

Issues and Actions

Introduction

This chapter of the California Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) identifies outdoor recreation issues and needs of statewide importance based upon, but not limited to, input from the CORP's public participation program. These statewide issues include the most pressing concerns broadly affecting California's park and recreation service providers. This document provides guidance for the planning, acquisition and development of needed recreation lands and facilities by detailing these concerns and identifying actions to address them. This effort to identify the issues and actions is required to develop California's strategy for meeting outdoor recreation needs statewide. This Plan identifies those issues and needs California will address through the LWCF and those issues that need to be addressed by other means.

This edition updates the prior CORP; the six issues and their related actions were used as the starting point for public participation and discussion about their continued relevancy and whether they still reflected California's large and diverse population. The six issues were carried forward and two new issues were introduced.

The determination of the needs, issues and actions and formulation of the state's strategy to meet these needs have been informed by analysis of a combination of data sources, including the conclusions and implications of the 2007 survey of Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation, policy developed through the CORP public workshops, planning studies and the Advisory Committee, the public outreach processes for California's Recreation Policy, the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, and the Central Valley Vision, as well as California's trends, challenges and wetlands research.

The public participation process involved sessions with a 20-member CORP Advisory Committee, a survey of California Park and Recreation Society members, a California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks and Tourism discussion and four public workshops. The public outreach program is discussed in more detail in the California Outdoor Recreation Plan Public Outreach section of the Appendix.

This Issues and Actions chapter explores ways that recreation providers can both accommodate current demands for outdoor recreation opportunities and prepare to meet the needs of future generations. The remainder of this chapter is organized around the eight key issues, with a summary of each and examples of progress that has been made in the last five years. Actions to address each issue follow, separated into those potentially eligible for LWCF assistance and those that would need to be addressed using other means. This identification of statewide issues and actions is an important component of the CORP planning

and development process by providing guidance to direct California's strategies, priorities and actions for the obligation of the state's LWCF apportionment.

Issues and their Issue-Specific Actions

1. Lack of Access to Public Park and Recreation Resources

Summary of this Issue

Providing more accessible and safer park settings can promote inspiration, discovery, learning and encourage outside activities, active living and a healthy lifestyle for all Californians. Understanding and meeting the public's recreation needs helps remove barriers limiting public use of outdoor recreation areas and ensures that parks and recreation remains relevant, viable and important to our current and future population. Park and recreation agencies can embrace the diversity of California's population and remove barriers by providing services, facilities and programs that meet the needs of a diverse pool of current and potential park users and by providing opportunities for young people from all backgrounds to experience parks and recreation facilities, programs and services.

All park and recreation lands, facilities, programs and services need to be fully accessible to all Californians; by increasing accessibility, relevance will be increased as well. Restricted access is more than just physical barriers; it includes barriers of proximity, relevancy, safety, or inadequate transportation to outdoor recreation lands. Environmental barriers can involve the recreation settings themselves, including unfamiliar terrain, animals, plants and insects. Demographic obstacles include those that do not serve the changing recreation preferences of park visitors. Different ethnic and generational groups recreate and use facilities differently than do prior generations. Administrative obstacles to access include a lack of cooperation and coordination between park and recreation providers, a lack of connectivity between local resources and a lack of information about emerging recreation trends.

Other key points included in this issue are:

- Safety and security in many park and recreation areas needs to keep pace with increases in use, user conflicts, inappropriate behaviors and illegal activities.
- Many parks and recreation facilities, programs and services have barriers such as distance, location, fees, environmental restrictions, security, access for persons with disabilities, traffic and the lack of public transportation.
- Physical, environmental, demographic and administrative obstacles can impede participation in outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Many park and recreation facilities, programs and services need to be made more relevant to meet the demands of segments of California's rapidly changing population, such as the elderly, youth, single parent families, ethnic groups, new immigrants and persons with disabilities.

- In their efforts to protect resources, park and recreation providers have difficulty making changes such as removing accessibility obstacles or responding to public demand for new opportunities.
- Economic and other pressures can cause LWCF compliance and conversion issues, occasionally leading to the loss of existing parks.

Examples of Progress on the Actions for this Issue Since 2002

Some of the actions suggested in the prior CORP for addressing this issue have been implemented. Examples include:

- The California Protected Areas Database is a new Internet-based search engine that allows the public to find parks near their homes or other favorite locations. The database includes a statewide inventory of federal, state, county, city and special district open-space and outdoor recreation lands and facilities. The public can search for parks near them by address, city or zip code and then produce a list of the nearby parks, a map showing their locations, driving directions and a list of webpage links to the various managing agencies.
- The State Parks publication “Park and Recreation Trends in California 2005” examines trends affecting parks, recreation areas, programs and services. By understanding these trends, providers can assess recreation needs, analyze market demands and niches and identify those recreation programs likely to be successful. This allows providers to better understand which types of parks and outdoor recreation opportunities are needed and which facilities and programs are likely to be supported.
- The mission of the State Parks Office of Community Involvement (OCI) is to develop and implement programs that increase services to non-traditional park users and underserved communities. The OCI Outdoor Youth Connection™ and Youth Leadership Institute provide teenagers affiliated with community-based organizations the chance to experience outdoor activities, camping, team-building and leadership. OCI’s FamCamp® program provides camping opportunities for underserved populations who do not normally have access to the outdoors.
- The “California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002” supported progress on this issue. The projects below are some examples of how the funding was used:
 - Quarry Lakes ADA Fishing Pier – a City of Fremont project constructing an ADA fishing pier with accessible parking, picnic tables, BBQs, paths and a fish cleaning station at Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation area, \$995,000.
 - Clayton Downtown Park – development of a one-acre community park in downtown Clayton, located in the outer San Francisco Bay area, \$220,000.
- Examples of projects funded through LWCF include:
 - Grant Hill Park Development, upgrading tot lot, adjacent picnic area and drinking fountain for disabled access, including accessible

