

Introduction

This edition of the California Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) provides a strategy for statewide outdoor recreation leadership and action to meet the state's identified outdoor recreation needs. The plan is the product of the continuing outdoor recreation-planning program of California State Parks (CSP). The National Park Service provides funding assistance through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program to ensure this Plan is revised and updated periodically to reflect current and expected changes in California's large and complex population and economy. The last CORP was updated in 2002. This edition supersedes the 2002 CORP. The CORP details planning considerations essential for effective administration of the LWCF program.

The LWCF Act requires the states to operate and maintain by acceptable standards the properties or facilities acquired or developed for public outdoor recreation use with LWCF assistance. Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act stipulates that no property acquired or developed with LWCF assistance shall be converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses without the approval of the Secretary of the Department of the Interior. The main points within Section 6(f)(3) include:

- Section 6(f)(3) applies to each area or facility for which LWCF assistance is obtained, regardless of the extent of that assistance.
- Property acquired or developed with LWCF assistance shall be retained and used for public outdoor recreation in perpetuity.
- Property cannot be wholly or partly converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses without the approval of NPS.
- In many cases, even a relatively small LWCF grant in a park of hundreds or thousands of acres provides protection to the entire park site.

Description of the CORP Process, Policy, and Audience

The Plan was developed with ample opportunity for public participation - through research and using input and feedback from a select advisory committee, recreation professionals and public comment. The plan identifies outdoor recreation issues of statewide importance and separates out those that can be addressed through the LWCF. The Plan contains components that evaluate public demand for outdoor recreation activities and includes a quantitative statewide inventory that will be used to evaluate the supply of outdoor recreation resources during the LWCF Open Project Selection Process.

The Plan's intended audience includes park and recreation providers, private citizens, elected officials and key decision makers. This plan is also designed to provide policy guidance to all public agencies – federal, state, local, and special districts – engaged in providing outdoor recreational lands, facilities and services throughout California. The CORP will help them get involved in California's many recreation and land and water protection programs and help coordinate outdoor recreation and environmental conservation programs.

California State Park's Role in Developing the CORP

California's state-level Outdoor Recreation Planning Program continues more than 50 years of effort by CSP. CSP serves a central role in this process as a matter of leadership, and because it is the state agency actively engaged directly providing outdoor recreation opportunities to Californians and many out-of-state and foreign visitors. In addition, CSP administers federal and state grant funds which are disbursed to appropriate state agencies and to the state's 836 municipal county, and special district park and recreation agencies (figure per California State Parks Office of Grants and Local Services).

Overview of CORP Content

The primary objective of the current CORP is to determine the outdoor recreation issues—the problems and the opportunities most critical in California, and to develop a comprehensive strategy by which state, federal, and local agencies might best address them. This plan is comprehensive in its scope, considering the full range of outdoor recreation issues and needs throughout the entire state. The plan is based on information collected from 2003 through 2008, takes into consideration the current demographic, economic, political, and environmental conditions, and then explores and analyzes the outdoor recreation issues that will be of concern to public agencies in the next five years.

The specific CORP chapters include:

- A strategy for meeting California's outdoor recreation needs.
- A summary of the trends and challenges currently affecting outdoor recreation demands and preferences.
- Preliminary results from the 2007 survey of Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California.
- A statewide inventory of public open space and recreation lands. The California Protected Areas Database (CPAD) is now available for download and/or viewing in a user-friendly online interface.
- A wetlands component detailing the various public and private entities dedicated to wetland acquisition, restoration and containing descriptions of the wetland types and areas that should receive priority for acquisition in California.
- Direction developed through the adoption of the 2005 California Recreation Policy. This policy considers how recreational opportunities are provided—the lands, waters, facilities, programs and support functions—and recognizes the considerable health, personal, social, economic and environmental benefits served by the many important dimensions of recreation.
- The issues that significantly impede the provision or effective management of recreation lands, facilities, programs and services that meet public demand for quality outdoor recreation opportunities, and the actions to

remedy these issues, encouraging statewide coordination and collaboration.

- A summary of past LWCF California Outdoor Recreation Planning Program accomplishments funded through LWCF planning grants and descriptions of future CORP planning projects that have been submitted for LWCF consideration.
- A descriptive evaluation of the public agencies providing outdoor recreation opportunities in California.

The CORP's appendices include:

- A summary of the planning process used to complete this CORP and its elements.
- A list of the CORP Advisory Committee members.
- A summary of the Open Project Selection Process for awarding Land and Water Conservation Fund grants.

This current CORP was designed to meet the specific program responsibilities of the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, whose concerns are outdoor recreation, land acquisition and facility development, redevelopment, and rehabilitation as well as preservation of the public park and recreation lands. This plan, however, encompasses broader interests than just these capital outlay functions and preservation functions.

This document and its recommendations realistically reflect the political and administrative capacity of the State of California to guide, influence, or direct the outdoor recreation policies and programs of agencies in state government and at local government levels. The plan, consequently, emphasizes issues and actions mainly of concern to state and local park and recreation agencies. Federal agencies and private-sector recreational providers, over which the State has much less influence, are, therefore, only briefly discussed.

