

THE STATE PARK SYSTEM PLAN 2002

Part I: A System For the Future

California's population growth, rich diversity, and shifting preferences are challenging the State Park System.





For more information or additional copies contact:

California State Parks
Planning Division
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

(916) 653-9901, FAX (916) 653-4458

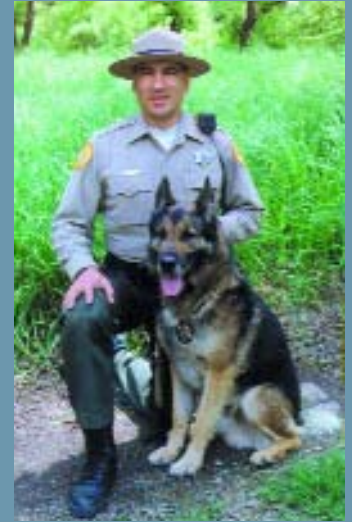
California State Parks does not discriminate against people with disabilities.

To use the California Relay Service with TTY, call (888) 877-5378 or, without TTY, call (888) 877-5379. This publication is available in alternate formats by contacting the Planning Division at (916) 653-9901 or visit www.parks.ca.gov.

© 2002 by California State Parks. All rights reserved.
Printed in Sacramento, California



Printed on recycled paper



A SYSTEM FOR THE FUTURE

California's State Park System faces a challenging future as use and demand continue to grow. The California Department of Parks and Recreation remains committed to providing adequate access to parks to meet the needs of the state's growing population.



Pt. Cabrillo Lightgouse

Rapid growth throughout California is putting unprecedented demands on the system.

Over the last few decades, California has changed in dramatic ways – in population size and diversity, and in the interests and needs of individual Californians. This poses three major challenges for the Department:

- The state’s population grew 25 percent between 1987 and 2002, but visitation to state parks increased more than 50 percent in the same time period. Attendance is now at record levels. Last year, about 85 million people visited California state parks.
- California’s state parks are the most heavily visited of any state park system in the nation. Some facilities are at capacity. Coastal beaches and campgrounds, for example, are the most heavily used state parks. Coastal campgrounds are filled to capacity and turn people away throughout the year. Demand is so high that if the Department were to add 325 camp sites a year, it would not keep up with requests.



Crystal Cove SP

Type of Facility	2002 Inventory	Minimum needed by 2020
Campsites	13,500	20,000
Picnic sites	16,000	25,000
Trails	3,000 miles	4,000 miles

- The pace of development needed to accommodate population growth sometimes conflicts with efforts to preserve the state's cultural and historical legacy, and it threatens to consume the open space and natural resources that will be needed for parks in the future. The responsibility of preserving California's resources can not be understated. The state has been named one of the top 25 biological hot spots in the world, important because of the quantity of native plants and animals and the imminent threat of habitat loss to those species. The State Park System manages a significant portion of California's protected natural resources. For instance, more than half of all remaining old growth coastal redwoods in California are on state park property.

A shift in use and recreation preferences means the Department must provide more services.

- Californians are now choosing to vacation in-state. Home-grown tourism is up and California's State Park System has seen growth in attendance since the events of Sept. 11, 2001.
- Demographic changes create new needs. The state's demographic mix has shifted to a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, no-majority population. This population not only is highly diverse, it also includes a growing senior population and under-served urban populations in some parts of the state. The Department seeks to provide appropriate services and facilities not just for more people, but for people with changing needs and interests.

Increase in demand creates new challenges in fulfilling the mission of the State Park System and serving the needs of the people of the state.

- The Department is challenged to

create more places for people to go, secure more land for future generations, continue to preserve the most salient examples of California's culture and history, and then make these places available, accessible to all visitors, and safe.

- This requires an adequate corps of skilled and trained historians, ecologists, archaeologists, rangers, lifeguards, designers, engineers, maintenance crews, as well as funding. In the last 15 years, while attendance has increased more than 53 percent and acreage has grown more than 14 percent, funding for basic programs has increased by only 5.4 percent, and staffing has grown less than 8 percent. The resources are stretched very thinly. On a peak day, there now is only one state park peace officer for every 1,300 visitors. This has an impact on the Department's ability to protect not only the parks, but also to ensure the safety of the park's visitors.

The work ahead will be demanding, and it requires support. Real, tangible and sometimes fragile resources must be protected, preserved, and maintained. A realistic assessment of changes and trends today will help us predict and accommodate change for decades to come. The preservation of habitats and species as well as California's history, and the maintenance of these special places, demands a broad view and a long term commitment. Responsible management requires that the Department plan for the future while addressing the reality of resources, uses, and demands today.

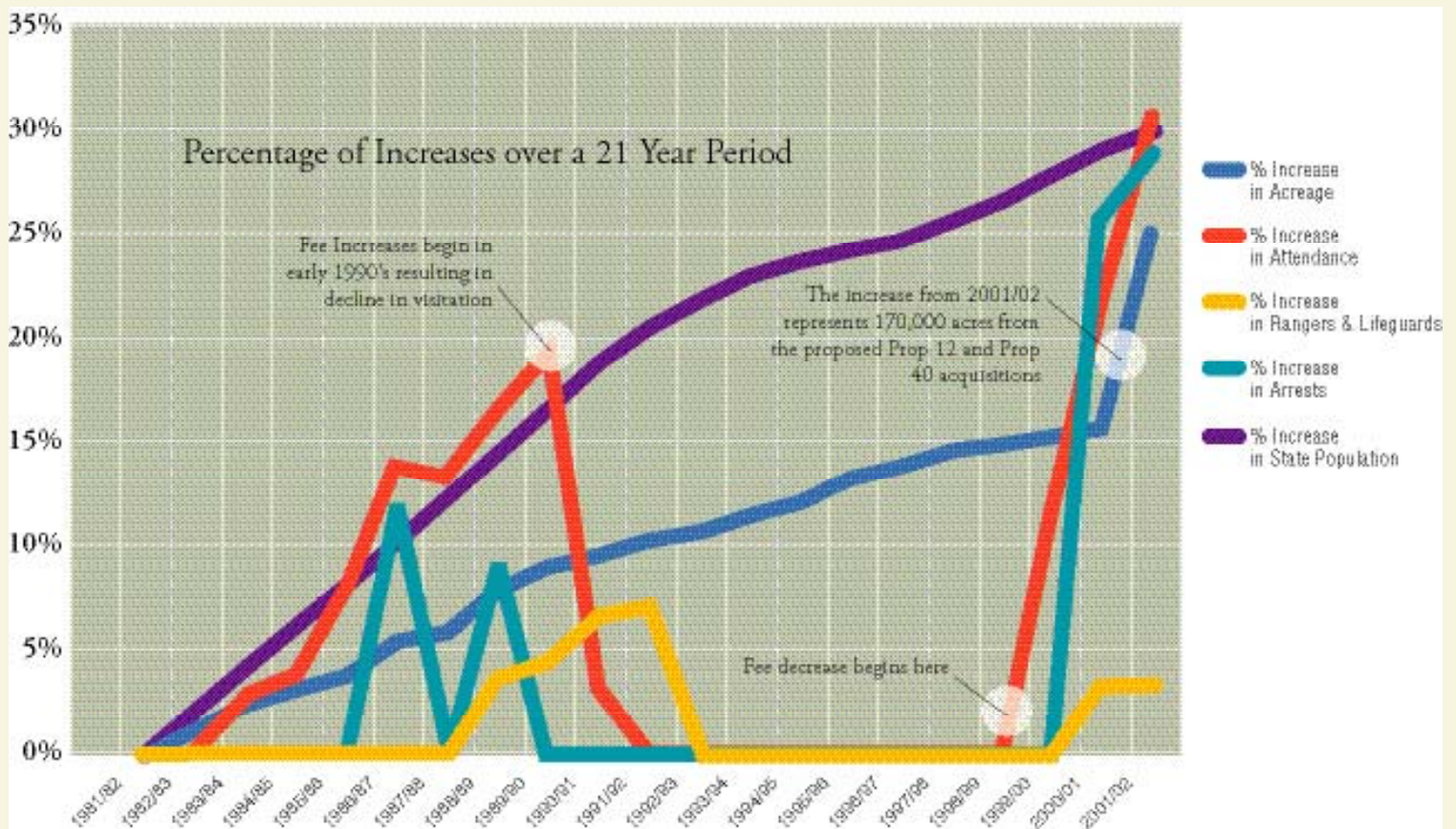
Despite these challenges, the State Park System's path to the future already is filled with milestones. During the 1990s, the Department streamlined its programs, decentralized authority, and adopted performance-based budgeting as a means of managing performance. In 1999, Governor Gray

Davis dedicated \$157 million, a record level of funds, to reduce a deferred maintenance backlog greater than \$700 million in the State Park System.

In 2000, Californians passed Proposition 12, a \$2.1 billion bond act for parks and open space. More recently, with support from the Governor, Californians demonstrated support for parks by overwhelmingly passing the largest state park bond in the nation's history, the \$2.6 billion Proposition 40, to support California's critical need for parks and recreation services. Out of the \$4.7 billion in these two bond acts, \$775 million

As part of the planning process, the Department has created two separate documents. This document lays out the nature of change and the challenges the system is facing from changes in population, park usage, user interests, and other trends. The Department then examines the implications of those factors and forces on the State park System. Part II of the State Park System Plan 2002, "Initiatives for Action," outlines steps that must be undertaken in the core program areas to keep pace with the changes outlined here. "Initiatives for Action" is of particular value to internal audiences.

Comparison Between % Increase in Attendance, Acreage, Rangers/Lifeguards, Arrests and State Population for California State Parks



*2001/02 - Projections based on current data and program lists



was allocated to the State Park System – 16.5 percent.

The Governor also cut park fees in half in 2000. Park fee increases instituted in the early 1990s had resulted in a 20 percent decline in visitation. Californians responded immediately to this enhanced access. In less than three years, attendance increased 25 percent.

In coming years the Department of Parks and Recreation seeks to build upon these improvements and evolve

into a system that:

- provides future generations with a system of state parks that protects and perpetuates the state’s magnificent natural bounty and beauty,
- connects past, present, and future generations to the persons, places, and events that make up California’s rich cultural heritage,
- provides opportunities to renew the mind, body, and spirit in healthful outdoor settings,

- fosters continuing pride in both the legacy and promise of the Golden State.

This vision helps guide the Department, but it is the mission that drives the Department forward:

The Mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state’s extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.



Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve

To realize this mission, the California Department of Parks and Recreation must work diligently over the next decade to accommodate dramatic changes so that the State Park System can continue to:

- Serve all the people of California,
- Provide local, regional, and statewide access to a variety of park resources,
- Preserve and present the history and many cultures of California,
- Respond to needs for both traditional and new forms of recreation,
- Protect park lands, and also restore natural systems through ongoing stewardship as well as through acquisitions,
- Maintain existing facilities, and
- Develop new facilities to accommodate increasing demand.

To accomplish these goals, the State Park System needs dependable funding mechanisms to continue critical programs during times of fiscal crisis, and adequate numbers of rangers, lifeguards, and other specialists to preserve and protect California's outstanding resources.

Note: In creating this analysis, the Department sought the best available data for a realistic look back and look forward to assess trends. Because of the volatility of social and economic factors in the last decade, the Department chose, wherever possible, a 15-year benchmark to 1987 to create a clearer picture of trends. Census data, because of its method of collection, is given for 1990 and 2000.



State Parks Create Jobs and Income

*Impact On Local Economies: July 2001-June 2002**

\$ 2.60 billion	Visitor spending in local communities generated by state parks in four general categories: lodging, prepared food, supplies and gas, and recreation activities and services.
\$ 6.65 billion	Total output and additional sales by businesses in local communities resulting from visitation to state parks. This shows how each dollar spent in the local community is re-spent and re-circulated on other goods and services within the community.
\$ 89.3 million	Gross sales and rentals for independently run concessions affiliated with state parks.
100,000	Jobs supported directly and indirectly. This figure is the full-time equivalent jobs supported by visitor expenditures within the local community.
Quality of Life	An important consideration for companies seeking to attract high-quality employees, and therefore an important factor for communities seeking to attract new industry.

