

El Dorado Parks & Trails Master Plan Update

Community Workshop #5 Summary

April 19, 2023, Zoom

Introduction

On Wednesday, April 19, 2023, El Dorado County hosted the last of five community workshops regarding the Parks & Trails Master Plan Update. At this workshop, participants learned about how and why the Master Plan is being updated through a presentation. Participants were then able to participate in mentee meter polling to provide their feedback on what they believe should be prioritized in the plan. A total of 25 community members attended the workshop, held virtually through Zoom.

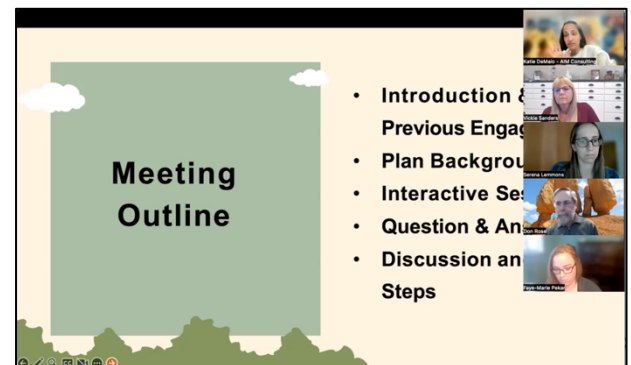


Welcome Slide

Project Overview

In 2004, a General Plan for El Dorado County was adopted. It called for the development of a Parks Master Plan and 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 changes in the area's demographics, population, economy, and more. This led the County to revisit and update the 2012 plan to reflect the community's current 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 systems to manage their own parks services. Therefore, this Parks and Trails Master Plan only includes the unincorporated areas of El Dorado County not serviced by another jurisdiction.



Meeting Outline Slide

Workshop Purpose

To get an accurate picture of the wants and needs of El Dorado County residents and users of parks and trails, the County has hosted five workshops in different areas of El Dorado County, including a Zoom workshop. This is to provide multiple avenues for community input. This was the last workshop of the series. Now that the workshop series is complete, the project team will use the community-driven data to update the Parks & Trails Master Plan accordingly.

Workshop Format

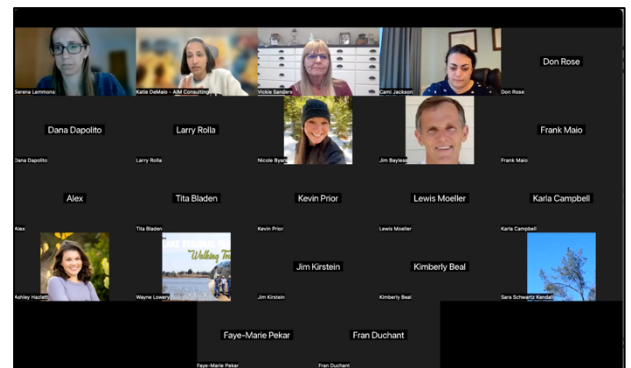
The workshop was structured in three parts: a short presentation about the Master Plan, background information, and a small group discussion/polling. A detailed description of the workshop follows:

Presentation on the Master Plan Update

The meeting began with a brief orientation, given by Katie DeMaio, President, and CEO of AIM. DeMaio instructed attendees that they will be muted for the presentation but would be able to participate by either unmuting themselves using the “raise hand” feature or by making comments in the chat box. After the brief orientation, a presentation followed about the Master Plan and why it needs updating. What follows is a summary of the presentation:

Agenda & Objectives:

- Introduction and previous engagement
- Plan background
- Interactive session
- Q&A
- Discussion and next steps



Question and Answer Session

Presentation, Part 1: Why the Plan Update Now?

