

CHAPTER 6 PARKS & RECREATION



6.0 INTRODUCTION

Providing parks and recreational spaces and programs is crucial to the well-being of any community. Parks and recreation were key topics identified by the community during the creation of this General Plan, with community members noting the following aspirations:

- More recreational opportunities and more developed parklands of all kinds with more youth programs, activities, amenities, sports activities and athletic fields.
- Expanded facilities to support youth sports and adult recreation.
- Amenities for all residents in Rio Vista, including walking trails and recreational programs for active older adults.
- Creation and preservation of natural open space and open space corridors that are accessible to the public.
- Greenbelt connecting neighborhoods to Downtown with trails that are safe and attractive for biking and walking.
- Passive green space with trees and benches to provide shade and resting places throughout Rio Vista.
- New parks along the waterfront at Highway 12, at the end of Main Street, under the Rio Vista Bridge and along the waterfront at the former Army Base.
- A continuous trail system from north of the Rio Vista Bridge to Sandy Beach Regional Park with walking trails to enjoy vistas of the river.

PARKS & RECREATION

This Parks and Recreation Element provides goals, policies, and programs that address the community's priorities for its parks and recreation system. The Rio Vista Parks Master Plan describes existing park and recreation facilities in detail, the condition of facilities and opportunities to enhance the value of each facility.

The Parks and Recreation element includes Environmental Justice provisions to the equitable distribution of public facilities (parks) and promotion of physical activity. The element establishes requirements for local and community parks to be distributed throughout the community as identified on Figure 6.1. In addition to the existing and planned parks noted in Figure 6.1, the Trilogy project includes numerous private park and recreation facilities that meet the local park needs of that community's residents. Future larger development projects present the opportunity to create new community parks and all new development projects are required to meet park land dedication requirements. The Parks and Recreation element also notes one existing and one planned community garden that will enhance food access for community members wishing to grow fresh produce.



6.1 PARK AND RECREATION TYPOLOGIES

Parks and recreational activities can be generally characterized into three types: active recreation, passive recreation and mobility. The City will strive to meet these three types of recreation throughout the community. Individual parks will often serve more than a single use type; a neighborhood park can have a soccer field, unprogrammed recreational space and walking trails all intermixed at a single site.

Active Recreation. Active Recreation refers to organized sports that are typically played on ball fields, soccer fields, multi-use turf areas or hard-court areas. This type of recreation typically involves teams and leagues and tends to focus more on youth sports.

Passive Recreation. Passive Recreation refers to unprogrammed activities that can involve individuals or groups. Passive recreation can occur in unprogrammed portions of parks, in public spaces such as plazas and promenades and in largely undeveloped open space areas. Open space areas such as riparian areas and seasonal wetlands can provide passive recreational opportunities and the recreational value of such areas is increased through improvements such as bike trails, signage, and pedestrian pathways to increase accessibility by recreation users.

Mobility. Walking and biking can be recreation activities or can serve as an alternate mode for moving within the community. This activity can range from walking loops in a neighborhood to trips extending across the community. Walking and biking can occur in the developed community, in natural areas/open space and out into the rural lands surrounding Rio Vista.

6.2 EXISTING AND PLANNED PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Described below are existing and planned park and recreation amenities in Rio Vista as of 2023. For additional information on these facilities see the Rio Vista Parks Master Plan. The locations of these facilities are shown in Figure 6-1.

EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD AND POCKET PARKS

As of 2023, there were eight neighborhood and pocket parks in the City, as described below:

Blackwelder Park (1.5 acres) is located directly behind Egbert Field and provides passive park space.

Buena Vista (Memorial) Park (2.0 acres) is located on Main Street near Highway 12 and is an historic Chinese and Japanese cemetery with flush mounted grave located in the site.

