

# Executive Summary

## A. Plan Overview

The primary purposes of the Outdoor Recreation Plan (Plan) are to facilitate cooperation and coordination among agencies in planning, acquiring, managing and funding outdoor recreation facilities in the unincorporated areas of Sonoma County, and to provide public access and recreation opportunities on public lands.

Sonoma County is divided into six planning areas for purposes of identifying recreation needs and preferences and the facilities to meet these needs and preferences. These six planning areas are based on Park Mitigation Fee areas. Traditional park planning guidelines have been used as a starting point for determining recreation needs, specifically planning areas that may be under-served by particular types of parks and other facilities. Community input gathered in a variety of forums, and input from members of the Citizens' Advisory Committee, have been used to identify preferences for outdoor recreation projects needed in each of the six planning areas.

The Plan is a ten-year plan extending from 2000 to 2010.

## B. Highlights of the Plan

- ◆ Recommends increasing the number of County Open Space parks by eleven plus expanding five existing Open Space parks.
- ◆ Recommends increasing the number of County Regional Recreation Areas by twelve including six river access sites.
- ◆ Recommends increasing the number of County Community and Neighborhood parks by sixteen.
- ◆ Recommends increasing the number of Multi-Use Trails and Class 1 bikeways from 27 to 58, creating a county-wide network of multi-use trails consisting of 490 miles. This is in addition to the 275 miles of existing trails on public lands, some of which would be integrated into the trail system.
- ◆ Recommends increasing and expanding State parks within Sonoma County. This could total 10,000 acres.
- ◆ Recommends the creation of 6,500 acres of regional preserves with some managed public access, to be operated by local, state or federal agencies and non profit organizations.

PROPOSED PARK ACREAGE AND TRAIL MILES COMPARISON WITH PRIOR PLANS	Existing Parks 2001	General Plan Acreage or Miles (From EIR)	February 2003 Draft ORP
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<b>Regional Parks (in acres)</b>			
General Plan County Regional Parks (20 acres/1000)	N/A	8,369	N/A
ORP County Open Space Parks (15 acres/1000)	3,105	N/A	9,145
ORP County Regional Recreation Areas (5 acres/1000)	1,181	N/A	3,094
<b>County Regional Parks Sub Total</b>	<b>4,286</b>	<b>8,369</b>	<b>12,239</b>

<b>Community &amp; Neighborhood Parks (in acres)</b>			
<b>Unincorporated 5 acres per 1000 pop.</b>			
County Parks in unincorporated areas (1)	37	113	409
School sites within unincorporated areas (2)	170	N/A	170
Other (3)	154	86	181
<b>Sub Total (4)</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>760</b>
<b>Incorporated 5 acres per 1000 pop.</b>			
Cities	881	1,136	1,180
School Sites within Cities and Towns (2)	735	N/A	736
County Parks in incorporated areas (5)	9	9	9
Other(3)	12	12	12
<b>Sub Total (4)</b>	<b>1,637</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>1,937</b>
<b>Community and Neighborhood Parks Sub Total</b>	<b>1,998</b>	<b>1,355</b>	<b>2,697</b>

- (1) The 1989 General Plan included the unincorporated areas in the south east and southwest of Santa Rosa and the area the future Town of Windsor. Since 1995 these areas have been incorporated and annexed and parks within them transferred to the City of Santa Rosa or Town of Windsor.
- (2) Although the 1989 General Plan EIR acknowledges the role of schools in providing recreation facilities it was not quantified in the EIR analysis.
- (3) Includes Non profits, Special Districts and Homeowners Associations properties with recreation facilities within the unincorporated areas.
- (4) Recommended totals may vary slightly from needs shown on Table 15 because of sub area variations
- (5) Arnold Field located within the City of Sonoma.

<b>Other Lands (in acres)</b>			
State Parks	31,604	31,361	41,604
Federal Parks (6)	14,852	19,915	14,865
Preserves with public access.	0	0	6,500
Other	124	365	484
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>46,580</b>	<b>51,641</b>	<b>63,453</b>

(6) 1989 General Plan EIR included all of Lake Sonoma acreage as federal. However 5,050 acres is managed by DFG without public access.

