

4.14 RECREATION

This section describes goals and policies pertinent to recreational resources in the City of South Lake Tahoe General Plan Planning Area and identifies the major park and recreation facilities that are operated and maintained by the City of South Lake Tahoe Parks and Recreation Department. This section also discusses state and federal parks located within the General Plan Planning Area.

4.14.1 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

This subsection discusses the applicable policies and regulations that are relevant to the recreational resource analysis of the proposed 2030 General Plan Update.

FEDERAL

National Trails System Act of 1968

The National Trails System Act (P.L. 90-453) was enacted by Congress on October 2, 1968, in response to a 1960 survey conducted by the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (ORRRC) that indicated that 90 percent of all Americans participated in some form of outdoor activity and that walking for pleasure ranked second among all recreational activities. The act established the Appalachian and Pacific Crest National Scenic Trails. It also authorized a national system of trails in order to provide additional outdoor recreation opportunities and to promote the preservation of access to outdoor areas and national historic resources. The National Trails System was created by the National Trails System Act. Four classes of trails were formed by the system.

- National Scenic Trails (NST) provide outdoor recreation and the conservation and enjoyment of significant scenic, historic, natural, or cultural qualities.
- National Historic Trails (NHT) follow travel routes of national historic significance.
- National Recreation Trails (NRT) are in, or reasonably accessible to, urban areas on federal, state, or private lands.
- Connecting or Side Trails provide access to or among the other classes of trails.

Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 303, declares that “[i]t is the policy of the United States Government that special effort should be made to preserve the natural beauty of the countryside and public park and recreation lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites.” Section 4(f) further specifies that:

[t]he Secretary [of Transportation] may approve a transportation program or project . . . requiring the use of publicly owned land of a public park, recreation area, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge of national, state, or local significance, or land of an historic site of national, state, or local significance (as determined by the federal, state, or local officials having jurisdiction over the park, area, refuge or site) only if –

- 1) *there is no prudent and feasible alternative to using that land; and*
- 2) *The program or project includes all possible planning to minimize harm to the park, recreation area, wildlife and waterfowl refuge, or historic site resulting from the use.*

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Section 4(f) requires consultation with the Department of the Interior and, as appropriate, the involved offices of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, as well as relevant state and local officials, in developing transportation projects and programs that use lands protected by Section 4(f).

STATE

Government Code and California Parklands Act of 1980

Although a recreation element is not mandated by law to be included in a General Plan, recreation resources are to be considered in the Open Space Element of a General Plan (Government Code Section 65560). The California Parklands Act of 1980 (Public Resources Code Section 5096.141–5096.143) identifies “the public interest for the state to acquire, develop, and restore areas for recreation . . . and to aid local governments of the state in acquiring, developing and restoring such areas.” The California Parklands Act also identifies the necessity of local agencies to exercise vigilance to see that the parks, recreation areas, and recreational facilities they now have are not lost to other uses.

California Recreational Trails Act of 1974

The California Recreational Trails Act includes two major components — the reauthorization of the California Recreational Trails Committee and the requirement to develop a California Recreational Trails System Plan.

The California Recreational Trails Act (Public Resources Code Section 5070.5) declares:

- Increase accessibility and enhance the use, enjoyment, and understanding of California’s scenic, natural, historic, and cultural resources.
- Encourage hiking, horseback riding, and bicycling as important contributions to the health and welfare of the state’s population.
- Provide for the use of recreational trails by physically disabled persons, the elderly, and others in need of graduated trails.
- Increase opportunities for recreational boating and use of recreational vehicles.
- Encourage the development by cities, counties, districts, and private groups of recreational and interpretive trails, including heritage corridors.

Quimby Act

Cities and counties have been authorized through the 1975 Quimby Act (California Government Code Section 66477) to pass ordinances requiring developers to set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay fees for park improvements. Revenues generated through the Quimby Act are not to be used for the actual operation or maintenance of park facilities. A 1982 amendment (AB 1600) requires agencies to clearly show a reasonable relationship between the public need for the recreation facility or parkland and the type of development project upon which the fee is imposed. Cities or counties with a high ratio of park space to inhabitants can set a standard of 5 acres per 1,000 residents for new development. Cities or counties with a lower current ratio can only require the provision of up to 3 acres of park space per 1,000 residents. The calculation of a city’s or county’s park space-to-population ratio is based on a comparison of

the population count of the last federal census to the amount of city- or county-owned parkland.

