open space areas are available for passive recreation with such self-guided activities that typically include hiking, biking, horseback riding, bird watching, fishing, and nature appreciation. Open space areas provide for trails, views, natural vegetation, wildlife, and environmental educational facilities.

Trails and pathways serve multiple uses such as bicycling, walking, and jogging. Trail types are classified as follows: Hiking / Equestrian, Multipurpose, Creekway, Riparian Preserve, and Trailhead. Vacaville has a number of trails and pathways, with the goal of creating a comprehensive network of bikeways, hiking trails, and equestrian paths. Vacaville also has plans for continuing its bikeway system, based on bike paths, bike lanes, and bike routes. The goal is to provide safe and convenient routes, opportunities for recreation, and major links to destination points.



Prominent bike trails in Vacaville include the Alamo Creek Bike Trail, Ulatis Creek Bike Trail, North Pass Trail, Southside Bike Trail and Centennial Bike Trail (See attached Bike Path Map in the Appendix).

Vacaville’s existing city Open Spaces include:

- Alamo Creek Open Space & Bike Trail
- Alamo Terrace Open Space
- Allison Open Space
- Alpine Open Space
- Browns Valley Open Space
- California Drive Open Space
- Caliguiri Park & Preserve Open Space
- Foothill Open Space
- Glen Eagle Open Space
- Gonzales Open Space
- Hidden Oaks Open Space
- Hidden Valley Open Space
- Lagoon Creek Open Space
- Lagoon Valley Eastern Hills Open Space
- Lagoon Valley Southern Hills Open Space
- P.G. and E. Open Space
- Peña Adobe Open Space
- Southside Bike Trail Open Space
- Ulatis Creek Open Space
- Woodcrest Open Space

Vacaville also has several planned Open Spaces, including:

- Alamo Basin Open Space
- Alamo Creek Ridge Open Space

REGIONAL PARK

It is recommended to reclassify the entire Lagoon Valley Park as a ‘Regional Park.’ A regional park is a large, nature-themed park providing natural open spaces and related passive recreational activities. A regional park is designed to serve the city’s entire population as well as the surrounding areas. Lagoon Valley Park consists of a 106-acre lake, picnic sites and other amenities, open fields, and trails, with a natural landscape of hills, creeks, and valley. The historic Peña Adobe and surrounding grounds are considered a sub-set of this area. This study proposes that the entire Lagoon Valley Park be recognized and inventoried as a regional park.

- Lagoon Valley Park - 314 Acres¹
- Peña Adobe Park (part of Lagoon Valley Park)

Service Provider (Competitor) Analysis

Public, private, and commercial providers appeal to different segments of the recreation market and each are important to overall delivery of recreation service. When assessing demand and the capacity of the market to serve that demand, commercial service providers must be included in the inventory. The City of Vacaville has a diverse inventory of commercial service providers ranging from small, specialized studios for dance to large sports centers for ice skating and indoor soccer.

Commercial sports centers with specialized facilities for indoor skating activities (hockey, ice skating, and floor hockey) and indoor soccer are adequately meeting the area demand.

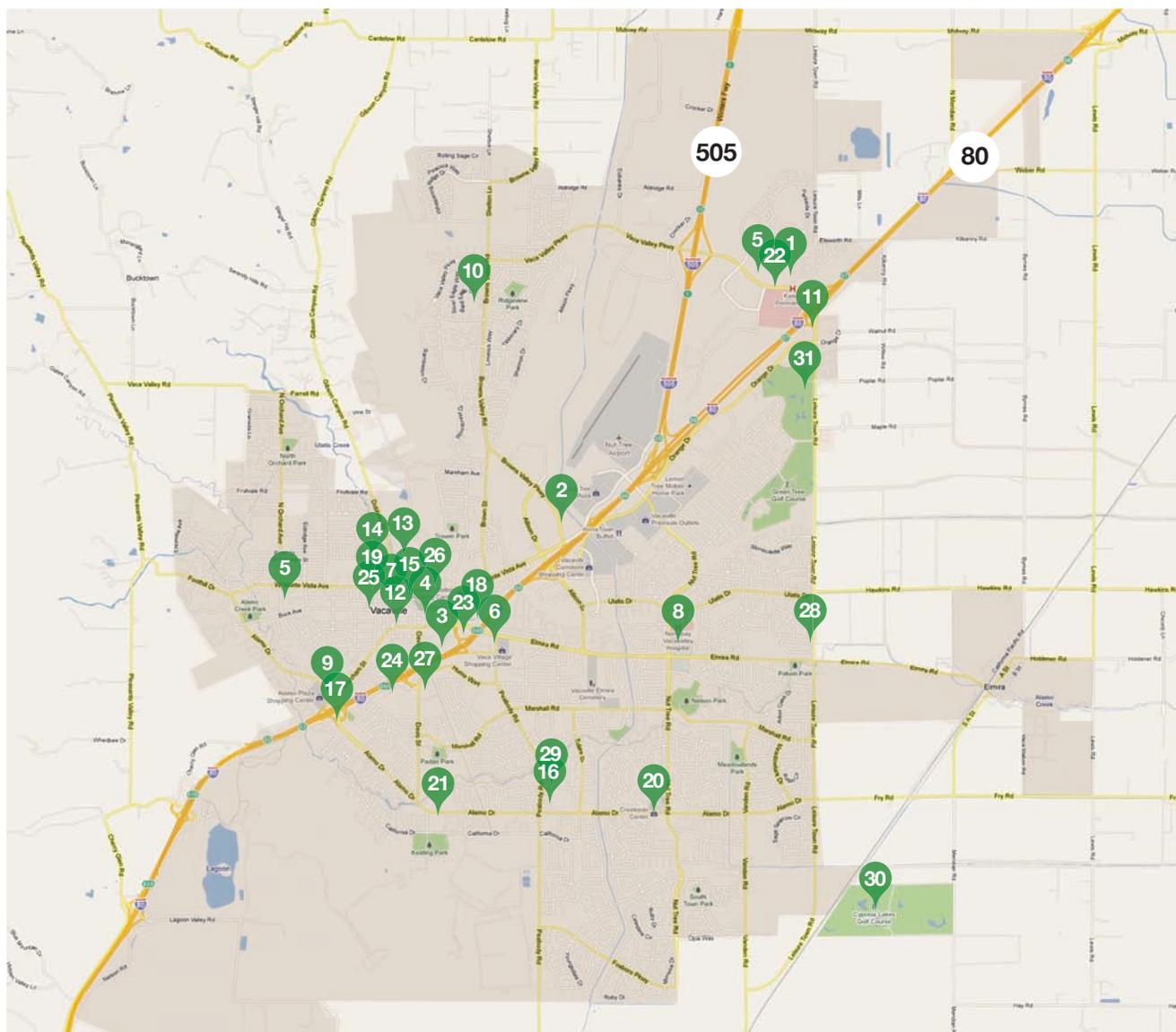
¹Lagoon Valley Park currently includes 40 acres of community park acreage; however, it has been proposed to define the entire park as a regional facility.



Soccer Nation, located in Vacaville has one of the largest indoor fields in Northern California. There is also ample availability of private health clubs and fitness center providers in Vacaville. Three of these fitness centers offer indoor pools: In-Shape, Gold’s Gym and Millennium. The indoor pool setting provides for year-round programming in a climate controlled environment and is a primary reason for, or enhancement, to membership.

To estimate the market capacity to serve the identified demand for fitness and recreational activity, quasi-public and commercial facilities in the City of Vacaville were inventoried. Figure 5.3 shows the location of each private provider, followed by a listing of these providers by category. A full summary that reviews the amenities and services of each facility is provided in the Appendix.

Figure 5.3 - Map Of Service Provider Locations





PRIVATE SERVICE PROVIDERS

1. Soccer Nation
2. Stars Recreation Center
3. Vacaville Ice Sports

Health Clubs

4. Active Lifestyle Fitness Studio
5. Crossfit - 2 Locations
6. Fitness 19
7. Gold's Gym
8. In-Shape Health Clubs - Vacaville Elmira
9. In-Shape Health Club - Vacaville Alamo
10. Millenium Sports Club (In-Shape)
11. Vacaville Fitness

Yoga and Pilates Studios

12. Akasha Yoga
13. Fitbodies INC.
14. Sport Rehab - Pilates Studio
15. Pilates By Design
16. Practical Pilates Studio
17. YogaCoreFit

Martial Arts

18. Hamlet's American Taekwondo Academy
19. Martial Arts Institute of Vacaville
20. Tracy's Karate & Mixed Martial Arts Studios
21. Shotokan Karate DO

Gymnastics

22. Aerials Hip Hop & All-Star Cheer
23. Fox Gymnastics Training Center
24. Dream Xtreme Gymnastics

Dance

25. Belly Dancing By Jenia
26. Patty's Studio of Dance
27. Vacaville Ballet Theatre Co.
28. Vacaville Zumba
29. The Parthenon Classical Arts Center

Golf

30. Cypress Lakes Golf Course (outside of Vacaville boundaries)
31. Green Tree Golf Club



Facility & Park Standards

The City of Vacaville adopted park and recreation facility standards as part of the 1992 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. The 1992 Master Plan also identified goals and policies to ensure that adequate parks and recreation facilities are available to the community now and in the future. The Sports Management Group reviewed the standards, assessed deficiencies, and developed recommendations for updating the standards.

The City has fallen behind in the provision of facilities to meet its standards. The current facility deficiencies are shown in the shaded column in Figure 6.1. Funding for additional facilities is a major impediment to developing the facilities needed to comply with the facility standards. The existing facility shortages are not attributable to future growth; consequently, the City cannot use Development Impact Fees (DIF) to address these deficiencies.

The greatest facility deficiencies listed in the table were also identified as the highest demand through the Needs Assessment study (specifically, indoor courts for basketball and volleyball, and outdoor soccer fields). As the City of Vacaville grows, additional facilities are required to meet the service levels of the future population. The City's Development Impact Fee Program (DIF) has not kept pace with the funding needed to build public facilities and develop parkland. The City must identify and secure additional capital funding sources to develop facilities and parkland to meet current standards, and address funding for future facilities.

Facility Standard Deficiencies

Special purpose facilities standard represents buildings that house recreational programs and/or facilities targeted to meet the needs of a certain sector of the population or neighborhood. Based on survey results and resident preferences, the special use facilities standards are still appropriate for the City of Vacaville. However, the development of some of these standards may be incorporated within a multi-generational component instead of the typical age specific facility. For instance, the need for an additional senior center may be accomplished through a multi-generational building model. Also, basketball and volleyball courts may be built in a multi-purpose gym to accommodate both court sports. The scheduling and accessibility to the courts is a typical responsibility of the CSD. For the City to provide the desired level of service to its citizens and conform to the Facility Standards, the following must be developed.

GYMNASIUM WITH INDOOR COURT SPACE

The market analysis for the Sports & Event Center Feasibility Study identified a very significant local, community-based demand for indoor courts for youth and adult basketball and volleyball. When assessing the demand for indoor sports the community need includes local tournaments, practices, drop-ins, and league play. This is in addition to the recreational leagues, practices, classes and programs the Community Services Department will be initiating.



Figure 6.1 - Existing Deficiencies Compared to Approved Facility Standards (Based on Existing City Standards)

FACILITY	FACILITY STANDARD RESIDENTS SERVED*	EXISTING FACILITIES (2012)	ESTIMATED FACILITY NEED BASED ON 2011 POPULATION*	CURRENT # DEFICIENT FACILITIES	ESTIMATED FACILITY NEED BASED ON 2030 POPULATION**	FACILITIES NEEDED FOR 2030 BASED ON 2012 EXISTING
Community Centers	32,000	2	2.6	.6	3.8	1.8
Senior Centers	64,000	1	1.3	.3	1.75	.75
Neighborhood Centers	13,000	11	6.4	0	8.6	0
Gymnasiums	32,000	1.3	2.6	1.6	3.5	2.2
Pools	32,000	3.15	2.6	0	3.5	.35
Baseball/Softball Fields	2,750	55	30.5	0	40.8	0
Football/Soccer Fields	4,000	18	20.9	2.9	28.05	10.5
Basketball Courts	5,000	15.5	16.7	1.2	22.4	6.9
Tennis Courts	5,000	17	16.7	.3	22.4	5.4
Volleyball Courts	10,000	2	8.4	6.4	11.2	9.2

The City’s indoor courts are located in the Georgie Duke Sports Center and the Recreation Center where the programming priority is youth sports, leaving limited time for adults. Youth sports appear as a core service area for CSD and are provided primary scheduled time on the available courts. However, adult court sports should not be neglected in order to maintain and support a healthy community, and are typically prime cost recovery programs for the department. It is obvious the demand for both youth and adult sports exceeds the capacity of these facilities. The Georgie Duke facility was designed with expansion capacity for an additional court and bleacher seating.

The Recreation Center provides a court with a tile flooring which is not conducive to adult basketball or volleyball play. The Georgie Duke Recreation Center should continue its focus on youth sports. There is need for a second court for youth and teen sports.

The following are recommendations:

- Undertake a study to identify the feasibility and probable costs to expand the Georgie Duke facility
- Assess the feasibility of replacing the flooring tiles with a hardwood surface at the Recreation Center

*Population estimate for 2011 is 91,762. The 2010 Census reported an institutionalized population of 7,989 for the City of Vacaville. For the purpose of this study, the non-institutionalized population total of 83,773 was used for the above calculations.