<b>Acreage Total</b>	<b>52,864</b>	<b>61,365</b>	<b>78,389</b>
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<b>Regional Trails in Unincorporated Areas (in miles) (7)</b>			
Bicycle Trails	9.3	54.5	94.0
Multi use trails	22.0	94.1	396.3
<b>Mileage Total</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>148.6</b>	<b>490.3</b>

**Figure 1**  
**Comparison with Past Plans**  
Revised 3/03

## **C. Changes from the May 27, 1999 Draft Plan**

On October 26 1999, the Board of Supervisors provided direction for the completion of the ORP, following the three policy workshops in August and September. The following are summaries of the changes between the May 27, 1999 Draft Plan and the Revised Draft Plan

### **1. Specific Changes Directed by the Board of Supervisors:**

#### **A. Regarding the question of how the draft Plan represents the purposes and goals envisioned by the Board of Supervisors, the direction given to staff was:**

##### **A.1.a Include a complete inventory of all county property with recreation potential. Include in the Draft Plan the buildout costs of recreation facilities on existing park property.**

A complete inventory of all County property with recreation potential is included in Appendix 1: Inventory of Publicly Accessible Land in Sonoma County. Public lands studied includes land owned by the County of Sonoma, the Sonoma County Water Agency, the Bureau of Land Management, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the State of California, the incorporated cities within Sonoma County, School Districts, and non-profit groups operating public recreation facilities. Buildout costs of recreation facilities on existing park property have been included in the plan. These are in Appendix 7 and referenced in Chapter VII.

##### **A.1.b To ensure that the Plan represents clear recommendations, highlighting those that are consistent with the 1989 General Plan and those that are not.**

Outdoor Recreation Maps (Figures 8, 9, 10 and 11) also indicate which projects are included in the 1989 General Plan.

##### **A.1.c To use the 20 acres per 1,000 population as stated in the 1989 General Plan in assessing regional recreational and open space park needs as the County's goal and to provide an analysis of this indicating what proportion of this acreage meets the active regional recreation area definition and which proportion meets the open space park definition. Define what constitutes an active regional recreation area versus a passive use open space park.**

The 20-acre per 1,000 population standard, as stated in the 1989 General Plan in assessing regional recreational and open space park needs, has been stated as the County's goal in Chapter V. Of this 20 acre guideline, 5 acres per 1,000 population is the guideline for active regional park facilities and 15 acres per 1,000 is the guideline for passive open space parks. Definitions for active versus passive use open space parks are included in Chapter IV.

**A.2. Regarding the question of how the draft Plan addresses the variety of outdoor recreation facilities that the Board envisioned, the direction given to staff was to strengthen the findings and recommendations contained in the Draft Plan Supplemental Information in Appendix 5 on Community and Neighborhood Parks and Recreational Facilities for Organized Sports by:**

**A.2.a Adding additional opportunities for community and neighborhood parks in the unincorporated areas.**

Additional opportunities for Community and Neighborhood Parks in the unincorporated area of the county have been added to the Draft Plan in Chapter VI. This chapter contains the findings and analysis described in the May 27, 1999 Chapter X on Community and Neighborhood Parks and Recreational Facilities for Organized Sports. Over 380 additional acres of Community and Neighborhood Parks are proposed in the Plan. The ratio of 5 acres/1000 population was used to determine the needs.

**A.2.b Identifying opportunities in locations close to cities where the County could cooperate jointly with cities and other recreation agencies in providing park facilities including areas for organized sports.**

Additional parks with locations close to cities have been added. These include North Santa Rosa Regional Park and South Santa Rosa Regional Park and Community and Neighborhood parks near Healdsburg, Petaluma, Cotati, Sonoma, Sebastopol and Geyserville. These parks will serve residents in areas close to urban areas with facilities for organized sports. These are identified in the recommendations in Chapter VI and on Figure 8.

