



## El Dorado Parks & Trails Master Plan Update Community Workshop #1 Summary January 25, 2023, at Gold Trail Grange in Coloma

### Introduction

On Wednesday, January 25, 2023, El Dorado County hosted the first of five community workshops regarding the Parks & Trails Master Plan Update. At this workshop, participants learned why the Master Plan is being updated, and then were structured into four smaller “breakout groups” to provide feedback on what should be prioritized in the plan. A total of 70 community members attended the workshop, held at the Gold Trail Grange at 319 CA-49 in Coloma, CA.

### Project Overview

In 2004, a new General Plan for El Dorado County was adopted. It called for the development of a Parks Master Plan as well as an update of the Hiking and Equestrian Trails Master Plan (which was adopted in 1989 and amended in 1990). In 2008, the decision was made to combine these efforts into a single, comprehensive planning document. The El Dorado County Parks and Trails Master Plan, finalized in 2012, provides direction and implementation strategies to guide the acquisition, development, and operation of County-owned parks and trails. In the past 10 years, there have been many changes in the area’s demographics, population, economy, and more – which led the County to revisit and update the 2012 plan to reflect today’s needs.

El Dorado County is in a unique situation. The major population centers like El Dorado Hills, Cameron Park, the City of Placerville, and the City of South Lake Tahoe have their own systems to manage their own parks services. Therefore, this Parks and Trails Master Plan includes the unincorporated areas of El Dorado County not serviced by another jurisdiction.

### Workshop Purpose

To get the best picture of the wants and needs of El Dorado County residents and users of parks and trails, the County is hosting five workshops located in different areas of the County, including a workshop on Zoom. This is the first workshop of the series. From these workshops,



*The title slide of the presentation;  
Community members attending the workshop.*



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the project team will have data on the priorities of community members so the Parks & Trails Master Plan can be updated accordingly.



*The welcome table with County map.*

### Workshop Format

The workshop was structured in three parts: first a short presentation about the Master Plan and its need for updating, then participants broke out into four smaller groups to discuss what ought to be included in the plan, and finally, participants used different colored stickers to walk the room and “vote” for which options they would support with their time and tax dollars. A detailed description of the workshop follows:

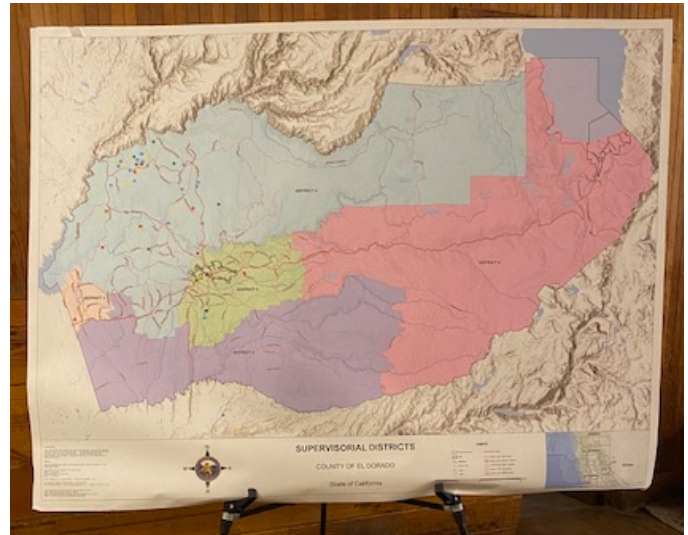
### Welcome Table

As community members entered the room, they were greeted by a project staff member asking them to sign in. Then participants were handed one of four cards to indicate which breakout group they would join: red, green, blue, or yellow. On the back of the card were directions for the sticker activity that would follow the

breakout groups (detailed later in this summary). Community members were then encouraged to visit the map of El Dorado County, located next to the welcome table.

### County Map

Next to the welcome table was a big map of El Dorado County. A project team member handed community members a small dot sticker and asked them to place it where they live in the County. This gave the project team better insight into who was in the room. The map, pictured right, showed most attendees came from the Coloma area, or communities in the north part of the County.