parking and path of travel at the existing Grant Hill Neighborhood Park in San Diego, \$122,808.

- McCray Park Development, renovating a playground and picnic area to meet ADA guidelines in McCray Park in the Town of Oildale near Bakersfield, \$39,895.

Specific Actions to Address the Access Issue

The following actions include some considered still relevant from the prior CORP and some new actions generated during the public participation process.

These actions are potentially eligible for LWCF assistance:

1. Provide outdoor recreation lands and facilities:
 - Pursue acquisition opportunities to provide open space and public access to water features such as the ocean, lakes, rivers, streams and creeks.
 - Pursue urban acquisition and development opportunities close to where people live and work and where current recreation opportunities are inadequate.
 - Increase the number of group picnic areas and camping opportunities to respond to California's changing demographics and recreation preferences.
 - Increase the number of available campsites in popular and emerging camping areas and provide cabins, tent cabins, yurts, or other affordable lodging for park visitors who prefer these camping alternatives.
 - Provide alternative park elements, such as off-leash dog areas, interactive water features, climbing walls, rope features and exercise features.
 - Provide opportunities for outdoor adventure and extreme sports experiences.
 - Develop more areas and opportunities for off-highway motorized recreation.
 - Promote and use existing LWCF 6(f)(3) protection as a tool to prevent the loss of existing parks.
2. Improve access to outdoor recreation areas:
 - Acquire and develop trails providing safe routes to parks from places where people live or work, or trails linking parks and other outdoor recreation areas, such as the regional trail corridors identified in the California Recreational Trails Plan.
3. Provide information:
 - Maintain, improve and add key elements to the California Protected Areas Database to continue to provide information to the public and recreation providers about outdoor recreation lands and facilities. Use the database and other information to evaluate the adequacy of outdoor recreation opportunities in different communities.
 - Document levels of use and need at popular recreation areas.

- Continue to track emerging trends and changing demographics affecting access, relevance, safety and barriers affecting the pursuit of outdoor recreation opportunities. Conduct research where needed and disseminate reports to park and recreation providers.
- Survey trail users statewide to collect data on the various types of use, the most popular trails, the typical trail miles traveled, the perceived benefits of trail use, the highest priority trail needs and trail user demographics.
- Survey or interview youth regarding their recreation participation, needs and preferences.
- Conduct and publish research on how trails can better meet needs of youth and seniors, the ecological benefits of good trail design and the social and cultural barriers that effect trail use.
- Research and develop parks and recreation benchmarks, such as the number of parks and recreation acres per 1000 residents available in various areas throughout California.

These actions would probably need to be addressed by means other than assistance from the LWCF:

1. Provide new kinds of outdoor recreation areas in neighborhoods with high-density housing and worksites, such as ‘vertical parks’, rooftop gardens, or sky parks, to create outdoor recreation opportunities in emerging urban centers.
2. Provide recreation programs to better serve Californians:
 - Establish and fund inclusive camping programs to attract urban or non-traditional park users.
 - Incorporate senior and cultural planning into community centers.
 - Improve public transit access to parks and recreation areas and trail connections.

2. The Lack of Linkages and Seamless Delivery of Recreation Opportunities

Summary of this Issue

Parks and recreation areas, facilities, programs and services need better coordination in urban or rural areas where many public, private, non-profit or other park and recreation providers have individual recreation areas, facilities, programs and services. State outdoor recreation agencies also need to better coordinate their delivery of recreation opportunities. Providers differentiate between park and recreation entities at the expense of emphasizing the range of recreation opportunities available to the public. Strengthening the connections between all public, private and non-profit parks and recreation agencies and organizations that share common missions and goals can help provide a seamless delivery of recreation opportunities to all Californians.

The links between parks and recreation areas, facilities, programs and services and healthy individuals, healthy communities and a healthy environment need to be more clearly demonstrated and communicated to the decision makers and the public. These linkages can be physical connections, such as trails or greenways linking nearby parks. These links can also be programmatic connections, like a multi-agency fitness program coordinating several local areas. Interpretive connections can also link resources, educating visitors about the resources at several protected sites in a region, such as a coastal area or mountain range.

Coordinated action addressing a shared problem can also build linkages and encourage seamless delivery of recreation services. The Children in Nature Campaign is an important example, through which many outdoor recreation agencies are addressing the disconnect between today's children, nature and the outdoors. To develop and maintain long-term positive connections with the park users and the public at large we must instill in our children the need and desire to promote and preserve outdoor recreation opportunities. This will help ensure the public's support for financing to protect, manage and improve current and future parks and recreation resources and facilities.