**A.2.c Strengthening policy language on partnerships with schools and cities on developing joint park/school sites in the unincorporated areas of the County.**

An overview of partnerships with schools was added to background information on community and neighborhood parks in Appendix 5. Policy language related to partnerships with schools and cities on developing joint park/school sites in the unincorporated areas of the County was added in Policy 5.1 a in Chapter III.

**A.3. Regarding the question of how the draft Plan adequately addresses the policy issues necessary to implement the Plan, the direction given to staff was to:**

**A.3.a Strengthen language that the County will only acquire property for parks and trails from willing sellers on lands in agricultural land use categories as designated in the 1989 General Plan. Reaffirm the County's commitment to the policy of protection of agriculture.**

General language regarding the County's commitment to agricultural preservation was added to Goal 1 in Chapter III. Specific policy language indicating that the County will only acquire property for parks and trails from willing sellers on lands in agricultural land use categories as designated in the 1989 General Plan was added to Policy 2.2 in Chapter III.

**A.3.b Prepare draft policy language to encourage partnering with cities and other recreation providers to develop trail opportunities close to urban centers.**

Policy 1.1b and Policy 5.1b were added to encourage partnering with cities and other recreation providers to develop trail opportunities close to urban centers.

**A.4.1 Regarding the process, timeline and milestones for bringing the final draft of the Plan to the Board, the direction given to staff was to:**

Agree with the timeline as presented but modify it to accommodate new items raised by the Board that may require further study or information. Timeline was modified to prepare additional information requested by the Board. In 2000 the Board directed staff to stop work on the Plan until Measure I was decided. In 2001, public meetings were held on the 2000 Draft Plan. In 2002, the Plan was updated to include new demographic information and cost information.

**A.4.b Agree to the holding of the six addition public meetings to solicit public input on Draft Plan following incorporation of policy direction from the Board.**

Six Public Workshops were conducted as part of the review of the Revised Draft Plan. Following those workshops, the 149 public comments were reviewed and discussed by the Citizens Advisory Committee. The Committee made further recommendations that are reflected in the 2003 Draft of the Plan.

**A.4.c To identify the process for acquiring park properties, particularly those properties that might be considered opportunity purchases not called out in the General Plan.**

The process for acquiring park properties, particularly those properties that might be considered opportunity purchases not called out in the General is addressed under Policy 1.2e.

**A.4.d. Develop an estimate of costs for the acquisition, development and operation and maintenance of park projects included in the 1989 General Plan and comparable costs for the additional park facilities proposed in the Draft ORP.**

Cost estimates for acquisition, development and operation and maintenance of park projects included in the 1989 General Plan and for the Draft ORP are included in Chapter VII.

**A.5.a. Add trail connector across Sonoma Mountain.**

A trail connector across Sonoma Mountain was added to the Plan Map, Figure 10.

**A.5.b. Work with State Parks officials to expand the state parks in the County by at least 10,000 acres.**

County staff contacted the State Parks Department regarding the Board of Supervisor's intention that State Parks in the County be expanded by at least 10,000 acres by the Yr. 2010. The State Park Department's focus and interest in property acquisition by State Parks in Sonoma County is to expand its existing land holdings by acquiring property from willing sellers that are contiguous with existing State Park lands. Acquisitions would be evaluated based on specific factors. These factors may include the protection and preservation of unique resources, potential threats to property adjacent to State Park property and property that would "round out" existing State Park boundaries. Acquisition priorities by State Parks are made on a statewide basis with recommendations from local State Park superintendents. State Parks has expressed interest in expanding the properties at the following locations: Jack London State Park, Annadel State Park, Sonoma Coast State Beach (Including the Willow Creek Valley), Salt Point State Park, Fort Ross State Historic Park and Austin Creek State Recreation Area. It is likely that State Parks working with other state agencies such as the Coastal Conservancy, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and non profits such as the Sonoma Land Trust could accomplish this goal.

**A.5.c. Provide more analysis on public access opportunities to the Russian River.**

Additional analysis on public access opportunities to the Russian River was summarized from the Russian River Public Access and Trespass Management Plan in Chapter V. A Summary of the analysis of sites in the Russian River Public Access and Trespass Management Plan is also included in Appendix 8.