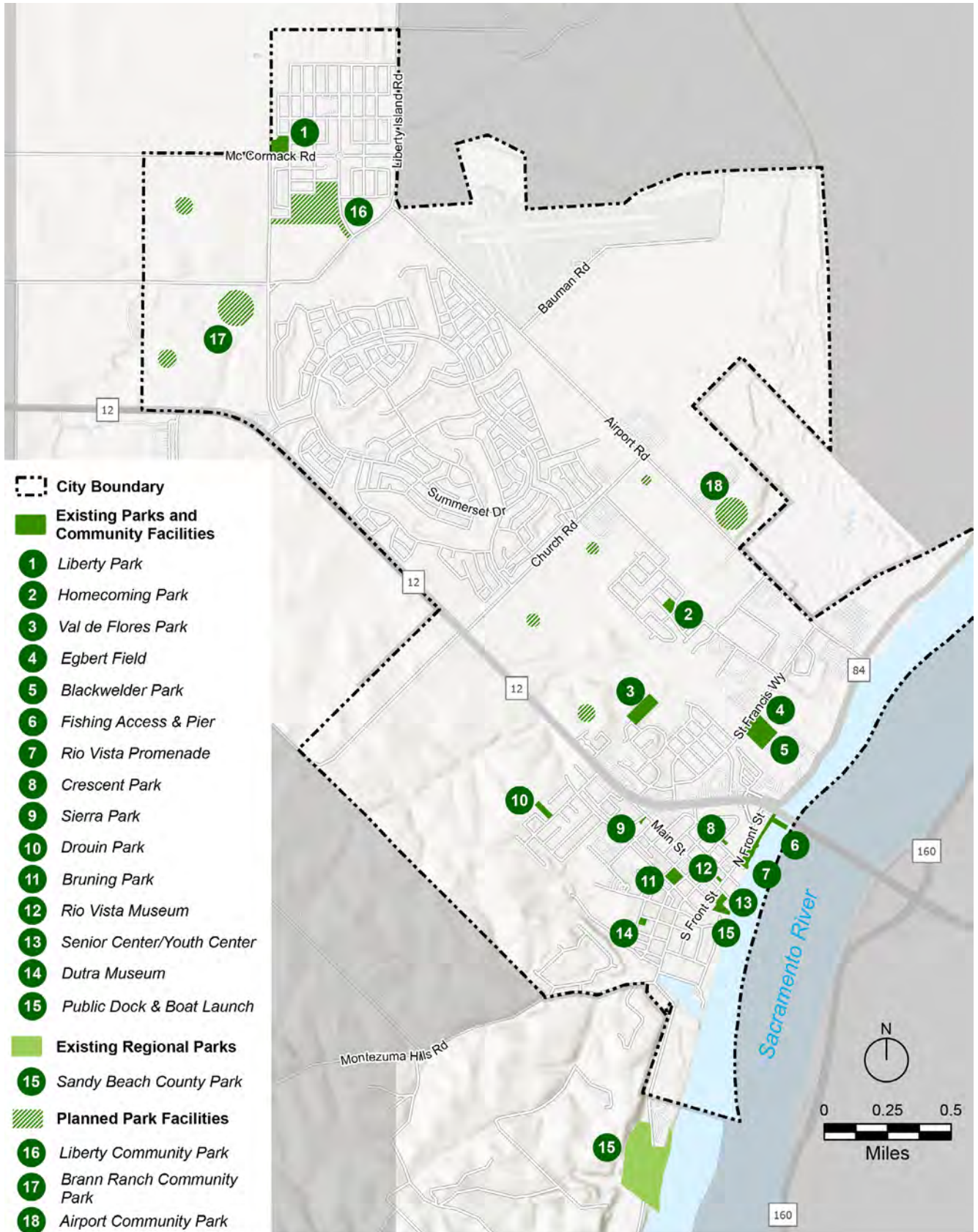
Crescent Park (0.2 acre) is located on North Crescent Drive near downtown, and provides a neighborhood tot lot, half-court basketball and playground with an open turf area.

Drouin Park (1.1 acres) is located on Drouin Drive and serves a neighborhood developed in the 1970s. The park has a turf field and playground equipment.

Homecoming Park (1.0 acre) is located in the Homecoming Subdivision, off Airport Road. The



FIGURE 6-1: Existing and Approved (2023) Park and Recreation Facilities



Source: Solano County 2022, US Census Bureau 2022, Interwest 2023, ESRI

park has a grassy area, a neighborhood tot lot, picnic tables, and a barbecue area.

Liberty Park (1.74 acre) located on McCormack Road in the Liberty subdivision. The park includes two dog parks, two playgrounds, picnic tables, restroom and a soccer field.

Sierra Park (0.1 acre) is located at the intersection of Main Street and Sierra Drive. This park is a passive, landscaped area with no active play equipment.