REGIONAL

Lake Tahoe Basin Regional Plan

Developed by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), the Lake Tahoe Basin Regional Plan describes the needs and goals of the region and provides statements of policy to guide decision-making as it affects the region's resources and remaining capacities. The plan with all of its elements, as implemented through agency ordinances and rules and regulations, provides for the achievement and maintenance of the adopted environmental threshold carrying capacities (thresholds) while providing opportunities for orderly growth and development (TRPA, 1986). The Recreation Element of the Regional Plan provides for the development, utilization, and management of the recreational resources of the Lake Tahoe region, among which are wilderness and forested lands, parks, riding and hiking trails, beaches, playgrounds, marinas, skiing areas, and other recreational facilities. The reader is referred to Section 4.15, Consistency with Relevant Plans and Regulations, for an analysis of consistency with the Regional Plan.

TRPA Recreation Thresholds

TRPA has established two thresholds for recreation in the Tahoe Basin. The following is a summary of the thresholds and current attainment status based on Chapter 10 of the TRPA Threshold Evaluation Report:

R-1 High Quality Recreational Experience; Additional Access to Undeveloped Lands Standard: It shall be the policy of the TRPA Governing Body in development of the Regional Plan to preserve and enhance the high quality recreational experience, including preservation of high quality undeveloped shorezone and other natural areas. In developing the Regional Plan, the staff and Governing Body shall consider provisions for additional access, where lawful and feasible to the shorezone and high quality undeveloped areas for low density recreation use.

The TRPA 2006 Threshold Evaluation Report (Chapter 10 – Recreation) identifies that the basin is in attainment (TRPA 2006 Threshold Evaluation Report, Index No.: R-1 Environmental Threshold Compliance Form).

R-2 Outdoor Recreation Capacity Available to the General Public Standard: It shall be the policy of the TRPA Governing Body in development of the Regional Plan to establish and insure a fair share of the total basin capacity for outdoor recreation is available to the general public.

The TRPA 2006 Threshold Evaluation Report (Chapter 10 – Recreation) identifies that the basin is in attainment (TRPA 2006 Threshold Evaluation Report, Index No.: R-2 Environmental Threshold Compliance Form).

Lake Tahoe Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

The Lake Tahoe Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP) provides a blueprint for developing a regional bicycle and pedestrian system that includes both on-street and off-street facilities as well as support facilities and programs throughout the Lake Tahoe region. The BPMP contains background information about how the plan was developed and focuses on the

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development of the proposed bicycle and pedestrian system, with specific consideration given to advancing individual facilities from the planning stage to construction. The BPMP includes specific goals and policies for both bicycle circulation and pedestrians as well as an analysis of current and projected demand, a proposed network of facilities and trails, and information regarding the cost and potential funding for such a network.

LOCAL

City of South Lake Tahoe Recreation Facilities Master Plan

The South Lake Tahoe Alliance for Recreation Facilities Master Plan was prepared in September 1998 in response to the need for a comprehensive look at the recreation situation facing South Lake Tahoe. The Master Plan inventoried existing facilities and identified the demand or need for additional facilities. The plan recognized that there is a need for additional public recreation facilities, especially given the fact that most athletic fields are located on school grounds and not within appropriate funding mechanisms to accomplish those goals. The five areas identified for recreational development were located near the following landmarks: Sierra Boulevard, Meyers Landfill, Zephyr Cove, Lake Tahoe Community College, and Tahoe Paradise Resort.

4.14.2 EXISTING SETTING

LOCAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Natural recreation resources are abundant in the Planning Area; however, developed, urban recreation facilities are limited. According to **Table 4.1-1**, approximately 258 acres within the city limits are currently used for recreational purposes. Therefore, based on the city's current (2008) population of 23,725, parkland and recreational facilities are provided to city residents at a ratio of approximately 10 acres per 1,000 persons. This ratio is double the highest Quimby Act standard of 5 acres per 1,000 persons.