**B. Other Direction received on specific issues:**

**B.1. Provide additional analysis of recreational access opportunities on the Russian River.**

See A.5.c above.

**B.2. Address the issue of "Offers to Dedicate" for public access easements on the Sonoma Coast.**

Policies 3.6a and 3.6b are included to address the acceptance by public agencies of Outstanding Offers to Dedicate (OTDs) of additional coastal access easements.

**B.3. Review suggested language provided by the Citizens for the Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) and make recommendation and changes to the language in the policies section of the plan if appropriate.**

Alternative policy language suggestions provided by CORP with the Citizen's Advisory Committee were reviewed; revisions were made.

**B.4. Include the Kelly Road Trail proposal but provide more analysis on the specific ancillary facilities needed to implement this recommendation.**

Since the development of the 1999 Draft Plan, the status regarding the Kelly Road project has changed. The road was sold by the U.S. Government to private

buyers. The buyers form a road maintenance association. The Plan recommends that if it is considered desirable to implement this proposal, the County obtain a trail easement along the private roadway. Use of the easement would require that parking areas be located at both ends of the road and that some minimal facilities such as public restrooms be installed at various locations. The trail might be seasonal and use could be regulated by permit. Further discussion and agreement would be needed to develop the trail.

**B.5. Indicate needs of park acreage by park planning area, specifically noting those in the Second Supervisorial District.**

Estimates for parkland needs for the Yr. 2010 for all park planning areas, including Park Planning Area 2, are included in Tables 10 through 15 in Chapter V. Recommendations for addressing the parkland needs identified for each Park Planning Area are included in Chapter VI in Tables 21 through 26.

**B.6. The goal of the Draft Plan is to offer a balance of recreational opportunities and recognizes that the inclusion of trails is important to the Draft Plan.**

The goal of the Revised Draft Plan is to offer a balance of recreational opportunities and recognizes that inclusion of trails is important to the Draft Plan. This language has been added to Chapter III, Goal 1 and Objective 1.1.

Upon reviewing the testimony from the public meetings in 2001, the Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting #33 voted to add six additional trails to the draft plan. In addition some additional publicly owned former railroad right of way has been included.

**B.7. Remove references in the Draft Plan to partnering with specific agencies on projects.**

References in the May 27, 1999 Draft Plan to partnering with specific agencies on projects has been revised. The words “encourage” and “support” have been deleted as this language was deemed to indicate a level of support from the Board of Supervisors to specific projects which the Board had not taken any position on. The following language has been added to the section under “Other Lands.” This language was added to recognize projects within the unincorporated areas where federal, state, and other government and non-profit organizations have projects:

*“The following projects are assumed to be implemented by other state, federal and local agencies. They are included in the plan as referenced because they are intended to protect habitat and/or contribute to public recreation in Sonoma County”.*

**B.8. Submit the Draft Plan to the County Planning Commission before bringing it back to the Board.**

The process for reviewing the Plan includes its submission to the County Planning Commission before it is brought back to the Board.

## 2. Overview of Changes

**Clarification Regarding the Plan's Commitment to Agricultural Preservation:** The Introduction to Chapter 1 on page 1, the Vision of the Plan and Goal 1 in Chapter III were revised to emphasize the County's commitment to the preservation of agriculture and to clarify that land in agriculturally zoned areas of the County would not be condemned for parks or trails.

**More Focus on Facilities for Organized Sports:** Changes in the Plan reflect a concern for providing additional facilities for organized sports. Appendix 5 was added to provide an expanded discussion of Community and Neighborhood Parks based on the Supplemental Information: *Community and Neighborhood Parks and Recreational Facilities for Organized Sports (SCRIP, August 12, 1999)*. In addition, the Assessment of Parkland Need was revised to include an assessment of the estimated need for Community and Neighborhood Parks on a County-wide basis at a rate of 5 acres/1,000 population for the Year 2010 (Chapter V, Section C.2.a).

**Location of Parks near Population Centers:** A particular focus of this revised plan, is inclusion of a greater number of parks in proximity to population centers, particularly along the Highway 101 corridor. A number of Regional Parks and Community/Neighborhood Parks have been located within the urban separators between cities along the corridor including North Santa Rosa Regional Park, and South Santa Rosa Regional Park (Chapter VI and Figures 8 and 9).