Val de Flores Park (3.2 acres) is located adjacent to D. H. White Elementary School and includes soccer fields, open turf, picnic tables, dog park, and the City's skate park.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Park and recreation related community facilities include traditional parks, river-oriented amenities, and facilities that support social and cultural activities.

Bruning (City) Park (1.4 acres) is located on Montezuma and Third Streets, adjacent to the downtown area. This park contains the City's public swimming pool and restrooms and serves as a community gathering place for various events.

Egbert Field (5.0 acres) is located on St. Francis Way and contains one youth baseball and one adult/Babe Ruth baseball or softball field, restrooms, bleachers, and a concession stand. The baseball/softball fields are also used for youth soccer.

Fishing Access and Pier (0.4 acre) is located adjacent to Highway 12 on the Sacramento River and includes a lighted fishing pier and fish cleaning facilities.



Main Street Public Dock and Boat Launch (3.5 acres) is located south of Main Street, adjacent to City Hall. Facilities provide boat launching, picnicking, and recreational fishing. Improvements include a two-lane boat launch ramp, boater parking area, picnic tables, restrooms, dock facility with four moorings, and drinking fountains.

Rio Vista Promenade (2.0 acres) provides a public greenspace with trails, artwork, landscaping and benches that extends from close to the Rio Vista bridge to close just north of the intersection of Logan and North Front Streets.

Bicycle and pedestrian paths are included in this element to the extent that they can be considered recreation oriented and may meet the parkland dedication requirement. (Please see the Circulation and Mobility Element for additional information on bicycle and pedestrian paths.)

Rio Vista Museum (0.2 acre) is located on North Main Street and houses the City's historic collections.

Senior/Community Center (0.6 acre) located on City property adjacent to City Hall, is operated by Citizens for Seniors. The center provides a lunch program and recreational activities for seniors. Non-profits also provide recreational programs to the City's youth.

PLANNED AND POTENTIAL PARK FACILITIES

In addition to the existing parks noted above, there are proposed parks identified within three approved development projects in the City.

Liberty Community Park (18.5 acres) is west of Park Place and south of Orchard Lane in the Liberty subdivision. This park will provide passive uses that include a community garden and orchard, walking loops ranging from a quarter mile to one mile, open turf areas, playgrounds and possibly a splash pad.

Brann Ranch Parks (12.0 acres) a planned project in the northern portion of Rio Vista will include neighborhood parks and is anticipated to include a large community park.

Riverwalk Parks (10.5 acres) a planned project located between Homecoming and Downtown, proposes 10.5 acres of Neighborhood Parks.

City Landfill (22.9 acres) is located to the north of Airport Road. The landfill has been closed and capped and requires regular monitoring and reporting. The City is considering reclaiming and utilizing this property for a regional park with a focus on active recreation/athletic fields.



Table 6.1: Existing and Planned Park Facilities

Neighborhood Parks	Acres	Community Facilities	Acres	Planned Parks	Acres
Buena Vista	2.0	Bruning (City) Park	1.4	Liberty Community Park	18.5
Crescent Park	0.2	Egbert Field	5.0	Brann Ranch Parks	12.0
Drouin Park	1.1	Fishing Access Pier	0.4	Riverwalk Parks	10.5
Homecoming Park	1.0	Main Street Dock/Launch	3.5	City Landfill Property	22.9
Liberty Park	1.7	Rio Vista Promenade	2.0	South Waterfront	10.0
Sierra Park	0.1	Rio Vista Museum	0.2	Blackwelder Park	1.5
Val de Flores Park	3.2	Dutra Museum	0.5	Total	75.4
Total	9.3	Senior/Community Center	0.2		
		Youth and Community Center	0.6		
		Total	13.8		

Army Base Property (10.0 acres) now designated the South Waterfront, provides an opportunity to create a public park with direct river frontage. It is anticipated that 10.0 acres of this property will be dedicated to public recreation.

In total, the City has 98.0 acres of park and recreational facilities either existing or planned. Of this, 22.6 acres are currently improved and another 18.5 acres (Liberty Community Park) have completed development plans and are awaiting funding. Parks in the Brann Ranch and Riverwalk projects will be constructed when those projects develop and the City landfill property and the South Waterfront lands require further planning.