Parks

The City owns and maintains one developed park, Bijou Community Park. In addition, the City provides numerous other types of recreational facilities including a community playfields complex, several beach areas and a boat ramp, a visitors center, a swimming pool complex, a golf course, a campground, an ice arena, and a senior center. Furthermore, the Lake Tahoe Unified School District owns and maintains numerous athletic fields and play structures as part of its public school campuses. City park and recreation facilities in the Planning Area are further described below.

- **Bijou Community Park.** Bijou Community Park is located at 1201 Al Tahoe Boulevard at the corner of Johnson Boulevard and Al Tahoe Boulevard and is approximately 35 acres. This park is known mainly for its 27-hole championship disc golf course. The park has other features including a skateboard park, group picnic areas, a gazebo/bandstand, a playground, a game court area, sand volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, a fitness trail, and a central concession/restroom building.
- **Bijou Municipal Golf Course.** The Bijou Municipal Golf Course is located at 3464 Fairway Avenue. The nine-hole executive course is open between the months of April and October. Golf course facilities include a clubhouse, snack bar, putting green, and pro

shop. Golf club and pull cart rentals are available. The green fee is discounted for El Dorado County residents.

- **Campground by the Lake.** Campground by the Lake is located at 1150 Rufus Allen Boulevard. The campground is open to the public between the months of April and October and includes overnight sites for tent campers as well as for recreational vehicles (RV) campers with or without electric and water hookups. Also available for rent are one cabin and five tent cabins. The additional amenities on the site include a camp store, a horseshoe pit, a dog walking area, a bike path around a portion of the perimeter of the site, a group camp site, and restrooms, showers, and water faucets throughout the campground. The site is near the El Dorado Beach and Boat Ramp, which provides free boat launching.
- **Conolly Beach.** Conolly Beach is a small beach located along US Highway 50 (US 50) behind Timber Cove Lodge. There are restrooms and picnic areas on site.
- **El Dorado Beach.** El Dorado Beach is located several hundred yards east of Regan Beach. This site includes a boat launch and a number of barbecues. There is no charge to use this site.
- **Explore Tahoe Visitors Center.** The City of South Lake Tahoe owns and operates this interagency visitor center. The center was developed and is run in partnership with the California Tahoe Conservancy and the United States Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. The center is located on the ground floor of Heavenly Village's Transit Center and is named "Explore Tahoe: An Urban Trailhead." The center welcomes, educates, and transports visitors and residents to outdoor recreational and cultural activities available around the south end of the Lake Tahoe Basin. It features indoor and outdoor, static and interactive exhibits and informal interpretive talks.
- **Recreation and Swimming Pool Complex.** The Recreation and Swim Pool Complex is located at 1180 Rufus Allen Boulevard. The complex consists of one 25-yard year-round indoor/outdoor swimming pool, a gymnasium, a weight room, a kitchen, a crafts room, meeting rooms, changing/shower facilities, outdoor volleyball and basketball courts, a picnic area, a playground, and the Parks and Recreation Department offices. The recreation complex hosts the Morning Toddler program, Kids Club, Friday Evening "Parents Night Out," and middle school dances, as well as other programs.
- **Regan Beach.** Regan Beach is located at the corner of Lakeview Avenue and Fresno Avenue. The site, which is not located directly at the waterfront, is more of a lakeside park than a beach, but there are stairs to get down to the beach. The site includes a volleyball court, a playground, a snack bar, and a grassy area that is mostly used for weddings. There is no fee to use the volleyball court, playground, or snack bar facilities, but there is a fee for weddings.
- **South Lake Tahoe Community Playfields.** The South Lake Tahoe Community Playfields are located at 1300 Al Tahoe Boulevard. The 110,000-square-foot facility has synthetic turf multiuse playfields, a warm-up area, a parking lot, a concessions building, and restrooms.
- **South Tahoe Ice Arena.** The South Tahoe Ice Arena is located at 1176 Rufus Allen Boulevard. The ice arena contains a regulation National Hockey League-size ice rink, locker rooms, a snack bar, a retail store/pro shop, an arcade, and party rooms. The

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arena hosts many activities such as public skate sessions and ice skating and hockey lessons, programs, tournaments, and exhibitions/competitions.