**Additional dollars return to the state from sales tax, room tax, and other fees based on these services. Income tax dollars return to the state from the 100,000 local jobs generated by state parks' visitation. These figures have not been calculated.*



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Border Field SP

A System for the Future	i
The System Today	3
<i>An Overview of the State Park System and Its 273 Components</i>	
Challenges and Trends	5
Robust Population Growth	5
Demographic Shifts Predict New Needs	6
Californians’ Interests and Preferences Are Shifting	7
Pressures on Resources and Services	14
The Impact of Higher Visitation on Parks	17
Access for Disabled Californians	19
Increased Visitation Places Demands on Public Safety Program	19
Implications of Diversity on the State Park System and Planning for the Future ..	20
Another Trend – Income Inequality	21
Fulfilling the Mission of the State Park System	23
Managing Resources for Future Generations	24
Providing More Outdoor Recreation Is a Challenge	28
Providing More Park Access to Urban Populations	31
Parks and Recreation Are Relevant to Individuals’ Lives	34
The Department Must Accelerate Its Programs to Develop Parklands	36
Public Access and Recreation Are Priorities	37
What Will Happen If The State Park System Can Not Meet Future Needs? ...	39
Conclusion	41
Acknowledgements & Photo Credits	44



THE SYSTEM TODAY



Indian Grinding Rock SHP

California's state parks encompass the state's scenic, cultural, recreational, and environmental diversity for Californians to experience and enjoy. The State Park System is described in superlatives. The beauty of California's natural features are world renowned, from the sunny beaches and peaceful desert landscapes to the majestic redwood forests and tranquil Lake Tahoe shore.

Scenic beauty is just one aspect of the system. The opportunities for discovery are extraordinary. Visitors can explore the state's history from pre-contact through Spanish, Mexican, and modern eras, and discover the richness of 12,000 years of human history in ancient Native American villages and trade routes, restored missions, ruins of doghole ports and shipwrecks, mines, logging camps, ranchos, and ranches. Through scrupulous preservation and restoration, today's visitors can step through time to experience life as it was during the Victorian era at Stanford Mansion, the 1930s at Hearst Castle, the frenzy of the Gold Rush, or in the notorious old west at Bodie or colonial Mexico in Monterey.

California's Department of Parks and Recreation is charged with the responsibility of managing this richly complex network of 273 parks. The State Park System is the most ecologically diverse system of protected

lands in the state. Within the system are a remarkable array of geologic features, plus 65 percent of the 235 terrestrial habitat types in California.

A major responsibility of the Department of Parks and Recreation is to showcase and preserve California's remarkable biodiversity. The State Park System contains 98 percent of the state's wilderness system and 60 percent of its old growth coastal redwoods. And although one third of state and federally-listed threatened and endangered species are found in the State Park System, the Department's goal is to prevent more species from joining those lists.

Responsible management of these resources means grappling with tough issues, new demands, and old headaches so that the Department can meet the mandate to serve Californians today and in the future.



From Crime-Busting to Canoe-Touring

It Really Is All In A Day's Work

Ranger Kevin Joe gets animated when he talks about kids. It's 8:00 at night and Kevin is sitting in his tiny office in the back of the Greenwood State Beach Visitor Center on the Mendocino Coast, chuckling about using a little boy for a demonstration at a campfire program. Radio static interrupts his tale. The scratchy voice at the other end of the radio belongs to Kevin's sole park aide. Once there were two aides, but that was before the last round of budget cuts.

The park aide has spotted illegal campers on the beach. He's going to try to encourage them to leave. The radio goes silent and Kevin brightens again, this time talking about the innovative canoe tour program he created when the State Park System acquired Navarro Beach in 1995. The park was too windy for campfire programs and the terrain was too rough for nature walks. Then Kevin saw possibilities in the gently moving Navarro River. Canoes would be perfect for an interpretive program. But there was no money.

Kevin talked to people. The local homeowners' group pitched in. So did a grocery store owner. More donations came in. Soon he had the trailer, five canoes, paddles, lifejackets, and other equipment. It was all used, but usable.

Since 1995 he has taken more than 1,500 visitors from 6 to 85 years old up the river in the canoes. He's taken campers, a wedding party, Girl Scouts, inner-city school kids, and senior citizens. People get exercise, learn skills, watch osprey and pelicans, get excited about the river otters. In the middle of the trip Kevin pulls out old photographs of the turn of the century town and lumber mill operation that was along the banks of the river. He talks about the history and impact of the operation and points out the visible remnants.

"It's a really nice program that fits into our mission to educate and provide high-quality recreational opportunities," he beams.

The radio crackles again. The illegal campers won't leave, so now Ranger Kevin needs to respond. He's an armed peace officer, trained in first aid, search and rescue, fire fighting, and law enforcement. Once on the scene, the situation becomes more complicated with underaged drinkers, drugs, and no one with a valid driver's

license to get them and their car out of the park. A citation and a few phone calls to find a responsible adult to retrieve the campers wraps up the situation, and Kevin's back in the historic building, setting a trap to catch the mice that threaten to nibble on the artifacts he needs to catalogue.

"I didn't think I was going to go into a law-enforcement career when I became a ranger," he says. That was 16 years ago. "Parks are like small cities; the same things happen to people here as everywhere else," he explains. "Each year I'll write 50-75 tickets and occasionally I have to make the hour-and-a-half drive to the county jail. A ranger does everything--law enforcement, interpretation, search and rescue, first aid, campground registration, visitor center staffing, work with docents, volunteers, and seasonal staff. You shift modes all day long."

And all night, too. The radio crackles yet again....

CHALLENGES AND TRENDS



Because the mission of the State Park System is to serve the people of California, it is essential to heed changes in the state's population and demographics and incorporate trends and changes in California's populace into parks planning and design. One of the greatest challenges affecting park planning and implementation is the enormous number of new Californians.

Urbanized Counties

Persons per square mile

San Francisco	16,526
Orange.	3,607
Los Angeles.	2,344
Alameda	1,956
San Mateo	1,575
Contra Costa	1,318
Santa Clara	1,303
Sacramento	

Robust Population Growth

Fueled by natural increase and migration, California's population grew 13.8 percent during the 1990s – an increase of more than 4 million people from 29.7 to 33.8 million. This robust pace of growth is expected to continue. The population projection for 2020 is 45 million Californians.

Urbanization means greater population densities

Most of California's population growth has been in its major metropolitan areas – Los Angeles, San Diego, and the San Francisco Bay Area. California now has 58 cities with populations exceeding 100,000, and 15 cities with populations exceeding 200,000. Cities are getting larger, and urban density is

increasing, consuming the open spaces and disconnecting the state's biological resources. California is now the second most urbanized state in the nation. In 2000, California had 217 persons per square mile compared to the US average of 79. In 2020, California will have 291 persons per square mile.

These figures do not give hints of urban densities, nor per-square-mile density of urbanized counties. The ultimate urbanized county is San Francisco, which is both city and county and contains 16,526 persons per square mile. Eight of California's 58 counties have densities greater than 1,000 persons per square mile. Even counties rich in protected natural resources can be densely populated. Santa Cruz County, for example, has 575 persons per square mile, but also is home to:

- Big Basin Redwoods State Park
- Forest of Nisene Marks State Park
- Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park
- Castle Rock State Park
- Wilder Ranch State Park
- Natural Bridges State Park
- And seven state park beaches

Population Growth 1990-1999

Sierra Foothills

Placer County	43.8%
Mariposa County	29.8%
Calaveras County	26.7%
El Dorado County	24.1%

Inland Empire

Riverside County	32.0%
San Bernardino County	20.5%

Intra-state relocation shifts demand into new areas

Many Californians are moving away from high-cost, high-density regions to the inland valleys. The Sierra Foothills are seeing the greatest percentage of growth in the state, and 12 of the counties in the Central Valley each grew more than 17 percent in the 1990s. In the Inland Empire, Riverside County grew 32 percent and San Bernardino County grew more than 20 percent in the 1990s.



Butano SP

Demographic Shifts Predict New Needs

Diversity

According to U.S. Census 2000 data, Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander populations accounted for 61 percent and 27 percent, respectively, of California's growth in the last decade. Census data also reveal that the Hispanic population growth was driven mostly by natural increase, while Asian/Pacific Islander population increased mostly from migration.

Between 2000 and 2020, California's population is projected to grow by 31 percent. California's population of European descent will have grown only 4 percent, while the Hispanic population will have grown 58 percent, and the

Asian/Pacific Islander population will have grown 55 percent. The African American population will have grown 20 percent, and the American Indian population will have grown 29 percent.

California's population mix will have shifted even more by 2030, when Hispanics will be the largest demographic group, comprising 43 percent of the state's population.

Baby Boom and Baby Bounce

Nearly one third of the state's population is between 35 and 55 years of age. In 20 years, this group, which encompasses the Baby Boom generation, will be active seniors 55 to 75 years old. That is twice the size of



the current 55-75 population. With life expectancy and health increasing, researchers predict that tomorrow's seniors will be more active, and they will stay active as senior citizens for a longer period of life than previous generations.

At the other end of the spectrum are the 27.3 percent of Californians under 18 years of age. This is the so-called "Baby Bounce." In the 1980s, according to the California Department of Finance, while the nation's birth rates were flat, the birth rates in California rose sharply.



Californians' Interests and Preferences Are Shifting

As the stress of jobs, traffic, and urban noise increases, so does the need to escape. Traditionally, people have "escaped" to parks, and more so in difficult economic times when affordable recreation and vacations are a priority to Californians.

California State Parks are the most heavily visited of any state park system in the nation. In fact, the visitation levels at California state parks is equal to 25 to 30 percent of visitation throughout the entire National Park System. According to the California Office of Tourism, state parks are a vital component of California's tourism and hospitality industry. As such, they are a significant part of the state's economy, for they create jobs and income. In the wake of September 11, 2001, tourism was expected to decrease, but the result has been the opposite, and visitation to California's state parks is now at record levels.

Attendance data show that nearly 86 percent of state park visitors live in the state. Californians are choosing to travel more within the state, and more by car to popular in-state destinations such

as Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, Bolsa Chica State Beach, and Folsom Lake State Recreation Area.

More Interest In and More Use Of State Parks

Park use today is more than 50 percent higher than use 15 years ago. While Californians still use parks as an outlet and relaxing escape, their interests are expanding, suggesting new needs to fill.



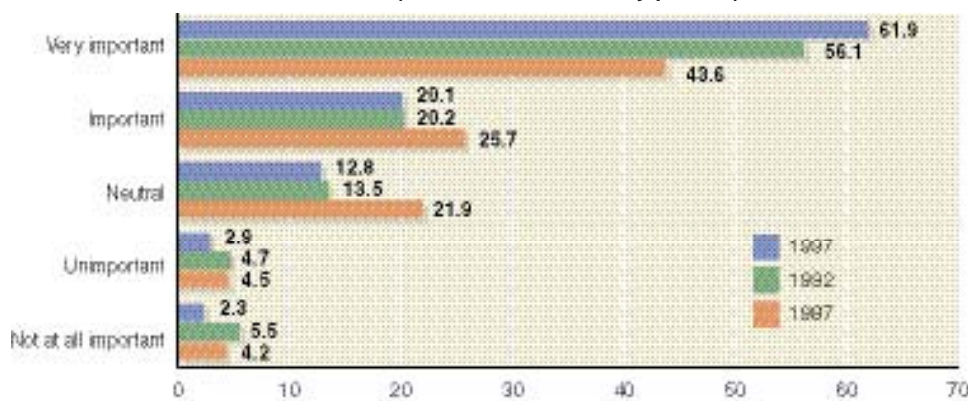
Attendance and Public Opinion Research Show Heightened Interest in the Outdoors for Recreation

Being in the outdoors is a value so fundamental that 98 percent of Californians feel that being in the outdoors is an important part of the enjoyment of their most favorite activities. Californians also say the outdoors is essential to their general quality of life. More than 80 percent of

the respondents in the study on “Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California 1997” say outdoor recreation is important to their quality of life. The number of Californians who felt outdoor recreation was *very important* to their quality of life jumped from 43.6 percent in 1987 to 61.9 percent in 1997, when the last public opinion poll was conducted.

