

## El Dorado Parks & Trails Master Plan Update

Community Workshop #3 Summary

March 29, 2023

### Introduction

On Wednesday, March 29, 2023, El Dorado County hosted the third of five community workshops regarding the Parks & Trails Master Plan Update. At this workshop, participants first learned about why the Master Plan is being updated through a presentation, and then formed into three smaller breakout groups to provide their feedback on what should be prioritized in the plan. A total of 32 community members attended the workshop, held at Buckeye Elementary Multi-Purpose Room, 4651 Buckeye Road, Shingle Springs, CA.



*Participants showing their location on the map.*

### 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 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.

### 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 in different areas, including a Zoom workshop to provide multiple avenues for community input. This is the second workshop of the series. Once the workshop series is complete, the project team will use the data collected on community member priorities and update the Parks & Trails Master Plan accordingly.

## Workshop Format

The workshop was structured in three parts: first, a short presentation about the Master Plan and some background, next, small breakout group discussions, and finally, a section where participants provided their feedback using dot stickers on the group discussion boards. A detailed description of the workshop follows:

### County Map

Next to the welcome table was a large map of El Dorado County, where community members were asked to identify where they live in the County. The map showed that most attendees came from the Shingle Springs area or communities in the north part of the County.

### Presentation on the Master Plan Update

Katie DeMaio, President, and CEO 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?

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 needs and 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.

#### 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.

#### Timeline

Katie then turned the presentation over to Vickie Sanders, Parks Manager, to go over the project timeline. The engagement process started last fall with stakeholder meetings. 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.

### Breakout Group Directions

Vickie turned it back over to Katie, 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 often are you traveling to other parks for activities? What if they had some of those amenities?
- 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?



### Breakout Groups

The bulk of the workshop was devoted to a small-group discussion around the previously noted questions. Each group had 10 people in it, and a facilitator took notes on easel paper. Approximately 45 minutes were spent on this activity.



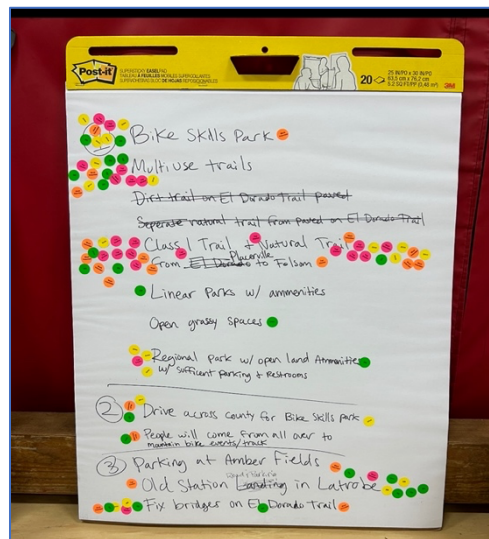
Following the breakout group session, community members were given four different colored dot stickers. Community members were instructed to use the pink dot to indicate their top choice, the yellow for something they would drive to, the green for what they would spend tax dollars on, and the orange for something they would work/volunteer at. After using the stickers to vote on their own group's list, participants were encouraged to visit other groups' boards and use stickers to vote 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)
Bike Skills Park	2	4	2	2
Multituse Trails	5	3	5	2
Class Trail and Natural Trail	13	5	5	11
Linear Park's with Amenities			1	
Open Grassy Spaces			1	
Regional Park with Open Land Amenities with Sufficient Parking and Restrooms	1	3	1	

Drive Across County for Bike Skills Park		2	1	1
People Will Come From all Over to Mountain Bike Events/Track				1
Parking at Amber Fields	1	1	2	1
Old Station Landing in Latrobe		1	3	
Fix Bridges on El Dorado Trail	1	2	3	2