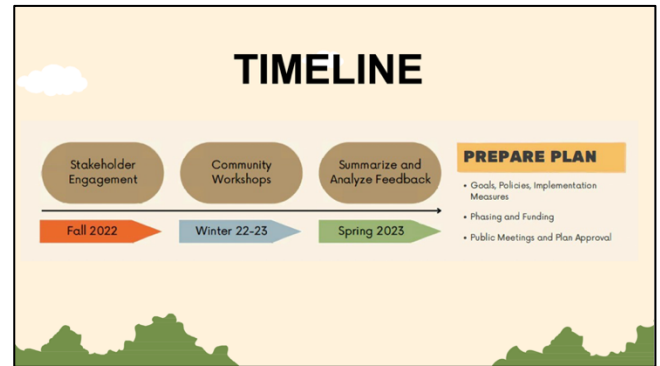
Under Policy 9.1.1.8 of the General Plan, Parks, and Recreation Element, the County must prepare and implement a Parks and Trails Master Plan. This was fulfilled in 2012. A brief update occurred in 2017, but most of the plan has been implemented, and new opportunities are available. The County Strategic Plan includes an infrastructure point that instructs County staff to *analyze needs, coordinate and plan for County facilities, parks, and trails including ongoing maintenance, operations, and replacement*. Updating the plan helps fulfill this requirement.

Presentation, Part 2: Community Feedback

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.

Presentation, Part 3: Timeline

DeMaio then turned the presentation over to Vickie Sanders, Parks Manager, to go over the project timeline. The engagement began in Fall 2022 with a stakeholder meeting. Now, the project team is conducting community workshops to gather broader public input from unincorporated areas, which will occur throughout the Winter and early Spring of 2023. Findings from the workshops and stakeholder meetings will then be summarized and analyzed to be incorporated into the plan update.



Timeline Slide

Presentation, Part 4: Interactive Session

Sanders turned it back over to DeMaio, who began to facilitate the breakout group activity. The breakout group discussion revolved around four questions:

- What is your dream park experience in El Dorado County?
- How far would you travel to get to that dream park?
- If you had \$100 to spend on a Parks & Trails Master Plan opportunity, how would you spend the money?
- What specific amenity or improvement would you make to an existing park?



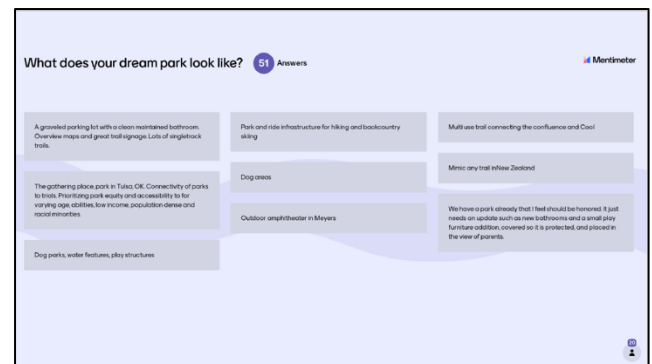
Mentimeter Directions Slide

The bulk of the workshop (approximately 45 minutes) was devoted to a group discussion around the previously noted questions, and all participants had the chance to vote using Mentimeter on the questions. What follows are the polling results:

Question 1: What does your dream park look like in El Dorado County

Common themes included:

- Clean, open, and well-maintained trails
- Accessibility
- Free open space
- Picnic areas
- A dog park



Poll Question #1

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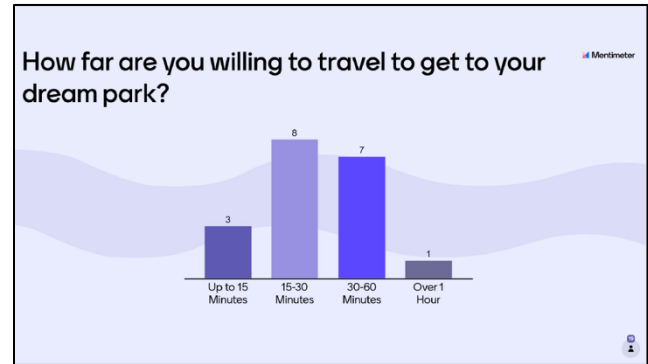
Community Virtual Workshop #5

April 19, 2023 | 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Question 2: How far would you travel to get to that dream park?

This polling had the breakdown of the following answers. Out of 18 responses:

- 3 people said they would travel up to 15 minutes.
- 8 people said they would travel 15-30 minutes.
- 7 people said they would travel 30-60 minutes.
- 1 person said they would travel over an hour.