Most Visited Parks Feature Water

Outdoor Recreation Importance to Quality of Life (1987, 1992, and 1997 by percent)



Source: CIC Research, Inc. 1997



Turlock Lake SRA

Of the most visited state parks, 19 out of 20 feature water: 13 beaches, two lakes, and four with ocean access or ocean views. About 80 percent of state park use is aquatic-based. Many individual units within the State Park System have a water resource, whether it is a lake, river, creek, waterfall, pond, or the ocean.

State beaches continue to be the most visited state park resources, as the table above outlines. There are 64 beaches in the State Park System; 17 of those are operated by local agencies. In 2001-02, attendance at state-operated beaches was nearly 40 million visits. All coastal parks, including state beaches, parks, and reserves, received more than half of the system's use. The State Park System is responsible for almost one-fourth of California's scenic coastline.



Top 20 State Parks Operated by the Department of Parks and Recreation*

Rank	Attraction	2001-02 Visitation
1	Huntington State Beach	3,661,980
2	San Onofre State Beach	2,784,653
3	Seacliff State Beach	2,530,999
4	Sonoma Coast State Beach	2,364,421
5	Bolsa Chica State Beach	2,082,261
6	Folsom Lake State Recreation Area	1,839,231
7	New Brighton State Beach	1,602,834
8	MacKerricher State Park	1,528,530
9	Mount Tamalpais State Park	1,523,823
10	Carlsbad State Beach	1,460,750
11	Monterey State Beach	1,405,410
12	Half Moon Bay State Beach	1,394,670
13	Doheny State Beach	1,383,688
14	South Carlsbad State Beach	1,382,452
15	Pismo State Beach	1,355,353
16	Oceano Dunes SVRA	1,289,219
17	Lake Perris SRA	1,266,082
18	Big Basin Redwoods State Park	1,266,082
19	Cardiff State Beach	1,189,445
20	Twin Lakes State Beach	1,172,838

*Excluding Old Town San Diego, which is a State Historic Park combined with entertainment, food, and retail businesses.

Most Visited Types of State Parks 2000-01

State Beaches	46.7%
State Recreation Areas	10.2%
State Parks	25.5%
State Historical Parks	14.8%
State Reserves	2.8%



Californians spent approximately 2.2 billion days participating in outdoor recreation activities during 1997. Traditional recreation remains popular among Californians, and as more Californians take advantage of the State Park System, there will be more demands for recreational facilities.

Generally, Californians tend to spend the most time participating in activities that are less expensive, require less equipment, and need fewer technical skills. The 1997 survey of public opinions and attitudes on outdoor recreation discovered that Californians' top 15 activities (by participation) were:

1. Walking (recreational)
2. Visiting museums, historic sites
3. Use of open grass or turf areas
4. Driving for pleasure
5. Beach activities
6. Visiting zoos and arboretums
7. Picnicking in developed sites
8. Trail hiking
9. Swimming in lakes, rivers, ocean
10. Attending outdoor cultural events
11. General nature wildlife study
12. Attending outdoor sports/events
13. Camping in developed sites
14. Swimming
15. Bicycling (on paved surfaces)

Nearly all these activities—things that Californians participate in most—take place in state parks.

Making the Water Safe

"People come to state beaches with the expectation that when they swim or dive, our lifeguards are capable of pulling them out of danger," says Dick DeBoer, a lifeguard/peace officer at Huntington State Beach, one of the busiest beaches in California.

"We hire the right people and give them the best training to make sure they understand what is at stake," he says.

What is at stake is people's lives. "We operate under the premise that the difference between the average everyday rescue and a tragic drowning is measured in seconds," DeBoer says. "There's a level of vigilance that we're proud of."

DeBoer says the lifeguard's role is to put the safety of the swimmer first, regardless of what else is happening on the beach or in the parking lot. With thousands of people on the beach and 1,000 people in the water, that's a lot of distraction.

"We train them to look for symptoms of somebody who needs help," DeBoer says. "People overestimate their personal ability and find themselves in strong currents or heavy surf. Sometimes people have heart attacks, strokes, seizures. They get thrown against rocks, come into contact with sting rays. Anything can happen."

Lifeguards have found lost children, delivered babies, rescued suicidal people who have swum to sea to drown, towed vessels off-shore, and more.

The "and more" includes incidents of domestic violence, serious injury, capsized boats, and a variety of illegal activities. Addressing these is the responsibility of the State Park System's 60 to 70 permanent lifeguards who are certified peace officers. The State Park System is one of only two public safety



agencies in the nation whose lifeguards carry this dual responsibility.

The permanent lifeguards must also maintain their skills in their specialties. That could include cliff rescue, underwater search and rescue, operating ocean rescue boats or personal watercrafts.

A couple of years ago lifeguards fought to get automated defibrillators in the rescue vehicles. Last summer a 37-year-old man suffered a massive heart attack while bodyboarding. Lifeguards used the defibrillator and saved his life.

Some lifeguards face even more challenging rescues. The State Park System has lifeguards in notoriously treacherous places such as the Russian River, Goat Rock, Monterey, Half Moon Bay. "These are places that have surf that can change in a moment's notice," says DeBoer. "People capsize in boats or come into danger when their vessel gets tumbled in the surf-zone and run ashore."

Of the last 20 medals of valor given by the United States Lifeguard Association, six were awarded to California's State Park System lifeguards in these more hazardous areas.

"We train and maintain the skills, experience, and edge to respond to just about any emergency that State Park visitors might find themselves in," DeBoer says.

Things Californians Do In the State Park System

- Bicycling
- Boating
- Camping
- Canoeing
- Discovering California history
- Exploring ancient villages
- Fishing
- Four-wheeling
- Gold panning
- Golfing
- Hang gliding, para-gliding
- Hiking
- Horseback riding
- Jet skiing
- Kayaking
- Kite flying
- Learning how diverse cultures lived
- Motorcycling
- Mountain biking
- Orienteering
- Picnicking
- Rafting
- Railroad excursions
- Rock climbing
- Rowing
- Running and jogging
- Sailing
- SCUBA diving
- Snow recreation
- Surfing
- Swimming in ponds, lakes, rivers and the ocean
- Viewing wildlife
- Walking on ancient trails
- Water skiing
- Wind surfing



The Greatest Latent Demand Is For Traditional Recreational Opportunities

Based on latent (unmet) demand and public support, Californians believe these outdoor recreational activities should have top priority for the expenditure of public funds.

1. Camping in developed sites
2. Trail hiking
3. General nature wildlife study
4. Visiting museums, historic sites
5. Walking (Recreational)
6. Picnicking in developed sites
7. Camping in primitive sites
8. Use of open grass or turf areas
9. Attending outdoor cultural events
10. Bicycling (on paved surfaces)

Camping: Enormous Demand and Unmet Need

One of the highest demands is for campsites. In 2001, the State Park reservation contractor handled 350,000 camping transactions. That is a 13.6 percent increase in the last three years. The volume of transactions does not reflect inquiries or the numbers of people turned away because campgrounds were full, nor does it reflect the numbers of campers. In 2001-02, camping attendance was 6.5 million.

Campsites in the State Park System

1968	1980	1990	2000
7,300	11,374	13,229	13,500

Camping has been a high-demand activity for decades. In 1967, 30 percent of the park system campsites were filled to capacity and overflowing more than half of the nights in June, July, and August. In 1981, 51 percent of campsites were filled to capacity and turning people away on more than half the nights in June, July, and August. In fiscal year 01/02 there were almost 6.5 million camping nights in the State Park System, and 67 percent were filled to capacity and turning people away in summer months.

Many State Park System campsites are full and now turn people away throughout the year, not just in peak season. The State Park System has been able to add very few campsites during the last ten years, and no coastal campsites. Demand is so high that if the State Park System were to add 325 camp sites a year, it would not keep up with requests.



Since the inception of the OHV program in 1971, the OHMVRD has been charged with the responsibility of maintaining and managing designated off-highway recreation areas to ensure continued long-term use consistent with good environmental practices. The division's biannual report, Taking the High Road, provides details about recent efforts to focus on reforms while creating an action plan to map the route of off-highway recreation management for the benefit of the public and the environment. For a copy call (916) 324-4442 or download the PDF from www.ohv.parks.ca.gov

Other preferences, favorites, shifts, and interests

Wildlife Viewing: One of the activities that continues to increase as a preference and as a trend is wildlife viewing. Bird watching is a favorite wildlife viewing activity, particularly in marshlands and state reserves, and the birds range from songbirds and ducks to eagles. State parks also offer opportunities for viewing tule elk, deer, otters, big horn sheep, and many other mammal species.

Nature study is gaining popularity and is a preference expressed in public opinion polling specifically by two very large future demographic groups: Hispanics and seniors. The State Park System can meet these preference trends by providing well-designed visitor centers, informative guided tours, educational trail signage, and other education and services. Facilities need to be designed to accommodate multi-generation groups, which also is a growing demand expressed in the public opinion polling.

High-risk sports and adventure: There is increasing interest in a broad range of greater-intensity activities such as rock climbing, mountain biking, jet-skiing, kite surfing, scuba diving, wilderness



backpacking, bungee jumping, and hang gliding. Research suggests that this demand is from a variety of age groups including the Baby Boom generation, which continues to hike, mountain bike, kayak, and engage in other physically active, resource-based recreation. These high-risk sports can place significant added strain on existing resources because of special requirements and compatibility issues with other activities or habitats.

Rapid growth of motorized recreation: Californians are taking up off-highway vehicle sports by the thousands every year. The Department, through its Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVRD), operates six state parks designated for

OHV recreation. The Division also administers a grant program to help a variety of agencies manage OHV use in California. This year the Division funded 122 grant requests to support OHV programs in 60 US Forest Service sites, 26 Bureau of Land Management facilities, 11 locally operated OHV parks, and 23 snowmobile groomed trail systems.

Demand for off-highway opportunities is mounting: Over the last five years, visits to State Vehicle Recreation Areas jumped more than 50 percent. Despite this interest and participation, access to many areas once used for OHV activities has been reduced. The pace



This Experience is the Closest We Can Get to Time Travel

Every artifact in the State Park System tells a story about people, the cultures they created, and the lives they lived 10 or 10,000 years ago.

"This experience is the closest we can get to time travel," says Kris Quist, museum curator for the Monterey District.

Through the varied sites and artifacts, visitors can gain a deeper understanding of the emotions and values of the people who came before them, the times they lived in, what they endured, and what they achieved.

Artifacts in the State Park System range from ancient hand crafts to exquisite art objects. But artifacts encompass much more—archaeological and ethnographic collections, clothing, household items, architectural features, even entire homes. The State Park System also has collector's collections, entire holdings that reveal an individual's tastes, interests, and place in time.

Quist oversees the collections in 15 different historic properties. He doesn't see them as separate, but rather different galleries of one, large museum—the State Park System.

"These artifacts are art for themselves," Quist says, "and they're also where we touch our culture, our human cultural experience." They are points of contact, each having a different meaning to each visitor.

"Through them we can reach out and touch their creators," Quist believes.

Their authenticity is their deepest value. These artifacts in their true settings, Quist says, create a sense of place.

"Objects help in telling the story of California's dynamic cultural history," he says. "People want to step back into the real place and soak up as much of the authentic experience as possible. The State Park System provides that countless times a day for visitors from all over the state"

"You need these things to be accessible so we understand who we are as one human race," Quist adds.