EXISTING REGIONAL PARKS

Sandy Beach Regional Park is a 10+ acre park located adjacent to and immediately south of the City Limits. This park is operated by Solano County under contract to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The park contains a two-lane boat launch ramp, parking area, picnic tables, campsites, and a swimming beach.

6.3 PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES

School sites of the River Delta Unified School District include sports fields to serve students and accommodate school recreation and sports programs. If the District, the City and local athletic leagues can establish shared use agreements, such facilities have the potential to meet a portion of the community's recreational needs. A portion of the facilities below would benefit from renovations, offering an opportunity for City/District partnerships. School site facilities include:

Rio Vista High School facilities include basketball courts, a soccer field, and a lighted football field.

Riverview Middle School facilities includes basketball courts and fields suitable for soccer, softball and baseball.

D.H. White Elementary includes open turf areas suitable for informal sports and recreation, as well as playground equipment for youth.

6.4 PRIVATELY OWNED FACILITIES

Delta Marina is a privately owned and operated marina facility on the Sacramento River, south of the downtown area. The facility provides RV camping, docking, boat storage, and related commercial services.

Trilogy Clubhouses are private facilities that serve the residents of the Trilogy community. The Vista Clubhouse is a 27,000 square-foot facility meeting spaces, a variety of recreation rooms, indoor swimming pool, and walking track. The Delta Clubhouse is a 7,000 square-foot facility which includes meeting rooms, outdoor swimming pool, tennis courts and bocce ball courts. The Health and Wellness Center provides a fitness center and spa facility.

Trilogy Golf Club is a privately owned and operated golf course located in the Trilogy development. The golf course is open to the public.

Summit at Liberty Clubhouse is a private facility that serves the residents of the Summit neighborhood which includes a swimming pool, health and wellness center, fitness center, spa facility, tennis/pickle ball/bocce ball courts, community garden, dog park and walking paths facilities.

6.5 EXISTING AND PROPOSED TRAILS

Existing and proposed trails in Rio Vista, providing walking and biking opportunities, were reviewed and identified during the general plan update process. Figure 6.2 identifies existing and future trails for pedestrians and bicyclists in the City.