*The County map with dots to indicate where attendees reside.*

### Presentation on the Master Plan Update

At 5:45 p.m., Katie DeMaio of AIM Consulting began a brief presentation about the Master Plan and why it needs updating. What follows is a summary of the presentation:

### Why the Plan Update Now?

DeMaio explained that under Policy 9.1.1.8 of the General Plan, Parks and Recreation Element, the County must prepare and implement a Parks and Trails Master Plan. This was fulfilled in



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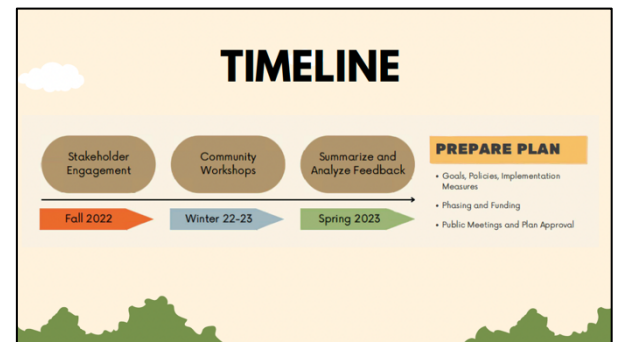
2012. A brief update occurred in 2017, but most of the plan has been implemented, and new needs and opportunities are available. The County Strategic Plan includes an infrastructure point that reads, “Analyze needs, coordinate and plan for County facilities, parks, and trails including ongoing maintenance, operations, and replacement.” Updating the plan helps fulfill this.

### Community Feedback

DeMaio further explained that community feedback will serve as the foundation of the effort to update the Master Plan to ensure that residents’ growing needs are met and that superior quality of life is ensured throughout El Dorado County. This community workshop has three goals: to build community awareness about the Master Plan, to develop a shared understanding of the project’s goals and constraints, and to obtain input on concerns and desires from various perspectives.

### Timeline

DeMaio then turned the presentation over to Vickie Sanders, Parks Manager, to go over the project timeline. Stakeholders were engaged last fall. Now we are at the second stage, community workshops, which will occur throughout the winter. Findings from the workshops and stakeholder input will then be summarized and analyzed, resulting in a plan.



*The timeline slide of the presentation.*

### Breakout Group Directions

Sanders turned it back over to DeMaio, who gave directions for the breakout group activity. She referenced the colored cards attendees received at the welcome table; that color indicated their assigned group. In these groups, a facilitator will structure the discussion around three questions:

- What is your dream park experience in El Dorado County?
- Would you travel to get those amenities? If so, how far?
- If you had \$100 to spend on a Parks & Trails Master Plan opportunity, what would it be?

She then pointed to different corners of the room for each breakout group and instructed participants to join their assigned group.

### Breakout Groups

The bulk of the workshop was devoted to small-group discussion around the aforementioned questions. Each group had 15-20 people in it, and a facilitator who took notes on easel paper. Approximately 45 minutes were spent on this activity.



*The card with instructions for the colored dots.*



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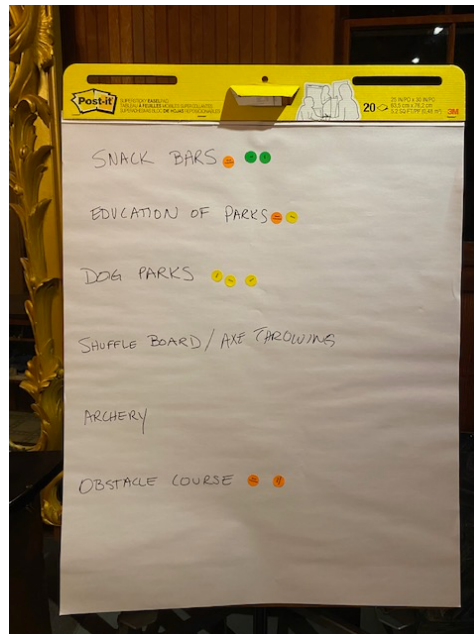
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Following the breakout group session, community members were given four different colored dot stickers. Referencing the back of their breakout group card (pictured on the previous page), they were told to use the pink dot to indicate their top choice, the yellow for something they would drive to, the green for what they would spend tax dollars on, and orange for something they would work/volunteer at. After using the stickers to “cast votes” on their own group’s list, participants were encouraged to visit other groups’ boards and use stickers to cast votes on those. What follows is the data from each group’s work:

**Group 1**

This board had the following answers and colored dot breakdown:

Item	Top (Pink)	Drive (Yellow)	Pay (Green)	Work (Orange)
Equestrian	3	1	3	1
Parking for horse trailers	10	3	2	2
Safe trails for cycling/horses	6	2	3	5
Baseball fields in fourplexes	15	6	12	13
Lighting			1	
Mixed-use fields	3	2	2	1
Snack bars			2	1
Education of parks		1		1
Dog parks		3		
Shuffleboard/axe throwing				
Archery				
Obstacle course				2





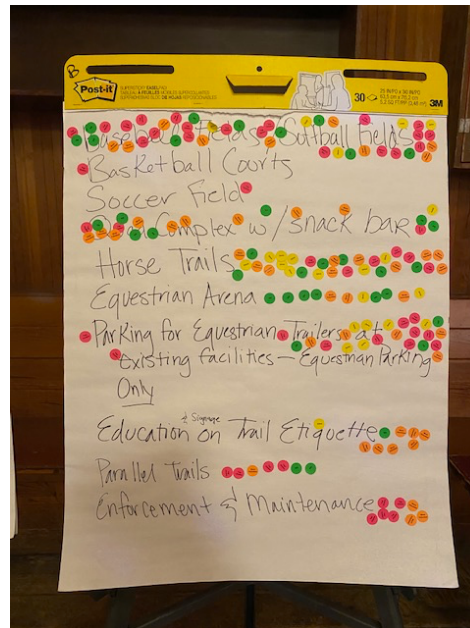
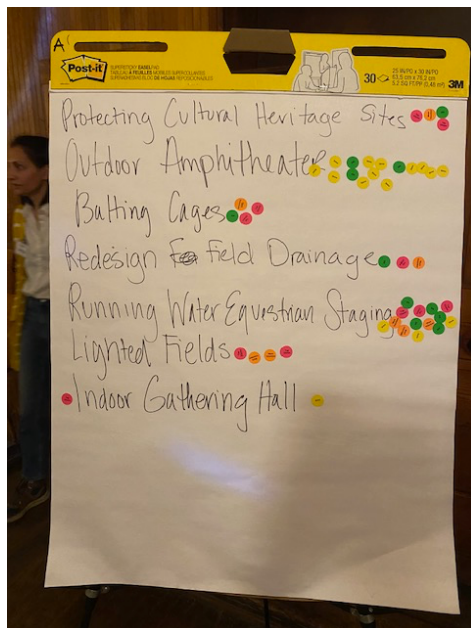
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### Group 2

This board had the following answers and colored dot breakdown:

Item	Top (Pink)	Drive (Yellow)	Pay (Green)	Work (Orange)
Protecting cultural heritage sites	2		1	1
Outdoor amphitheater		12	3	
Batting cages	2		1	1
Redesign for field drainage	1		1	1
Running water equestrian staging	3	3	5	3
Lighted fields	2			2
Indoor gathering hall	1	1		
Baseball/softball fields	20	5	9	9
Basketball courts	1			
Soccer field	1			
Quad complex with snack bar	3	1	7	9
Horse trails	6	9	7	10
Equestrian arena		2	6	3
Parking for equestrian trailers at existing facilities (equestrian parking ONLY)	11	6	3	5
Education on trail etiquette		1	1	7
Parallel trails	4		2	1
Enforcement & maintenance	5			3