Group 1 Breakout Discussion Board

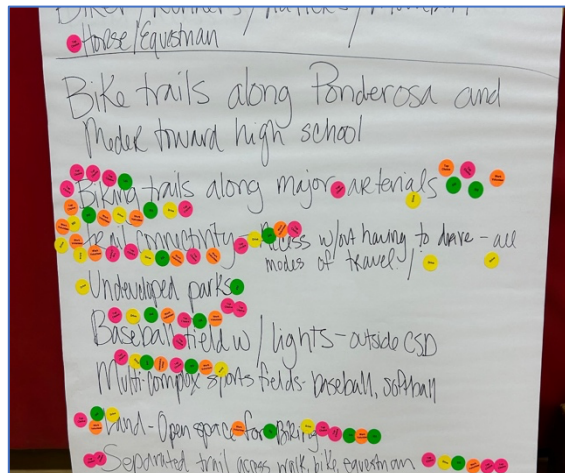
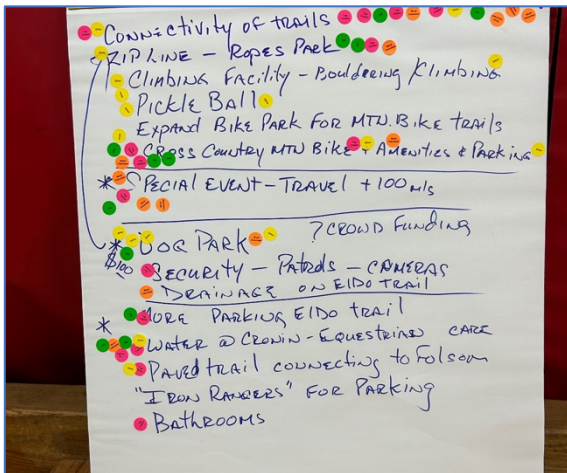
## Group 2

This board had the following answers and colored dot breakdown:

Item	Top (Pink)	Drive (Yellow)	Pay (Green)	Work (Orange)
Connectivity of Trails	5	2	2	4
Zipline/Ropes Park	1	1	2	1
Climbing Facility		2		
Pickle Ball		2		
Expand Bike Park for Mountain Bike Trails		1		
Cross Country Mountain Bike and Amenities and Parking	3	3	3	2
Special Event	1		3	2
Dog Park		4	1	1
Security	1			1
Drainage on El Dorado Trail				1
More Parking on El Dorado Trail	1		1	
Water at Cronin Equestrian Care	2	1	2	1
Paved Trail Connecting to Folsom	1	1		
Bathrooms	1			



Biker/Runner/Rafters/Mountain Horse	1			
Biking Trails Along Major Arterials	6	3	5	5
Trail Connectivity – Access without Having to Drive	5	6	2	6
Undeveloped Parks		1	1	
Baseball Field with Lights Outside CSD	5	1	2	2
Multi-Complex Sports Fields	2	2	2	2
Land-Open Space for Bring	3	2	4	3
Separated Trails Access Walk, Bike, Horses	5	1	1	1
Natural Parks vs. Structured Parks		1	1	
Better Boat Access	1		1	
White Water Parks	1			



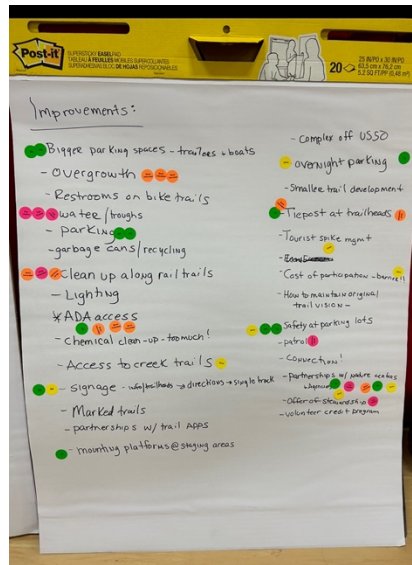
Group 2 Breakout Discussion Boards

Group 3

This board had the following answers and colored dot breakdown:

Item	Top (Pink)	Drive (Yellow)	Pay (Green)	Work (Orange)
Bigger Parking Spaces – Trailers and Boats			2	
Overgrowth				3
Water Troughs	3			
Parking			2	
Clean Up Along Trails	1			2
ADA Access			1	3

Access to Creek Trails		1	1	
Signage		4	1	1
Mounting Platforms			1	
Overnight Parking		1	1	
Tie Post at Trailheads			1	2
Tourist Bike Management		1		
Safety at Parking Lots	1	1	2	
Partnership with Nature Agencies	2	2	2	1



Group 3 Breakout Discussion Board

### 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.

### 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 16 to let the public know about all upcoming workshops, and on March 27, 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.

## 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 two community members submitted feedback via comment cards during the workshop.

The following comments were submitted:

- Thanks for the open dialogue and idea session.
- I think young families would enjoy a splash park in the summer. It could be as simple as a few fountains that kids can run through to cool down on a hot day. We have the river, but it can be dangerous for young kids.

## Next Steps

There will be two more opportunities for the public to provide input on the Parks & Trails Master Plan. These workshops will be held at the end of March and beginning of April, 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)