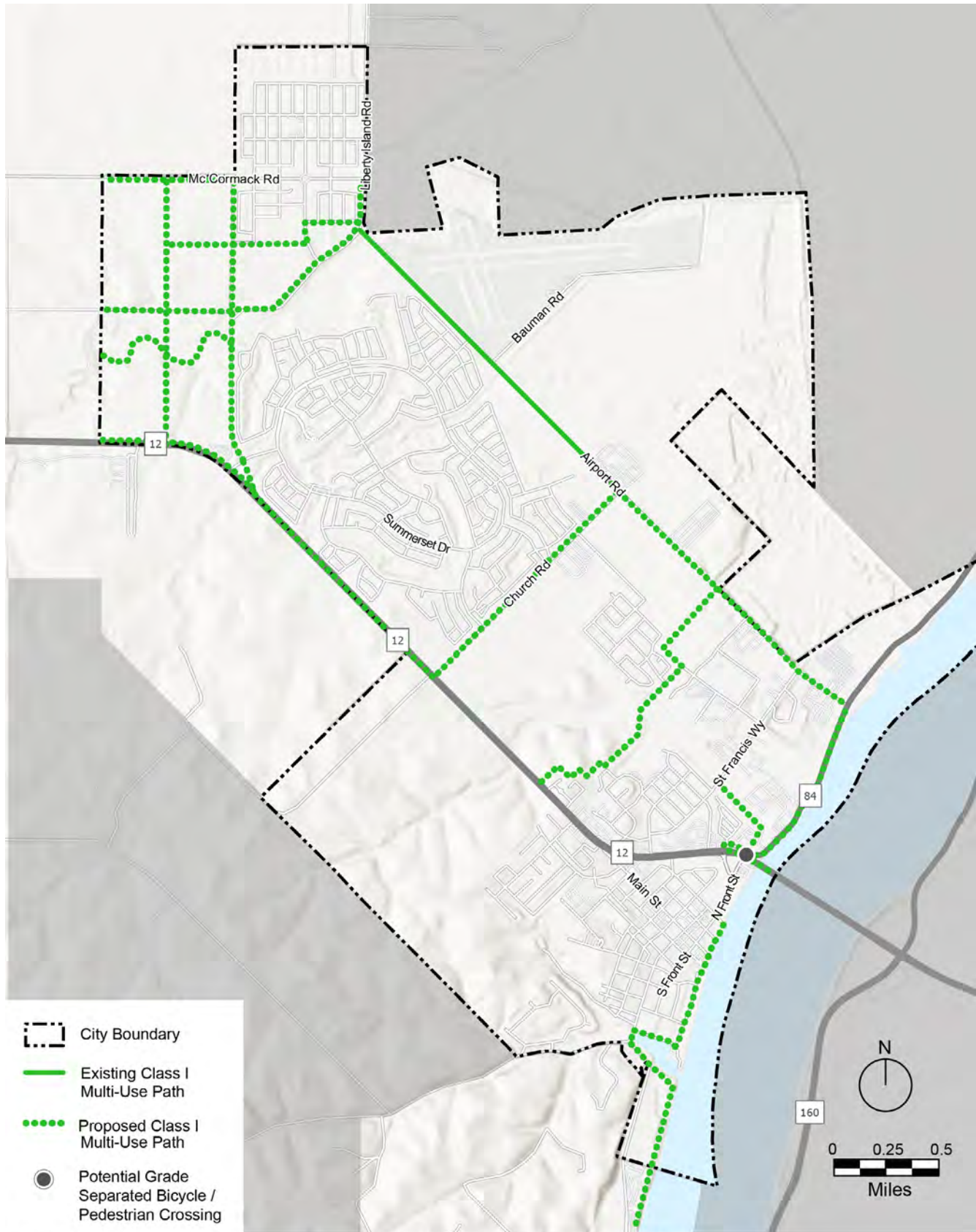
6.6 EXISTING AND FUTURE PARKLAND NEEDS

Development through the year 2045 is projected to add up to 6,200 residents, resulting in a total population of approximately 16,700 residents. The development of age-restricted communities in Trilogy and Summit at Liberty has substantially altered the demographics of Rio Vista and affects the need for recreational facilities. Not only are the recreational needs of older residents different from young families, the Trilogy and Summit at Liberty projects include facilities that meet the majority of residents' recreational needs.

In the year 2045, approximately 10,700 people are projected to live in unrestricted housing units (those available to residents of any age); 6,000 residents will live in the age-restricted portions of the Trilogy and Summit at Liberty projects.

Since the Trilogy and Summit at Liberty projects provide facilities that serve the neighborhood parks and active recreational needs of their residents, the City's active parkland needs for Neighborhood Parks at General Plan buildout are based on the unrestricted housing population. Because Community Parks are utilized by all residents, the need for Community Parks is based on the total population of the City. It is estimated that, upon buildout of the General Plan, approximately 65.5 acres of active parkland will be needed.

FIGURE 6-2: Proposed Trail System



Source: Solano County 2022, US Census Bureau 2022, Fehr & Peers 2023, Interwest 2023, ESRI

Table 6-2: Existing and Future Park Needs

	Residents 2023	Projected Residents 2045
Residents - Not Age Restricted Communities	4,700	10,470
Residents - Age Restricted Communities	6,000	6,000
Total Population	10,700	16,470

	2045 Neighborhood Park Requirement ¹	2045 Community Park Requirement ²
Park Needs - Not Age Restricted Communities	31.5	21.4
Park Needs - Age Restricted Communities	0 ³	12.0
Combined Park Acres Demand	31.5	52.0

¹ Neighborhood Park demand based on 3 acres per 1,000 residents.

² Community Park demand based on 2 acres per 1,000 residents.

³ Neighborhood Park needs of age-restricted communities are met through private facilities and therefore do not result in demand for City Neighborhood Parks.



6.7 PARKS AND RECREATION (PR) GOALS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS

GOALS

Goal PR-1: To provide well designed parks that are accessible, attractive, meet recreational needs of the community and enhance neighborhood identity and character.

Goal PR-2: To provide a variety of leisure, recreational, and cultural opportunities for Rio Vista residents and visitors of all ages.

Goal PR-3: To provide public access and public facilities along the Sacramento River to the maximum extent feasible.

Goal PR-4: To develop a comprehensive and unified trails and pathways system for bicycle and pedestrian travel that links community activity centers.

Goal PR-5: To maintain and improve park and recreation facilities in Rio Vista to provide the maximum possible benefit to the community.