- **South Tahoe Senior Center.** The South Tahoe Senior Center is located at 3050 Lake Tahoe Boulevard. The senior center is a 10,000-square-foot facility with meeting rooms, an arts and crafts room, a dance room, a library, a computer lab, a lounge, and a commercial kitchen. The senior center offers services such as free health screenings, free legal services, a nutrition program, and exercise classes. Activities at the senior center include painting classes, line dance classes, bridge groups, bingo, a dominoes group, and other support groups. The senior center also provides transportation around South Lake Tahoe on Tuesday through Friday. Big Band Dances are also held approximately once a month at the senior center.

BICYCLE FACILITIES

There are approximately 23.5 miles of designated shared-use and bicycle facilities within the South Lake Tahoe city limits. The total comprises approximately 4.95 miles of Class I paths, 7.57 miles of Class II pathways, and 10.43 miles of Class III facilities.

An additional 14.3 miles of Class I and II bikeways are located outside the City's jurisdiction in Meyers and other unincorporated areas of El Dorado County directly adjacent to and accessible from the city. These bikeways are primarily located on Pioneer Trail from Meyers/US 50 to the city limits, along State Route (SR) 89 toward Truckee Marsh and Camp Richardson, and in the North Upper Truckee Road area west of US 50.

STATE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The State of California operates two recreational facilities in the Planning Area:

- **Lake Valley State Recreation Area.** The Lake Valley State Recreation Area (SRA) is located at 2500 Emerald Bay Road (US 50) and is approximately 155 acres in size. The SRA includes a championship 18-hole golf course open from May to October, with amenities such as a clubhouse, a driving range, practice greens, and power carts. There are also facilities that can host weddings and banquets. Between November and April, the SRA has snowmobile rentals and cross-country skiing.
- **Washoe Meadows State Park.** The Washoe Meadows State Park is located at Sawmill Road and Lake Tahoe Boulevard. The 627-acre park site is currently undeveloped. The site includes meadows and woodlands at the base of the escarpment leading to Echo Summit. There are some hiking trails and water features on site.

FEDERAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Federal agencies operate two recreational facilities in the Planning Area:

- **Pope Beach.** Pope Beach is a 1-mile-long, 300-foot-wide strip of sand separating Truckee Marsh and Lake Tahoe. The entrance is located approximately 2 miles from the junction of US 50 and SR 89, just southeast of the Camp Richardson entrance. There are parking facilities, as well as restrooms, along the beach. There are barbecues, but they are occasionally removed by the Forest Service.

- **Sawmill Pond.** Sawmill Pond is located just east of Lake Tahoe Boulevard, north of Sawmill Road, approximately 2 miles west of the intersection of US 50 and SR 89. It is open from May to September. Open only to children under the age of 14, the El Dorado County Fish and Game Commission maintains the program for children to experience fishing away from adult anglers.

PRIVATE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

In addition to the numerous public recreational opportunities in the Planning Area, there are also private recreational resources, including the following:

- **Heavenly Ski Resort.** Heavenly Ski Resort is a 4,800-acre ski resort featuring 97 runs, 30 lifts, and four base facilities including California Base Lodge. This lodge offers food and drink, ski and snowboard rental and equipment sales, shops, lockers, and ski lessons to patrons of the resort. The resort also features the Scenic Gondola Ride at Heavenly which departs half a block west of the California/Nevada state line and rises 2.4 miles up the mountain to an elevation of 9,123 feet. There are two stops along the route: The Deck has a store, restaurant, high-powered telescopes, and picnic tables, and Adventure Peak is the final stop at the top with a restaurant, snow equipment rentals, a climbing wall, and access to hiking trails.
- **Lakeside Marina.** Lakeside Marina, located on Lakeshore Boulevard in the northeastern portion of the city, offers rentals of kayaks, canoes, power boats, jet skis, parasailing, and passenger boats.
- **Ski Run Marina.** Ski Run Marina, located at the end of Ski Run Boulevard, offers boat and jet ski rentals, parasailing, cruises on the Tahoe Queen, sport fishing charters, dining and shopping opportunities, and winter activity gear rentals.
- **Tahoe Keys Marina.** Tahoe Keys Marina, located in Tahoe Keys, offers boat and jet ski rentals, parasailing, sport fishing charters, dining and shopping opportunities, and winter activity gear rentals.