**Update of Parkland Projections:** This revised Plan includes revised estimates of Parkland Needs for the Yr. 2010, based on population projections based on the 2000 Census and ABAG – Projections 2000 report (Chapter V).

**Recommendations for Meeting Estimating Parkland Needs:** The revised Draft Plan includes tables in Chapter VI for each park planning area indicating how estimated parkland needs would be met by the proposed plan.

## 3. Changes by Chapter

**Chapter I: Introduction:** Direction provided by the Sonoma County Supervisors at the Board Meeting of September 14, 1999 for further changes to the Plan was added to Section C1 of this Executive Summary.

**Chapter II: The Value of Recreation to Sonoma County:** No changes were made to this Chapter.

**Chapter III: Recommended Policies:** Policies were revised to clarify the Board's commitments to: (1) preserving agricultural land; (2) balancing recreational opportunities including trails; and, (3) encouraging the partnering with cities and schools for development of trails near urban centers, and joint use recreation sites. In addition, policies were revised to address some of

CORP's concerns regarding helping to remove constraints to acquiring and providing public access to trails and parks.

**Chapter IV: Parkland Classification and Inventory:** This Chapter was revised to refine the classification system as follows: (1) The Community and Neighborhood Park categories were combined; and, (2) River Access facilities and the majority of Coastal Campground facilities were moved from the Open Space Parks (Passive) to the Regional Recreation Areas (Active). The former Table 6: Summary by Planning Area and Providers of Publicly Accessible Land in Sonoma County was deleted, because this information already exists in a more complete and useful table in Appendix 1.

**Chapter V: Parkland Needs Assessment:** The Overview of Parkland Needs Assessment was updated to reflect revised parkland needs and moved forward to Section B of the Chapter. The demographic section (Section C1.) was revised to update the tables and text in accordance with the ABAG – Projections 2000 and the 2000 U.S. Census. The Assessment of Parkland Needs (Section C 2.) was revised to combine the needs assessments for Community and Neighborhood Parks. This section was also revised to be consistent with the ABAG - Projections 2000 report for the year 2010. Chapter V (Section C 2) was also revised to focus the analysis on the estimated parkland needs for the Yr. 2010, the horizon year of the Plan.

**Chapter VI: Recommendations:** This Chapter was revised to include tables showing how estimated needs are proposed to be met by the Plan. A description of the specific project recommendations is included for each Park Planning Area and a separate list of recommendations for trails.

**Chapter VII: Financing Options:** A revision of the likely financial costs of implementing the recommendations of the Plan and financing options for the ORP and the specific costs of projects has been prepared. This chapter has been revised to include new projects recommended by the CAC and updated cost information where available.

**Chapter VIII: References:** The list of references was updated.

**Volume II - Appendices:** In Appendix 1, the Inventory of Publicly Accessible Land in Sonoma County was revised to combine the Community and Neighborhood Park categories. In addition, some refinements in classification of facilities described in Chapter IV are reflected in this table. Background Information Relating to Parkland Needs Assessment which was not based on the ratio of population to acreage for: (a) Neighborhood Parks, (b) Community Parks, and, (c). Regional Recreation Areas (Active) was deleted. All revised information is in the Plan in Chapter V. The Visitor Analysis was also removed. Appendix 5 was added to include the supplemental information on community and neighborhood parks and partnerships with schools. Appendix 8 was added to include more information from “*The Russian River Public Access and Trespass Management Plan*” regarding the analysis of River Access sites along the Russian River. Appendix 9 was added to include correspondence received from Cities and other government entities and Appendix 10 was added to include letters from individuals and non government organizations on the May 27, 1999 Draft Plan. Appendix 11 was added to include meeting summaries, letters, and Regional Parks Department responses from the public meetings held during Spring/Summer 2001.