General Objectives for the Plan

As a comprehensive planning document, this CORP edition will accomplish the following:

- Serve as a comprehensive strategy and action guide: Following the discussion of the most critical outdoor recreational issues, the CORP explores a wide range of ways in which recreation providers can overcome obstacles and create the opportunities the public will demand in coming years. Individual agencies and recreation providers are encouraged to take necessary steps in their own jurisdiction. CORP identifies and analyzes the most critical outdoor recreation issues—the broad problems and opportunities that will facilitate or hinder the public's outdoor recreational opportunities in the future.

- Provide leadership: As the agency responsible for the statewide outdoor recreation planning, and for producing this document, California State Parks seeks to provide leadership in the areas of information development and policy guidance.
- Provide project selection criteria: Criteria were prepared by CSP for selecting state and local government projects to receive funding from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. These criteria are consistent with the actions recommended to address the major issues identified in this plan. The allocation of funds is known as the Open Project Selection Process (OPSP). The OPSP criteria will be reviewed or evaluated after the CORP update has been published in spring 2009. Until then, the current criteria, as identified in the June 2008 LWCF Procedural Guide, will continue to be used.
- Maintain funding eligibility: Regular, periodic production of this planning document and maintenance of the state's overall comprehensive outdoor recreation plan will maintain funding eligibility for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
- Provide a source of information: The California Outdoor Recreation Plan provides a concise overview, a point-in-time status report on the social, economic, environmental, and political conditions that affect the provision of outdoor recreational opportunities across the state. The CORP also evaluates the supply of and demand for public outdoor recreation in California.

California's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Strategy

The analysis, conclusions and implications of the 2007 survey of Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California and the California Protected Areas Database, policy developed through the public outreach processes for California's Recreation Policy, the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, the Central Valley Vision and the CORP, and wetlands research, all have informed the development of this strategy for meeting the state's outdoor recreation needs.

The seven major priority areas below comprise the state's strategy for meeting California's outdoor recreation needs and will serve as a statewide guide for funding proposed development or acquisition projects. Project proposals will receive priority when they address the following outdoor recreation priorities:

- Projects that provide opportunities for the top 15 outdoor recreation activities identified in the latent demand scoring in the survey of Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California:
 1. Walking for fitness or pleasure
 2. Camping in developed sites
 3. Bicycling on paved surfaces
 4. Day hiking on trails
 5. Picnicking in picnic areas
 6. Beach activities
 7. Visiting outdoor nature museums, zoos, gardens or arboretums
 8. Visiting historic or cultural sites
 9. Attending outdoor cultural events
 10. Off-highway vehicle use
 11. Driving for pleasure, sightseeing, driving through natural scenery
 12. Swimming in a pool
 13. Wildlife viewing, bird watching, viewing natural scenery
 14. Outdoor photography
 15. Swimming in freshwater lakes, rivers and/or streams

- Projects that provide or improve outdoor recreation opportunities in the geographic region identified in the California State Parks' Central Valley Vision, Implementation Plan:
 - River access for swimming, angling, boating and other water sports
 - Varied recreation opportunities, including group picnic areas, updated and increased camping facilities, areas for sunning and open areas for kite flying, pick-up games and unstructured play
 - Trails, including multi-use trails for equestrians, hikers, walkers and bikers; water trails for rafters and boaters; and off-highway vehicle use areas
 - Resource protection including preservation of riparian woodlands, oak and sycamore groves, native grasslands and vernal pools

- Interpretation of the Central Valley’s culture and history especially related to California Indians, agriculture, water development, immigrants, and the oil and gas industry
- Projects that provide outdoor recreation activities for children, such as those listed in the Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights:
 1. Discover California’s past
 2. Splash in the water
 3. Play in a safe place
 4. Camp under the stars
 5. Explore nature
 6. Learn to swim
 7. Play on a team
 8. Follow a trail
 9. Catch a fish
 10. Celebrate their heritage
- Projects that provide outdoor recreation opportunities for those underserved communities identified using tools like the California Protected Areas Database (CPAD). The CPAD will be used to demonstrate that future parks and recreation project proposals meet an outdoor recreation need for protected open space and recreation lands.
- Projects that support the wetland priorities being pursued by the state’s wetland preservation organizations. The bullets below summarize their wetland ecological areas of focus:
 - Seasonal, permanent and semi-permanent freshwater wetlands
 - Riparian areas and other stream corridors
 - Tidal/coastal wetland ecosystems including bay habitats
 - Creeks and lakes
 - Vernal pools
- Projects that support the goals of California’s Recreation Policy
 - Adequacy of recreation opportunities
 - Leadership in recreation management
 - Recreation’s role in a healthier California
 - Preservation of natural and cultural resources
 - Accessible recreation experiences
- Projects that develop the trail corridors identified in the 2002 California Recreational Trails Plan and its scheduled update