4.14.3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Based on California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Appendix G, and the TRPA Initial Environmental Impact Checklist, the proposed General Plan Update would be expected to result in significant recreation impacts if the project would:

1. Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.
2. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.
3. Have an unplanned effect upon, or result in a need for, new or altered government services related to parks or other recreational facilities.
4. Create additional demand for recreation facilities.

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5. Create additional recreation capacity.
6. Have the potential to create conflicts between recreation uses, either existing or proposed.
7. Result in a decrease or loss of public access to any lake, waterway, or public lands.

METHODOLOGY

Evaluation of potential park and recreation service impacts was based on review of the most recent recreation and facilities guides and master plans and other relevant literature. A list of reference material used can be found at this end of this section. This material was compared to the proposed General Plan Update's specific park and recreation service-related impacts. The impact analysis below focuses on whether those impacts would have a significant effect on the physical environment.

Increase Use of Existing Parks and Recreational Facilities (Standards of Significance 1 and 4)

Impact 4.14.1 Implementation of the proposed 2030 General Plan Update would result in population growth in the Planning Area over the next 20 years as well as provide and encourage additional recreational opportunities and facilities. This impact is considered **less than significant**.

The proposed General Plan Update would allow for the development of up to 1,162 new residential units in the city over the next 20 years (though it should be noted that the project does not require that this extent of development occur). Based on the city's average household size of 2.46 persons, the development and occupation of 1,162 new residential units in the city would result in a population increase of approximately 2,859 persons. The planned land uses (shown on **Figure 3.0-2**) would focus development in the three existing community plan areas (South Y Industrial Tract, Bijou/Al Tahoe, and Stateline/Ski Run) as well as in the proposed Tahoe Valley Community Plan (TVCP) area. Development would be further concentrated at higher densities in two nodes within the Stateline/Ski Run and Tahoe Valley community plan areas.

The City has not adopted specific standards for parkland. Based on the Quimby Act's highest standard of 5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, the City would need to add approximately 14 acres of parkland to meet the anticipated demand (2,859 additional residents x 5 acres of parkland). The City of South Lake Tahoe already provides a surplus of parkland and other recreational facilities that would accommodate the projected increase in residents throughout the lifespan of the proposed General Plan Update. Furthermore, two California State-maintained recreation facilities, two federal recreation facilities, and 23.5 miles of designated shared-use and bicycle facilities are located in the Planning Area. However, developed, urban parks are limited in the city and implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would further increase demand for such facilities.

Proposed General Plan Update Provisions that Provide Mitigation

The following list includes those provisions that contain specific, enforceable requirements and/or restrictions and corresponding performance standards that address impacts to existing parks and recreational facilities.