California State Parks is the caretaker of 1,445 historical structures, 63 museums and visitor centers, 6,800 documented archeological sites, and an estimated 4.5 million artifacts.

at which the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division has been able to pursue acquisitions has not kept up with the growth in the sport. Although the Division has been able to add small pieces to existing State Vehicle Recreation Areas, these minor acquisitions do not meet the growing need for additional SVRA opportunities near existing and future urban areas.

Cultural Resources Fascinate Californians

The State Park System owns some of the most significant historic, cultural, and archaeological sites, artifacts, and structures in California. The system contains the largest and most diverse natural and cultural heritage holdings of any state agency in the nation.

Interest in California's historical holdings has blossomed in recent years. In the 2000-2001 season, nearly 15 percent of all state park visitors went to a State Historic Park. In the last three public opinion surveys (taken at five-year intervals), visiting historic sites and buildings has been one of the fastest rising activity preferences.

The system's cultural holdings, which show the richness, diversity, and

antiquity of California's human history, are often an integral part of the natural resource holdings, from wrecked lumber barges in the underwater park at Emerald Bay State Park to a Yurok Indian Village at Patrick's Point State Park. A 6,000 year-old Native American village overlooks Tijuana Slough, a wetlands which once sustained an entire community, and which is now undergoing restoration.



Respondents in the Department's 2002 poll of public attitudes, opinions, and use of California parklands said they felt it was important to protect and preserve historical and cultural sites, yet the Department's role as keeper of significant historical and cultural resources is perhaps the least recognized by the general public.



Weaverville Joss House SHP

State parks have long been used by community groups for commemorative events and community festivals. They also are places to celebrate cultural unity through events such as:

- Native American Culture Day, Anderson Marsh State Historic Park (SHP)
- Una Pastorela, El Presidio de Santa Barbara SHP
- Chaw'se, Indian Grinding Rock SHP
- Juneteenth, Allensworth SHP
- Daily Taoist worship, Weaverville Joss House SHP
- Cinco de Mayo, Old Town San Diego SHP
- Hispanic Heritage Festival, Salton Sea State Recreation Area
- Honored Elders Day, State Indian Museum SHP
- Christmas in the Adobes, Monterey SHP

California's State Historic Parks are heavily visited by school children as they are studying California history. That trend will continue, but as the diversity of California's school-age population grows, the State Park System can help show the relevance of California history to these students by creating programs that celebrate the many peoples that have made California their home.



Most Visited State Historic Parks

Rank	Park/Location	Attendance 2000-2001
1	Hearst Castle (State Historic Monument)	841,832
2	Columbia (Gold Country) State Historic Park	585,907
3	Sonoma State Historic Park	572,259
4	Monterey State Historic Park	570,915
5	Old Sacramento State Historic Park	537,381
6	Will Rogers State Historic Park	358,825
7	Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park	341,455
8	Sutter's Fort State Historic Park	202,148
9	La Purisima Mission State Historic Park	178,380
10	California Citrus State Historic Park	160,382
11	Bodie State Historic Park	153,858



Snowy Plover

Pressures on Resources and Services

The increasing number of visitors and the changes in interests, population, demographics, and other influences brought about by these trends puts enormous pressure on California’s precious resources in general and State Park System-managed resources in particular. Other factors put additional pressure on State Park System resources, and are listed below.

Loss of Historical/Cultural Resources

The new construction and development needed to accommodate population growth threatens potentially significant archaeological sites, historic buildings, and other historical resources that the State Park System may not have resources to evaluate and save.

Loss of Biological Diversity

Next to Hawaii, California has more threatened and endangered species than any state in the union. *Nature* magazine ranks it one of the world’s 25 “hot spots” for conservation—places with the most significant endemic biological diversity that are experiencing exceptional loss of habitat for plants and animals.

Some threats to biological diversity, an indicator of environmental health, are: invasive exotic plants, predatory animals ranging from red fox to house cats, and invasive diseases such as sudden oak death syndrome. The leading cause of extinction of species, however, is loss of habitat, followed by fragmentation of protected natural areas. As ecosystems become more fragmented, they are less able to support certain plants and animals. The effects of losing species can cascade through ecosystems resulting in a

degraded environment and a severe drop in biological diversity.

With the fragmentation of larger ecosystems, California’s wildlife now depend upon connecting corridors for access to larger populations to sustain their long-term survival, and the long-term survival of the habitat upon which they depend. The State Park System needs to continue to connect its key representative ecosystems with larger protected areas to enhance habitat and species health.

What’s the Best Place to See . . .

Native Tule Elk	Tule Elk State Reserve
Tiger salamander	Henry W. Coe State Park
Northern elephant seals	Año Nuevo State Reserve
Osprey	Russian Gulch State Park
Oldest State Park	Big Basin Redwoods State Park
Sea otters	Asilomar State Beach
Tallest tree in the world	Montgomery Woods State Reserve
Bighorn sheep	Anza Borrego and Mount San Jacinto State Parks
Tarantula migrations	Mt. Diablo State Park
Desert Collared Lizard	Saddleback Butte State Park
Long-eared owl	Red Rock Canyon State Park
Bald Eagles	Millerton Lake State Recreation Area
Filming site for M*A*S*H*	Malibu Creek State Park
Wheels of government turning	California State Capitol State Historic Park



Eastshore SP



Los Encinos SHP

Scarce land resources

In public opinion polling, Californians express the fear that the state’s natural environment is in danger because of over-development. As California’s population rapidly expands into remaining open spaces, pressures increase in the periphery of urbanized areas as well as on rural, undeveloped land. One of the consequences of continuing growth on the urban periphery and in the open spaces between towns is that distinct communities are disappearing. The passage of Proposition 12 in 2000 and Proposition 40 in 2002 demonstrated Californians’ desire to preserve open space lands and its important habitat values and natural systems.

State Parks Blend Nature, History, and Recreation

A rich mix of resources in the California State Park System creates great opportunities for education and enjoyment. A few examples include:

- *Cuyamaca Rancho State Park:* More than 24,000 acres of meadows, mountains, and oak woodlands and Native American archaeological sites with facilities for horseback riding, mountain biking, hiking, camping, and picnicking. It’s also 70 percent of the original Rancho Cuyamaca granted to Agustin Olvera (of Olvera Street, Los Angeles) in 1845, one of 26 San Diego County ranchos.
- *Anderson Marsh State Historic Park* contains 1,065 acres of oak woodland, grass-covered hills, riparian woodland, and tule marsh. One of the largest groups of people in pre-contact California, the Southeastern Pomo, called this land home. The park has archaeological sites more than 8,000 years old, some of the oldest in California. This park is popular for bird watching, hiking, and picnicking. Plus – it has a 19th century ranch house. And a blackberry festival in August.

ahead—answer the call of the wild.

The memorial to this writer/adventurer delivers historic buildings, great views, hiking trails, a lake, oak woodlands, Wolf House ruins, bicycling, horseback riding, as well as Jack London’s stable and barns.

- *Los Encinos State Historic Park:* The Los Encinos property has been a California rancho, stage coach stop, Gabrielino Indian home, Basque shepherd’s home, and a road house along El Camino Real. A state historic park since 1949, it offers not only artifacts and buildings from its various inhabitants, but also nearly five acres of land for picnicking and other uses in heavily populated San Fernando Valley. The park has natural springs and a pond created in the shape of a Spanish guitar. The park is about five miles from the epicenter of the 1994 Northridge earthquake, and was closed for eight years. The damage to the historic structures has been repaired, and the buildings are now undergoing renovation and interpretive planning.

- *Jack London State Historic Park:* Go



Cornfield Property

Planning against the ticking clock of development

Planning efforts must focus on which new lands, marine areas, natural systems, and cultural features are most in need of public protection. Land acquisition in California has become a laborious, expensive, and time-consuming process.

Escalation of Land Values

The cost of land is not always affected by California's economic fluctuations, and land prices have been on a steady increase. Acquisition of park lands not only is becoming more expensive, it is becoming more difficult near the urban areas that desperately need parks.

Acquisitions

The State Park System has focused its acquisition efforts on strategies that address these pressures on resources. Land acquisition is funded primarily through bond measures and private donations from land trusts and conservancies. In the 1990s, with limited state and federal funding, about one third of parkland acquisition was through these private interests, which acquired holdings and then turned them over to the state for stewardship.

The Department grew from 1,270,921

acres in 1987-88 to 1,454,269 acres in 2001-02, a 14.4 percent increase in 15 years. The system grew about one percent a year until the passage of Proposition 12 in 2000. Funds from that bond act enabled the department to acquire nearly 66,000 acres.

[Note to reviewers: These figures are from data submitted to Dept. of Finance]

Acquisitions spearheaded by the Department show the broad priorities and needs of the State Park System, such as:

- Expand state parks on the fringes of urban areas. The Department acquired a small property, Snipes-Pershing near Folsom Lake, to expand the large state recreation area near Sacramento.
- Acquire privately-held land within larger, protected areas. The Department acquired several "in-holdings" within Mt. Diablo State Park, in the San Francisco Bay Area.
- Protect sustainable ecosystems. The San Lorenzo watershed in the Santa Cruz area is an example of this strategy.

Moving forward, the Department's acquisition goals are:

1. To identify and address the deficiencies and needs of the State Park System by means of a mission-

based process for developing acquisition proposals for real property,

2. To develop and maintain a ranked list of acquisition proposals on which to base funding decisions, and
3. To make recommendations regarding acceptance of real property by gifts, transfers, or nominal-cost leases.

Key parts of this new process are gap analyses to determine mission-based deficiencies, needs, and opportunities, as well as an annual review of statewide recreation needs. Properties will be identified, investigated, and evaluated annually. This process also applies to gifts, which typically reflect the priorities of land trusts and foundations rather than planning strategies of the Department. This new process incorporates the valuable expertise of individuals at all levels within the State Park System, and establishes an acquisition policy that is driven by the Department's mission and the needs of the people of the state.

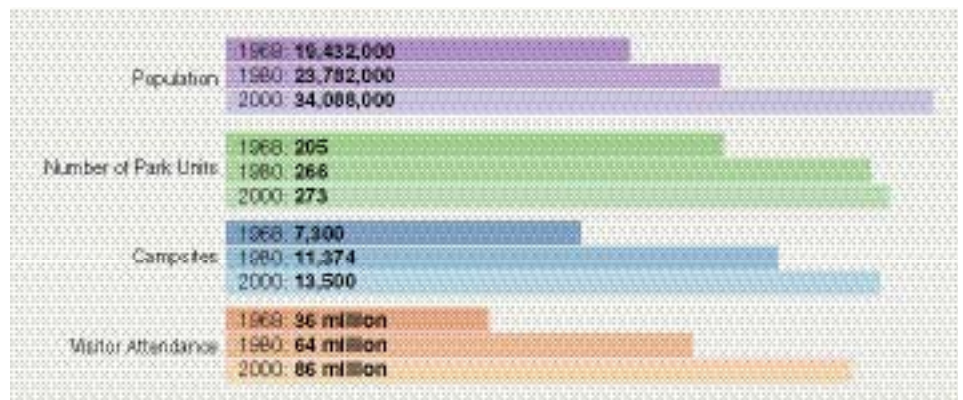
The Department has set a goal of expanding the landholdings of the State Park System by 350,000 acres, from 1.4 million to 1.75 million acres by 2020.

THE IMPACT OF HIGHER VISITATION ON PARKS



The State Park System must provide adequate access to parks to meet the needs of this growing population. Parks already are crowded and becoming more so. In the 1997 public opinion poll on outdoor recreation, about 60 percent of respondents believed that outdoor recreation areas and facilities were too crowded.

Increases in Population, Facilities, and Park Use since 1968



Use of the State Park System has grown faster than population. Higher visitation means that state parks must be maintained, repaired, and restored with a greater frequency than in the past. Park visitation is likely to keep pace with population growth and will increase even more dramatically if California's in-state, home-based

tourism continues to grow. The Department will have to devote greater resources to protecting its thousands of facilities including campsites, trails, museums, visitor centers, offices, historic buildings, parking lots, and restrooms from the anticipated crush of these future visitors.