Other key points included in this issue are:

- Trails connectivity between the responsible organizations is sometimes lacking or not fully communicated to the public.
- There is little promotion of other parks and recreation areas, facilities and programs beyond those within a individual agency's responsibility.
- There is no central clearinghouse where parks and recreation-related information is made accessible to the public or recreation providers.
- There are more opportunities for partnerships between health agencies and park and recreation providers than currently exist.
- There is an increasing need for multi-generational parks and recreation areas, facilities, programs and services and a stronger link between parks and recreation and social service providers.
- The connection between outdoor recreation, physical activity and health needs is not emphasized enough by park and recreation providers. More research is needed to make the connection between health issues and outdoor recreation, such as the link between park-poor communities and higher obesity rates in children.

Examples of Progress on the Actions for this Issue Since 2002

Although this issue has been newly articulated since the prior CORP, some examples of progress already made were provided during the public participation process:

- Several public outreach participants described partnerships between local park and recreation providers and area schools. These include joint-use agreements providing schools access to recreation areas and facilities they lack and giving local park and recreation providers access to the programming facilities they lack. One agreement made a city swimming pool

available to a school and made the school's turf areas available for city programs during non-school hours.

- A number of city councils, county boards of supervisors and non-profit organizations have agreed on joint development of regional trail projects. Some counties identify trail connectivity in their master plans and have partnerships and joint-use/joint project agreements with nearby cities, counties and non-profit organizations.
- The State Parks publication "Health and Social Benefits of Recreation" makes the strong connection between parks and recreation areas, facilities and programs and health. The report documents the positive impacts that parks and recreation can have on the physical, mental and social health of individuals and their communities.
- The "California State Parks Partners" publication describes the projects, programs and benefits from the partnerships between State Parks and 120 organizations. This publication provides numerous examples of the benefits that linked and coordinated efforts like these can offer parks and recreation providers.
- The "California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002" supported progress on this issue. The projects below are some examples of how the funding was used:
 - Emeryville Greenway Park - Powell to 59th, a bike and pedestrian trail development project for a linear park along a rail corridor that links the neighboring community to Oakland and Berkeley, \$220,000.
 - Solana Beach Coastal Rail Trail and Park, a 1.8 mile segment of a proposed 42-mile non-motorized trail extending from the Oceanside transit station to the Santa Fe Depot in San Diego, \$220,000.
- Examples of projects funded through LWCF include:
 - Santiago Creek Trail development, a 1.4 mile trail along Santiago Creek in Santa Ana, \$255,073.
 - San Dieguito River Park Mule Hill/San Pasqual Trail, a 9.4 mile trail for hikers, bicyclists and equestrians in the San Dieguito River valley Regional Open Space Park in Escondido, \$183,200.

Specific Actions to Address the Linkages and Seamless Delivery Issue

The following actions were generated during the public participation process and are potentially eligible for LWCF assistance:

1. Improve trail connectivity between outdoor recreation areas and improve the seamless delivery of recreation opportunities:
 - Increase and publicize public trail access and connectivity to recreation features in urban areas.
 - Complete the missing components of existing regional trails through partnerships with the trail-owning agencies or organizations.
 - Explore and create partnerships for developing regional parks and greenways.

2. Connect health and parks and recreation:

- Provide areas where children can connect with the outdoors and engage in active outdoor activities, such as climbing trees, digging, exploring and unstructured play.
- Provide outdoor recreation play equipment that integrates physical activity and stimulates children's imagination.
- Continue to evaluate and report on the health and quality-of-life benefits of parks and recreation.

These actions would probably need to be addressed by means other than assistance from the LWCF:

1. Improve branding and marketing for outdoor parks and recreation areas, facilities, programs and services both individually and statewide.
2. Emphasize the seamless delivery of park and recreation services between public agencies and associated non-profit organizations.
3. Promote development of multi-generational fitness facilities, programs and services.

3. The Need to Protect and Manage Natural Resource Values

Summary of this Issue

The natural resource values that make California a special place to live and play are being subjected to unrelenting pressures. Repeated public opinion surveys show that natural resources are highly valued by park and recreation participants. However, overuse, poor management and fragmentation of parks and recreation areas can significantly degrade those natural resources. The increasing numbers of visitors and changing trends in recreational activities are affecting ecosystems, disrupting and displacing wildlife, degrading the natural and scenic qualities of outdoor recreation areas and therefore directly affecting the visitor's recreational experience.