**2030 population estimate for Vacaville 129,200 according to the Association of Bay Area Governments. The 2010 Census reported an institutionalized population of 7,989 for the City of Vacaville. For the purpose of this study, the 2030 projection total was used, not including the 2010 reported institutionalized population, for a total of 121,211.



- Consider the construction of a gymnasium with 3 full size basketball courts and a wood floor studio. This could be a part of a multi-generational center. A primary site consideration would be Centennial Park due to available space, location, access, parking, and synergy with other uses.
 - » Assess the feasibility of incorporating an indoor pool to address the pool standard

COMMUNITY CENTER

The Facility Standard calls for approximately two additional centers by 2030. It also includes the addition of a senior center. At the time of the standards development, senior centers were social services hubs with meal programs and activities serving the 55-70 age group. Today, seniors lead much more active lifestyles and consider themselves younger in their outlook and expectations. A strategy to address both of these future facility needs is to incorporate the multi-generational concept. Cross-generational programming of community facilities promotes social interaction and takes best advantage of flexible space. This is an efficient and cost effective means to address a variety of space needs. In addition to shared spaces, the multigenerational center typically includes some dedicated space for specific targeted age segments, such as dedicated preschool classroom or a senior activity room. Shared spaces can be programmed specifically for a designated age group. For instance, the addition of a technology/computer room can be scheduled specifically for senior use during the day and teen use in the afternoons.

The addition of a wood floor studio to a community center project would increase programming and rental uses. A wood floor studio would benefit the popular Zumba, Jazzercise, senior stretch, yoga, tai chi, and dance programs providing expansion in these programming areas.

Multigenerational facility planning will address the Facility Standard needs for community centers, senior center and increased programming space (wood dance floor) in one combined building resulting in less buildings to be constructed. The recommendation is to combine the standard requirement for an additional senior center into the Community Center requirements and rename as Multigenerational Centers.

SOCCER FIELDS

There are eight locations with grass fields within Vacaville, including the Centennial Park Soccer Complex. Meadowlands Park provides a four-field layout for youth 8 and under. All fields are natural turf without lighting or permanent field markings, with the exception of Centennial Park, which has two lighted soccer fields. Neighborhood park locations provide ad hoc game and team practice soccer fields. This intensified use impacts neighborhoods. Limited parking, limited or no restrooms, and neighbor complaints are all concerns with this type of use at neighborhood parks. The development of soccer fields at Centennial Park should be explored in cooperation with the Vacaville Youth Soccer League (VYSL). A draft master plan of Centennial Park Soccer Complex was prepared and should be revisited. This master plan must be reviewed in context of an overall Centennial Park Master Plan incorporating the fields in the context of that plan.

- Soccer/football fields
 - » Minimum 3 total lighted fields

Vacaville Youth Soccer League

The current agreement with the soccer organization should be reviewed and a funding strategy and timeline in place to develop the fields for community competitive play.



- Outdoor field space is lacking specifically for soccer. The existing facility at the Centennial Park Soccer Complex is under lease to the Vacaville Youth Soccer League for \$1 per year and remains under-developed. *
- The intention was that the league should fundraise and contribute to development of additional fields; however, that has not occurred at a significant level. The four existing fields completed in 2000. Trailers provide building support. There remain plans for future development of up to five more fields and particularly lighted fields to extend playing time. The City may explore a mutual benefit agreement and develop fields for public recreation programs such as the Little Kickers.

AQUATIC CENTER

Vacaville's hot summers are conducive to resident participation in water activities. According to the facility standards, Vacaville will require only a partial body of water to accommodate residents by 2030. However, the current aquatic center also has some deficiencies that should be addressed. The following summarizes recommendation for the Aquatic Center and community-wide aquatics:

- Increasing shade structures and picnic areas at the Aquatic Center would provide additional rental space for birthday parties and special events, and would generally encourage longer stays at the center. This could be accomplished by expanding the fencing south of the play pool and should be further explored.

- An on-site staff office space is recommended. Currently, staff is scheduled to open and close the Aquatic Center. On-site staff would provide facility oversight and increased communications. Opportunities for additional programming may be better realized with on-site staff.
- Water spraygrounds promote unstructured play and do not require staff supervision. It is recommended the City continue incorporating water features at neighborhood/community parks distributed throughout town. This is an inexpensive way to provide a water feature and make them accessible to a larger population without the need for transportation.
- Assess the feasibility of constructing an indoor pool within a multi-generational center

TENNIS COURTS

Vacaville has met the standard for tennis courts. The survey results stated that only 18% had visited a tennis court over the previous six months. When asked if residents would support additional tennis courts, 25% favored more courts and 41% did not. Twenty-nine (29%) of the respondents were neutral. It appears there is not a substantial tennis playing community within Vacaville and this facility standard should be revised to reflect the lower priority of this court need to the 1 per 10,000 residents served.

*Since the time of writing, the Redevelopment Agency has ceased to exist. The soccer complex is now part of Centennial Park and a new agreement between the City and the Vacaville Youth Soccer League is being established.



Parks

GENERAL PLAN PARK STANDARDS

The General Plan identifies a citywide standard service level for parkland area of 4.5 acres per thousand residents. In September 2010, the City issued an Existing Conditions Technical Memorandum update to the park standards in the General Plan. The City has 260 acres of developed parkland comprising 111.1 acres of neighborhood parks, 113.2 acres of community parks, and 35.7 acres of city parks. The City owns 265 acres of land that are designated as City Park, of which only 35.7 acres have been developed. Based on the estimated current population of 83,240 the overall provision of developed parkland is 3.1 acres per 1,000 residents or 1.4 acres per 1,000 below the City’s standard. There are deficiencies in achieving two of the existing park standards: 0.5 neighborhood park acres and 0.3 city park acres per 1,000 residents. Without developing new parks, the deficiencies are exacerbated as the population grows to the projected 2030 population of 121,211. There is a current deficiency of 115 park

acres; if the allotted park acreage remains unchanged, the city will be deficient 285 acres in 2030. The park standards are identified in the table that follows, along with current and projected acreage needs.

Enjoying nature rated as very important to residents and they showed an appreciation for the maintenance of the parks and open spaces. According to the Needs Assessment Public Opinion Survey, residents regard the parks as well maintained, easily accessible, and clean. There was strong response for increased hiking, biking, and walking trails providing connections with the natural outdoors. Residents also desire increased links between the trails to develop comprehensive loops. This includes improved or additional restrooms at the park areas. Residents desire more access to nature, community garden spaces, Family-Friendly Areas, and fenced dog parks. Survey results (60%) showed a desire for more access to nature open space and a need to expand and improve the city’s bikeway system. Of note, 43% of the respondents had visited Lagoon Valley Park over the last six months. Centennial Park specific, residents would like to see an increasing variety of activities, creating more natural open spaces, and possibly a dog park.

Figure 6.2 - Parkland Service Levels

PARK	SIZE	PARK STANDARD	EXISTING PARK ACREAGE (2012)*	ESTIMATED PARK ACREAGE NEED BASED ON EXISTING POPULATION	ESTIMATED PARK ACREAGE NEED BASED ON 2030 POPULATION
Neighborhood Park	6-9 acres	1.8acres/1000	111.1	150	218
Community Park*	10-40 acres	1.7acres/1000	113.2	142	206
City Park*	100+ acres	1.0acres/1000	35.7	83	121
Total		4.5/1000	260	375	545

* The only City Park is Centennial Park at 35.7 developed acres. Figures based on 2011 projected total of 83,240 to exclude institutionalized total.



Park Funding

In 2002, the Public Works Department assumed the maintenance of all of the facilities and parks with the exception of the Walter Graham Aquatic Center. There are 123 Landscape and Lighting Maintenance Assessment Districts (LLMAD) throughout the City with 25 of these including a park. These LLMADs fund, on average, 80% of the maintenance cost of each neighborhood park with a goal of 90%. The cost for park maintenance ranges between \$10,000-\$14,000 per acre, with the exception of Lagoon Valley Park. Even with this funding and the recent extension of Measure I, staff will only be able to maintain current park standards. This does not provide funding for future development. According to the 2002 Ten Year Status Report of the Community Services Department, City of Vacaville, Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan:

“With the General Fund budget support shrinking, the City may need to consider alternatives for funding all of its park, public landscape, recreation buildings and open space maintenance. Survey results indicate a community desire for more trails, walking paths and access to open space. The community desires to remain connected with nature and the natural open space resources surrounding the City. Open space accessibility will need to be managed in response to the increase use of trails and paths.”

Park maintenance and development funding continues to be a key concern for the City. The planning standard is for 4.5 acres per 1,000 residents; however, due to lack of funding for park acquisition and development, the current allocation is 3.1 acres/1,000.

With the reclassification of Lagoon Valley Park as a “Regional Park,” the City provides 6.47 acres per 1,000 residents. The neighborhood and community park acreage remains below the planning standard, however. The park service standard is not being met and should be addressed through developing funding sources.

The park impact fee is currently providing less than half of the cost required to proceed with new development. It is recommended that the City establish a Quimby Ordinance as a funding tool to provide land for future parkland development. A Quimby Ordinance is also an important mechanism to acquire land prior to the completion of subdivisions maps.



Program Assessment

Role of Community Services

Vacaville’s “small town feel” and “community focus” are reinforced by the efforts of the Community Services Department. A primary objective of the Department is to “create community through people, parks, and programs by providing recreational and social experiences that build community and promote healthy lifestyles.” Through its programs and services, the Community Services Department serves to shape and define the quality and character of community life.

The Department provides a diverse array of activities, programs, facilities, and parks. The Department has over 92,000 program participants, offers over 900 programs, oversees 41 facilities and parks, and is the leading employer of youth in Vacaville providing opportunities, skill development, job history, and training for future employment.



The Community Services Department provides a high quality of service to the community. The Department offers a full range of programs and events that generally satisfy the needs of all age groups. Class offerings are influenced by industry standard, trends, community requests, and cost efficiencies. Staff stays current with program trends and solicits information from the community regarding their program needs and interests. Resources and spaces are shared, and programs are planned for all available facilities. To maintain the Department’s quality staff, Community Services incorporates a rotation of staff positions as job skills training to expand management skills.

The Department does a very effective job of marketing programs, special events, and facilities. The Events Guide is an effective promotional piece and the marketing initiatives are providing the desired outcomes. Sixty-five (65%) of families with children had participated in a Community Services program offering in the last 12 months based on the survey results.

DEPARTMENT FUNDING

The City of Vacaville has made budget reductions in each of the last five years. City employees have experienced pay reductions and current staffing levels are 32% lower overall when compared to 2008. In response to reduced funding, in FY2008-2009 the Community Services Department had 22 FTE and in FY2012-13, the Department reorganized with just 15FTE. Overall, the Community Services Department represents less than 8% of the General Fund Budget.



Over the past five years, 2008-2012, registration numbers have averaged 37,755 with a high of 39,078 in 2011 and a low of 35,836 in 2008.

Current staffing levels be maintained to provide quality programs, classes, events, rentals, and customer service.

In the current economic environment, it has become increasingly important for the Community Services Department to operate as a business in terms of cost recovery and monitoring the bottom line. This has resulted in greater emphasis on revenue generation to partially offset the operating costs and the emphasis on development of core services. In the FY 2012-13 City Budget, the Department was projected to recover approximately 64% of its operating costs from user fees, rental charges, and Measure I funds. This is a cost recovery level supported by Council action. The CSD recovered 71% , the highest cost recovery over the previous five year period. The CSD has steadily increased its cost recovery annually since the FY 2007-08 Budget.

Leveraged Resources

The Department should continue to leverage resources through partnerships and volunteerism. Pursuing shared resources with the school district should continue to be an option explored in an effort to stretch limited resources. The Community Services Department has recently extended its programming function to include the ASES (After School Education and Safety) at four school sites.

The Community Services Department does not have a formalized volunteer program and lacks the resources to coordinate a program at this time. The Department does, however, encourage and utilize volunteers in a variety of program areas. In the previous fiscal year, volunteers provided over \$200,000 of service.

Program Services Review

The Sports Management Group performed an analysis of the programs and services offered through the Community Services Department to identify service gaps and make recommendations.

This was accomplished through:

- Analysis of program registrations, waitlists, class cancellations, and filled classes
- Review of the Events Guide
- Staff interviews
- Facility tour

Overall, the Community Services Department provides a comprehensive menu of programs. Offerings are current and contemporary, align with statewide program principles, respond to participant evaluations, and are benchmarked against similar city's programs. Programming ranges from youth and adult sports and fitness, pre-school, afterschool, senior services, enrichment classes, aquatics, gymnastics, cultural arts, camps, special events, and rentals. Police Activities League (PAL) is a partner with the Community Services Department. The Community Services Department provides a popular boxing club and fitness program at the Georgie Duke Sports Center.



Figure 7.1 - Registration Comparison

	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Misc.	179	153	139		
Active Aging	2,350	2,240	2,059	1,913	1,526
Adult Services	44	50	51	47	53
Adult Sports and Fitness	1,725	2,235	2,510	2,015	1,889
Aquatics	2,904	2,726	3,225	3,399	3,304
Cultural Arts	1,071	1,371	1,189	1,424	1,522
Youth Enrichment Activities	8,722	8,768	9,499	10,430	9,560
Gymnastics	3,198	3,533	3,279	1,753	1,715
Police Activities League (PAL)	2,513	2,032	1,945	1,303	1,716
Special Events	442	611	320	1,591	1,331
Special Interest	741	503	470	403	586
Summer Camps	2,108	2,654	2,199	2,359	2,117
Teens	2,622	3,328	3,323	2,834	2,012
Youth Sports	4,095	4,431	4,113	3,779	4,070
Totals	32,714	34,635	34,321	33,250	31,401

Figure 7.1 shows a 5-year registration comparison of the Department’s programming areas. Categories of high popularity include enrichment activities, youth sports, gymnastics, aquatics, teen programming, PAL, Active Aging, and Adult Sports and Fitness.