On a peak day, 700,000 people use

*Before and After:
State Park deferred
maintenance funds were
used to replace a roof at
Point Sur SHP.*



State Park System facilities—campsites, trails, roads, museums, visitor centers, offices, historic buildings, utility systems, restrooms, and a variety of other structures. Proper maintenance of these facilities is essential to provide for the public health, quality service, and safety.

Repeated deferral of needed maintenance throughout the system, compounded by state budget cuts in the early 1990s and coupled with the effects of heavy use over the past decade, has built a backlog of more than \$700 million, which grows daily. In 1999, Gov. Gray Davis and the State Legislature dedicated \$157 million to reduce this backlog and renovate and repair state parks.

The Department launched the largest facility maintenance program it had ever undertaken, and put the money to immediate use. To date, the Department has completed 820 of the program's 1,469 projects. The remaining 649 projects in this program

will be completed within two years. The work focused on urgently needed repair and safety and included projects such as:

- Upgrade and repairs at Southern California beaches
- Fishing pier renovation, Candlestick Point State Recreation Area, San Francisco
- Trail and bridge repair at several State Parks
- Insulation and moisture barriers in historic buildings, Will Rogers State Historic Park
- Campground restoration, Leo Carrillo

State Park and McArthur-Burney Falls

- New water system and restrooms, Folsom Lake State Recreation Area
- Exhibits refurbished, California State Railroad Museum
- Trail repair at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

This was a good start on catching up with deferred maintenance, but an estimated \$586 million backlog remains, and with inadequate funding for ongoing maintenance, the backlog is increasing.



Remaining Maintenance Backlog

Facilities	\$315 million
Natural Resources	\$162 million
Cultural Resources	\$109 million
Total	\$586 million

Facilities maintenance includes infrastructure repairs on roofs, sewage and water treatment systems (to meet new health standards), roads, trails, picnic areas, bridges, restrooms, and other structures.

Natural resources maintenance includes repairing damaged natural resources, invasive plant species control, prescriptive fire, erosion control, wetland restoration. It also includes relocating deteriorating facilities that are in environmentally sensitive sites, or that pose a life-safety risk to park users.

Cultural resources maintenance includes preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation work on historic structures, cultural landscapes, museum exhibits, and artifacts. The Department must upgrade facilities used to house museum collections to higher standards for security and preservation-related environmental controls.



Access for Disabled Californians

A significant portion of the California population more than 21 years of age has some form of disability. This includes a wide range of mobility, hearing, vision, and information processing impairments. The number of adults with disabilities is likely to increase as the large Baby Boom generation ages. The State Park System will need to anticipate this active senior demographic group, and the somewhat predictable disabilities associated with aging, and provide appropriate access.

Increased Visitation Places Demands on Public Safety Program

California state parks are beautiful and enjoyable, and they're safe because of the State Park System's rangers, lifeguard peace officers, and firefighter/security officers. Public safety officials also include pilots as well as canine handlers and off-highway vehicle and equestrian officers.

Parks often are like small cities. They have the same types of incidents and emergencies. State Park System peace officers are trained to respond to these events – everything ranging

Disability Status of the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population

Population 5-20 years With a disability	7.5%
Population 21-64 years With a disability	20%
Population 65 years+ With a Disability	42%

Source: California Department of Finance per U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000



from violent crimes and robbery to disturbing the peace, damaging resources, or illegal parking. Public safety officers also conduct search-and-rescue efforts.

In addition, State Park System peace officers give medical aid to visitors, treating everything from heart attacks and broken bones to sprains and strains, burns and scrapes, and even poison oak.

State Park System Peace Officer Activities

	1987	2001	Increase
Incidents recorded by dispatchers	30,845	59,319	92%
Crimes	24,352	45,804	88%
Citations issued	5,640	9,928	76%
Arrests	697	1,208	73%
Accidents	1,099	1,774	61%



The increase in peace officer activities is much greater than the increase in population or park attendance. As visitation continues to increase, and as parks become more crowded, the number of incidents, crimes, and accidents will increase, requiring more response from State Park System peace officers.

State Park System lifeguards are part of the public safety program. They save lives at beaches, reservoirs, rivers, and other water features at state parks. In 2001, lifeguards rescued 7,372 swimmers and more than 50 divers from dangerous situations. They also rescued visitors caught in swift-moving rivers, and performed cliff rescues.

State Park System lifeguards also are responsible for 8,000 to 10,000 youngsters a year enrolled in the Junior Lifeguard Program, a month-long program running four to six hours a day, five days a week that teaches aquatic swimming skills, park and marine interpretation, discipline, teamwork, and character building.

Implications of Diversity on the State Park System and Planning for the Future

As previously noted, California's ethnic and racial composition is shifting dramatically. Today California is multi-ethnic and multi-cultural with no single majority.

The number of foreign-born persons in California doubled between 1990 and 2000. Today foreign-born persons make up 26 percent of the California population. The new immigrant population is broadly diverse linguistically:

- There are over 50 listed languages spoken in California schools.
- 39.5 percent of the population speaks a language other than English in the home.



- 25 percent of students in public schools are English learners.

The Department wants to better reflect the state's diversity in its programs, planning, and staffing. The 1997 study of public opinions and attitudes on outdoor recreation suggests that different service delivery approaches are needed to serve specific ethnic groups because of differences in preferences.

The Department will conduct targeted, in-depth research to confirm or dispel assumptions and answer fundamental questions about the impact and implications of the state's diverse population on the State Park System, and the needs of various demographic groups, such as:

- Do different ethnic and cultural groups require new and different programs and services and if so, what types of programs are most needed?
- What and where are the greatest needs for different services, e.g., for recreation, cultural, historical, languages in the field, staff representation?
- Because various cultures do not all have the same values, is it necessary to alter the presentation of information in terms of context, content, and language? What are the preferences of specific groups?
- What are the interests of new populations and how does this align with the offerings and programs in the State Park System?

Another Trend – Income Inequality

The public opinion survey also found that there is lower participation based upon income levels, education levels, and length of time in the U.S. Barriers that were cited include lack of finances, lack of transportation, lack of free time, and lack of information about recreation opportunities. As California's population increases, the number of people at the lower end of the income scale is increasing at a disproportionately higher ratio. Recreation becomes a crucial quality of life issue, and people with lower income rely more heavily on public recreational facilities.

The State Park System wants to develop strategies to better serve these Californians and is looking at numerous nontraditional approaches to do so, including conducting more outreach to take park experiences into communities.



FULFILLING THE MISSION OF THE STATE PARK SYSTEM



Henry W. Coe SP

The previous sections discuss the profound social changes occurring in California as the state's population continues its robust pace of growth, as recreation preferences change, and as the demographic mix shifts to a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, no-majority population. Planners at all levels of government are challenged to prepare for several million more Californians in the foreseeable future. The State Park System must anticipate the coming changes, meet the demands for services, and at the same time protect California's resources from high volumes of use so that today's visitors and their children's grandchildren can enjoy their heritage as Californians.

This section examines some of the ways the California Department of Parks and Recreation is grappling with current demand. Part II of the State Park System Plan 2002, "Initiatives for Action," takes an in-depth look at this and presents additional ideas for actions the Department can undertake to meet future needs.



Managing Resources for Future Generations

In the formation and growth years of the State Park System, emphasis was placed on preserving the “most eloquent reminders of California’s colorful history” and the best examples of the state’s landscape, such as Big Sur, north coast forests, Lake Tahoe sites, and beaches.

A shift in the management of state park resources has occurred with the recognition of the Department’s important role of protecting the state’s biodiversity rather than isolated examples of resources. They are part of an intricate, interrelated system—one that connects all Californians. This new perspective applies to all the resources in the State Park System, and how the Department presents those resources to visitors.

Parks are Living Systems, Not Islands

The Department works to preserve and protect California’s globally important biodiversity by maintaining healthy ecosystems, building on currently conserved lands with buffers, and creating essential links to larger habitats. Fragmentation of protected natural areas increases the threat to California’s biological diversity. Because many species depend upon large habitat areas and sufficient populations to support their long-term survival, the Department is working to link many of its parks with other protected areas, and

to expand the habitats in other parks through open space and buffer lands around the parks.

The Department has set priorities for natural heritage preservation that include: filling known gaps in protected habitat types, sustainability of natural processes, the protection of species diversity and abundance, the protection of biological linkages and watershed areas, the consolidation of fragmented public ownership, and the restoration of landforms and habitat areas currently owned for stewardship purposes.

Future resource management will include use of the Inventory Monitoring and Assessment Program (IMAP), a geographic information system-based program, to gather information about the parks and habitats; implement resource maintenance and management programs to foster healthy, natural conditions; restore degraded landforms and ecological systems; and develop an urban interface management strategy to protect parks in and near population centers.

Fragmented Parks on the Edge

Urban development closing in around state parks presents a dual threat—one from the effects of human development, the other from becoming separated from larger wildland areas.

“When you go from wildland or agricultural use to residential or commercial uses adjacent to your park, you introduce light, noise, cats and dogs, exotic plants, pollution from urban runoff, and increased potential for wildfire,” says Geary Hund, resource ecologist for the State Park System.

“There are a lot of new pressures on a park when land use around it changes,” he explains. “That’s a big issue I face because of the location of our parks in Southern California.” He is responsible for Chino Hills State Park, 12,500 acres in the hills near Riverside.

This influence is called the urban-edge effect, and it spills into a park, altering its cycle of life. Coping with it takes more effort, more management, and a lot more vigilance. And it’s not the only consequence of development.

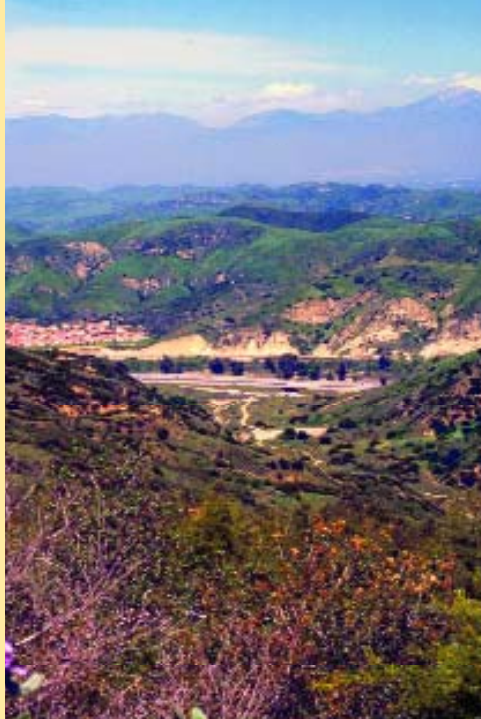
Habitat fragmentation occurs not just from a decrease in a type of habitat, but also when the remaining habitat is carved into increasingly smaller pieces and isolated from other protected, natural areas.

“If the parks become totally isolated, we stand to lose whole groups of species, not just the endangered ones. We’re faced with the specter of losing those wonderful examples of native California that we preserve and that we cherish,” Hund says.

Although the threat is intensifying, there are solutions, notably habitat linkages which can connect the fragmented pieces of a larger ecosystem.

Chino Hills State Park has nearly been surrounded by urban development, and the only connection between the park and the Cleveland National Forest was called Coal Canyon. The Department undertook a monumental effort to save the habitat.

Hund calls it a “wonderful success story.” He likens the wildlife corridor to a river of life for the park.



Chino Hills SP



“If the parks become totally isolated, we stand to lose whole groups of species, not just the endangered ones. We’re faced with the specter of losing those wonderful examples of native California that we preserve and that we cherish.”

Higher Standards for the Science Raises the Bar on Stewardship

There has been a great increase in scientific knowledge about the basic workings and management of natural ecological systems. With new knowledge come new standards and the need to upgrade policies and programs to reflect this knowledge.