This issue speaks to the importance of providers working together to preserve, manage and maintain outstanding examples of California's ecosystems. The following under-protected habitat types in California are these, which according to a gap analysis, are less than 20% protected on publicly owned lands:

- Diablan Sage Scrub
- Blue Oak Woodland
- Valley Sink Scrub
- Valley Oak Woodland
- Coastal Prairie
- California Walnut Woodland
- Great Valley Cottonwood Riparian Forest
- Juniper-Oak Cismontane Woodland

- Great Valley Oak Riparian Forest
- Northern Interior Cypress Forest
- Great Valley Mesquite Scrub

In addition, the following under-represented resource types which exhibit physical features not well represented in California should also receive priority for acquisition or restoration:

- Representative examples of landscapes and the identifying [or key or signature] geologic features for under-represented portions of the Modoc, Klamath, and eastern portion of the Sierra bioregions that are not protected by other land managing agencies.
- Significant fossil resources, such as concentrations of significant vertebrate fossils, multiple species assemblages representing ancient environments, and trace fossils (e.g. footprints) of ephemeral conditions.
- Type localities of geologic formations found only in California and lacking existing significant protection by other land management agencies.
- Special geologic features not well represented in the SPS include volcanoes and volcanic features (e.g. lava tubes, columnar basalts, and inverted topography), glaciers and glacial features, limestone caves, thermal features, and tombstone rocks.

Park and recreation providers must also pursue sustainable policies and encourage management practices that ensure the long-term protection and viability of natural resources. Parks and recreation facilities and systems must be designed to be low maintenance, use sustainable materials wherever possible, be resource efficient and produce minimal waste.

Finally, since climate change threatens much that we value and protect, parks and recreation areas, facilities, programs and services should be used to teach visitors about the impacts of climate change, inspiring them to make positive lifestyle changes that reduce climate change impacts. Our parks should become models of climate-change best practices, highlighting what is at risk and what can be done about it. Decisions about land acquisitions and outdoor recreation improvements should consider climate change impacts and park and recreation providers should maximize the carbon-sequestering potential of their forests, wetlands and other habitats when consistent with their missions.

Other key points included in this issue are:

- Cumulative impacts from multiple poorly-planned or under-funded projects can significantly damage natural resource values.
- Public agency resource management practices are often not well communicated to or understood by the public, decreasing public support for environmental protection measures.
- Cooperation among outdoor recreation providers on managing ecosystems and biological diversity can be fragmented and inconsistent.

- Collaboration and regional coordination on the problems of urban encroachment, pollution, erosion, wildfire management and non-native, invasive species can also be inconsistent.
- There is not a strong enough connection in the public mind between clean air, water and parks, open space and recreation.
- Richard Louv’s “Nature Deficit Disorder” identifies the problematic disconnect between today’s children and the outdoor nature experience.
- Economic and other pressures can cause LWCF compliance and conversion issues, occasionally leading to the loss of existing parks.

Examples of Progress on the Actions for this Issue Since 2002

- California’s Department of Fish and Game has prepared the “California Wildlife Action Plan” to guide conservation of the state’s important habitats. Many regional plans also guide protection of important natural habitats.
- Key natural resource areas have been secured to protect fish and wildlife habitats and scenic outdoor recreation areas. These include coastal wetlands, redwoods, oak woodlands and other forests, vernal pools, rangelands and other important habitats. Significant progress has been made in restoring coastal and inland wetlands, some salmon and steelhead rivers and streams and riparian woodlands. Conservation of these areas was accelerated by three voter-approved bond measures, Propositions 40, 50 and 84. The projects below are some examples of how the funding was used:
 - Bidwell-Sacramento River Sp / Brayton Project, acquisition of 85 acres of walnut orchard on the Sacramento River as an addition to the existing State Park. The property will be restored with native vegetation, \$2.2 million, “California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002”.
 - Coast wetlands - SF Bay Area Project, a cooperative wetland habitat restoration project to restore approximately 570 acres of tidal marsh and enhance approximately 126 acres of saltpan and 95 acres of seasonal wetlands on the Eden Landing Ecological Reserve in Alameda County, \$1.3 million, The “Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002”.
- Examples of projects funded through LWCF include:
 - Trancas Parkland Acquisition, acquisition of approximately 33.37 acres for open space in the City of Napa, \$99,893.
 - Arastradero Preserve Acquisition, acquisition of approximately 13 acres within the Arastradero Open Space Preserve in the City of Palo Alto, \$162,385.
 - Study Pavilion, Development of a Nature Study Pavilion, wind wall, walkways, amphitheater and support facilities at the Prime Desert Woodland Preserve in the City of Lancaster, \$153,073.
- Other examples of progress on this issue are programs reconnecting children and nature to foster environmental awareness and develop future resource advocates. Cities have introduced the concept of environmental sustainability

to students by promoting recycling programs taught in the local schools. Some other programs include:

Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights - the California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks and Tourism
Great American Backyard Campout – National Wildlife Federation, Outdoor Industry Foundation
State Parks Off-Highway Motorized Vehicle program's youth-focused 'Tread Lightly' that encourages resource protection while engaging in off-highway activities.