The community event indoor space available through the Department provides program and event opportunities to all segments of the community and is sufficient to meet the local demand. The three community centers, Three Oaks, Ulatis and McBride Senior Center rent space for a variety of occasions including business trainings, seminars, meetings, wedding receptions, holiday parties, and community banquets primarily on weekends. Vacaville is host to many events throughout the year, including performances at the Vacaville Performing Arts Theater, concerts, fairs, and events.

WAITLIST & AT-CAPACITY PROGRAMMING

The Community Services Department strives to provide the best programming possible based on the availability of resources, and tracks the performance and demand of its offerings. The Department reported increased demand for specialized education and hands-on training that provide skill development, such as computer and design instruction, likely tied to pressures created by current economic conditions. It also noted high rates of participation in youth and adult sports leagues and tournaments, primarily volleyball, which cannot expand due to court availability. For example, adult leagues are often offered as Co-Ed rather than as separate (women’s and men’s), due to space and scheduling limitations. A variety of existing group exercise fitness programs cannot expand or be used to their optimal level, due to limited court, wood floor, pool, field, or other activity-specific space.



2011 program enrollment information was analyzed to determine classes that are either at-capacity (90% enrollment or higher) or beyond their full limit (waitlisted). Classes with the greatest number of waitlist registrants include Aquatic lessons (Sea Turtle), Hatha Yoga, Yoga Therapy, Youth Soccer, and PAL programming. The number of waitlisted classes during the summer programming season compared to other seasons is also significant; the demand for summer activity (primarily youth) options is evident, and suggests that families seek pastime options for their children while schools are closed. Waitlists are created when class capacity is met through either instructor-participant ratio or room capacity and is typically for classes scheduled during prime-times.

Classes with waitlists include, but are not limited to (see Figure 7.2):

- Active Adults Yoga classes (Summer & Fall)
- Youth Aquatics - swim lessons (Spring, Fall & Summer)
- Youth PAL Classes (Summer)
- Youth Soccer Camp (Summer)

Findings from at-capacity enrollment levels also demonstrate the demand for summer activity. Classes that are at-capacity include Jazzercise (adult), aquatic lessons (youth), Active Adult programming, teen events, youth sports, youth summer camp, and winter adult sports. Lower “at-capacity” levels can indicate peak-performance, but when too high, can suggest that a program is at its maximum limit. The latter is true with youth aquatics, summer camps, and sports, as well as active adult classes. Enrollment levels for teen events indicate high performance and popularity.

Classes with 90% or more enrollment include, but are not limited to (see Figure 7.3):

- Jazzercise (Winter and Spring)
- Summer Youth Aquatics, Teen Events, Summer Camps, Youth Sports
- Active Adults Yoga classes
- Adult Sports

PROGRAMMING CONSIDERATIONS

Patterns have also emerged regarding lower-performing (i.e. low enrollment) programs offered by the Community Services Department. In general, inconvenient scheduling (during weekdays, or weekend evenings) stands out as a theme. Fall and winter programming also tends to draw lower numbers of enrollment. Program areas with lower demand include, but are not limited to:

- Classes with very narrow or niche artistic/cultural focus
- Classes scheduled during work and school hours on weekdays
- Evening Birthday Party Rental times
- Jewelry classes
- Greatest number of enrollment spots unfilled is in fall/winter

Based on findings, the following are considerations for program expansion or improvement:

- Optimize successful offerings by expanding class size limits or offering more sessions/times in popular areas, particularly during the summer season.
- The Summer Season is extremely popular for programs offered by the Community Services Department - enhancing and promoting this segment of offerings should be a primary objective.



Figure 7.2 Waitlist Enrollment - Totals By Category

CLASS TYPE	AGE GROUP	NO. SESSIONS	NO. WAITLIST (PERSONS)	
WAITLIST ENROLLMENT - SPRING 2011				
Aquatics - Minnow/Shark	PM	Youth*	2	2
Aquatics - Sea Turtle	AM	Youth	2	2
Aquatics - Sea Turtle	PM	Youth	3	4
Aquatics - Tadpole 1	PM	Youth	2	5
Aquatics - Tad Pole 2	PM	Youth	1	1
WAITLIST ENROLLMENT - SUMMER 2011				
Yoga Therapy 1 & 2	AM	Adult	4	19
Aquatics - Dolphin	AM	Youth	1	2
Aquatics - Minnow 1 SP	AM	Youth	1	2
Aquatics - Minnow 1 SP	PM	Youth	1	2
Aquatics - Minnow 2	PM	Youth	1	1
Aquatics - Parent & Child	AM	Youth	1	1
Aquatics - Private Lessons	PM	All	3	3
Aquatics - Sea Turtle	AM	Youth	7	12
Aquatics - Sea Turtle	PM	Youth	5	8
Aquatics - Sea Turtle SP	AM	Youth	1	1
Aquatics - Sea Turtle SP	PM	Youth	1	2
Aquatics - Tadpole 1 & 2	AM	Youth	2	3
Aquatics - Tadpole 1 & 2	PM	Youth	8	8
Jr. Giants Baseball 7-10	PM	Youth	1	2
PAL Classes	AM	Youth	4	40
PAL Classes	PM	Youth	7	54
LEGO Camp	PM	Youth	1	1
Babysitter's Academy	AM	Youth	1	5
Youth Soccer Just4Kicks	AM	Youth	2	2
Youth Soccer Just4Kicks	PM	Youth	3	10
Youth T-Ball Clinic II	AM	Youth	2	5
Youth Tennis	AM	Youth	1	2
Tiny Tots T-Ball Clinic	PM	Youth	1	3
WAITLIST ENROLLMENT - FALL 2011				
Hatha Yoga - Primetimers	AM	Adult	3	7
Yoga Therapy 1	AM	Adult	3	20
Aquatics - ST, TP 1, TP 2	PM	Youth	3	3
WAITLIST ENROLLMENT - WINTER 2011				
No Waitlist Enrollees Reported				

* Youth defined as children and teens aged 0 to 18 years of age.



Figure 7.3 At Capacity Enrollment - Totals By Category

CATEGORY	AGE GROUP	NO. SESSIONS 90-100%	AM:PM	MAX.	NO. ENROLLEES
AT CAPACITY - SPRING 2011					
Aquatics	Youth	17	4:13	74	74
Adult Sports - Jazzercise	Adult	2	2:0	200	187
Cultural Arts	Youth	3	0:3	36	33
Teen Events - Babysitter's Academy	Youth	1	1:0	11	11
AT CAPACITY - SUMMER 2011					
Active Adults	Senior	5	5:0	118	111
Aquatics	Youth *	187	87:100	734	731
Cultural Arts	Youth **	4	1:3	86	85
Gymnastics - Birthdays	Youth	45	2:43	45	45
Gymnastics	Youth	43	2:41	43	43
PAL	Youth	5	2:3	77	76
Summer Camp	Youth	17	17:0	438	425
Special Event	Adult	4	0:4	13	13
Teen Events	Youth	1	0:1	200	182
Youth Sports	Youth	7	3:4	104	102
AT CAPACITY - FALL 2011					
Active Adults	Senior	5	5:0	126	122
Aquatics	Youth *	21	5:16	81	81
Cultural Arts	Youth	2	0:2	60	60
Special Event	Adult	1	1:0	52	49
Teen Events	Youth	4	0:4	925	876
AT CAPACITY - WINTER 2011					
Adult Sports	Adult	3	2:1	210	183
Cultural Arts	Youth	1	0:1	13	12
Special Interest	Adult	1	0:1	12	12
Teen Events	Youth	1	0:1	400	372
Youth Sports	Youth	1	1:0	24	22

* Mostly Youth with the exception of Private Lessons

** Mostly Youth with the exception of Painting



- Remove barriers that inhibit growth and limit quality in high-enrollment programs, such as inadequate court and field quality and availability, and scheduling influences.

SERVICE DEFICIENCIES

Service request patterns emerged in the community input stage of this report. Participants expressed a need for increased programming, open space access, and increased restrooms at public sites. This was echoed in a March 2012 survey commissioned by the City to measure attitudes of likely voters regarding a number of community issues and likely voter responses to possible ballot measures. According to the City’s survey,¹ the most serious problems facing Vacaville today that apply to the role of Community Services are:

- Increased gang activity
- The need to protect open space from development
- The need for after-school programs for teenagers

Listed as serious problems for the community:

- The need for more programs for children
- The need for more programs for seniors
- Inadequate maintenance of city parks and other recreational facilities. (However, this was countered with a lack of support for additional park maintenance funding as opposed to street maintenance funding.)

Several of these issues are partially addressed by the voter approval of Measure M. Measure M will maintain funding for park, sport fields, recreation facilities maintenance, and youth programs. Department staff facilitates the Police Activities League (PAL) to provide activities and resources to youth. The Department also provides many programs and activities targeted to youth and teens at a variety of locations. However, to further expand programming, the Community Services Department requires more indoor courts and outdoor fields to support the youth and teen sports programs.

Senior programming is partially addressed through classes, services, and social opportunities at the McBride Senior Center. The Center has been renovated to meet the needs of elderly seniors as well as providing spaces for community use. The Department has launched a marketing and programming strategy to encourage “active adults” to participate in the many opportunities available at the Center. Facilities needed to better serve active adults include: indoor basketball/volleyball courts, group exercise, dance, and workout space.

Fee Policy

Economic pressures are making it necessary for community services departments to approach operations in terms of sustainability and competitiveness in the marketplace, and by incorporating business practices in their operational planning. As the City of Vacaville’s General Fund revenues have lagged behind costs, the Community Services Department has acted to close the funding gap by instituting or increasing fees and charges for park and recreation facilities use and program participation.

The objective of the City of Vacaville and the Community Services Department is to be deliberate in meeting operational costs and to collect sufficient fees to support new programs and facility operations.

¹ City of Vacaville, California. Survey of 400 Likely Voters in the City of Vacaville, California. Vacaville: Gene Bregman & Associates, March 2012.



Cost recovery objectives must be established in the context of affordability, community benefit, and inclusion. Fees must be set at a rate that encourage repeat, on-going use. For some, user fees can be a barrier to enrollment. The Department has addressed this issue by: (1) providing scholarships, (2) creating a partnership with a foundation, (3) maintaining fees at an affordable level, and (4) administering a Reduced Fee Program for income eligible youth. Additionally, the CSD facilitates special programs such as Police Activities League (PAL) to serve disadvantaged youth.

It is important that the Department establish service priorities and identify cost recovery objectives to build-in sufficient fees. Consideration should be given to the users ability to pay, especially with some older adults who may be on fixed incomes.

The activities of the Department are grouped into three categories -- Programs, Facilities, and Social Services -- that are summarized below. Each has different cost recovery goals.

PROGRAMS

Programs are offered as “pay-to-play” and are expected to recover their direct costs and to contribute to overhead costs. In general, class fees are intended to recover direct cost plus the standard overhead calculation of 35% . Classes and programs taught by contract instructors are expected to recover 100% of costs. Aquatics is the only program to state a financial goal in this year’s budget. The budget stated goal is “to recover 100% of the Aquatics program related expenses through program fees, and daily admission.”

FACILITIES

The General Fund has historically subsidized 50% of community use of buildings, and the remainder of the funding is generated from rentals, events, and program use. The exception is the Vacaville Performing Arts Theater, which receives an annual allocation from the Measure I tax. The City of Vacaville promotes private rentals of its facilities when they are not in use for public classes and programs to help offset operational costs. Community events and rentals are an important source of revenue for the Department. Included in these rental fees is maintenance and event support services to ensure a quality and safe experience. The Ulatis Center is marketed as an event center; its well-maintained garden provides a setting suited for special events (weddings, parties). This rental revenue stream and service to the public is important to the CSD cost recovery as rental income has increased overall 15% over the past five years. The Ulatis Community Center has provided nearly two-thirds of the five year increase based on the popularity of the amenities offered. Figure 7.4 reports the revenue generated from the rental of the three community centers.

Figure 7.4 - Community Center Revenue Comparison

YEAR	THREE OAKS COMMUNITY CENTER	ULATIS COMMUNITY CENTER	MCBRIDE CENTER
FY 07-08	\$65,393	\$95,906	\$50,939
FY 08-09	\$82,021	\$101,282	\$48,224
FY 09-10	\$67,616	\$117,300	\$55,363
FY 10-11	\$73,902	\$134,132	\$57,174
FY 11-12	\$94,612	\$141,735	\$48,380



SOCIAL SERVICES

Programming is subsidized through General Fund discretionary revenues and non-profit organization/foundation support for senior programming, and scholarship eligible and/or at risk youth activities. The Department provides access to its programs through scholarships, partnership with a foundation, a Reduced Fee program, and maintaining fees at a reasonable level to achieve cost recovery goals and keep accessibility to different economic levels. The PAL Program, facilitated by the Community Services Department, serves disadvantaged youth in its programming.