Poll Question #2

Question 3: Would you join a volunteer group to help bring a dream amenity to life?

This polling had the breakdown of the following answers:

- 19 people said yes.
- 2 people said no.

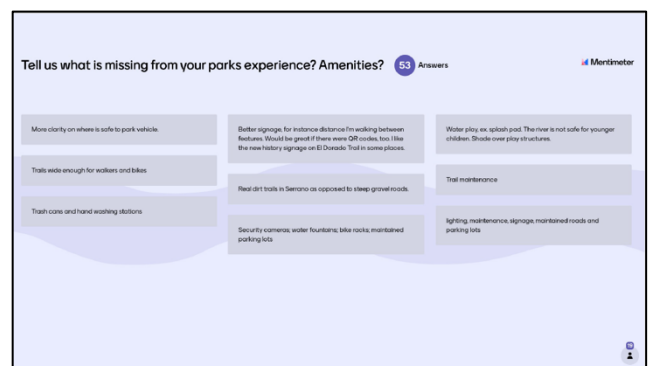


Poll Question #3

Question 4: What is missing from your parks experience?

Common themes included:

- Better Signage
- Restrooms and paved parking
- Trail accessibility and connectivity
- Trash, recycling, water fountains, and hand washing stations
- Security for trails and parking
- Maps and meeting spaces



Poll Question #4

El Dorado Parks and Trails Master Plan Update

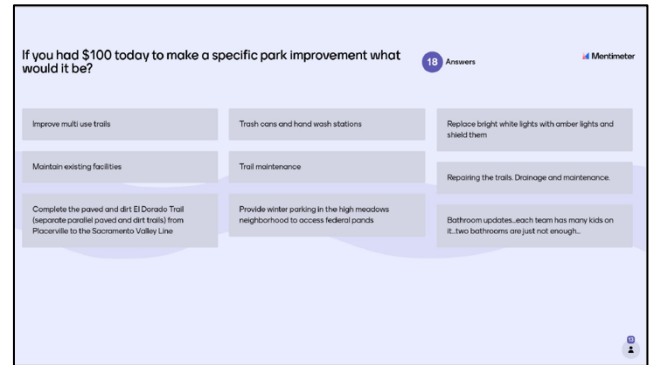
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Question 5: If you had \$100 to spend on a Parks & Trails Master Plan opportunity, how would you spend the money?

Common themes included:

- Trail Maintenance
- Bathroom updates
- Improvement of multi-use trails
- Trash and Hand-Washing stations
- Lighting and Security
- Pet waste disposal stations

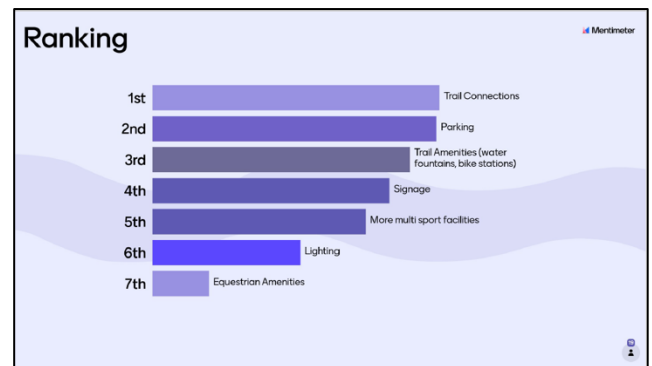


Poll Question #5

Question 6: Rank the top seven amenities in order.

The final ranking was:

1. Trail connections
2. Parking
3. Trail amenities (water fountains, bike stations)
4. Signage
5. More multi-sport facilities
6. Lighting
7. Parking
8. Equestrian amenities



Poll Question #6

Question & Answer

DeMaio then facilitated the question-and-answer session.

The following questions and answers were recorded:

- Question 1: "What budget do we have for the parks within the next year?"
Sanders responded with two answers. If it is regarding the park maintenance budget, that is its own budget and project. When speaking about new facilities, the Board of Supervisors has granted three million dollars to renovate Pollock Pines, four million towards Diamond Springs Community Park, and one point two million to improve Chili Bar Park. This is in addition to restroom upgrades and various improvements at parks in the area.
- Question 2: "Is it true the river patrol is down to one person this year?"
Sanders explained that is not true. As of right now, there is a parks program coordinator and three patrol officers.
- Question 3: "Will there be paving in the back parking lot in Forebay Park?"
Sanders chimed in that there will be paved parking and that is one of the main goals her team has to improve the park's infrastructure, including an inclusive playground, new restrooms, and a dog park.