## **D. Effectiveness of the Plan in Meeting Defined Purposes and Goals**

The Purposes of the Plan are identified in the Introduction, as follows:

- 1. To coordinate the efforts of the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (SCAPOS D) and the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA), State Parks, and other agencies in providing public access and recreation opportunities on public lands.*

The Agencies described above have cooperated in developing this Plan. As part of this process, they have assisted the Citizens Advisory Committee to develop priorities for acquisition for recreation facilities. They have also assisted the Citizens Advisory Committee to develop draft policies to help guide future interagency coordination of recreation projects.

- 2. To analyze and make recommendations concerning alternative funding mechanisms to maintain existing and support the future growth in the park and publicly accessible open space system.*

Appendix 7 identifies the likely cost of implementing the Plan and Chapter VII identifies funding mechanisms to maintain existing and support the future growth in the park and publicly accessible open space system.

- 3. To improve the ability of the Regional Parks Department, SCAPOS D, and SCWA to compete successfully for limited federal, state and private grant funding.*

The adoption of the Plan will enable those projects identified in the Plan to be eligible for grant funding opportunities. In addition it specifically identifies through a needs assessment process those projects which would be the priorities for the Regional Parks Department.

- 4. To provide a forum for public participation in the development of a Recreation Element in the next comprehensive update of the County General Plan.*

Development of this Plan involved an extensive public participation process including surveys, public workshops in all six Park Planning Areas, and the ongoing involvement and direction provided by the Citizens' Advisory Committee and policy direction provided by the Board of Supervisors at the Policy Workshops in August and September 1999. The public was instrumental in identifying park facility priorities at public workshops in 1996 and 1997 (See Appendix 4). The Citizens' Advisory Committee conducted an extensive Trails Evaluation in 1997 and 1998 (See Appendix 2). A survey of County Residents conducted in 1995 was used in the initial development of this Plan and was useful in identifying overall preferences and priorities for parkland facilities (See Appendix 3). Following hearings conducted by the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors, the Plan would be adopted and incorporated into the General Plan.

- 5. To establish a goal of an achievable ratio of public outdoor recreational acreage to population.*

Realistic ratios of public outdoor recreational acreage to population were developed for parkland categories where they were considered most applicable. These guidelines reflect those set in the 1989 General Plan Public Facilities Element, but with a clear distinction between Regional Recreation Areas and Open Space Parks. Achievable ratios are based on the following:

Community and Neighborhood Parks. These parks serve local recreational needs of the communities they serve. The standard of 5 acres/thousand population was used on a county wide basis. Since individual city general plans address their own needs within their jurisdiction, recommendations are made for those park facilities that would address the needs of residents of the unincorporated areas.

Regional Recreation Areas. These parks cater to more active recreation activities with higher impact including organized sports, campgrounds, boat launch facilities: 5 acres/thousand based on total county population.

Open Space Parks. These parks cater to more passive and more low impact recreation such as hiking, equestrian and mountain biking trails, nature study areas and areas of natural beauty: 15 acres/thousand based on total county population.

Ratios of recreational acreage to population were not considered useful planning tools for the categories of lands controlled by state, federal, and non profit agencies. These include such facilities as state parks, federal recreation areas, preserves operated by state, federal non profit and other governmental agencies, where the protection and management of specific natural or cultural resources guides priorities for acquisition.

Similarly the designation of trail corridors in the Plan does not reflect a specific ratio of population to trails miles but rather the reflection of desired routes for multi-use trails within the county to connect public lands. However, in order to benchmark the proposed trail system for Sonoma County, comparisons with other Bay Area counties are included in Chapter IV and Chapter V.

**6. *To define the role, relationship and responsibility of the participating agencies in working with public and private agencies involved in youth services.***

The planning process for the Plan provided a forum and opportunity for representatives of public and private agencies to provide input on the outdoor recreation needs of youth and the general population. Analysis of the need to provide additional recreation facilities for organized sports to serve local areas is contained in the plan. The Plan quantified future needs through a county wide needs assessment of Community and Neighborhood Park facilities that recognizes the role played by all public recreation providers including, cities, special districts, the public schools and the county.