- State Parks recently held the first climate change symposium on impacts to biodiversity and has developed tools, resources, strategies and actions focusing on climate change 'adaptation'. These will help land management decision-makers in local, regional and state governments follow a detailed process for climate change preparedness and planning

Specific Actions to Address this Natural Resource Issue

Most of the actions suggested for this issue fall within the project selection criteria for LWCF assistance:

1. Protect, restore and acquire outdoor recreation areas with important natural resource and scenic values that include the following priorities:
 - Projects linking parkland and other protected areas
 - Projects protecting key watersheds from land conversions
 - Properties supporting relatively large areas of under-protected major habitat types, ecological regions or that have unique biological values, wetland or riparian areas
 - Conservation projects should consider priorities in the California Wildlife Action Plan, joint venture plans, habitat conservation and species recovery plans and other regional habitat protection plans.
 - Promote and use existing LWCF 6(f)(3) protection as a tool to prevent the loss of existing parks.
2. Practice sustainability and reduce recreation impacts:
 - Conduct studies that identify recreational impacts on the environment and recommend mitigation measures.
 - Incorporate sustainability, energy efficiency and environmental awareness into recreational development projects with recycled, energy efficient and sustainable materials and design.
3. Prioritize acquisition and development of natural systems:
 - Continue to develop land acquisition strategies prioritizing under-represented critical ecosystems and land suitable for resource-based recreation.
 - Prioritize restoration projects and identify funding sources for natural systems where overuse and misuse has compromised the area's ecological integrity.

These actions would probably need to be addressed by means other than assistance from the LWCF:

1. Educate youth:

- Continue to work with local school districts to educate youth on the importance of preserving and protecting natural resources.
- Continue to pursue the goal of giving K-12 students the experience of visiting a resource-based park during their time in school.
- Continue efforts to increase environmental awareness among youth through supporting programs like Tread Lightly, Leave No Trace and providing field trips to natural parks.

2. Educate the public:

- Foster a stronger public connection between clean air, clean water and the impacts of and remedies for global warming, and parks, recreation and open space.
- Increase the presence of park and recreation providers at wildlife and nature events as stewards and interpreters of these resources.
- Provide more interpretive displays (in prominent locations such as in visitor centers, use areas and trailheads) and programs that communicate natural resource efforts.

4. The Need to Preserve and Protect Californian's Cultural Heritage

Summary of this Issue

California's rich and diverse cultural heritage is not well understood and its preservation and protection needs better statewide coordination. The state Heritage Corridors authorized by the Public Resources Code have been neglected. Funding to complete many cultural resources projects and to preserve, protect and interpret existing cultural resources is often inadequate. The problem of fiscal sustainability prevents the effective management of cultural resources in ways that ensure their long-term protection and integrity.

There is also a need to increase the use of diverse cultural heritage resources to create and strengthen the connections of community and families with each other and with their shared cultural heritages. California needs to acquire, maintain and interpret a broad spectrum of cultural resources that reflect the diverse cultures of California. A high percentage of respondents in the survey of public opinions and attitudes visited historic or cultural sites and museums at least once during a 12-month period. The survey results also indicated a high unmet-demand for more of these recreational opportunities.

Other key points included in this issue are:

- There is a high unmet-demand for cultural resource activities and a need for more effective statewide coordination to meet this demand.
- The management, interpretation, preservation and effective use of California's cultural resources for education, public outreach and heritage tourism is inconsistent statewide.
- The acquisition and development of cultural resources also needs statewide coordination. Only a few agencies consider protecting cultural resources as a primary part of their mission.

Examples of Progress on the Actions for this Issue Since 2002

- California's preservation leaders gathered at a Cultural Heritage Resources Summit to assess the status of historic and cultural resource preservation in California. One of the Summit's conclusions was that California's historic preservationists, arts and cultural communities should come together as a unified constituency to work toward common goals. Another recommendation was to create a permanent entity responsible for protecting and enhancing California's historical and cultural heritage.
- In response to this Summit recommendation, the California Cultural and Historical Endowment (CCHE) was established to tell the stories of California as a unified society as well as the stories of the many groups of people that comprise historic and modern California. The "California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002" allocated \$122 million to the CCHE to distribute through competitive grants to government entities, non-profit organizations and Indian tribes .
- State Parks is completing a statewide "California History Plan" (CHP) identifying what is missing from our preserved cultural heritage - the stories we're not yet telling about California's history - and describing how our state's cultural stewards can work together to fill these gaps. The Plan proposes a common agenda for the acquisition, preservation and interpretation of our state's underrepresented cultural properties. The CHP also introduces a new California History Framework - a cross-cultural, non-chronological approach to the past, providing a comprehensive view of our history that captures the full range of human experience in California.
- State Parks is developing a Central Valley Vision Plan that considers several potential heritage corridors in the Delta, ecosystems crossing the Central Valley from Yuba County to Colusa County, oil and gas producing areas in Kern and Kings Counties, farms and agri-tourism attractions connected by Highway 99 and Interstate 5 and ethnic communities.
- The "California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002" supported progress on this issue. The projects below are some examples of how the funding was used:
 - Alviso Adobe Community Park – a city of Pleasanton project to renovate the historic Alviso Adobe and reconstruct two dairy-related buildings to house exhibits and a visitor center. Includes trail improvements, parking and a gathering area, \$179,260.

- Museum Carriage Shed Completion, Alpine County – a development project to complete the final construction phase of the historic Carriage Shed in Markleeville, \$26,152.