- Policy ROS-1.2: The City shall improve connections and access to a wide range of recreational opportunities, which will improve the quality of life for residents and visitors.*
- Policy ROS-1.4: The City shall expand the Bijou Golf Course as a high-quality, year-round golf facility for local residents that provides a quality recreational experience while preserving and improving Stream Environment Zones (SEZ). This shall include, but not be limited to, an improved clubhouse, improved parking, a driving range, a chipping and putting area, improved maintenance and operations facilities, improved user amenities, access for winter recreational usage including X-C skiing, and motorized winter recreational activities.*
- Policy ROS-1.5: The City shall develop high-quality community pool facilities that can be used year round, which includes such amenities as a permanent/retractable roof, splash pool, therapy pool, pool sprays, pool climbing wall, adventure apparatus and slides.*
- Policy ROS-1.7: The City shall improve Bijou Park and enhance its value to the local community and visitors through the addition of such amenities as building a new world class level SK8 Park that has the capacity to accommodate both SK8boarding and BMX biking, improving the playground area and dog park, building a tot lot and picnic area, improving user facilities and amenities, and incorporating the disc golf course into all improvements.*
- Policy ROS-1.9: The City shall develop an interconnected system of open spaces, community parks, plazas, bike and pedestrian trails, and other types of public and private spaces as part of new development and redevelopment of existing sites.*
- Policy ROS-1.11: The City shall develop playgrounds within City-owned parks.*
- Policy ROS-1.12: The City shall develop pocket parks in each neighborhood, which may include passive and active recreation, such as picnic tables, basketball and tennis courts, dog areas, and tot lots.*
- Policy ROS-1.13: The City should, as feasible, develop parks as joint-use facilities (e.g., stormwater facilities with ball fields).*
- Policy ROS-2.11: The City should continue to seek and obtain local, State, and Federal funding for beach, meadow, and open space acquisition.*

Implementation of the above General Plan Update policies would ensure that existing city parks and recreation facilities would be improved, expanded, and provided with enhanced access for residents. For example, Policy ROS-1.5 would develop community pool facilities that can be used year-round, while Policy ROS-1.4 would expand and improve the Bijou Golf Course. Additionally, Policy ROS-1.12 seeks to develop more parkland, which would alleviate the existing need for additional developed parkland in the city as well as the anticipated increase in demand for all parks and recreational facilities that would result from implementation of the proposed General Plan Update. Therefore, this impact is considered **less than significant**.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

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Require or Construct New Parks or Recreational Facilities (Standards of Significance 2, 3, 5, and 6)

Impact 4.14.2 Implementation of the proposed 2030 General Plan Update would allow for the future construction of numerous recreational amenities throughout the Planning Area that could result in environmental effects involving noise (during construction and playfields and playgrounds), air quality (during the construction of the facility), biological resources, historic/cultural resources, public services and utilities (demand for police and fire protection, electric, water, and wastewater service), and traffic on a local neighborhood level. This impact is considered to be **less than significant**.

The proposed General Plan Update Recreation and Open Space Element contains policies that would encourage the development of numerous recreational improvements in the Planning Area. For example, Recreation and Open Space Element Policy ROS-1.4 states that the City will expand the Bijou Golf Course. This proposed expansion would include, but not be limited to, an improved clubhouse, improved parking, a driving range, a chipping and putting area, improved maintenance and operations facilities, improved user amenities, access for winter recreational usage including cross-country skiing, and motorized winter recreational activities. Policy ROS-1.5 proposes the development of high-quality community pool facilities that can be used year-round, and Policy ROS-1.6 states that the City will retrofit the boat ramp at El Dorado Beach. In addition, Policy ROS-1.7 mandates the improvement of Bijou Park through the addition of such amenities as building a new world-class-level skate park, improving the playground area and dog park, building a tot lot and picnic area, improving user facilities and amenities, and incorporating the disc golf course.

While the proposed policies described above involve the development of recreational facilities such as swimming pools and a skate park, no specific development designs are proposed as part of the General Plan Update. Therefore, identification of specific environmental impacts associated with specific future developments would be speculative at this time. However, typical environmental effects related to the construction and operation of parks and recreational facilities may involve issues with noise (during construction and playfields and playgrounds), air quality (during the construction of the facility), biological resources (depending on location), historic/cultural resources (depending on location), public services and utilities (demand for police and fire protection, electric, water, and wastewater service), and traffic on a local neighborhood level. Only the programmatic environmental effects of construction of such facilities have been considered in this Draft EIR.

Future recreational facility development would be required to comply with applicable proposed General Plan Update policy provisions and City and TRPA regulations pertaining to site development that provide environmental protections and ensure that no adverse environmental impacts occur. In addition, the future park and recreation facility expansion and improvements proposed through the policies listed above would be subject to project-level CEQA and TRPA environmental review at such time as they are more thoroughly designed and proposed. Thus, this impact would be **less than significant**.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

Public Access to Any Lake, Waterway, or Public Lands (Standard of Significance 7)

Impact 4.14.3 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would maintain the existing publicly owned recreational facilities in the Planning Area and would result in additional recreational amenities and better access to public lands through the integration and linkage of existing city bike paths. This is considered a **beneficial** impact.