The State Park System works with state and federal regulatory agencies to improve the science and raise the bar in stewardship. The State Park System has a network of resource ecologists who monitor sensitive species and create plans for species recovery, inspect soils to guard against erosion, implement restoration projects, remove exotic plants, teach, write and publish scientific articles, and represent the Department in public meetings.

A valuable new tool the Department is using is the Inventory Monitoring and Assessment Program (IMAP), which will help to systematically gather information about the physical and biotic resource condition upon which resource management goals, objectives, policies, programs, and projects are based.



Exotic Species Threaten State Park Resources

California's state parks are under siege. Every day invaders disrupt the native environment. They prey upon and threaten California's own native plants and animals. What they don't eat, they're likely to drive away.

They go by many names. Yellow star thistle. Tamarisk. Fennel. Mitten Crab. African clawed frog. American crayfish. Starling. Argentinean ant. Wild pig. European beachgrass. Spotted knapweed.

Exotic invasive species.

Aliens.

Getting and keeping exotic species under control is an ongoing battle. The Natural Resource Management Division of California State Parks recently completed a condition assessment of state parks as part of its natural resources maintenance program. The statewide assessment

revealed that some state parks have more than two dozen exotic, invasive plants.

Worse than the quantity is the quality. The Department developed a Dirty Dozen list -- invasive plants that can do the most damage to the ecosystem by altering fire frequency, soil chemistry, hydrology. They also crowd out or smother native plants, and have the ability to spread into ecosystems that are being preserved for their biological integrity.

Even one of the Dirty Dozen can do a lot of damage in a park. More than 150 parks have at least one of these damaging plants. Nearly 20 parks have as many as six.

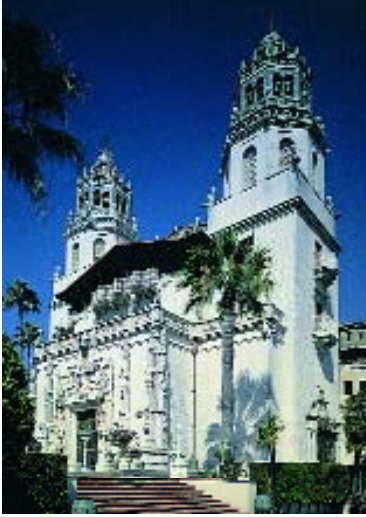
Controlling invasive species is particularly important in California. The state is one of the top 25 "hot spots" for biological diversity on earth, according to *Nature* magazine. The "California floristic province" is on the short list with the Amazon as a place of significant

biological diversity coupled with the greatest extinction risk –worldwide. California has 6,700 species and subspecies of native plants; 2,125 of those are found nowhere else but here in California.

Over the years the State Park System has initiated scores of projects to eradicate invasive species. In 2000, the Department received funding for follow-up maintenance. It's a small step that has delivered big results.

Biologists have found that once the exotics are removed, it is possible to re-establish natives. This habitat restoration gives the entire native ecosystem a chance to thrive.

The results of the maintenance program demonstrate that with even modest levels of funding, the State Park System can make a difference and begin to turn the tide on this invasion of exotic species.



Sharing California's Cultural Heritage

Just as the Department's management approach has shifted regarding natural resources, so too has it shifted regarding cultural and historical resources. While state parks have always been places to learn about the factors that shaped and influenced California through the centuries, today the State Park System also shows that this is a shared heritage, relevant in individuals' lives today.

The State Park System's Cultural Resources Division is facing the challenge of planning programs for a rapidly changing audience. By presenting multiple perspectives on past events, the Department will portray California history in a variety of ways, including drawing themes from the state's prehistory and history to show connections not readily seen through a chronological perspective. This approach is intended to create a broader context for California's history.

The Department will continue to identify cultural sites, structures, and artifacts that, if added, would make the state's cultural and historical holdings more complete and meaningful. Recent examples of acquisitions or program enhancement include additions to Tomo-Kahni, the Kawaiisu winter home in the Tehachapi Mountains, the restoration of the Immigration Station at Angel Island, which brings to light a chapter of American history that few have seen before, and an addition to the Point Sur State Historic Park which will be used to educate visitors about the Cold War era of U.S. history.



Mitzie Abe, representing Angel Island State Park, portrays a Japanese "picture bride" for Admissions Day 2000.

The Whispering Walls

What tales and tragedies will be discovered as the context of California history is broadened to include all cultures and peoples of the state? Historians believe a more inclusive examination will reveal greater depth and richness in the state's 150-year history. This, in turn, will create a deeper understanding and a richer experience for State Park visitors of all cultures and nations.

The Angel Island Immigration Station restoration exemplifies this more inclusive view of California history. In the early 1900s Angel Island, which sits in San Francisco Bay, was billed as the "Ellis Island of the West." In practice it did not welcome the tired, poor, huddled masses yearning to breathe free, but rather it controlled the flow of Asians into the United States. Between 1910 and 1940 Angel Island processed approximately 500,000 immigrants. About a third were Chinese, and another third were Japanese.

The restoration of this story – and the building – is a partnership between California State Parks, the National Park Service, and the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation. Grants, private donations, and funding through Proposition 40 are bringing the past to light.

It's not a glowing past. In 1882, in the midst of a national depression, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act. It was the first law prohibiting free immigration and citizenship on the basis of race. The law could not exclude sons, daughters, or wives of Chinese who already were

residents. Desperate to escape an even worse economy, young Chinese bought prepackaged family histories, and memorized details of their "relatives" before arriving at the Golden Gate. But rather than passing through customs, they were detained at Angel Island while skeptical immigration officials attempted to discern whether these immigrants were relatives or "paper sons." Their detention lasted weeks, months, and in some cases, years.

As they waited, detainees inscribed poems of hope and despair on the redwood walls of their locked, dank barracks. The first detainees were well-educated youth, and historians believe they brushed their poetry on the walls. Subsequent detainees then etched those words into the walls, preserving them for generations to come. The walls still show the carvings, and more hide in nooks and crannies, and under paint and plaster.

"These poems connect with each of us and cause us to reflect on when a person ceases to be foreign and when they are considered American, and how that definition has changed over time," says Park Superintendent Nick Franco.

The poetry makes their incarceration more real today, and more poignant. The carvings show the aspirations that bring immigrants to the United States, and how those who come here are willing to face adversity and obstacles to stay.



Providing More Outdoor Recreation Is a Challenge



Building a State Park For the Future Out of California's Past

Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park

When the Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park reopens to the public in December 2003, the 145-year-old house once again will fill two of its original roles. It will be a place for official functions of the State for generations of governors to come, and a place for Californians to visit and enjoy. Through educational tours, the house also will be filled with the sound of children, the life-long hope of the Stanfords, and the vision of Jane Stanford when she donated the house as a home for "friendless children" in 1900.

The \$11 million rehabilitation will peel back layers of history. In July 1861, Leland Stanford, then a successful merchant in Gold Rush-era Sacramento, bought the four-year-old home. A few weeks earlier, he and fellow merchants Collis Huntington, Mark Hopkins, and Charles Crocker had organized the Central Pacific Railroad. A few months later, Stanford was the state's eighth governor.

The Stanfords dramatically expanded the home in 1872, creating a structure of classic Victorian opulence, according to rehab-project architect Maria Baranowski.

She and others have researched the materials and construction techniques of the time – from the mansard roof to the period landscaping. They are taking scrupulous care to rehabilitate the building in its original form.

Seems like a lot of work to dress up an old building. The restoration crew could just paint and decorate the house to resemble the period. But that wouldn't tell visitors anything about the past or bring visitors into the lives of the Stanfords – individuals who changed California forever.

"One of the values of doing this type of work is learning how people really lived, what these people were really like," Baranowski says.

It is now up to the restoration crew, the historians, the archaeologists, and the state's professional interpreters to refine the details and excavate through 130 years of subsequent use to reclaim the 1870s in the home.

"This is a one-of-a-kind building," Baranowski says. "Its preservation gives us an idea of the construction methods, the evolution of the building, and how this family lived. We're preserving our history for ourselves—and for future generations."

The Department must provide more traditional recreational facilities such as campgrounds, picnic sites, and trails while simultaneously researching and testing new opportunities for under-served groups of Californians, including urban residents. The Department must examine needs, participation rates, recreation barriers, public opinions, economic impacts and use impacts.

To meet the challenge of rapid growth, a diverse population, and changing interests, the Department will continue to identify opportunities to connect park lands to communities through trails and greenways. In addition, the Department will explore programs that bring park-like experiences to the people of the state, to under-served populations, and to the places where people lack the mobility to travel.

Throughout the State Park System, the Department will work to increase the number of facilities that support the types of outdoor recreation in highest demand, including camping, walking, jogging and hiking, bicycling, overnight use, wildlife viewing, and beach activities.



Crystal Cove SP

The State Park System can anticipate the future facility needs of the 2020 population of 45 million Californians by projecting out the current demands and visitation levels, assuming a constant in use preferences. The estimated need for new facilities is significant. For example:

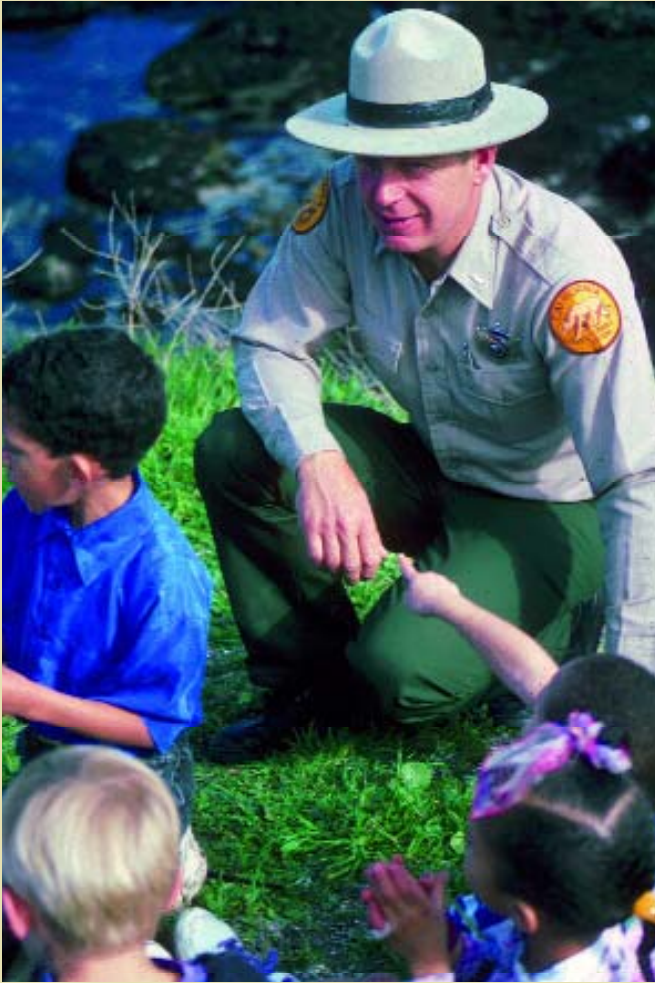
the approval process and a series of community issues for two decades. When El Morro campground finally opens, it will be the first coastal campground added in the system in 10 years. El Morro is doubly important because it offers state park opportunities in an urban area.

Just to provide today's level of service to the 2020 population, the State Park System would need to add 325 campsites, 450 picnic sites, and 50 miles of trail every year for 20 years. That is more than one new picnic site and nearly one new campsite every day.