Specific Actions to Address this Cultural Heritage Issue

These actions would probably need to be addressed by means other than assistance from the LWCF:

- Study the potential positive effects on the economy from using historic preservation tools and incentives to promote jobs, stimulate investment in local communities and encourage heritage tourism.
- Establish technical, financial and leadership assistance programs. Provide ready access to relevant assistance information.
- Increase the number of significant private and publicly owned historic resources that are protected and preserved throughout the state.
- Incorporate and promote cultural heritage themes in parks and recreation areas, facilities, programs and services.
- Involve the Department of Education in offering education, training and outreach programs on the value of historic preservation.
- Continue incorporating historic and cultural displays into county fairs and other community events.
- Promote the value of historic preservation through education and community outreach that influences public opinion and planning processes.
- Encourage and implement historic preservation policy and develop a strategy for the management, interpretation and appropriate use of cultural resources.

5. Lack of Sufficient Financing for Parks and Recreation

Summary of this Issue

Funding for parks and recreation areas, facilities, programs and services has historically been insufficient and inconsistent. Shifts in the state and national economies greatly impact the ability of providers to offer quality, consistent and relevant recreation facilities, programs and services. Some park and recreation organizations are successful at securing grant funding, however, not all providers have the resources to do so. Although very large park bond acts have been passed in the last decade, these periodic sources of funding cannot be used for ongoing operations and maintenance costs. Regular and ongoing funding for statewide technical assistance for parks and recreation providers is still needed. Consistent funding is necessary to maintain quality recreation resources for our state's residents and visitors.

This issue speaks to the importance of achieving fiscal sustainability for parks and recreation areas, facilities, programs and services. Without long-term stable funding for staffing, repairs and maintenance, we will not be able to manage our

recreational resources and facilities in a sustainable way that ensures their long-term protection and availability. Without sufficient and ongoing funding that ensures our parks and recreation areas, facilities, programs and services remain relevant and responsive to the public's recreation needs, we will be unable to develop and maintain long-term positive relations with our visitors and the public at large. Without sufficient and consistent funding for our outdoor recreational facilities, programs and services, we will be unable to recapture the interest of today's children in outdoor recreation, losing our ability to build a next generation of support for parks and recreation.

Other key points included in this issue are:

- Inconsistent funding makes it difficult for providers to plan for stable park and recreation facilities, programs and services.
- The continual need to secure new funds or generate additional revenue diverts time and attention from the primary objective of protecting resources and providing recreational opportunities.
- Parks and recreation providers have traditionally demonstrated an ability to get by with less, facilitating or encouraging future funding cuts by decision makers.
- Periodic voter-approved bond acts are inconsistent and insufficient to meet the full range of parks and recreation needs. For example, bond act funds can only be used for acquisition and development, not for critical maintenance or staffing.

Examples of Progress on the Actions for this Issue Since 2002

- Numerous Park and Recreation Technical Services (PARTS) publications have been produced by California State Parks staff since 2002. Several of the following guidebooks help providers identify and apply for grant funding opportunities:
 - "Getting a Grip on Grants: A How to Guide for Park and Recreation Providers" provides practical tips on researching and preparing winning grant proposals.
 - "Directory of Grant Funding Sources for California Park and Recreation Providers" helps providers identify grant programs that might fund their projects.
 - "Sure Ways to Get Your Grants...And Other Words of Advice" includes tips on researching and preparing a successful grant application.These publications and others are available at <http://www.parks.ca.gov/PARTS>.
- The Office of Grants and Local Services provides technical assistance through grant writing workshops due to the increase in requests from local agencies for technical assistance regarding reduced service levels and park closures at parks funded through LWCF assistance and park bond acts.
- Progress on this issue was made following passage of three voter-approved bond measures.

- The "California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002" provided \$2.6 billion in bond funds for projects and grants for neighborhood parks, outdoor recreation, protection of wildlife habitat, open space, rangeland, clean beaches, water quality and watershed protection and restoration, air pollution projects and preservation of cultural and historical resources.
- The "Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002" provided \$3.44 billion in bond funds for projects and grants to secure and safeguard the state's water supply; provide river parkways; restore and protect coastal wetlands, watersheds; and Bay-Delta habitat.
- The "Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006" provides \$5.4 billion in bond funds for projects relating water supply, flood control, waterway and natural resource protection, water pollution, state and local park improvements and public access to natural resources.

Specific Actions to Address this Financing Issue

Most of the actions related to this issue are suitable for LWCF planning grant assistance but some need to be addressed by other means than through the LWCF. The actions below could be accomplished through the LWCF include:

1. Identify funding sources:
 - Assess the distribution of funds for rural and urban recreation, identifying potential inequities and unmet needs.
 - Assess the feasibility of a professionally managed statewide endowment for acquisition, capital outlay and extraordinary maintenance.
 - Explore the feasibility of alternative, long-term and sustainable funding sources for parks and recreation.

These actions are not as consistent with the selection criteria for LWCF projects or planning grants:

1. Provide technical assistance:
 - Coordinate statewide technical assistance on seeking, identifying, applying for and managing public and private grants.
 - Develop a standard application for recreation acquisition and development grant programs.
2. Identify local grant and grant-writing resources, including private grant providers and universities.
3. Establish more park foundations for fund raising.
4. Provide hands-on training for park grant seekers, through conference sessions, workshops or online tutorials.