The proposed General Plan Update Recreation and Open Space Element contains goals and policies that seek to protect open space and enhance recreational opportunities for South Lake Tahoe residents and visitors. The proposed General Plan Update would focus development in the three existing community plan areas (South Y Industrial Tract, Bijou/Al Tahoe, and Stateline/Ski Run) as well as in the proposed TVCP area. Development would be further concentrated at higher densities in two nodes in the Stateline/Ski Run and Tahoe Valley community plan areas. No elimination of parklands or recreational facilities is proposed as part of the General Plan Update. Proposed General Plan Update policies mandate the maintenance and improvement of parkland and recreational facilities as well as improved and additional access to such areas.

Proposed General Plan Update Provisions that Provide Mitigation

The following list includes those provisions that contain specific, enforceable requirements and/or restrictions and corresponding performance standards that address impacts to existing parks and recreational facilities.

Policy ROS-1.1: The City shall design and develop recreational services to promote full use of recreational facilities within their design capacity.

Policy ROS-1.2: The City shall improve connections and access to a wide range of recreational opportunities, which will improve the quality of life for residents and visitors.

Policy ROS-1.4: The City shall expand the Bijou Golf Course as a high-quality, year-round golf facility for local residents that provides a quality recreational experience while preserving and improving Stream Environment Zones (SEZ). This shall include, but not be limited to, an improved clubhouse, improved parking, a driving range, a chipping and putting area, improved maintenance and operations facilities, improved user amenities, access for winter recreational usage including X-C skiing, and motorized winter recreational activities.

Policy ROS-1.5: The City shall develop high-quality community pool facilities that can be used year round, which includes such amenities as a permanent/retractable roof, splash pool, therapy pool, pool sprays, pool climbing wall, adventure apparatus and slides.

Policy ROS-1.7: The City shall improve Bijou Park and enhance its value to the local community and visitors through the addition of such amenities as building a new world class level SK8 Park that has the capacity to accommodate both SK8boarding and BMX biking, improving the playground area and dog park, building a tot lot and picnic area, improving user facilities and amenities, and incorporating the disc golf course into all improvements.

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- Policy ROS-1.9: The City shall develop an interconnected system of open spaces, community parks, plazas, bike and pedestrian trails, and other types of public and private spaces as part of new development and redevelopment of existing sites.*
- Policy ROS-1.10: The City shall require public trails and plazas to be incorporated in the development and redevelopment of commercial, industrial, public, and multi-family projects.*
- Policy ROS-1.12: The City shall develop pocket parks in each neighborhood, which may include passive and active recreation, such as picnic tables, basketball and tennis courts, dog areas, and tot lots.*
- Policy ROS-2.1: The City shall use the best science and engineering technologies to protect and preserve open space and critical environmental areas.*
- Policy ROS-2.3: The City shall continue to work with public and private agencies to provide public access to open space in the form of hiking and biking trails.*
- Policy ROS-2.4: The City shall increase public access to Lake Tahoe.*
- Policy ROS-2.5: The City shall incorporate new functional open spaces in redeveloped areas to serve as both public amenities and to provide opportunities for urban water quality improvements.*
- Policy ROS-2.6: The City shall connect surrounding forests to urban open spaces, parks, natural areas and SEZs when appropriate to further biodiversity and habitat.*
- Policy ROS-2.11: The City should continue to seek and obtain local, State, and Federal funding for beach, meadow, and open space acquisition.*

Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would not affect the existing parks, recreational facilities, preserved open space areas, waterways, or existing access to such areas in the Planning Area. It would allow for the improvement and expansion of several park and recreational features as well as the development of pedestrian and bike trails. Therefore, this impact is considered **beneficial**.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

REFERENCES

City of South Lake Tahoe. 2008. *City of South Lake Tahoe General Plan Background Report, Public Review Draft.*

Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization. 2006. *Lake Tahoe Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Final Report.*

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