Type of Facility	2002 Inventory	Minimum Needed by 2020
Campsites	13,500	20,000
Picnic sites	16,000	25,000
Trails	3,000 miles	4,000 miles

Identifying suitable land for recreational uses, acquiring it, and proceeding through the public and environmental process is time consuming, and consequently, campsite creation lags. The Department presently is working to convert a 287-unit mobile home park in Orange County into a public campground. The campground, called El Morro, will also be a day-use area with picnic sites and lifeguard facilities. The Department bought the property, adjacent to Crystal Cove State Park, in 1979 and has been working through





Providing More Park Access to Urban Populations

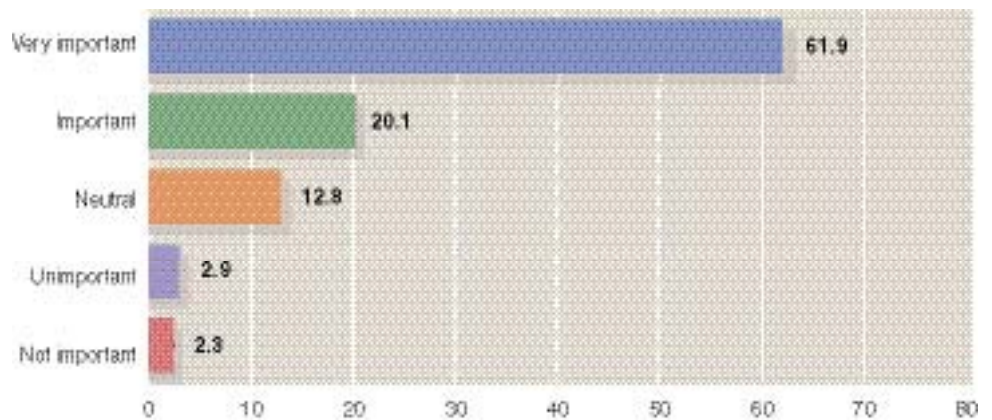
Fulfilling its mission challenges the Department to provide adequate services to growing numbers of Californians. This includes millions of people living in urban areas where local park land is scarce, or where the population has overwhelmed the resources.

The Department has wrestled with the question of whether or not the access issues can be resolved solely through its multiple programs with local agencies. Since 1917, the California Department of Parks and Recreation has been present and providing services in Los Angeles in recognition of the shortage of parklands and in an effort to enhance the quality of life for this urban region. There are 28 state parks in Los Angeles County, providing more than 32,000 acres of public park land. Nine of these state parks are operated by local agencies.

Nearly 89 percent of respondents in the 1997 study on public opinions and attitudes on outdoor recreation felt that state government should continue to give financial aid to local governments for outdoor recreation. The Department does just that. Since 1965, it has provided financial and advisory assistance to urban local governments,



Outdoor Recreation Importance to Quality of Life



Source: *Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California 1997*

and also has coordinated acquisitions, development, and operation for urban projects. During the last 35 years, the Department has administered more than \$1.8 billion in local assistance grants. The passage of propositions 12 and 40 generated \$1.6 billion for local parks. The Department also will administer these programs.

The Department can serve an even



Old Town San Diego SHP

larger role with local parks as the partner and catalyst that can help local agencies get things done. The Department recognizes and respects the roles and responsibilities of local providers of park services and facilities. It is not the Department's intent to supplant the necessary planning and service delivery work of local governments, but rather to bring the best of State Park services as an enhancement to community efforts. The State Park System will strengthen its traditional bond with other governmental partners, cooperating associations and foundations, user groups, and environmental organizations to provide better local services.

The question remains: Is this enough for high-density, urban areas? The Los Angeles area is a prime example. The California Department of Finance estimates that as of January 2002, there were 9,824,800 people in Los Angeles County. That is 28 percent of California's total population. The ratio of community parkland-to-population is 1.9 acres per 1,000 people. This is substantially lower than the national standard of 10 acres of neighborhood and community parks per 1,000 people.

Governor Gray Davis made the

development of parks in urban areas a priority of his administration. The Department has acquired park land in California's most heavily populated, under-served urban cores to accelerate the park development process.

Establishing an urban presence includes efforts to:

- Restore and protect natural areas while offering resource-based recreation such as camping, picnicking, hiking, and biking, in keeping with the established mission of the State Park System,
- Restore and protect cultural and historical resources to enhance the awareness and understanding of the diverse community traditions and values found in the rich history of urban areas,
- Provide for increased opportunities for cultural recreation such as the use of multi-purpose spaces for cultural celebrations and festivals, special events, music, dance, and performances of all kinds that bring to life the diversity of urban communities,
- Seek local partners and actively support and assist those partners in fostering recreational and community-based programs and opportunities for the youth and families they serve.
- Pioneer model parks for the 21st Century. The recent acquisitions in the Los Angeles area provide a unique opportunity to model exemplary, multiple-use parks in the heart of the urban setting that serve local, regional, and statewide visitors.

Under the Governor's Urban Parks

Initiative, the State Park System has acquired:

- Cornfields (32 acres) near downtown Los Angeles,
- Taylor Yard (30 acres),
- Lower Topanga Canyon property (1,655 acres),
- Mulholland Gateway property (63.5 acres),
- Baldwin Hills hilltop property (68 acres),
- Coal Canyon Wildlife Corridor (680 acres) along the 91 Freeway, and
- Liberty Canyon Biological Corridor (220 acres) in the Malibu Creek area.

Acquiring park properties on the fringes of urban areas is another way to offer under-served urban populations recreational opportunities for camping, hiking, biking, photography, and more. The Department is acquiring several pieces of property in Wildwood Canyon between Riverside and San Bernardino counties to create a 900-acre park. Used historically for ranching, many areas in the oak-studded parklands are undisturbed. Another urban fringe park acquisition is Cowell Ranch, an acquisition near Brentwood in eastern Contra Costa County which will enhance recreational offerings for Bay Area residents. The new six-square-mile park includes historic, cultural, and natural features, and is in the foothills near Mt. Diablo State Park.

Restoring a Lifestyle at Pío Pico State Historic Park

Standing in the noisy bustle of urban Los Angeles County, it is hard to imagine that the history of Southern California is one of Dons and ranchos. By spring 2003, that past will be tangible at El Ranchito, Pío Pico's 19th century ranch and adobe home in Whittier.

Pío Pico was the last Mexican civilian governor of Alta California, holding office 1845-46 during the Bear Flag revolt, and the U.S. War with Mexico, just prior to California's U.S. statehood.

After the war, Pico acquired the 8,891-acre Paso de Bartolo rancho and created his country home that blended his past and present – California's Spanish, Mexican, Native American, and European influences.

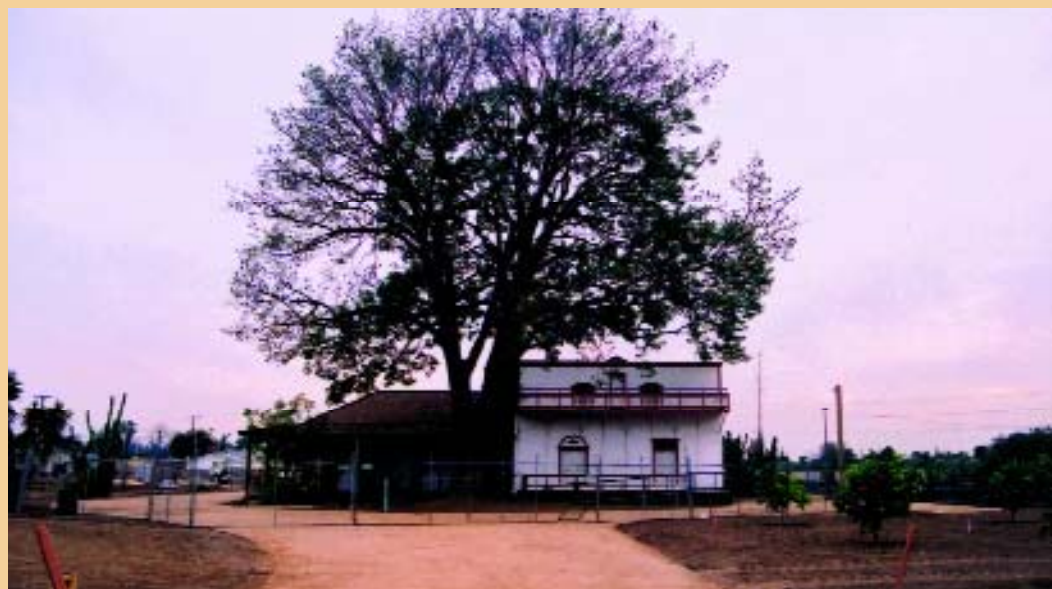
All that remained of the once vast rancho was the adobe house on a four-acre plot by the time the property was donated to the State in 1917. It became one of the very first properties in the soon to be created State Park System.

The 1987 Whittier Narrows earthquake severely damaged the adobe home, and it has been closed to visitors ever since. In 2000, the state launched a massive, \$5 million renovation project not just to repair the home, but to bring the rancho back to life.

This now urban park will mix farmland and orchards with shaded group gathering/picnic areas. Interpretive trails will meander through fields and gardens recreated to give the experience of Pico's extensive rancho on less than four acres.

Teams of historians, archaeologists, architects, civil engineers, landscape architects, and ecologists studied original photos and site maps to closely recreate the rancho from its fields to corrals. Some of that research included pollen studies of the adobe bricks to discover information about

the evolution of the house and confirm historic plant species and varieties. A six-month landscape reconstruction project based on that research began in August. Landscapers are planting the colorful gardens in layer, just as the early Native American and Mexican gardeners of the rancho did. They are creating orchards with heirloom seedy oranges, and arbors with old varieties of grapes. Even the corn, beans, and barley will be characteristic of



the mid-1800s.

Pío Pico State Historic Park will offer building and grounds tours, and in the future, research opportunities in a library of historic photos and copies of documents written in that time period, as well as historical accounts of life at El Ranchito.

The 20-room adobe ranch house restoration brought back an entire wing, which had been torn down in a 1940s restoration. The interior walls of several rooms will be covered in brightly-colored, ornate Victorian-Era wallpapers reproduced from designs found under layers of paint and old wallcoverings.

Interpreter Fred Andrews says displays are now being created for the site. Some of the rooms will show the lifestyle of upper class,

19th century Angelinos. Other rooms will be used for an audio-visual program and exhibits on early California and El Ranchito.

And some of the space will be used to share the life of the rancho's colorful, entrepreneurial, and sometimes-controversial creator. Born May 5, 1801 at San Gabriel Mission, Pico's ancestry included African, Native American, Mexican, and Spanish lineage. He rose from poverty

to become a wealthy businessman, power broker, governor, and historical figure. He chose to live his life in the tradition of the Dons, acknowledging his responsibility to his people, and sharing his wealth with friends and visitors.

That tradition will continue when the El Ranchito once again opens its doors to the public.

Parks Without Interpreters Are Like Schools Without Teachers

The public spends five million hours a year attending educational and interpretive programs. Among the people benefiting from this information are about 650,000 children between kindergarten and 12th grade.

The State Park System has more contact with children than any organization or group outside of the educational system, and it is the largest provider of educational programming outside of California public schools. The State Park System works with the California public school system to make sure the educational programs connect with



California schools' specific content standards.

The "living labs" of State Parks (ranging from forests to deserts to beaches) make science and history real and tangible. The parks themselves provide context for intellectual, in-class information.

"This gives a dimension you don't get in a classroom," says Donna Pozzi, Chief of the Interpretation and Education Division for the Department of Parks and Recreation. "We're increasingly becoming more remote, more distant from the natural world. This brings kids into it and gives them



Parks and Recreation Are Relevant to Individuals' Lives

Information is a powerful stewardship tool. People who know something of the natural and cultural history of a park take a greater interest in its protection and preservation, and they become better park supporters, a critical need for the State Park System. The Department uses a variety of tools to help visitors understand the issues, pressures, and relevance of state parks to them as citizens of the state and as individuals.

These informational and educational services are called "interpretation." They will become even more important as visitation grows, and as the State Park System serves an increasingly diverse population. The people of the State Park System – the interpreters, rangers, lifeguards, historians, archaeologists, museum curators, volunteers, planners, ecologists, architects, maintenance workers, and executives -- all take the parks' messages to visitors and other Californians. They share information about the parks, and also about issues such as biodiversity and connectivity, the importance and value of all native California plants and animals, and the relevance of historical landmarks, archaeological sites, and cultural artifacts.