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- Question 4: “What percentage or dollar amount does the County invest in Lake Tahoe?” Sanders explained they do not have parks in Tahoe because it is mainly done by the City of Tahoe or Tahoe Paradise recreation district. The County does maintain trails, but Sanders does not have the dollar amount and notes that it does come through Measure R funding.
- Question 5: “Does this plan incorporate efforts from the Tahoe Trails Strategy?” Sanders confirmed that all those plans will be incorporated for the entire County, which is different from the 2012 plan that did not encompass Lake Tahoe.
- Question 6: “Do we ask organizations that utilize the park to help with the cost or the maintenance?” Sanders responded that they do not operate programs, however, if an organization like a soccer club wants to use the fields, they do pay a use fee.

Publicity & Noticing

AIM Consulting created a stakeholder database of 122 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. To spread awareness for all five workshops, two rounds of emails were sent out on March 22 to let the public know about all upcoming workshops. On April 18, recipients were invited to the workshop and encouraged to share within their organization. Additionally, the workshop was advertised weekly in various Facebook groups related to El Dorado County and the surrounding areas.

Next Steps

This was the last opportunity for the public to provide input on the Parks & Trails Master Plan. Information on the project website is linked below. Additionally, an online survey is available at <https://arcg.is/OGSzPGO>

All five workshops have concluded, and 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/ and/or by emailing ParksUpdate@EDCGOV.US



Workshop Flyer

Appendix

Open-Ended answers to Q1: Where in El Dorado are you from?

- El Dorado
- Lotus
- Rocklin
- Meyers
- Lotus
- El Dorado Hills
- Out of county-Carmichael
- El Dorado Hills
- South Lake Tahoe
- Pollock Pines
- El Dorado Hills
- Lotus
- Kelsey
- El dorado hills
- Diamond Springs
- Placerville
- I am not from EDC
- Pollock Pines
- Pollock Pines
- El dorado hills

Open-Ended answers to Q2: What activity do you do most in El Dorado County?

- Soccer
- Bike (off-road)
- Other
- Bike (paved)
- Bike (off-road)
- Bike (off-road)
- Bike (paved)
- Hike
- Outdoor Experiences
- Hike

- Outdoor Experiences
- Hike
- Outdoor Experiences
- Other
- Outdoor Experiences

- Bike (off-road)
- Baseball, Softball
- Other
- Hike
- Bike (off-road)

Open-Ended answers to Q3: Describe El Dorado in three words.

- Natural Adventures Fun
- Beautiful Important Natural
- Needed Underfunded Lacking
- Beautiful Serene Clean
- Wild Scenic Uncrowded
- Beautiful unconnected lacking amenities
- Limited Hikable Underfunded
- Open space Trails Natural
- Natural Minimal Open
- Older Remote Rustic
- Underfunded Natural
- Green Refreshing Home
- Natural Relaxing Nearby
- Green Spacious Not many
- obscure positive unpublicized
- restorative shade relaxing
- Nothing in Pollock Natural All inclusive
- outside sportsmanship family
- Natural Woodsy Rustic
- Peaceful Open Playful

Open-Ended answers to Q4: What does your dream park look like?

- Splash pads/fountains at parks for little kids
- Mountain biking, camping, hiking wonderland. Well-maintained and well-marked trails. Sanctioned trails.
- Updated infrastructure that promotes outdoor biking, hiking, skiing, and water activities
- A graveled parking lot with a clean maintained bathroom. Overview maps and great trail signage. Lots of singletrack trails.
- Trails that offer diverse levels of challenge, and that interconnect. Erosion control that is properly designed and maintained.
- natural surface dirt trail and paved trail from the Sacramento County Line to South Lake Tahoe in the SPTC Corridor with frequent parking and signage
- "Having trails accessible for all and access to water for paddleboarding and kayaking.
- Safe with patrol by the user groups. Equal access nit just horse people"