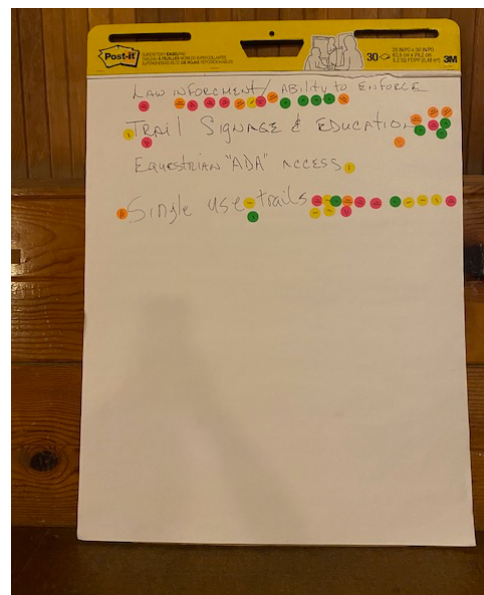
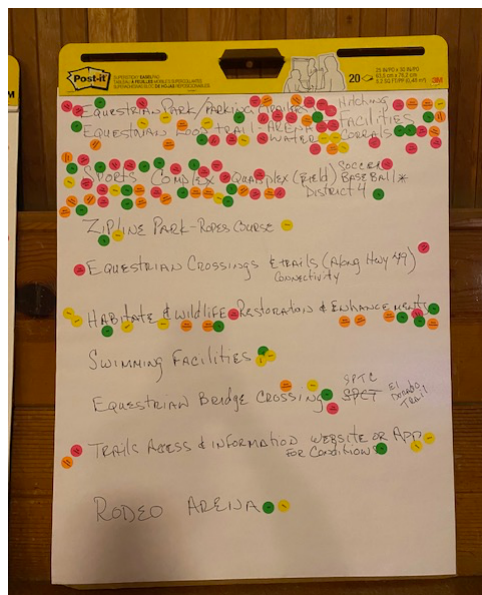
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**Group 3**

This board had the following answers and colored dot breakdown:

Item	Top (Pink)	Drive (Yellow)	Pay (Green)	Work (Orange)
Equestrian park/parking (trailers), equestrian loop trail – arena, water, hitching facilities, corrals	12	4	4	6
Sports complex – quadplex (field), soccer, baseball district 4	13	10	11	11
Zipline park/ropes course		2	1	
Equestrian crossings and trails connectivity (along Hwy 49)	2			
Habitat & wildlife restoration and enhancements	2	4	5	6
Swimming facilities		2	1	
Equestrian bridge crossing (SPTC, El Dorado Trail)	1	1	1	1
Trails access & information website or app for conditions	1	2	1	1
Rodeo arena		1	1	
Law enforcement/ability to enforce	5	1	4	4
Trail signage & education	2	1	3	3
Equestrian ADA access		1		
Single-use trails	5	7	3	2





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Group 4

This board had the following answers and colored dot breakdown:

Item	Top (Pink)	Drive (Yellow)	Pay (Green)	Work (Orange)
Arena (horses)	2		2	
Sports facility				
Baseball complex	11	2	6	8
Multi-sport complex	2	3	1	1
Horse trails	9	2	1	8
Skate park				
Basketball courts	1			
Trails network (more open space along 50)	8	5	3	9
Bike track/park	1			2
Pump track				
Cultural walk	1		1	3
ADA compliant fields		1		
Swimming pool on the divide			1	
White water park	1	1	1	
Trail connection between Georgetown and Tahoe	2	3	6	
Indoor space (convention) event center		1	1	1
Cross-country ski trails	1	4	1	2
Snowpark		1		
Amphitheater		1	5	
Dog park		1		
Shooting range		3	2	
Campgrounds/facilities			1	1
River access points	8	4	5	3