The Plan is intended as a County planning tool, and as such acknowledges that individual City General Plans and the long range plans of Special Recreation Districts will provide specific guidance and goals for their jurisdictions. The Plan has made specific recommendations for the provision of those outdoor recreation facilities such as in the unincorporated areas. County policy recommendations include cooperative use arrangements with other recreation providers to satisfy these needs.

**E. *Goals identified in the Introduction of the Plan.***

**1. *Develop a long-range strategy for acquisition and development of new parks, preserves, public access, and recreation facilities.***

Chapter VI describes priorities for the acquisition and development of new community parks, regional recreation areas, open space parks and trails. Also included are recommendations for other lands administered by federal, state, other government entities and non-profits.

**2. *Develop funding mechanisms for maintenance and management for these outdoor recreation facilities.***

Chapter VII describes the likely costs of implementing the plan. Contained in this chapter are some financial recommendations describing types of funding tools that could be used in developing financial strategies.

**3. *Prepare a baseline which quantifies the economic benefits of recreation to Sonoma County.***

Chapter II provides an overview of the economic benefits of recreation in Sonoma County. Table 1 in Chapter II also establishes an overall baseline developed by the California Department of Trade and Commerce, Division of Tourism, for Sonoma County.

**4. *Identify acquisition and development funding with identified projects in the Plan's sub-areas.***

Appendix 7 identifies costs of acquisition and development related to the implementation of the Plan by sub-area. Funding options and opportunities are identified in Chapter VII.

5. ***Improve communication, coordination and contracting between agencies involved in public access to, and recreation use of public lands.***

In the process of developing the Plan a number of agencies were contacted regarding recreation use of properties. An inventory of existing publicly accessible land was prepared as part of the Plan. This information is in Chapter IV. In addition the Plan has created considerable interest and volunteer efforts by groups and non-profits, such as Landpaths, to assist in efforts to lead hikes and other activities on lands with public easements.

6. ***Coordinate existing and proposed regional recreation and open space plans.***

In developing priorities for parkland acquisition, consideration was given to the existing County General Plan, existing Coastal Plans, the Russian River Public Access and Trespass Management Plan, the County Bicycle Plan and the recreation components of city general plans were all used to identify project needs and priorities.

7. ***Provide criteria and data on which to base future budgetary and financial decisions.***

Chapter VII and Appendix 7 set out the likely costs of implementing the recommendations of the Plan. The Plan recognizes the role of the County's Five Year Capital Improvement Plan as a method of setting priorities. In addition Chapter VI provides a list of criteria for considering specific proposed projects.

8. ***Review existing and/or establish policies for:***

In the process of developing the Plan many of the Recommended Policies in Chapter III address the following issues:

- i. Resource management***
- ii. Recreation activities***
- iii. Outdoor recreation planning policies***
- iv. Outdoor recreation classification by type***
- v. Operational policies***

9. ***Provide a County-Wide Needs Assessment.***

Chapter V consists of a County-Wide Needs Assessment. Agencies involved in preparing the Plan described the need for an overall 'Road Map' for park planning that balances the need for structure, clear process, flexibility and sound rationale.

- ◆ ***Structure:*** Parkland categories are analyzed by type, by community, and by park planning area in order to evaluate which areas are served adequately by which types of parks. This information provides baseline data that is then considered further in light of the circumstances and priorities of the residents in these areas as voiced in a variety of public forums.

- ◆ ***Clear Process:*** The Plan includes in Chapter V an analysis of estimated needs to prioritize projects. It also describes steps that are involved prior to planning specific particular trail alignment. It describes the process involved in acquiring and obtaining the necessary approvals for a project by the involved agencies.
  
- ◆ ***Flexibility:*** The Plan recognizes that unforeseen parkland acquisition opportunities may arise. Overall park planning and acquisition policies are included for providing direction on acquisitions that may not be listed as specific projects in the Plan text. This flexibility is particularly important for the Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District that relies on willing property owners.
  
- ◆ ***Rationale:*** The Plan sets forth a consistent program for park planning and acquisition that is consistent with the direction provided by the Board of Supervisors and balances, to the degree possible, the priorities of the Citizens Advisory Committee and the general public.