ANNUAL FEE SCHEDULE

The City of Vacaville utilizes a Service and Facility Rental Fee schedule to include all or a majority of the cost in providing these services. The fees were revised by the City Council in July 2012 and the Fee Schedule provides for an annual adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index. It is recommended that the Community Services Department be included in all formal City analyses of cost recovery fees.

FEE RECOMMENDATIONS

An analysis of rates paid by recurring rental groups is recommended with adjustment to rates, where appropriate, to meet cost recovery objectives. For example, the Vacaville Swim Club is subsidized for their monthly rental of the Aquatic Center and this subsidy is currently under review. The shared cost, according to staff, should be \$2500/month and the Club is paying a subsidized rate of \$1800/month. A new contract is under development to address this fee shortfall. At the McBride Senior Center, the Senior Club has free rent of office space and activity spaces at the Center.

A review of the current arrangement is recommended to determine if the Club is able to financially contribute to the facility costs, even at a subsidized rate, or provide in-kind services.

Community events should be reviewed for the purpose of establishing cost recovery goals and setting fees. Events such as the Creekwalk Concert Series and Fourth of July Fireworks that attract approximately 50,000 people had been funded by the former RDA and offered as a free community benefit in years past. With the loss of RDA funding community events need sponsors to continue providing these as free events. Attendees should pay a minimal fee when logistics allow fee collection and event containment. This year, the Community Services Department initiated a trial entrance fee of \$2 for the Creekwalk Concert Series to help offset costs. Participant response was generally in support of the minimal fee. The Department will continue to offer the fireworks show free of charge to the public primarily through the support of sponsors with limited General Fund support.



Recommendations

The purpose of the Needs Assessment Study was to identify current and future recreational needs and interests; identify gaps in programs, services, and facilities; and develop recommendations to address the deficiencies and system improvements. The recommendations of the study are listed below. The strategies and actions required for implementation will require a detailed master planning and/or strategic planning process. A funding strategy and community input are essential to implementation.

Next steps include: 1) establishing a plan for directing financial resources to priority projects through a policy change on fund allocation, 2) establishing project priority through community input, 3) developing a general time line framework, and 4) beginning the master planning.

The following action items are recommended within a suggested time frame.

ACTION ITEM: IMMEDIATE – 2 YEARS

Establish performance measures for each program area.

Provide marketing training program to CSD staff. In addition, provide sales and tips training to front counter staff.

Future planning and design of community centers should provide for multi-generational use.

Remove Senior Center from Facility Standard. Change Community Centers to Multi-generational Centers, which include Senior Center components.

Consider changing name of McBride ‘Senior’ Center to reflect a community center focus. Present “Senior’ as a secondary facility title.

Current Staffing levels should be maintained.

Revise Park classifications to reflect current status and recognition of acres serving the public:

- Remove Neighborhood School Park and City Park classifications.
 - » Move School District properties to a classification for school parks and fields which are not owned by the City.
 - Revise Community Parks description to include Centennial Park as an exception to the acreage standard.
 - Add Regional Park Classification to include Lagoon Valley Park and Peña Adobe Park (as sub-category of Lagoon Valley Park).
-



Action item: Immediate - Continued

Explore selling park parcels less than 1 acre and allocate funds to park development. Consider selling Normandy Meadows (0.3 acres).

Conduct park intercepts (on-site data collection) for number of users, types of uses, preferred amenities, deficiencies, and other desired data points. Data used for planning, marketing, and cost recovery analysis. Develop a survey tool and plans for data collection, as well as establish results format prior to implementation.

Perform cost recovery analysis for programs, events, and rentals.

Continue minimal entrance fee to Community Events (Creekwalk) that were previously RDA funded.

Formalize a volunteer program to coordinate organizational and individual volunteer requests.

Review joint-use agreements on an annual basis with operating partners (VYSL). Biannually assess progress of corresponding development agreements and on-going benefit to the community.

Continue to expand youth and teen program offerings by reviewing and considering survey responses, evaluations, participant needs, trends, and facility access.

Maintain non-resident fee of 15% and monitor usage and demand to determine possible program growth areas.

Conduct a comparative analysis of peer community charges for winter pool use by competitive swim teams. Further analyze and develop current hourly operating costs and establish rental rate for competitive swim teams that meets cost recovery objectives, provides an operating cost offset and is considered a community benefit.

Analyze actual costs to prepare city sport fields and the use of sport lights. Establish rental rates and field preparation fee to reflect actual costs.

- Propose fee offset to user groups that prepare fields themselves.

Review and revise Development Impact Fund priorities.

- Consider revising Park DIF to maintain pace with development costs.
 - » Establish DIF major facilities funding allocation.

Establish priorities for Measure I funds.

- Consider funding for major public facilities.

Revise facility standards:

- Volleyball courts 1 court to serve 7,500 residents.
 - Tennis courts 1 court to serve 10,000 residents.
-



SHORT-TERM PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION: 1 TO 5 YEARS

POLICY AND PRIORITY UPDATE ACTION ITEMS

Enact Quimby Ordinance.

Analyze through public financing consultation implementation of a citywide Lighting and Landscaping Maintenance Assessment District to fund neighborhood park maintenance.

Analyze the viability of a General Obligations Bonds measure for capital funding, possibly in partnership with another public agency for facility development.

Establish LEED policy to incorporate sustainable design elements into future capital projects to reduce ongoing operations costs.

Analyze revenue from Development Impact Fees in the context of the Master Plan and adjust fees to keep pace for public facilities development.

Create guidelines for use of well sites, public access areas, and other public lands for community gardens.

- Analyze detention sites for compatibility.

Draft a special use facilities policy and plan:

- Support and encourage the siting of special use facilities to address changing interests and trends. These might include dog parks, community gardens, skate parks, pickleball courts, on available park or other public lands where compatible with the existing planned use on surrounding properties.
- Incorporate water spray playgrounds distributed throughout neighborhood and community parks where compatible with existing amenities. This amenity is driven by community members who desire a water element for relief from Vacaville's summer heat.

Develop each neighborhood park with a distinct character to reflect the desires of the residents if possible and surrounding community.

Develop maintenance standards for open space and trails.

- Volunteers maintain trails and open space currently. Maintain and build relationship with volunteers and support their maintenance efforts.
- Establish and implement signage and directional program for trail users.

Develop brochures and maps providing guidelines and information on parks, trails and open spaces.



Action item: Short-Term - Continued

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ACTION ITEMS

Develop plan to upgrade existing facilities to achieve energy efficiencies.

- Incorporate recommendations from energy audit.
- Establish minimum standards for building efficiencies.

Master Plan Lagoon Valley Park.

- Develop funding plan for restoration of amenities: fishing, boating, sailing.
 - » Remove silt and farm geese and replace docks.

Provide upgrades to Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre outdoor patio to maximize rental and events.

- Add an exit gate from the patio to the flower garden.
- Add shade to the patio.

Add shaded areas to Community and Regional Parks.

- Create rentable spaces for groups of 50-75.

Provide upgrades to the Aquatic Center.

- Add shade for patron use at the Aquatic Center.
- Provide office space at Aquatic Center (portable or permanent) for Staff.
- Increase ventilation to restrooms.

Add a second permanent dog park.

- Include small dog separation from large dog area.
- Locate at a park site with existing support amenities such as restrooms, parking, and trails.
- Consider Al Patch Park expansion area and master plan of Centennial Park.
 - » Renovate an existing area for temporary placement at Centennial Park.
 - » Add field space to Al Patch Park to accommodate a dog park.

Consider renovations to Georgie Duke Sports Center.

- Perform a complete upgrade of HVAC system and locate with consideration of future expansion plans.

Recommendations for soccer fields are as follows:

- Develop citywide master plan for field locations.
 - Review Joint Use Agreement with Vacaville Youth Soccer League (VYSL).
 - Encourage fundraising activities by VYSL for field expansion.
 - Establish agreement requirements with user groups if approached to partner in field development. Agreement should define time frame, community access, funding goals, city involvement, liability, and field plan approvals.
-



Action item: Short-Term - Continued

Master Plan Centennial Park.

- Establish phasing plan consistent with Development Impact Fees funding.
 - Develop additional soccer fields possibly in partnership with soccer organization.
 - Analyze cost and benefit of a synthetic turf field with lights for football and soccer.
-

Expand Georgie Duke Sports Center.

- Expand building on west end to provide additional basketball/volleyball courts and bleacher seating.
 - Expand lobby to provide meeting space and queuing area.
 - Consider fitness/workout/dance studio space.
-

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ACTION ITEMS: MID-TERM 6-12 YEARS

Improve and upgrade open space trails through a trail maintenance program, signage, and maps.

- Expand and link biking, walking, and hiking trails.
-

Improve and develop additional park restrooms in Community and Regional Parks.

Construct new gymnasium with indoor courts for basketball and volleyball with additional space for workout/fitness/dance studio.

Construct a third dog park.

Upgrade kitchen spaces at event/rental centers.

Renovate Preschool Room at Three Oaks Community Center to create a dedicated preschool classroom.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ACTION ITEMS: LONG-TERM 13-20 YEARS

Construct a multi-generational Recreation Center.

- Indoor walking/running surface
 - Indoor Pool
 - Computer/technology room
 - Wood floor studio
 - Senior spaces
 - Teen spaces
 - Court space
-



Recommendations to Guide Centennial Park Master Planning

Master planning of Centennial Park has undergone several draft iterations with input primarily from specific user groups that have proposed plans for the Park. Community input from the needs assessment provides a broader perspective. To move forward with the Centennial Park master planning process, funding for the plan itself must first be identified and allocated. This is followed with identification of a funding mechanism for the development of the phases that are included in the approved Master Plan.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

The following suggestions were made regarding improvements to Centennial Park (listed in order of importance):

Highest Importance

- Additional soccer fields with restrooms, lights, landscaping
- Gymnasium
- Connect the walking/biking paths within the park to generate loops
- Landscape

Second Level Importance

- Pool
- Restrooms
- Dog Park

PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

The recommendations from the public attending the Community Workshop mirrored the results of the Public Opinion Survey demonstrating the desire for trails, soccer fields, gymnasium, dog park, and increased restrooms along trails.



Funding Strategies

“As a result of the current statewide economic downturn, and resulting decrease in sales and property tax revenues and the elimination of redevelopment agencies by the State of California, the City has experienced a reduction in revenue ... resulting in a reduction of City services and facilities provided to persons living and working in Vacaville.”

Vacaville City Attorney’s Impartial Analysis of Measure I

Overview

It is in this environment that the Community Services Department is actively engaged in developing long-term funding strategies to maintain its current inventory of parks, open space, and recreational facilities, and address the capital and maintenance funding needs for the implementation of the General Plan Update and the findings of this Recreation Needs Assessment. The report that follows identifies various funding mechanisms available to the City and provides initial funding recommendations. In the current economic environment, funding is very challenging. It is recommended that the City engage the services of a funding consultant who can analyze the options and develop a successful funding strategy, which is likely to include a variety of mechanisms, including private sector fundraising.

There are four categories of funding mechanisms summarized below. This brief description is followed by a detailed explanation of each funding type.

Private Sector Fundraising

Funding from the private sector is available in many forms, some of which have the potential to provide a significant and on-going revenue source.

Individual components could include:

- Legacy Endowments
- Park & Recreation Discretionary Endowment
- Corporate Gifts and Sponsorships naming rights in accordance to the City’s naming policy
- Corporate Program Sponsorships
- Private Foundation Grants
- Individual Gifts and Sponsorships

Voter Initiatives

The capital funding necessary to bring the City up to its current standards and to maintain pace for future build-out of public facilities and parks will most likely require some form of voter-approved or landowner-approved initiative such as a bond or tax assessment.



Although the current economic conditions are not conducive for voter-approved financing, this is a good time to develop a funding strategy, select a preferred mechanism, and begin the planning process. Through the passage of Measure I, residents have shown a willingness to tax themselves to maintain important community assets.

Government Grant Funding

Governmental grants have historically provided a substantial source of capital for park and recreation agencies. These include voter-approved bond measures at the state and federal level; however, economic conditions have resulted in state and federal cutbacks in local grant programs. In an even more competitive market for the few grants that are available, a strong grant-writing and grants management program is critical to identifying, making application, and securing grant funding. An ongoing and effective program requires the assignment of specific staff to these tasks, which can be a challenge in light of staff reductions.

Leverage Resources

Many grant sources have matching requirements. Leveraging resources made available through private fundraising or other sources will increase grant revenues that would otherwise be unavailable. Other examples of resource leveraging include School District- City partnerships, public/private partnerships, and volunteerism.

Funding Sources

Like most municipalities, Vacaville is experiencing fiscal pressures to maintain quality programming, facilities, and parks with limited and declining resources.

The impact of the downturn in the national economy is exacerbated in California by declining home values, decreased transfer tax and sales tax, and reduced income tax revenues. Vacaville was also subject to the recent elimination of redevelopment agencies. California's limit on property tax continues to have a significant impact on city funding.

No single financing source is likely to provide all of the resources needed for parks and recreation maintenance and projects. Financing will require a blend of sources and techniques. The following section identifies potential funding sources for the City of Vacaville.

DEVELOPMENT RELATED FINANCING

In response to the fiscal changes that began with Proposition 13 California cities have generally turned to various forms of development-related financing to provide the public improvements—such as streets, sewers, water systems and parks—that were required to serve new development. The two most common techniques used by cities to provide park improvements are Quimby Act or in-lieu fees and Development Impact Fees. These techniques require a clear relationship, or nexus, between the new development and necessary public services.