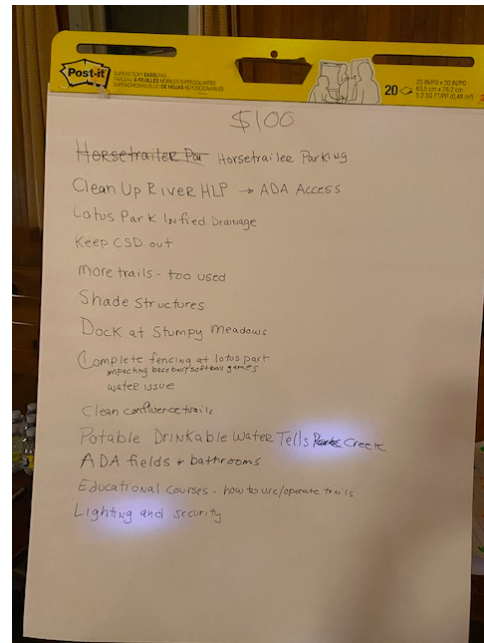
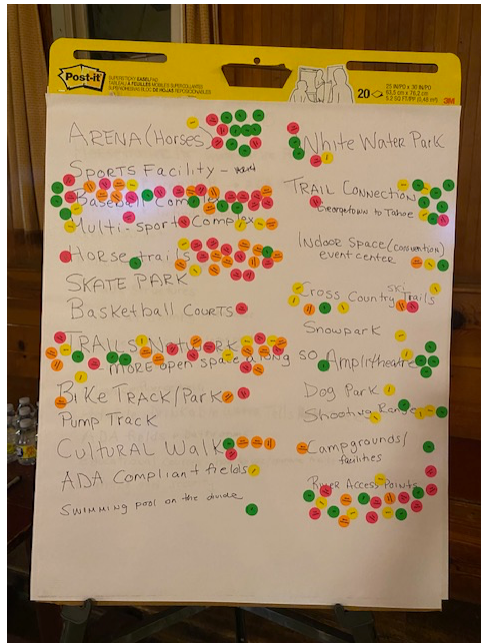
**In response to “If you had \$100 to spend on a Parks & Trails Master Plan opportunity, what would it be?”:** horse trailer parking, clean up river HLP → ADA access, Lotus park in-field drainage, keep CSD out, more trails (too used), shade structures, dock at Stumpy Meadows, complete fencing at Lotus Park (impacting baseball/softball games and water issue), clean confluence trails, potable drinkable water at Tells Creek, ADA fields and bathrooms, educational courses (how to use/operate trails), lighting and security.

(Images of the boards for this group are on the next page of this summary.)



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Boards & colored-dot breakdown from group 4 (data shared on previous page of this summary).

### Takeaway Card

The workshop ended after the colored-dot voting activity. As community members left, a project team member handed them a card with the project website, project email address, and a QR code encouraging them to take an online community survey.



The takeaway card with the survey QR code.

### Publicity & Noticing

AIM Consulting created a stakeholder database of 122 unique contacts that span organizations (sports, youth, and recreation), Chambers of Commerce and major employers, environmental advocates, other County commissions and departments, local schools/districts, and more. Two rounds of emails were sent out on January 10 and January 23, wherein recipients were invited to the workshop and encouraged to share within their organization. Two rounds of personal phone calls were also made to contacts on the stakeholder database, on January 11 and January 23. Additionally, the workshop was advertised weekly in various Facebook groups related to El Dorado County and the surrounding areas.





## Community Input

In the middle of the room was a table with comment cards and pens to encourage the community to give input on the project. A total of 23 community members submitted feedback via comment cards during the workshop. The following comments were submitted:

- “I am an equestrian that believes in shared use. My biggest want is patrols that are on the trails and facilities and ticketing those that break the rules. With a large fine!”
- “I ride horses and my husband rides mountain bikes, including bikes. We both have encountered problems with other trail users not riding safely or considerately on shared trails. Education programs for all kinds of users are very much needed, especially as non-users are coming from EDC from less rural areas. Also, enforcement of rules on shared trails is softly needed – Most users are willing to comply with rules if they are aware of them (better signage needed) and understand their purpose: safety!”
- “Equestrian parking Cronan Ranch or enforce large parking lot. 5-year plan multi road, horses – hiker, bike only trails. 5-year plan areas, water for horses. It is only going to get worse, with outdoor people coming up the hill. Look at Placer County confluence horse people are run out of all our trail by the river and Forest Hill range.”
- “We would like to respectfully request a multi-sport facility on the Georgetown divide, with lights and a concession facility. Specifically, a baseball complex. The Georgetown divide community does not have a lot of opportunities for our youth, poverty levels are high, and sports have shown to have a tremendous positive impact on student grades, lower crime rates, and more well-rounded individuals. With one field, Lotus, we are not able to host games. We are severely limited in our ability to create a community for our youth.”
- “Better fields and additional fields in the County. Field needs for Little League: four fields in Cameron Park, three additional fields in Forebay, four-field complex in Eldorado Hills, four-field complex in Placerville, four-field complex in Divide/Cool.”
- “We need safe trails – not safe talking kids, horse, or hiking with bicycle speeding to Racum/Down trails. Water facilities – so hot – need availability to fresh water. Also need more parking for horse trailers.”
- “The equestrian community has been pushed out of traditional parking spaces by an influx of other trail users. Equestrians need dedicated parking for our rigs with access to major trailheads. Trails that connect are important along with new trail development that is safe for multi-use.”
- “Please build us baseball fields.”
- “I serve on the board for little league and we desperately need fields. We would love to collaborate about what would be most helpful. Thank you so much!”
- “My name is Colt. I want to see more baseball fields.”
- “My name is David I have played baseball for 6 years and I would like to see better fields.”



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- “Our youth on the divide need a sports complex and baseball fields/soccer/skate/concessions.”
- “Divide little league would like to see a quad complex for baseball.” (*this comment appeared on two different comment cards*)
- “My brothers have been playing baseball for 7 years. I believe there should be more fields and the current fields should be better upkeep. In the future I would like to see more fields in order to expand the leagues and let the children play more baseball.”
- “Thank you for considering community input. I would like to see ample and designated parking for horse trails and safe trails for cyclists and horses. Community education about trails.”
- “I am a civil engineer with Lumos and Associates in El Dorado Hills and I am looking forward to hearing more about the parks and trails master plan. I would like to be involved in the upcoming design efforts.”
- “Please use tax dollars funds to acquire more open space for multiuse, especially along the hwy 50 corridor. Cronan Ranch is too impacted already if you build an equestrian facility or pump track for mt bikes you are not meeting the needs of all users. And it will draw more people from out of the area who are not County Tex.”
- “Katie – can we also mention drones? They are causing havoc and near or serious ridding accidents. Also – if you could post where and when 300 sheep will be at Olmstead and Cronin this would help. Basically, it is sports against equestrians. I hope we can find a hole in the middle.”
- “The youth in El Dorado County need an area they can do all sports and b with their friends that they feel safe and do not have to pay. Baseball fields are needed most – soccer, basketball and football fields would be amazing too.”
- “All in favor of parks and trails. However, the respect of private property rights is essential to the private property and landowners in respective areas. I appreciate the time and energy put into these gatherings. Thank you see you next meeting.”
- “Cool, Pilot Hill, Greenwood, Georgetown, Garden Valley Divide residents are very tired of traveling off the Divide. We have been doing it for years to the Placerville, El Dorado Hills area. THAT’S where the most money is spent by the County. Population, tax dollars, number of residents??? We desperately need a (4) football/softball/baseball complex with snack bar area and restrooms.”
- “Please consider buying Sniber Ranch in Shingle Springs (or similar size parcel of open space for trail systems) to relieve the pressure on the existing trail system on the north side of the County.”
- “Wouldn’t call the attendees (can’t read handwriting) – more like two groups organized: horse people and ball players.”



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### Next Steps

There will be four more opportunities for the public to provide input on the Parks & Trails Master Plan. These workshops will be held at the end of March, information forthcoming on the project website linked below. Additionally, an online survey is available at <https://arcg.is/OGSzPG0>

Once all five workshops conclude, the project team will summarize and analyze the data from the workshops and previous stakeholder meetings to craft a draft plan. People can stay up to date on the status of the project by visiting the project website at [www.eldoradocountyparksandtrailsplanupdate.com/](http://www.eldoradocountyparksandtrailsplanupdate.com/) and/or by emailing [ParksUpdate@EDCGOV.US](mailto:ParksUpdate@EDCGOV.US)