- The gathering place, park in Tulsa, OK. Connectivity of parks to trails. Prioritizing park equity and accessibility for varying ages, abilities, low income, population density and racial minorities.
- Clean, open space, well maintained, amenities, not too cramped so it doesn't feel overcrowded, conveniently located, open to all.
- Hiking trails, open fields, gazebos
- Natural quiet clean trails multiuse
- COVERED playground, swings, slides, multiple climbing structures, bathrooms, water/splash pad, better parking at trailheads, stroller/assistive chair accessible trails that AREN'T in a subdivision
- I would like a park to have long hikes and mountain bike trails.
- Hiking, off-road biking, pickle ball, open fields, frisbee golf,
- Good routes to get there, including via walking safely. Restrooms and trash receptacles. Open every day. Open to sunset. Well-publicized. Kept clean.
- Forest setting; box pump track; all-inclusive playground; picnic tables; pickleball; interpretive walking trail
- We have a park already that I feel should be honored. It just needs an update such as new bathrooms and a small play furniture addition, covered so it is protected, and placed in the view of parents.
- Accessible, interesting fun for all ages and abilities varied experiences to offer challenges and learnings for diverse groups
- Plenty of maintained mountain bike and hiking trails
- Well-marked trails with wooden features for all levels of mountain biking or hiking
- Neighborhood pocket parks that provide play infrastructure for elementary school kids
- Interconnected network of paved and dirt trails connecting to trails in other jurisdictions
- Managed forest with fire resilience
- Prioritizing park equity
- Free access
- Mimic any trail in New Zealand
- Covered picnic/seating
- Barbecue, tables or gatherings
- Sound barriers would be great (from the freeway, for instance.)
- Well-maintained restrooms
- Art
- Park and ride infrastructure for hiking and backcountry skiing
- Open space in Serrano administered by county with networks of dirt trails, plus a future network in Marble Valley.
- Parks near where I live
- More lake and river access
- Dog parks, water features, play structures
- "Themed" parks: dinosaurs, ladybugs/insects, etc.

- Dog areas
- If water is available for kayaking or other boating, a way to rent those items on site. Even those foot paddle things.
- Security cameras
- Outdoor amphitheater in Meyers
- Trail from Magnolia Ranch to Coloma creating a Sutter's Fort to Sutter's Mill trail.
- More parking
- Water bottle filling station
- Restrooms
- Amphitheater overlooking Forebay Lake
- Multi-use trail connecting the confluence and Cool
- Fenced in dog park
- Enough parking and other amenities at Cool to hold mountain bike races or other locations.
- Detailed plan showing where the paved trail and dirt trail will be located in the SPTC
- Use other linear land configurations such as utility easements and the El Dorado Ditch for trails

Open-Ended answers to Q5: How far are you willing to travel to your dream park?

- 15-30 Minutes
- 30-60 Minutes
- 30-60 Minutes
- 15-30 Minutes
- 15-30 Minutes
- Over 1 Hour
- 30-60 Minutes
- 15-30 Minutes
- Up to 15 Minutes
- Up to 15 Minutes
- 15-30 Minutes
- 30-60 Minutes
- 30-60 Minutes
- Up to 15 Minutes
- 30-60 Minutes
- 15-30 Minutes
- 15-30 Minutes
- 15-30 Minutes
- 30-60 Minutes

Open-Ended answers to Q6: Would you join a volunteer group to help bring a dream amenity to life?

- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- No
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- No

Open-Ended answers to Q7: Tell us what is missing from your park's experience.