Quimby Act Dedication and Fees

Section 66477 of the Government Code (known as the Quimby Act) grants cities and counties authority to require the dedication of parkland—or the payment of a fee in-lieu thereof—by a new residential subdivision. The Quimby Act allows a city or county to require such a dedication at the parkland standard that was in effect at the time of adoption of the implementing ordinance to a maximum of 5.0 acres per 1,000 resident populations. The City of Vacaville does not have a Quimby Act Ordinance.



Land dedicated and fees collected may only be used for developing new, or rehabilitating existing park or recreational facilities serving the new development. The City of Vacaville’s requirement of 4.5 acres of developed public park per 1,000 residents falls within the parameters set forth by the Quimby Act. However, the status of developed public parkland per 1,000 residents is 3.1 acres in Vacaville, which results in a shortfall to the City’s standard. Vacaville has explored the option of implementing a Quimby ordinance but has not adopted a Quimby ordinance. The City could opt to lower the City’s park standards; however, that would not be in line with the opinion of many citizens who desire more parks, trails, walking paths, and open spaces, as noted in the community survey.

Development Impact Fees (DIF’s)

These fees are paid by a developer at or near the time of building permit to pay for various public improvements that are required to serve the new development. Such fees are required for issuance of building permits of a proposed development and are required under the City’s powers over land use. The City’s policy to have development pay for the required infrastructure is a sound fiscal strategy if the approved fees are sufficient and include cost escalators to keep pace with construction costs.

Vacaville’s DIF fees have not kept pace and residential projects are developed with insufficient development funding for park and public facilities. The result is an overall shortage in meeting the City’s approved standards for parks and public facilities.

Section 66000 (et seq) of the California Government Code establishes a demanding set of requirements for development impact fees. This section of the Government Code (enacted as AB1600) requires

an agency that establishes, increases or imposes a development impact fee as a condition of development approval to do the following:

- Identify the fee’s purpose.
- Identify the fee’s uses.
- Establish a reasonable relationship between the fee’s use and the type of development project on which the fee is imposed.
- Determine whether there is a reasonable relationship between the need for the public improvement and the development project on which the fee is imposed.

The City of Vacaville established Development Impact Fees in 1992 to support the policies of the Parks and Recreation Elements of the General Plan to provide a variety of parks, recreation facilities, and park improvement projects. These funds have not kept pace with development or improvement costs, resulting in the City falling below its own approved standards for park and public facility development. The appropriate amount of developer funding for these public improvements must be set at a realistic amount to be able to develop the intended improvements.

VOTER APPROVED TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS

Listed below are the four funding mechanisms that could be used to help finance facility improvements. Each of these requires some form of voter or landowner approval. These four mechanisms -- Special Benefit Assessments, Landscaping and Lighting District, General Obligation Bond and Special Tax -- are presented as alternative methods of providing a citywide financing base.



Special Benefit Assessment

Special Benefit assessments can be levied on real property by municipalities, counties, and special districts to acquire, construct, operate, and maintain public improvements that convey an identifiable special benefit to the defined properties. Prior to issuing bonds, the City Council would conduct a set of proceedings to establish the scope and cost of the improvements to be financed, identify the land parcels that are benefited, determine a fair and equitable allocation of the costs to the benefited parcels, and conduct a landowner approval process.

Proposition 218 establishes a strict requirement for formal landowner approval before such assessments can be put in place. Each landowner would vote in proportion to the amount of any assessment that would be levied on his or her property. The assessment must be approved by a simple majority of the weighted ballots cast. Under Proposition 218, public properties are treated the same as private properties in a benefit assessment.

The established area of benefit is often termed an “assessment district”. An assessment district is not a separate legal entity, and has no separate governing board or authority to act independently of the local agency that established it.

Landscaping and Lighting Maintenance Assessment Districts (LLMAD)

An LLMAD is one type of special benefit assessment. The Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972 (and amended in 1984) provides for local governments (cities, counties and certain special districts) to raise funds for developing, maintaining and servicing public landscaping and lighting. Public landscaping and lighting can include parks and open space acquisition and improvement, landscaping, street lighting, sidewalks, curbs and gutters.

The revenue to pay for these facilities comes from special assessments levied against the benefited properties. The establishment of the assessment is subject to the requirements of Proposition 218, and the assessment is collected as a separate item on the annual property tax bill.

The formation of one or more LLMAD’s has been undertaken by many California cities as an effective way to operate and maintain parks, recreation and open space areas. The City of Vacaville has 123 LLMAD’s (25 with parks), each requires administration and response to public concerns regarding access. According to the 2002 Ten Year Status Report of the Community Services Department, City of Vacaville, Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan:

“...With the general fund budget support shrinking, the City may need to look at alternatives for funding all of its park, public landscape, recreation buildings and open space maintenance...In 2002, 57% of the City’s dwelling units [paid] for maintenance of parks and public landscapes near their homes.”

The City has performed well in administering the 123 LLMAD’s and the community perception is that they are working. It is reported that 60% of the residents pay into a LLMAD.

The City should continue to monitor the number of separate assessment districts it can effectively manage in terms of administrative overhead and labor costs. Incorporating one citywide LLMD ensures that everyone pays into the park maintenance system and everyone has access to all of the parks. It is recommended that the City pursue initiating a ballot measure for the implementation of a citywide Lighting and Landscaping Maintenance Assessment District to fund neighborhood park maintenance.



GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND

Cities, counties and certain other local government entities may issue General Obligation (GO) bonds to finance specific projects. Debt service for GO bonds is provided by an earmarked property tax above the one percent general property tax mandated by Proposition 13 (often called a “property tax override”). These overrides typically appear on the annual tax bill as “voted indebtedness”. The proceeds from GO bonds can be used to finance the acquisition, construction and improvement of real property, but cannot be used to pay for equipment, supplies, operations or maintenance costs. GO bonds require a 2/3 majority vote by registered voters.

SPECIAL TAXES ON PROPERTY

Mello Roos Special Tax

The Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act permits various local governments to establish a Community Facilities District (CFD) to finance new facilities and/or to pay for operations and maintenance through the levying of a special tax. The Act (as well as Proposition 218 discussed earlier) requires a two-thirds vote for approving the special tax. The City has applied CFD’s to fund a variety of new infrastructure projects in support of new development.

Parcel Tax

Cities, as well as counties, school districts and other districts, can adopt a “special tax” with the approval at an election of at least 2/3 of those voting on the measure. The parcel tax is a special tax that traces its origin to Proposition 13, which, as discussed earlier, primarily limited taxes on property values. The parcel tax is a tax on real estate parcels and not their value and is authorized under the Proposition 13 provision that allows special taxes to be adopted by the two-thirds majority.

Special Sales Tax

Under some circumstances, a special sales tax can be imposed with voter approval and its revenues earmarked for special purposes. The imposition of such a tax typically requires special state legislation as well as a 2/3 approval by the electorate.

The City of Vacaville residents passed Measure M in November 2012. This Measure implements a transactions and use tax (sales tax) at a quarter percent for a term of five years. The tax proceeds will be used to maintain essential city services and facilities including parks, recreation programs, sports fields, and recreation facilities. According to the City’s Facts About Measures I & M, the quarter-cent sales tax, Measure M would generate approximately \$4 million in additional revenues per year for years 2 through 5 of the tax timetable.

Vacaville’s Measure I

Measure I, known as the “Community Streets and Facilities Tax”, is paid by all persons residing in a house, apartment, condominium, or mobile home park; doing business; or staying in a motel in the City of Vacaville.

The local excise tax passed in 1988 and was set to expire in 2013. Measure I was initially passed to fund the construction of the Ulatis Community Center, ball fields at Arlington Park, and ballfields at Centennial park, as well as to fund the Vacaville Performing Arts Theater and maintain city roads.

The tax on an occupied residential unit is \$58 per unit per year, and there is a 2% transient lodging (hotel) tax. The tax is expected to generate \$2.3 million for the city’s 2012-13 general fund budget and provides approximately 4% of the city’s revenues. The extension of Measure I as a local, general tax is intended to fund general City services and facilities and did not specify any new development. City Council discussions of priorities for the Measure I and M funds will take place in 2013.



PRIVATE FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

With shortfalls in operating budgets and capital funding needs, recreation agencies are becoming more proactive and creative in securing funding. Strategies include alternative fund development programs focusing on securing private funding through various venues. Monies are available in millions of dollars from philanthropic foundations and private individual gifts. While there is a large amount of funds available, it is important to note that most grants and gifts require that the recipient be a 501c3 Public Benefit (nonprofit) organization. Increasingly, cities, counties, and special districts are creating Support Organizations (SO's) as nonprofit organizations to support capital, endowment and operating requirements of projects under public auspices. Limited funds mean that cities will need to aggressively pursue all avenues of private funding for which they qualify.

The Vacaville Recreation Foundation was established in 2007 and is relatively new as a partner and provides financial and volunteer support to the Community Services Department. The Foundation is committed to conserving and improving the quality of life for current and future generations to enjoy. The Foundation's activities include sponsoring new programs, helping fund facility improvements, promoting cultural and recreational opportunities, and providing a tax-advantaged opportunity for donations. A new scholarship program has been launched which is available to every Vacaville resident, offering credits of up to \$75 for Community Services Department programs. Scholarships are based on financial or demonstrated need. The Foundation is working on acquiring funds and building its support base.

The Vacaville Cares Fund supports Community Services programs that target at-risk youth, low-income youth, and teens. Residents can make donations to this fund by applying a separate payment to the municipal services billing.

The City of Vacaville also has the support of several other non-profits. The Public Art Trust Fund, whose purpose is to promote and develop the arts and strengthen resources, makes Vacaville the cultural arts center of Solano County. On Stage Vacaville, whose work is to expand the Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre's programming focus, provides seed money for funding new and creative work and facilitates education and exposure to the arts for the youth of Vacaville. The Peña Adobe Historical Society supports the activities and amenities of the Peña Adobe Park focusing on Vacaville's heritage. PAL (Police Activities League) exists to support disadvantaged youth through programs, activities, and positive interactions with police role models.

The PAL Program operates within the Community Services Department and provides the very popular Georgie Duke Boxing Program at the Georgie Duke Sports Center.

Corporate Sponsorship

Another method of securing private funding is through corporate sponsorship. Many facilities and strategic programs lend themselves to corporate sponsorships that involve short-term naming rights. In a rocky economy, some cities have eased restrictions on sponsorships and naming rights as a means for funding projects and programs.



Private Foundations

Opportunities for park and recreation funding from private foundations also exist. Private foundation grants have been an important element in the financing of municipal recreation center development and other park facilities in the Bay Area and elsewhere in California. It should be noted that competing for private foundation grants is a specialized and time-consuming undertaking. A successful foundation fundraising program will require the dedication of talented staff from either the public or consultant sectors.

STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS

Both the state and federal governments have historically provided substantial grant resources to municipal governments for park and recreation improvements. While the availability and requirements of state and federal grants change over time, the City should continue to seek and respond to these opportunities when they arise. State and federal grants typically require a significant local matching share.

In 2000, California voters approved Proposition 12 that included funds for local assistance grants for parks and recreation. In 2002, State voters passed Proposition 40, which also included funds for local park and recreation assistance. Although both of these propositions have now ended, there will likely be additional State grants available in the future. Currently, the release of funds for many State grants is on hold; however, the City should continue to apply for grants to be prepared for immediate action once funds are released.

Federal grant sources have been used successfully in some communities to support park and recreation land acquisition and improvements. Historically, these sources have included the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Community Development Block Grants

(CDBG), and components of various transportation funding acts (ISETEA, TEA-21 and SAFETEA). While these programs still exist and should be explored, current levels of support for these programs are under budgetary pressure and competition among applicants is strong.

Two federal grant sources with funds for improvements to public use natural areas are the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). A potential State grant source is the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). RTP funds come from the Federal Highway Trust Fund and are given to each state to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities. Each state defines and administers its project eligibility requirements.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFICIENCIES AND REBATES

The emphasis on energy-efficient systems and buildings with cost-effective design is a major factor in the long-term sustainability of costs. However, these systems typically have greater initial costs and savings are leveraged over the life of the building and its systems. The utilization of cost-effective designs should be explored in all park and facility designs and renovations and a LEED policy established. There are local (such as PG&E), state, and federal rebates that are sometimes available to offset these costs.

GENERAL FUND REVENUES

General Fund monies are revenue the City receives that may be used for any valid municipal purpose. General revenue is used to fund most on-going municipal services including parks and recreation, public safety, public works, and general government services. The greatest sources of general revenue are typically sales tax and property tax with other sources including fees and charges for services. In a strong economy,



some municipalities have the resources to fund capital projects from general revenue. Today, most cities find themselves in very different economic circumstances. In current economic conditions, it is unlikely the City of Vacaville would be in a position to fund large capital projects from the City's General Fund.

CHARTER FUND

When General Fund revenues are more secure, the City of Vacaville may consider a charter fund. A charter fund is a designated, fixed allocation of the General Fund for parks and recreation purposes. The allocation is set by a citywide vote, and cannot be changed without a similar vote. This allows the Department to plan ahead for capital improvements and long-term maintenance knowing that a fixed, reliable base revenue source will be available.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Partnership with private and public organizations, including users, and even some vendors, can generate resources for facility improvements and upgrades and should be considered. Partnerships, however, are only effective if there is true public benefit and both parties share the same vision.

CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION

Certificates of Participation (COP) are a form of lease purchase agreement that does not constitute indebtedness under the State constitutional debt limit and does not require voter approval. In a typical case, a local government entity decides to acquire a new or renovated public facility. This facility is purchased or constructed by a vendor corporation and the local government signs a lease agreement with the corporation to use the facility. An underwriting firm then buys the lease obligation from the vendor corporation, and divides it into small units called "COP's".

Each COP represents a share of the lease payment revenue stream. The underwriter then places the COP issue with a bank, which in turn sells the certificates to individual investors. The local government makes the lease payments to the bank, which in turn makes payments to the certificate holders. At the end of the lease period, title to the facility passes to the local government entity at nominal cost. Interest paid to the certificate holders is tax-exempt.

A COP does not itself generate an income stream that will be used to make the required periodic payments. It is, rather, a way to capitalize an already existing income stream or to create the wherewithal to purchase or construct an income producing public improvement.

VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

A successful individual donor campaign typically requires strong, visible community leaders who will both "give and get." These individuals can, with proper support, provide endorsement, access to wealth, and a sense of enthusiasm in an otherwise crowded fundraising marketplace.



Recommendations

The economic slowdown has had a significant financial impact on the City's General Fund resulting in reductions to the Community Services Department funding. This has impacted the staff's ability to maintain service levels. The passage of Measures I and M provide funding to maintain the status quo and do not address the pressing issues of deferred facility maintenance, capital projects, and program growth.

The following recommendations are suggested for staff's consideration:

- Consider the possibility of the City of Vacaville adopting a Quimby Ordinance.
- Determine if there is a significant benefit to the City to initiate a ballot measure for a citywide Lighting and Landscaping Maintenance Assessment District (LLMD).
- Adjust the park impact fees to appropriately fund the 4.5 acres/1000 standard.
- Develop project priority for Council consideration of Measure I funding.
- Explore the possibility of establishing a Charter Fund.
- Analyze rental rates for all on-going non-profit users to determine appropriate levels of return. Establish a policy for subsidy or in-kind services with non-profit partners.
- Establish green building and park standards (as appropriate) for energy efficiency and cost savings in development, maintenance and systems. Refer to LEED accredited standards for existing rating levels.

City of Vacaville

RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX

FINAL REPORT · MAY 17, 2013

City Of Vacaville Interview Contacts

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City of Vacaville
Community Services Department
449-5655

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Recreation Manager
City of Vacaville
Community Services Department
449-5650

Danielle Waters
Recreation Coordinator
Adult Sports/Aquatics/Teens
City of Vacaville
Community Services Department
469-4030

Penny Hernandez
Recreation Coordinator
Early Childhood/Gymnastics
City of Vacaville
Community Services Department
469-4033

Audrey Calder
Donna Fox
Recreation Coordinators
Seniors/McBride Rentals
City of Vacaville
Community Services Department
469-6673

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Program Coordinator
City of Vacaville
Community Services Department
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Youth Sports
City of Vacaville
Community Services Department
469-4035

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Program Site Coordinator
Concessions/Tournaments
City of Vacaville
Community Services Department
449-6285

GeorgeAnne Meggers-Smith
Management Analyst
City of Vacaville
Community Services Department
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TTY 449-5618

Desiree Tinder
Performing Arts Manager
Vacaville Performing Arts Theater
City of Vacaville
707-469-4015

CITY OF VACAVILLE
INVENTORY OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
DRAFT - MARCH 3, 2010

Park Name

Acres (developed w/ City tenure)	Baseball/Softball Fields - lighted	Baseball/Softball Fields - w/o lights	Basketball (full courts)	Bar-be-que (grill or pit)	Bocce Ball Court	Community Youth Building	Concession Building	Dog Run (off-leash area)	Electrical Outlets	Fishing	Fitness Circuit	Gymnasium	Horseshoe Pits	Natural Area (w/ pathways)	Parking Spaces (off-street)	Picnic Tables (no shelter)	Picnic Tables - sheltered	Play Equipment (Tot or Elementary)	Restroom (permanent building)	Skate Area	Soccer / Football Fields	Swimming Pool	Tennis Courts - lighted	Tennis Courts - w/o lights	Turfed Area (open play field)	Volleyball Courts	Other (non-listed) Facility
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Neighborhood Parks

Alamo Creek Park	9.52		0.5								1	1				9	2							2	1		
Arbor Oaks Park	2.52			2												5	2										
Browns Valley Park *	4.43	1		1		1							1			3	2										
Cambridge Sch. Park	3.43	2				1				1						3	1										
Cannon Station park	6.56	1	2													4	2			1				1	1		
City Hall Park	1.63			2	1					1					40	6									1		
Cooper School Park	6.63	3	1			1										3	2			1							
<i>Corderos Park (f)</i>																											
Fairmont/Beelard Park	5.23	2	1																								
Hawkins Park	3.13	1	0.5	1						1		1				4	2			1				2			
Larsen School Park	4.32	2					1								55						1						
<i>Lower Lagoon Val. (f)</i>																											
Meadowlands Park	8.09	4	1			1			2						47	5	2			4							
Normandy Meadows	0.33																								1		
North Orchard Park	7.85	1	0.5													2	2							4	1		
Padan (Dos Calles)	6.48	2	1	4		1										7	2			1							
Patwin Park	4.71		1												20	1	1									1	
Pheasant Country Pk	6.99	1	1	6						1						6	2			1					1		
Pocket Park (wellsite)	0.90																								1		
Ridgeview Park	7.33	1	1	3						1					37	7	2			1							
Sierra Vista Sch. Park	4.18																								1		
Southwood Park	3.82		1	2						1						4	2								1		
Stonegate Park	6.00	1	1																	1							
Southtown Pocket Park	1.06																3	2									
<i>Southtown Oval Park (f)</i>																											
Trower Park	4.04		1	2											9		2										
<i>Wellsite #2 (pocket) (f)</i>																											
Willows Park	2.00		1													3	1										

Community Parks

Andrews Park	17.90		2	4				45			1				27	23		2	1						1		
Arlington Park	17.78	3	1	2		1	1								192		12	1	1								
<i>Elmira Park (f)</i>																											
Keating Park	24.60	5	2	1		2									155	8	3		2								
Lagoon Valley Com. *	40.00			22				1	16	1		2	1		200	41	4	1	1								1
Nelson Park	12.98	2					1		5						108	7		1	1								
Patch Park	19.00	3					1								159				1		1						1
<i>Patch - Phase II (f)</i>																											
Pena Adobe Park *	8.01			13					7			2	1		15	26	14		1						1	1	1
Three Oaks Park	11.94		1	2		1	1		8						228		20	2		1		3	4		1		
Ulatis CC Gardens	1.00																										

City Park

Centennial Park *	35.67	1	3				1	4					1	381	6				1	6				4			1
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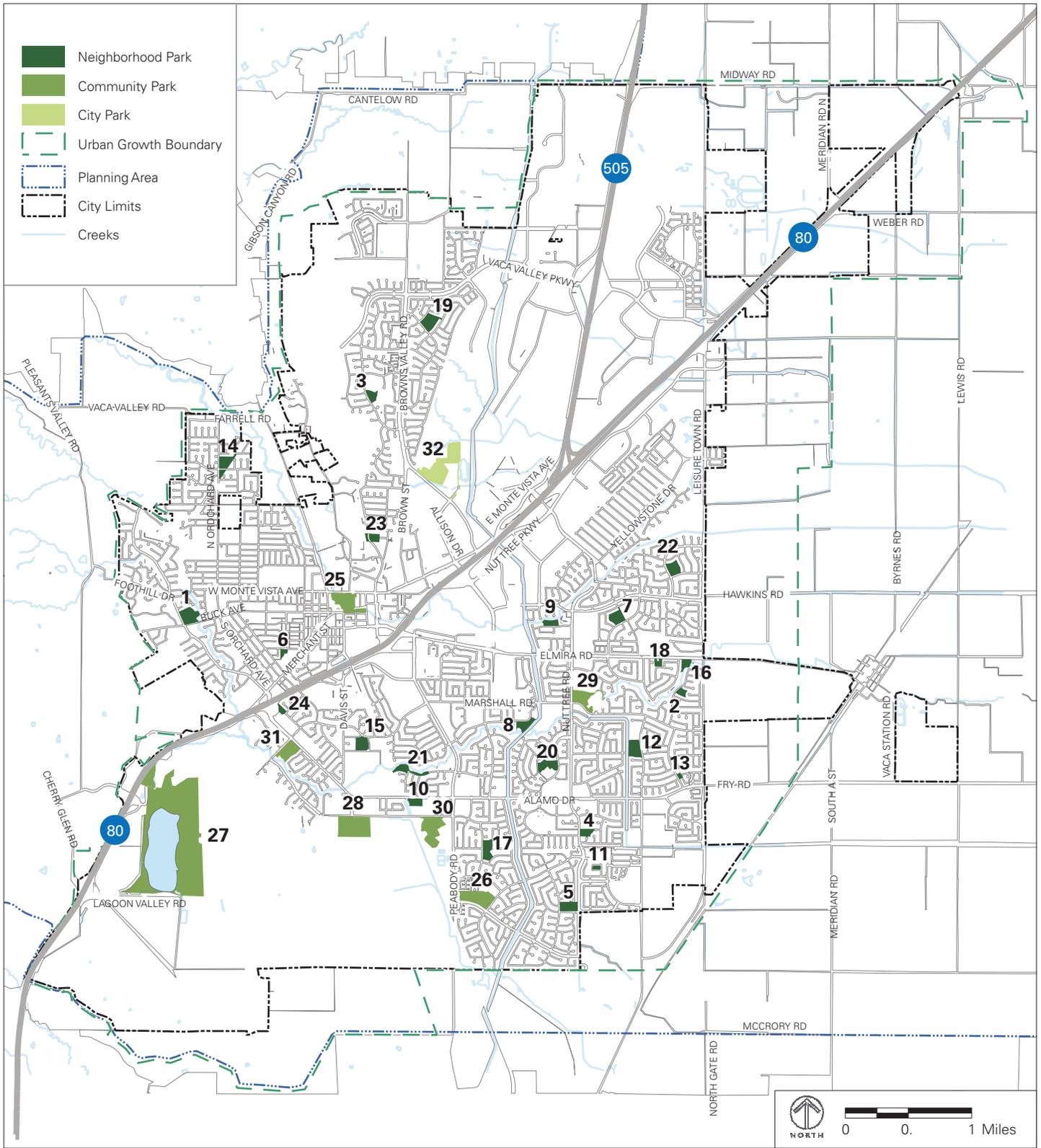
TOTALS:	300.06	14	30	15.5	67	1	7	8	1	87	1	7	1.0	6	4	1,673	171	68	42	8	2	18	3	4	13	12	2	4
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Special Facilities

Skate Center	Includes gymnastics/dance facilities. Add to gymnasium value:	0.3
McBride Senior Center	Full service Senior Center	
Three Oaks Com. Ctr.	Meeting rooms, Kitchen Facil.	
Ulatis Cultural Center	Full service Community Center	

* Park has adjoining Open Space not included in park acreage.