POLICIES

Policy PR-1: The City shall require sufficient park acreage to meet the active and passive recreation demands of the community. The City's minimum standards for active and passive parkland per 1,000 residents are:

Neighborhood Park: 3 acres per 1,000 residents

Community Park/Community Facility: 2 acres per 1,000 residents

The City shall exercise discretion in the allocation of land to neighborhood and regional parks to best serve the recreational needs of the community.

Policy PR-2: The City shall apply the criteria and guidelines for the design of parks, recreation and trail facilities as established in the Parks Master Plan.

Policy PR-3: Within the review of land use entitlements, determine the timing for construction of project improvements, including parklands, trails, and open

space areas. Developer obligations for dedication or land/payment of in lieu fees, improvements to be constructed and required park improvement fees shall be determined during project entitlement reviews.

Policy PR-4: Development projects shall provide for the maintenance of future parks and recreation facilities within the project's boundaries. Maintenance programs may include homeowner's associations (private facilities), formation of maintenance assessment districts or other mechanisms acceptable to the City.

Policy PR-5: The City will explore funding and grant opportunities for the development and support of recreational programs for youth, teens, families and adults, including facilities and programs that are accessible.

Policy PR-6: Whenever feasible, the City will enhance the Sacramento River waterfront as a scenic resource that provides for public access and water-oriented recreation.

Policy PR-7: Development projects in the North and South Waterfront Districts shall incorporate public access along the riverfront and access/walkways to the Sacramento River from the nearest public street to the maximum extent feasible.

Policy PR-8: To the maximum extent feasible, create a continuous waterfront trail from Sandy Beach Regional Park to north of the Rio Vista Bridge.

Policy PR-9: Create an integrated trail, bikeway, and open space network within the City that links parks and recreation areas, schools, downtown, the waterfront, and residential neighborhoods. These should also provide connections to regional trails, bikeways, and open space areas.

Policy PR-10: All new development shall provide direct or alternative linkages to existing and planned open space systems where feasible. Designated trails or corridors in new development shall be constructed by the developer and offered for dedication to the City.

Policy PR-11: The City will work with appropriate public agencies to collaboratively develop parks, recreation facilities and trails in and around Rio Vista.

Policy PR-12: The City shall either construct or, in the case of development projects, require project developers to construct pedestrian and bicycle trails as identified on Figure 6-2.

PROGRAMS

Program PR-1: Every five years, beginning July 2025, assess park and recreation needs and identify priority park projects for the following five-year period. This evaluation shall include:

- Review of population and demographics changes and the resulting need for park facilities.
- Park and recreation needs and existing park and recreation amenities to determine whether the quantity and type of parkland are meeting the changing needs of City residents.
- Solicit input on parks and recreation from teens, seniors, families, sports leagues, community organizations and other key user groups.

Program PR-2: Explore agreements and partnerships with the River Delta School District, Solano County, public utilities, and other agencies to develop, administer, and use parks, open space, and recreation facilities and programs.

Program PR-3: The Public Works Department shall maintain a list of proposed park maintenance and improvement projects and shall propose projects for funding in the annual budget process.

Program PR-4: Pursue existing and alternative sources of funding, including local, state, and federal grants to provide parklands and facilities that will adequately meet community needs.

Program PR-5: Facilitate development of public uses in the South Waterfront District. Specific actions should include but not be limited to:

- Determine the feasibility and likelihood of partnering with other public agencies or private developers to facilitate site development.
- Conduct a public process to identify uses most desired by community members.
- Determine remediation steps required to allow development of the site for public uses.
- Seek partnerships (public or private sectors) to develop public recreational uses on the site.

Program PR-6: Annually confer with other jurisdictions regarding programs and approaches to parks, trails, and open space development for facilities that extend outside City limits.

Program PR-7: Explore options to provide a pedestrian bridge from the Marina/The Point restaurant to the South Waterfront area.

Program PR-8: Update the Parks Master Plan to include design criteria and guidelines for the design of new park, recreation and trail facilities.

Program PR-9: Explore staffing, facility, program requirements and funding associated with operating a City recreational activities program.

Program PR-10: In considering staffing to support parks and recreational programs, seek volunteers within the community, community service programs and other strategies to provide services in a cost-effective manner.