6. Need for Increasing the Status of Parks and Recreation

Summary of this Issue

Public parks and outdoor recreation opportunities are not considered as vitally important as other public services, such as law enforcement or transportation, and so do not compete well for scarce funding during economic downturns. It is only when users are made aware of threatened or pending reductions in use or access that parks and recreation are given a higher fiscal and political priority, such as when State Parks' status was recently elevated due to the threat to close 48 parks. This threat generated a significant response from the public which resulted in the parks remaining open. Achieving fiscally and physically sustainable parks and recreation areas, facilities, programs and services requires developing and maintaining long-term political and public relationships and marketing. These connections will help build stable funding sources and protect parks and recreation from the effects of a fluctuating economy and public apathy.

Improving the status of parks and recreation requires increasing public and political awareness of the role that parks and recreation plays in reducing crime, encouraging healthy lifestyles, involving communities, improving education and developing the economy. There is a lack of widely available, quantifiable and reliable information on the benefits associated with parks and recreation. This information is also not easily accessible to recreation providers, the public, to policy makers, advocacy groups and to public officials for use in marketing and promotional efforts.

Other key points included in this issue are:

- Park and recreation providers must advocate for themselves as effectively as do other public service providers, such as fire and police organizations, and do not compete well against these other public services.
- More attention needs to be focused on parks and recreation in city and county general plans.
- The aspects of the parks and recreation field that are most valued by the public need to be emphasized, marketed and promoted.
- Park and recreation providers need to be actively involved in political processes.
- Legislative action and advocacy efforts that benefit parks and recreation providers must be expanded.

Examples of Progress on the Actions for this Issue Since 2002

Progress made toward addressing this issue was both reported during the public participation process and is on-going. Some examples include:

- Many recreation providers prepare an annual or bi-annual report publicizing their accomplishments.
- The California Water Plan links recreation areas, facilities and uses to land use, water quality and flood management planning efforts. Its Integrated

Regional Management Strategies are also required to consider water dependent recreation within any of their planning efforts.

- State Parks has received LWCF assistance for a Study of the Economic Value of Outdoor Recreation in California. As far back as 1993, the CORP has noted that many public officials do not appreciate the positive financial effect that parks and recreation can have on the economies of their communities. This report will provide readily accessible and quantifiable measures of the financial impact that parks and recreation can have on state and local economies.

Specific Actions to Address this Status Issue

Fewer actions related to this issue are suitable for LWCF assistance. Some are consistent with planning grant selection criteria but most would need to be addressed by other means than through the LWCF. The actions below could be accomplished through the LWCF:

1. Conduct research, surveys and analysis to provide key information:
 - Research, quantify and publicize the relationship between recreation opportunities and reductions in community crime levels.
 - Identify those elements of the park and recreation field most valued by the public and make the findings available and accessible to the public, recreation providers, policy makers, advocacy groups and public officials.
2. Expand recreation planning:
 - Assess how cities and counties address recreation in their general plans and evaluate if legislation is needed to amend the Government Code 65302 section that lists the required general plan elements.
 - Link recreation areas, facilities and uses to land-use, water quality and flood-control planning efforts.

These actions are not as applicable to the selection criteria for the LWCF projects or planning grants:

1. Increase advocacy and legislation that supports park and recreation services.
2. Expand the membership and efforts of the California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks and Tourism to increase its focus on legislative action and advocacy.
3. Increase outreach to non-government organizations, including private businesses, non-profit and professional organizations. Form community partnerships.
4. Stimulate community support of parks and recreation through increased involvement of park and recreation providers in the communities.

7. The Need for Statewide Leadership in Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Summary of this Issue

Leadership and cooperation among participants in the outdoor recreation delivery system is fragmented and uncoordinated. The need for better communication and a centralized clearinghouse for parks and recreation information was emphasized in the prior CORP and brought up again during the most recent public involvement process. Parks and recreation research and data gathering efforts are often fragmented and the statewide parks and recreation research activities are not well coordinated. Clear and consistent statewide leadership, a universally accepted statewide vision and a consistent message supportive of parks and recreation is needed to build connections and consolidate support and advocacy efforts among parks and recreation providers statewide.

This issue involves leadership to connect park and recreation providers statewide to leverage knowledge, resources and understanding. This will help lead park and recreation providers in working effectively together to provide consistent and coordinated statewide facilities, programs and services to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse pool of current and potential park and recreation participants.

Other key points included in this issue are:

- There are insufficient incentives for local park and recreation providers to cooperate on regional or statewide park and recreation issues.
- Statewide master planning goals need to be better coordinated with those of local parks and recreation providers.
- There is a lack of creative partnerships to help expand the capabilities of existing providers and meet future park and recreation needs.
- A culture of innovation is needed to bring in outside influences and engender new ideas.

Examples of Progress on the Actions for this Issue Since 2002

- “California’s Recreation Policy” provides a direction for addressing the recreation needs of Californians and encompasses the entire range of recreation and park providers.
- State Parks provides assistance for park and recreation providers through its website and at workshops, on a wide range of subjects, including surveys, guidebooks, articles and studies on current trends and their implications for providers.
- State Parks has long offered a series of hands-on trail building workshops for park and recreation providers statewide. Participants attend three week-long outdoor workshops learning and practicing trail design, construction, maintenance and repair techniques while contributing real improvements to existing hiking, biking or equestrian trails.
- State Parks’ “Innovative Practices: Case Studies” provide a compendium of innovative solutions and ideas submitted by park and recreation professionals.