CITY OF VACAVILLE RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

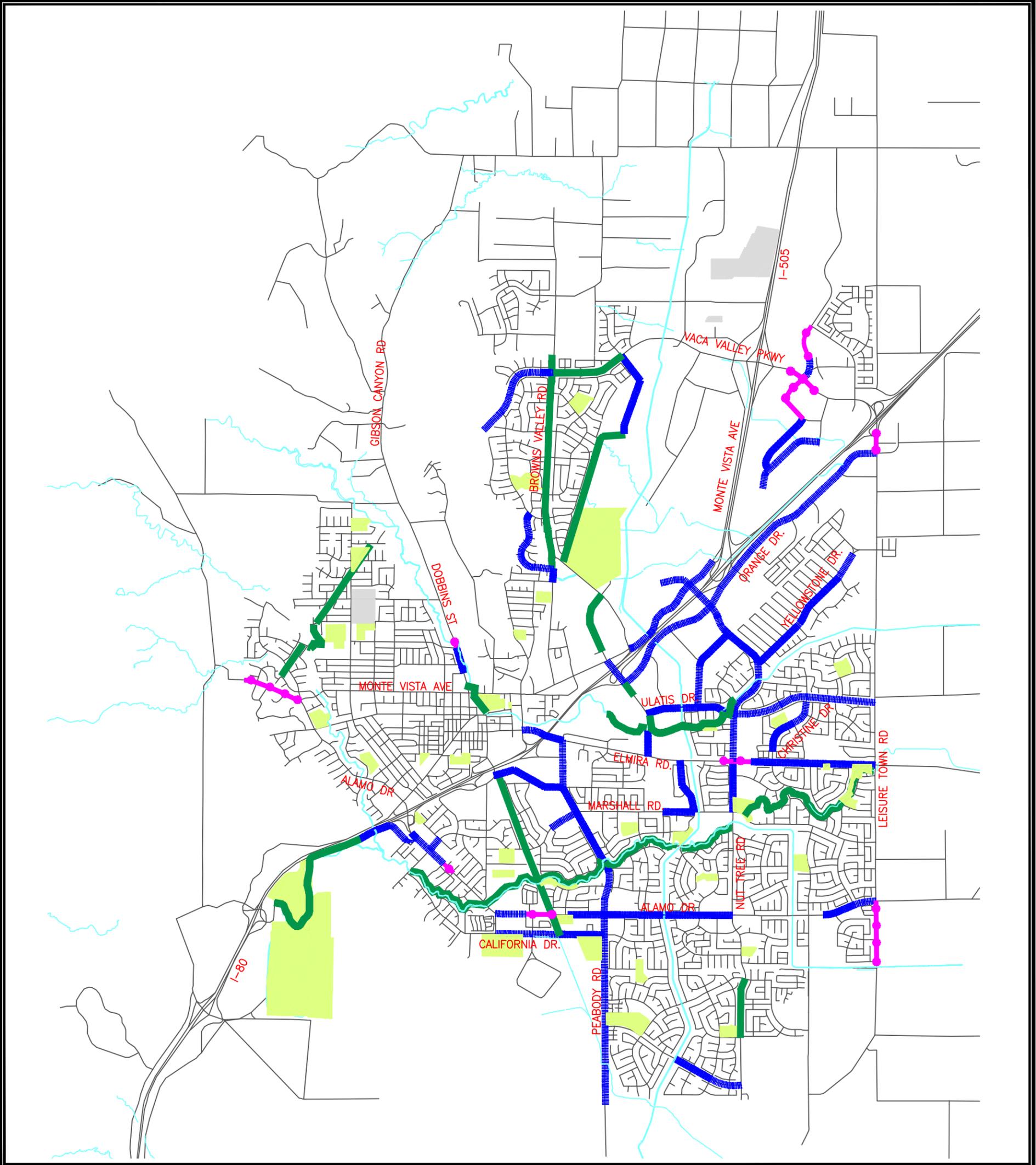


- | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Alamo Creek Park | 9 Hawkins Park | 17 Pheasant Country Park | 25 Andrews Park |
| 2 Arbor Oaks Park | 10 Larsen Park (Irene) | 18 Pocket Park | 26 Arlington Park (John) |
| 3 Browns Valley Park | 11 Little Oak Park | 19 Ridgeview Park | 27 Lagoon Valley Park (Regional) |
| 4 Cambridge Park | 12 Meadowlands Park | 20 Sierra Vista Park | 28 Keating Park (William) |
| 5 Cannon Station Park | 13 Normandy Meadows Park | 21 Southwood Park | 29 Nelson Park (Eleanor) |
| 6 City Hall Park | 14 North Orchard Park | 22 Stonegate Park | 30 Patch Park (Al) |
| 7 Cooper School Park | 15 Padan Park | 23 Trower Park | 31 Three Oaks Park |
| 8 Fairmont-Beelard Park | 16 Patwin Park | 24 Willows Park | 32 Centennial Park |

Source: City of Vacaville



City of Vacaville Bike Paths



Prepared by: Public Works Engineering

Sources of Information:

- Traffic\CADD Projects\Bikepaths

 Class I - Off-street shared-use path

 Class II - On-street painted Bike Lane

 Class III - On-street unpainted Bike Route

Date: August 4, 2010 (Rev.)

Source: Vacaville City Website

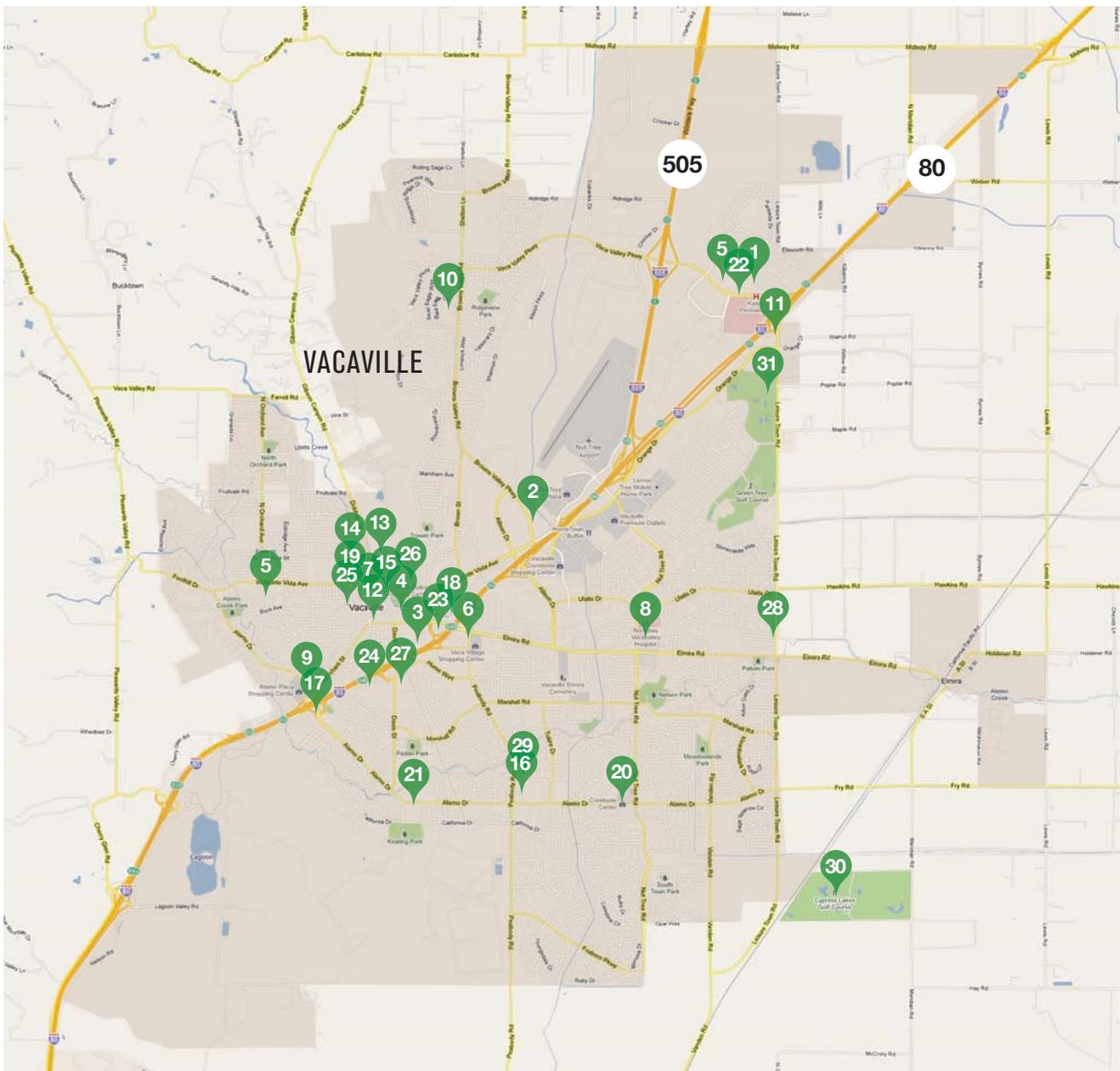


Commercial Service Providers

To estimate market capacity to serve the identified demand for fitness and recreational activity quasi-public and commercial facilities in the City of Vacaville were

inventoried. The map showing the location of each private provider is followed by a summary that reviews the amenities and services of each facility.

Service Provider Locations





Special Use Facilities

1. SOCCER NATION

Address: 3777 Vaca Valley, Pkwy, Ste. C
Phone: 707.451.7723
www.soccernationvacaville.com

The privately owned Soccer Nation is a 30,000 square foot facility with onsite pro shops and two indoor soccer fields. One of its indoor fields is the largest in Northern California. The facility hosts adult and youth league soccer for the Fall, Winter and Spring; players travel from Sacramento to San Francisco to play in one of the 10 division leagues. They also offer drop-in play at \$7 a player and field rentals from \$60 to \$75 per field, per hour.

2. STARS RECREATION CENTER

Address: 155 Browns Valley Parkway, Vacaville
Phone: 707.455.7827
www.starsrecreation.com

Stars Recreation Center has 40 lanes for open, group, and league bowling. Stars also features a video arcade, Q-ZAR laser tag, pool tables, live band performances, 2 full service restaurants, and a sports bar and grill. Stars also offers banquet options and birthday party rentals.

3. VACAVILLE ICE SPORTS

Address: 551 Davis Street, Vacaville
Phone: 707.455.0225
www.vacavilleicesports.com

The facility houses two NHL sized rinks (85' x 200'), a snack bar and an arcade. The programs include skating schools, curling, hockey, and figure skating. The facility hosts a figure skating club, youth hockey club (Jets), adult hockey league, and synchronized

skating, including theater on ice. The Vacaville Recreation Center is located at this facility, providing gymnastics, birthday party rental, and dance space.

Health Clubs

4. ACTIVE LIFESTYLE FITNESS STUDIO

Address: 560 Main Street, Vacaville
Phone: 707.455.0190

Active Lifestyle Fitness Studio is located directly downtown, offering health and fitness services.

5. CROSSFIT - 2 LOCATIONS

“The Compound”

Address: 3777 Vaca Valley Pkwy
Vacaville, Ca 95688
Phone: 707.628.8740
www.crossfitvvn.com

The Compound is a Crossfit strength and conditioning facility. Programming draws from body weight movements, weightlifting, and cardiovascular training, for beginning to advanced skill levels. Classes are offered in 1 hour intervals to the public.

“Crossfit Vacaville”

Address: 154 S. Orchard Ave.
Vacaville, CA 95688
Phone: 707.474.5292
www.crossfitvacaville.com

Located on the west side of town, Crossfit Vacaville offers one-on-one and small group Crossfit classes by appointment as well as health, fitness, and nutrition events.



6. FITNESS 19

Address: 70 Peabody Rd
Phone: 707.447.1919
www.fitness19.com

Fitness 19 is located .7 miles away from downtown Vacaville. The Fitness 19 chain prides itself on affordability, and the option of short-term contracts. The Fitness 19 center in Vacaville offers a good variety of weight and cardio equipment, circuit training, free weights, lockers, and a kids room. Services also include personal training.

7. GOLD'S GYM

Address: 201 Main Street
Phone: 707.447.4176
www.goldsgym.com/gyms/california/vacaville/680

Gold's Gym in downtown Vacaville is a 27,000 sq. ft. multi-purpose health club. It offers classes for indoor group cycling, Zumba!, Pilates, yoga, strength training, cardiovascular training, water therapy, and youth fitness. It also offers personal training, lap swimming and swim classes, as well as a babysitting, and is home to the Martial Arts Institute of Vacaville. In addition, there is a stretching area, Hypoxic altitude training room, and a 75 ft. indoor heated pool and spa, and a separate Kids Club.

8. IN-SHAPE HEALTH CLUBS - VACAVILLE

Address: 615 Elmira Rd., Vacaville
Phone: 707.455.5010
www.inshapeclubs.com

The 39,000 sq. ft. facility opened in 2011, and provides a cardio center, selectorized and free weight equipment rooms, racquetball courts, group exercise room, cycling room, tanning salon, steam and sauna, Kids Club, locker room, indoor pool, and spa. Programs include group cycling, pilates,

Zumba, SilverSneakers programs for seniors, kids fitness classes, racquetball leagues, and more.

9. IN-SHAPE HEALTH CLUB - VACAVILLE ALAMO

868 Alamo Drive
(707) 455-5026
www.inshapeclubs.com

Located on the southwest edge of town, this alternate In-Shape provides an indoor pool and spa, sauna, locker rooms, re-shape circuit, free weights, cardio theater, and Kids Club. This location also offers group cycling and a variety of group classes.

10. MILLENIUM SPORTS CLUB (IN-SHAPE)

Address: 3446 Browns Valley Road
Phone: 707.446.2350
www.millenniumsportsclub.com

The In-Shape Millennium Sports Club Vacaville location is a 60,000 sq. ft. full service athletic facility, located approximately 2.5 miles from downtown. It offers indoor basketball and volleyball, group exercise, personal training, nutritional education, physical therapy and rehabilitation, martial arts, swim classes, Pilates, childcare, preschool, and tennis classes. It houses a weight room, cardio room, circuit room, mixed martial arts room, cycling room, basketball court, day care center, racquetball court, 9 outdoor tennis courts, lap pool, activity pool, whirlpool, sauna, separate rooms for Pilates and yoga, and youth exercise and sports room with kids sized equipment, bouldering wall and DDR. Membership and class fees range. Seasonal programs include: Millennium Afterschool Camp, Millennium Fitness Camps during school breaks, and Millennium Marlins Swim Team Water Polo. Millennium has now been acquired by In-Shape Health Clubs.



11. VACAVILLE FITNESS

Address: 787 Orange Drive
Phone: (707) 451-7300
www.vacavillefitness.com

Located close to I-80, Vacaville Fitness offers weights and cardio equipment, a fitness room, and showers. Programming includes Zumba, boot camps, yoga, and more. It is open 24 hours a day.

Yoga and Pilates Studios

12. AKASHA YOGA

Address: 373 Merchant Street
Phone: 707.455.7750

Akasha Yoga is located in downtown Vacaville. It offers a variety of yoga classes, and yoga for kids, ranging from 75 to 90 minutes. The basic drop-in fee is \$15.

13. FITBODIES INC.

Address: 97 Dobbins Street, Suite C
Phone: 707.628.5600
www.studiofitbodies.com

Located adjacent to downtown, Fitbodies offers group classes and personal training, including cycling and Pilates. Does not provide cardio, weight equipment.

14. SPORT REHAB - PILATES STUDIO

Address: 81 Cernon Street
Phone: 707.447.9750
www.sportrehabphysicaltherapy.com

Offering a 1,500 sf gym and six private treatment rooms, Sport Rehab Physical Therapy provides private and small training programs with a rehabilitative focus. Services include Pilates classes and performance training, as well as physical therapy. They are located near downtown.