- Water play, ex. splash pad. The river is not safe for younger children. Shade over play structures.
- Better trail signage.
- Trailhead access from county roads into forest service lands for backcountry skiing
- Good river boating to access. Put in and take out with boat ramps.
- Gathering places at trailheads
- Restrooms, parking, and signage along the El Dorado Trail
- Trail access for all users. Trails near water. Options for short and long rides. Short carry of personal watercraft to water. Safe and maintained toilets
- Maintenance and upkeep
- Lighting, maintenance, signage, maintained roads and parking lots
- Restrooms
- Signage
- Lighting, parking, trash cans
- Recycling bins
- Cell phone charger

- Better signage, for instance, distance I'm walking between features. Would be great if there were QR codes, too. I like the new history signage on El Dorado Trail in some places.
- Security cameras; water fountains; bike racks; maintained parking lots
- Updated bathrooms. Small play area for the little kids, where the parents can watch the little ones as they watch a baseball game.
- Trails wide enough for walkers and bikes
- Repair station for bikes
- Trash cans on trails for doggy bags
- More clarity on where is safe to park vehicle.
- Bathrooms
- Blue bags for pets
- Real dirt trails in Serrano as opposed to steep gravel roads.
- Accessibility
- Trail maintenance
- Lighting, crosswalk flashing lights
- Greenbelts connecting parks
- Bathroom
- Bathrooms
- Resting spots
- Trash cans and hand washing stations
- More parking for the El Dorado Trail trailheads
- EV chargers
- Available parking from the county in Rubicon Peak for access to skiing
- Trail connectivity. The potential exists for a cross-state trail from the Bay Area to Tahoe incorporating the El Dorado Trail.
- Paved parking
- Better maps and kiosks
- Signs
- Trash cans
- Removal of the railroad track in the SPTC corridor so construction of trails will be easier and cost less.
- Rinse off station from river
- Better parking management
- Better signage
- Correction of drainage problems on the dirt section of the El Dorado Trail.
- Invasive species informational signage
- Message boards
- Decking the railroad bridges on the dirt section of the El Dorado Trail so horses can cross, and bikers and hikers don't have to step from tie to tie.
- More parking for Salmon Falls Bridge river take out

- A trail from Salmon Fall Bridge to Kanaka Valley
- Trails for different physical abilities
- More parking
- Security patrol

Open-Ended answers to Q8: If you had \$100 today to make a specific park improvement what would it be?

- Provide winter parking in the high meadows neighborhood to access federal lands
- Garbage cans and maintenance for pet poop bags
- Maintain existing facilities
- Complete the paved and dirt El Dorado Trail (separate parallel paved and dirt trails) from Placerville to the Sacramento Valley Line
- Access to rivers and lakes for various water activities at varied locals.
- Improve multi-use trails
- Repairing the trails. Drainage and maintenance.
- Security cameras
- Bathroom updates...each team has many kids on it...two bathrooms are just not enough...
- Trail maintenance
- Trash cans and hand wash stations
- Replace bright white lights with amber lights and shield them
- Bike racks
- Tools tied by wires to poles for bikes or hikers
- Un-fragranced pet poop bags
- Electric bike charging stations

Open-Ended answers to Q9: Out of these 7 choices, what would you rate them? One being most ant to seven being least want.

- Signage:
 - 4
 - 3
 - 2
 - 2
 - 4
 - 4
 - 6
 - 5
 - 2
 - 5
 - 3
 - 4

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- 2
- 4
- 1
- 3
- 2

- Lighting:

- 5
- 6
- 6
- 6
- 6
- 5
- 6
- 1
- 5
- 6
- 3
- 3
- 3
- 2
- 7

- Trail connections:

- 1
- 4
- 1
- 1
- 1
- 1
- 2
- 2
- 2
- 1
- 4
- 1
- 2
- 1
- 5
- 5

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- 5

- More multi-sport facilities:
 - 2
 - 6
 - 2
 - 5
 - 3
 - 5
 - 1
 - 1
 - 4
 - 6
 - 4
 - 1
 - 6
 - 1
 - 7
 - 6
 - 4

- Parking:
 - 1
 - 3
 - 1
 - 3
 - 2
 - 3
 - 3
 - 3
 - 3
 - 4
 - 3
 - 3
 - 2
 - 7
 - 3
 - 4

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- 2
- 2
- 4
- 3

- Equestrian amenities:

- 7
- 7
- 7
- 7
- 7
- 7
- 7
- 7
- 7
- 6
- 7
- 7
- 4
- 7
- 6

- Trail amenities:

- 3
- 2
- 5
- 4
- 4
- 4
- 2
- 5
- 3
- 1
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 5
- 5
- 5
- 6
- 1