Specific Actions to Address this Leadership Issue

Several of the actions assigned to this issue when it appeared in the prior CORP are still relevant and necessary. Those listed below are potentially eligible for LWCF assistance:

1. Research, data gathering and information distribution:
 - Create a web clearinghouse available to parks and recreation providers and others, with links to park and recreation research, case studies, examples of park and recreation programs and projects and other information about improving outdoor recreation services.
 - Complete and distribute the State Parks' handbook of best practices in trail design and management.

The actions listed below do not closely fit the LWCF project selection criteria and would probably need to be addressed using other means:

1. Establish a statewide leadership academy to identify and mentor future leaders in the parks and recreation field. Enlist support and participation from local, state, federal and non-profit park and recreation providers, universities with accredited recreation programs and the affected business sector.
2. Conduct a workshop for park providers through the California Park and Recreation Society's Vision Insight Planning (VIP) to share information statewide, achieve a better understanding of the VIP goals and to consider adopting relevant VIP project components.
3. Conduct an ongoing summit on Statewide Leadership in Parks and Outdoor Recreation, such as the regional summit that Los Angeles has been conducting regularly.

8. The Need for Workforce Development and Succession Planning

Summary of this Issue

Parks and recreation departments and agencies are losing many of their professionals to retirement and the resulting vacancies are often left unfilled. There has been a lack of succession planning in advance of the expected Baby Boomer retirements. Although numerous candidates apply for entry-level parks and recreation positions, there is a gap in mid-level parks and recreation management and a declining applicant pool for these positions. College graduates entering the profession often lack the necessary practical experience or relevant coursework.

Parks and recreation tends to be a major that school students discover after they start college, rather than one they become interested in and select before entering college. Parks and recreation providers should develop outreach

relationships with junior high and high schools to build earlier student interest in the parks and recreation field. There is also a lack of outreach and recruiting on college and university campuses. Partnerships between existing college programs and park and recreation providers are needed to provide students with work-related skills more closely aligned with current park and recreation industry needs. The networking opportunities available through these partnerships will also help ensure that students are ready to work in the field after graduation.

A key to embracing the diversity of park and recreation users in California is building a workforce reflective of this diversity. A diverse workforce can better understand the needs of the public, create a more welcoming feeling for the diversity of parks and recreation users and can provide meaningful recreational opportunities for young people from all backgrounds.

Other key points included in this issue are:

- Within some public parks and recreation agencies, the hiring process is lengthy, arduous and inadvertently screens out otherwise qualified candidates.
- Parks and recreation internships are many times too short and/or do not have enough meaningful work to provide entry-level candidates with the experience necessary to understand the departmental purpose, focus and organizational structure and what it takes to manage, complete and maintain projects. Internships could include working with boards and city councils or helping develop and manage recreational programs.
- There are no doctoral programs for parks and recreation majors anywhere in California. The closest PhD programs in parks/sports/recreation/leisure/fitness are offered in Utah.
- Greater coordination is needed between parks and recreation agencies and universities to ensure graduating students have the appropriate core workforce competencies.
- Summer work programs and park program participation need to be more actively developed and promoted.
- Parks and recreation provider organizations need to provide more career development plans.

Examples of Progress on the Actions for this Issue Since 2002

- San Diego State University (SDSU) has a partnership between the Recreation, Parks and Tourism Management Department and the SDSU Aztec Adventures Outdoor Program. Classes are offered in wilderness appreciation and philosophy and the Aztec Adventures partnership provides outdoor classroom programs. The partnership and the indoor/outdoor programs increase the numbers of students interested in parks and recreation.
- One city developed a Youth Master Plan that includes internships with the local colleges.

- Another parks and recreation provider organization recruits young volunteers and employees by offering special employee classifications to participants of their youth programs. Some of these youth attended council meetings on their own, started volunteering at age 13 and some have gone on to graduate in parks and recreation.
- One California Police Activities League recruits State University students through the AmeriCorps programs.

Specific Actions to Address this Workforce Issue

All of the actions suggested for addressing this issue are unlikely to fit the LWCF project selection criteria:

1. Increase workforce diversity:
 - Provide diversity training to recreation providers to improve their ability to relate to a wide diversity of users.
 - Streamline and diversify the hiring and recruitment process.
 - Revise job specifications and minimum qualifications; hire candidates graduating with degrees outside the field of parks and recreation, bringing in other disciplines to broaden the profession.
2. Improve recruitment efforts:
 - Provide more recreation internships for college, junior high and high school students.
 - Make internships, work-study or hands-on experience required for a degree in the parks and recreation field. This could include involvement with city commissions or park planning projects.
 - Recruit interest in the field through volunteer programs.
 - Increase recreation opportunities on campus and in junior high and high schools and offer “credit” options.
 - Leverage campus opportunities to link recreation with curriculum.
 - Establish a parks and recreation PhD program in the California State University and University of California systems.