15. PILATES BY DESIGN

331 Main Street, Suite B
707-290-3131
www.pilatesbydesign-vacaville.com

Located in downtown Vacaville, Pilates By Design offers Pilates instruction on three types of equipment for various levels and ages. Private and group classes are offered.

16. PRACTICAL PILATES STUDIO

Address: 1949 Peabody Road
Phone: 707.447.4072
www.practicalpilates.org

Located in the Parthenon Classical Arts Center, Practical Pilates offers Pilates, posture correction, and sports injury rehabilitation. They offer small group workshops, and mat classes such as yoga and Pilates. Practical Pilates also offers one on one private sessions and a bootcamp.

17. YOGACOREFIT

187 C Butcher Road
707.452.1403
yogacorefit.com

Loated on the western edge of Vacaville, YogaCoreFit offers a wide variety of yoga and Pilates mat classes.

Martial Arts

18. HAMLET'S AMERICAN TAEKWONDO ACADEMY

Address: 1011 Mason St, Suite 4
Phone: 707.448.2600

Located approximately a half mile from downtown Vacaville, Hamlet's American Taekwondo Academy has locations in both Suisun City and Vacaville. It offers Taekwondo at various levels, for children, teens, and adults.



19. MARTIAL ARTS INSTITUTE OF VACAVILLE

Address: 310 E Monte Vista Ave #B
Phone: 707.455.0637

Offers martial arts training and acupuncture, and is less than a quarter mile from downtown Vacaville.

20. TRACY'S KARATE & MIXED MARTIAL ARTS STUDIOS

Address: 3037 Alamo Drive
Phone: 707.448.6622
www.tracyskaratestudios.com

The studio offers group and personal instruction in mixed martial arts and self-defense (Jiu Jitsu and Shootfighting). It offers both youth and adult training, as well as family discounts. Tracy's Karate & Mixed Martial Arts Studio also has a location in Fairfield.

21. SHOTOKAN KARATE DO

Address: 1490 Alamo Dr #C
Phone: 707.469.0442
laffertyshotokan.com

Shotokan Karate Dojo is a Shotokan Karate studio. It offers both private and group classes, from beginner to advanced, for all ages. Classes are also offered in the evenings.

Gymnastics

22. AERIALS HIP HOP & ALL-STAR CHEER

Address: 3777 Vaca Valley Pkwy #A
Phone: 707.455.8303
www.aerialsgym.com

The gym offers competitive cheer and Hip Hop programs, recreational and team tumbling and stunting, and private lessons.

Competitive programs and private lessons are offered for cheer, Hip Hop dance, and tumbling. A recreational tumbling class is also offered. Both spring floors (40' x 40' and 42' x 54') are available for rental.

23. FOX GYMNASTICS TRAINING CENTER

Address: 1021 Mason Street
Phone: 707.452.1118

This training facility is located close to downtown Vacaville. It offers gymnastics instruction and is available to the public.

24. DREAM XTREME GYMNASTICS

Address: 190 Bella Vista Rd
Phone: 707.359.4435
dreamxtremegym.com

Dream Xtreme opened in early 2012. It offers gymnastics instruction and is available to the public.

Dance

25. BELLY DANCING BY JENIA

Address: 125 W. Kendal
Phone: 707.446.0825
www.jenias.com

Beginner and Intermediate classes are held at the Saturday Club in Vacaville.



26. PATTY'S STUDIO OF DANCE

Address: 501 E Monte Vista Avenue

Phone: 707.447.7637

www.pattysstudioofdance.com

Offers dance instruction for Tap, Jazz, Ballet, Modern, Lyrical, Hip Hop dance for ages 3 and up. Instruction is offered at the recreational level and professional/advanced level. They also sell dance supplies.

27. VACAVILLE BALLET THEATRE CO.

Address: 813 Davis Street #A

Phone: 707.449.1976

www.vacavilleballet.com

Vacaville Ballet Theatre Company & Academy offers ballet instruction to children, ages 3 and up, as well as adults, as part of an academy. They offer both beginner and advanced lessons. The facility also hosts a ballet company (Vacaville Ballet Theatre Company) and events and performances. They offer other classes in karate (Campos Karate) and Zumba.

28. VACAVILLE ZUMBA

Address: 21B Commerce Place

Phone: 707-315-6448

www.vacavillezumba.org

Vacaville Zumba is located at Studio of the Arts in Vacaville. Zumba classes are offered once per day on select days of the week, at \$7 a class.

29. THE PARTHENON CLASSICAL ARTS CENTER

Address: 1949 Peabody Road

Phone: 707-447-7452

www.parthenoncenter.com

The Parthenon Center offers instruction (structured and drop-in) in ballet, ballroom dancing, fencing, Pilates, and yoga, and offers studio rentals. Parthenon also hosts the Parthenon Ballet Company and a fencing team.

Golf

30. CYPRESS LAKES GOLF COURSE

Address: 5601 Meridian Rd

Phone: 707-448-7186

www.cypresslakesgolfclub.org

This 18-hole golf course features 6,796 yards of golf and has a Par Lounge. Owned by the Travis Airforce Base, Cypress Lakes reserves membership to players with military affiliation. It is open to use by the public, however, and engages in charity events.

31. GREEN TREE GOLF CLUB

Address: 999 Leisure Town Rd

Phone: 707-448-1420

www.greentreegolfclub.com

Green Tree is a full-service facility with an 18-hole course, well-lit practice range, cafe with outside dining and banquet service, well-stocked golf shop and tournament/group capability. It also offers lessons and junior golf.

Publications

Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, 1992

Executive Summary

RHAA, MIG, Walp & Moore, Angus McDonald & Associates

Parks and Recreation Element, Amended 1992

Section 4.3, City of Vacaville General Plan

Note: The Park and Recreation Element was amended in 1992, concurrently with preparation and adoption of the City's Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.

Current General Plan Element, December 2007

Chapter 4 – Parks And Recreation Element

Source: City Website

Existing Conditions Technical Memorandum, September 27, 2010

City Of Vacaville General Plan Update

City Website, General Plan Documents Page

Update of Park and Recreation, Police, Fire, and Drainage Detention, March 28, 2007

Development Impact Fees Nexus Study Administrative Draft

GCG Goodwin Consulting Group

City of Vacaville Sports And Events Center Feasibility Study, May 31, 2011

The Sports Management Group

Survey of 400 Likely Voters in the City of Vacaville, March 2012

Summary Charts of Results

Gene Bregman & Associates

2011 Business and Marketing Plan

Vacaville Conference and Visitors Bureau

2006 Vacaville Market Assessment and Brand Audit

Sports Organization Survey, January 1991

Youth Survey Results

City Of Vacaville: Service And Facility Rental Fees, Revised July 2012

City Of Vacaville: Landscaping And Lighting Assessment Districts, May 2009

Engineer's Report
SCIconulting Group

The City of Vacaville: Draft Program Budgets

Fiscal Year 2012/2013

City of Vacaville General Plan, 2012

Public Review Draft, May 25, 2012
The Planning Center: DC&E

Development Impact Fee Program Review, 2012

City of Fairfield
March 23, 2012
Economic & Planning Systems, Inc.

Ysat Meeting Minutes, October 25, 2012

Community Services Department Events Guide

Winter 2013, Fall 2012, Fall 2011
Source: City Website

Ordinance to Renew Measure I, June 26, 2012

General Plan Update

Meeting #9: Policy Issues Meeting Summary, July 21, 2011
Community Workshop #2 – Policy Issues, August 20, 2011
Steering Committee Meeting #15, November 17, 2011
Steering Committee: Policy Options, Memorandum, November 15, 2011
General Plan Steering Committee #16 Memo, Policy Options: Parks, Complete Streets, Transportation Level of Service (LOS), November 28, 2011

Facts about Measure I & M

City of Vacaville

City Of Vacaville Planning Commission Staff Report, July 21, 2009

Presentation For the Quimby Act
Memo from Park Planner Hew Hesterman

Local Organizations

INTERVIEW NOTES

Vacaville Chapter of the National Junior Basketball (NJB)

Contact - Kevin Scott 707-718-7519

Youth Basketball

The organization is a sponsor for youth basketball leagues and tournament play. NJB was unable to locate practice and tournament space due to lack of access to a gym facility and as a result, this division of NJB dissolved prior to the 2008-09 season. NJB has need for a gym facility with access to 2-3 courts on evenings and weekends for practice and play. NJB could host a tournament once a quarter, if there was access to courts. Mr. Scott commented that the only structured leagues are those sponsored by the City of Vacaville.

Suisun City Titans

Contact - Lionel King 707-207-1579

Youth Football

According to the Suisun City Titans, a youth football and cheerleading program, they have 500-600 youth from Suisun, Fairfield and Vacaville participate in their program. They are affiliated with the Golden State Warriors youth program and the Amateur Athletic Union. Titans play three games each Saturday at high schools (public and private). Youth football one-day clinics are held for a fee of \$35 per participant. They play in tournaments year-round and would host in Vacaville if there were a facility with adequate fields and seating. Game team fees are \$300. They report they could hold tournaments 2 to 3 Saturdays a month year-round and bring in teams from Los Angeles to Arizona.

Jamz Cheer

Jamz Cheer is affiliated with the Suisun City Titans program as the cheer program component. This program trains and practices cheer for the youth football leagues and participate in cheer competitions. Day cheer camps are priced at \$35 and cheer competitions are held at locations in the region for a fee of \$70 per participant.

Five Starz Volleyball Club

Debbie Coleberg 530-406-1100

The Five Starz Volleyball Club is a non-profit organization and operates in conjunction with the United States Volleyball Association (USVBA) youth girl's program. This section, the Northern California Volleyball Association (NCVA), has players representing Davis, Woodland, Vacaville, Dixon and other communities in the greater Sacramento area and practice on school courts and at the Jackson Sports Academy as there are no practice court time available to them in Vacaville. Five Starz Volleyball Club is a traveling competition team, however they have a need for four courts for practice, training, and hosting their own tournament play. The Starlets is an introductory, non-traveling program. Players practice once a week and participate in a local tournament at the end of the season.

Jackson Sports Academy

jacksonsportsacademy.net

Local volleyball players indicate they travel to the Jackson Sports Academy, which is located 44 miles from Vacaville in Sacramento. The facility provides indoor team sport leagues, practices, training, and tournament play. The Jackson sports academy provides indoor volleyball and youth soccer, basketball, and tennis court play in a temperature-controlled building. Fee for court reservations are \$35/hour for non-members and \$25/hour for members.

Soccer Nation

Soccernationvacaville.com

The privately owned Soccer Nation is a 30,000 sf facility with an onsite pro shop and two indoor soccer fields. One field is the largest indoor field in northern California. Players travel from Sacramento to San Francisco to play in one of the 10 division leagues. There was insufficient response from the soccer users regarding the demand for more indoor fields.

Vacaville Ice Sports

Vacavilleicesports.com

551 Davis Street, Vacaville

707-455-0225

Vacaville Ice Sports is has 2 NHL sized rinks (85' x 200'), a snack bar, and arcade. The facility programs include skating schools, curling, hockey, and figure skating. The facility hosts a figure skating club, youth hockey club (Jets), adult hockey league, and synchronized skating including theater on ice.

Vacaville Wrestling Club

Rich Penaluna, Club Director

707-628-4615

rndpenlun@comcast.net

Wrestling

Vacaville High School is home to the Larry and Dave Nelson Wrestling Room. Dave Nelson was a World Bronze Medalist in Greco Roman style wrestling. The 60' x 40' sf room is dedicated to the sport of wrestling and is used for the high school wrestling program and the Vacaville Youth Wrestling Club. The San Joaquin Section has approximately 180 high schools competing in that section. The Vacaville Youth Wrestling Club is sponsored by the Vacaville Wrestling Club, Inc., which is affiliated with USA Wrestling. The youth club conducts practices Tuesday through Thursday from 6:30-8:30p.m. and the club fee is \$200. Tournament schedule begins in December and continues through spring. The Wrestling Room is not available to the City for community use due to the high demand for the space by the High School and the Wrestling Club.

Police Activities League (PAL)

Amanda Davidson 707-469-4004

Organization - City of Vacaville

PAL Serves 200 youth participants a quarter utilizing City facilities, including Ulatis Community Center, Georgie Duke Sports Center, John A. McBride Senior Center, and Walter V. Graham Aquatic Center. PAL provides a variety of programs from arts, cooking, fitness, sports, trips and socials. The program hosts a boxing, fitness, and judo program provided in a room at the Georgie Duke Sports Center.

Schools

Vacaville High School

Fred Jones - Boys Athletic Director
707-453-6035

Vacaville High School has one gym to support an expansive athletic program. In addition to practices, they host their own tournaments that are cramped, but adequate. The single gym does not provide adequate indoor space for all the sports offered by the high school and they use the middle school for overflow practices. Increasing seating capacity is a critical need.

Will C. Wood High School

Mark Wudel - Athletic Director & JV/Varsity Basketball Coach
707-453-6900 ext. 1011

Will C. Wood High School has a full athletic program with 2 gymnasiums and currently their needs are being met with school district facilities. Mr. Wudel indicated that the City basketball leagues are very impacted due to inadequate court space. The school gyms are not available to the City during requested times as the school has need for the gyms for their own programs through the weekday evenings.