The State Park System's professional interpretation program communicates the value of all park resources and affects behaviors through face-to-face contact, through the Junior Ranger programs, school tours, signs, displays in visitor centers, brochures, or through other traditional forms of communication.

The Interpretation and Education Division and field staff will be instrumental in broadening the programs of the State Park System to meet the needs of diverse populations. These include:

- Multilingual interpretation in person and in media,
- Greater relevance to inner-city dwellers,
- Programs that illustrate the interconnectedness of cultures and their historical contributions,
- Programs that characterize the relationship between various cultures and the environment in California, and
- Enhancement of existing educational curricula.



Interpreting the Flag

*Joanie Stadtherr Cahill
SPL II, Colorado Desert*

A gal I once worked with told me that her ambition was to raise and lower the flag with grace. For me, grace is out of the question. I am rather short and rather round. I know I will never be able to raise and lower Old Glory and Old Grizzly with grace, so I decided that at least I can raise and lower them with interpretation.

Often the flag lowering turns into an interpretive event whether I want it to or not. Kids are fascinated to see how it is going to get down and what I will do next. Foreign visitors are amazed and amused by the attention we give to this “living” symbol. Elderly veterans watch me carefully to see that I’m showing the proper respect, or get misty-eyed with memories. Boy Scouts offer to help, and the humorous dad-on-vacation will whistle taps for me.

With all this attention, I figured that this was an opportunity for interpretation. I like to have kids help with the folding. On our California flag, the bear is bigger than most of the kids who come to help me. Their eyes sometimes pop right out of their little heads when they see it up close! It’s easy to see the hump that distinguishes this bear from the black bear. It always brings up a discussion about endangered species and extinction, since the grizz no longer lives anywhere near here. Sometimes it’s a history lesson and we talk about the Bear Flag Revolt, which preceded California’s statehood.

Flags don’t have to be the sole interpretive property of historical units. There’s one in each state park, and flags speak to everyone, graceful or not.

Traditionally, the State Park System has used illustrations, maps, publications, exhibits, books, posters, professional interpreters, rangers, literally all field and specialist staff, and volunteers to communicate its messages. While these approaches will continue, there are opportunities to incorporate new technologies for outreach and use new technologies to present programs. Some possibilities include:

- Technology in or for the parks: On-site tools ranging from electronic displays that could be updated and/or quickly changed, to in-park Web access, interactive educational software in visitor centers, or electronic communication with rangers or researchers in remote areas of the park. New technologies also may help enhance access for disabled Californians.
- Technology for Education and Outreach: Students could go online for “virtual field trips” with rangers, or periodically set up Web-cam lectures with rangers in remote locations. With increased Web use for travel information, the public is primed to receive information about

parcs. In the future, the State Park System could package and customize information to parks users about services, events, parks, features – in their specific area of interest. This could expand the use, understanding, support for, and enjoyment of parks while minimizing the physical impact of visitors to parks.

Technology may create new opportunities or surprising changes—uses not even imagined today. The State Park System can benefit from new technologies by being open to change and adaptation, and by positioning itself to take advantage of new technology. Regardless of the techniques, the State Park System has and will have ongoing needs for credible, professional interpretation that blends tradition and innovation.

Using Technology to Enhance Visitor Experiences



He may not be 20,000 leagues under the sea, but to a group of children at the Smithsonian Institute, this is just as exciting. Lifeguard Supervisor Ken Kramer is exploring an underwater preserve at Crystal Cove State Beach in Orange County. With the help of an underwater video camera and audio equipment, Ken is “live”

with dozens of elementary school kids. Thousands of miles away.

As part of his diving safety program, Ken developed a way to be underwater videotaping while talking to the crew in the boat above him. While working on scientific research and data collection, he knew he wanted to show this underwater environment to the non-diving public. He worked it out. The video now feeds to the boat, which transmits it through a wireless signal to the visitor center, which then can teleconference to nearly anywhere in the world. Ken’s talked to a marine biology class at Saddleback College, to a national conference of interpretive professionals in Monterey earlier this year, and he’s now preparing to offer the program for school children locally.

The best part of the program is that the kids can talk back, making the live dive truly interactive.

“We can open up experiences to hundreds of thousands of children,” he says. “This creates a good parks experience, especially when the teachers combine it with a hands-on classroom exercise.”



Sonoma SHP

The Department Must Accelerate Its Programs to Develop Parklands

California’s growing population requires parks for outdoor recreation and more urban parks. Existing and future parks will need visitor centers, restrooms, restored historic structures, trails, campsites, picnic areas, and concession facilities. Typically, allocations for these types of projects are a small percentage of overall funding. For instance, of the \$2.1 billion in bonds raised by Proposition 12, passed in 2000, \$550 million was allocated to the Department. Of that sum, only about 10 percent, \$55.8 million, was allocated to development of new facilities.

Some of the projects that have been developed with Proposition 12 funds include:

- Bolsa Chica State Beach: The Department replaced 12 rest rooms, five concession facilities, and the lifeguard tower. This was an \$8.7 million project. Annual attendance at Bolsa Chica State Beach is more than 2 million.
- Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park: In this \$4 million restoration project, the Department reconstructed seven historic buildings, and returned a dozen historic structures to their original condition. The Department modified another six buildings, and acquired furnishings for six of the historic buildings.
- Sugar Pine Point State Park: The

Concessions Generate Income and Jobs

Many services that are not core functions of the State Park System are provided through concessions. These range from snack stands and gift shops to marinas and equipment rentals. Concessions not only help the Department provide services to enhance the visitor experience, they also generate income for the Department. In 2001-02, concessions generated \$89.3 million for the State Park and Recreation Fund. That is nearly 25 percent of the fund's income.

In addition, concessions generate sales tax for the state, and jobs in local communities. Concessions in Old Town San Diego, for example, provide 400 jobs. Concessionaires also provide some capital improvements at state parks, notably improvements to facilities they rent and operate.

Department is presently rehabilitating the day use area, a \$2.3 million project.

- **Tahoe State Recreation Area:** A rehabilitation project at the Truckee River outlet includes removing old structures to make the area more natural. In addition to creating more room for visitors, the project opens up the view of Lake Tahoe from Highway 89.
- **Morro Bay Natural History Museum:** An \$850,000 project to replace museum exhibits.
- **Olompali State Historic Park:** The park's history spans 1,500 years of human use from a Miwok trade center, through Spanish and Californio habitation, the Bear Flag Revolt, and even an early Grateful Dead rock and roll recording session. The Department is rehabilitating the historic frame house (farmhouse-like structure) on the property.
- **Old Town San Diego:** The Department is starting construction on McCoy House exhibits. The house will serve as a visitor orientation center, and the exhibits will focus on regional history.
- **Columbia State Historic Park:** The Department is restoring the Gold Rush-era structures of the Knapp block, a \$3 million project.

Public Access and Recreation Are Priorities

The California Department of Parks and Recreation's Five-Year Infrastructure Plan identifies a total of \$666 million for capital outlay projects, the bulk of which (59 percent) is for public access and recreation. The next largest categories include critical infrastructure deficiencies and facility/infrastructure modernization.

Some of the many future development projects identified for public access, education and recreation are: El Morro mobile home park conversion, Fort Ross fur warehouse (barn) reconstruction and exhibits to explain the fur trade, and the Año Nuevo State Reserve marine education center.



Crystal Cove SP

Some projects the Department is getting underway are:

- Crystal Cove State Park: The Department will enhance the park's historic beach cottage district and rehabilitate a cluster of cottages for public use.
- Wilder Ranch State Park: A rehabilitation of an historic farmhouse in the Santa Cruz-area park is now underway. An earlier, highly successful restoration project was begun in 1994 and recreated coastal wetlands and uplands.
- Folsom Powerhouse: The department is stabilizing the original powerhouse to open its interior to tours; tours previously have been of the facility grounds. The hydroelectric generating facility dates to 1895; it was the first plant in the country to deliver electricity over distance. This is a very popular site for educational tours.
- New Brighton State Beach: The campground and day use areas will be rehabilitated. Campgrounds are used year-round in the Santa Cruz area.
- Henry W. Coe State Park: Construction will soon begin to rehabilitate the Dowdy Ranch day use area, including heavily used picnic areas.
- Chino Hills State Park: The Department is preparing a project to formalize public use facilities in the Rolling M Ranch area.
- Patrick's Point State Park: The Department is nearing construction on a rehabilitation project for the campground and day use facilities in the coastal park, north of Eureka.



California Citrus State Historic Park

A century ago citrus growing created a second “gold rush” in California. The booming citrus industry transformed the southern part of the state with much more than lush groves of oranges, lemons, and grapefruit. Through its advertising and colorfully lithographed crate labels, growers sold the image of California as the land of sunshine and opportunity.

Opportunity came to Southern California and never left. Land prices soared. Decades later, the groves that had become a hallmark of The Golden State began to give way to homes and industry. Land prices continued to soar.

It took nearly 20 years to create a state historic park to preserve the time when Citrus was King and vast groves spread across Riverside, San Bernardino, Orange, Los Angeles, and Ventura counties. The Department acquired a 377-acre working grove in Riverside to recapture that era of California history. The park opened in 1993 with a nucleus of Craftsman bungalow-style structures, interpretive trails and picnic areas and other structures. The second development phase is now underway.

When the park takes final shape, it will present the key components of a complete citrus-producing community, including an operating packing house which will process park-grown fruit, a workers' camp, a wealthy grower's home (which may serve as a restaurant and interpretive exhibit), and a middle class grower's ranch. All the buildings will be constructed with strict adherence to styles and details of the era – all the way down to actual smudge pots, which protected citrus from frost. The oil-burning pots will be retrofit with orange light bulbs – a historical departure needed to eliminate a serious pollutant.

Creating and completing this park involves the cooperative and financial efforts of the State, the City and County of Riverside, the Citrus Non Profit Management Corporation, park bond funds, Sunkist Growers, Inc., corporate and private donations, visitor fees, rental income from the facilities, and citrus sales from the groves themselves.

Cooperating Associations

Cooperating Associations are nonprofit fund-raising organizations for state parks. Statewide, there are 81 cooperating associations with more than 25,000 members. Their efforts help pay for park brochures and other publications, special events, visitor center exhibits and other public education programs.

In 1999, 81 cooperating associations raised more than \$11.7 million for individual state parks.



What Will Happen If The State Park System Can Not Meet Future Needs?



Parks need qualified people to manage, interpret, educate, preserve, protect, and maintain them. Without these highly-trained people, California's investment in state parks is at risk. Without stable funding, the Department will be severely challenged to adequately protect the resources and visitors.

There will be fewer rangers to provide public safety.

The crunch of visitors means that State Park System ranger workload has skyrocketed. There is now one ranger for every 1,300 visitors per day, a 28 percent increase in visitors-per-ranger in the last 20 years. There is only one ranger for every 2,400 acres of land, a



21 percent increase in acres-per-ranger for the last 20 years.

The long-term trend shows that there are more acts of vandalism, dumping, and other events to which rangers and lifeguards must respond. There also are more accidents, injuries, rescues, and visitor disputes. This is not only because of increased attendance, but also because of changes in visitor preferences for more active recreation such as mountain biking, rock climbing, and outdoor adventure competition. Accidents and incidents also have increased during the last decade because the equipment design enables some individuals with insufficient skills to engage in recreational activities beyond their abilities. Future demands for

public safety are expected to grow with an increasing number of individuals pursuing high-risk sports.

Will parks stay open year-round to meet the use patterns and demands?

Visitors once went to state parks primarily in the summer. There was moderate visitation in the "shoulder" seasons, and winter was the "off" season. This pattern has changed so much that in many parks there is no off season, especially the beaches and coastal campsites. Most Santa Cruz area parks, for example, run year-round, including winter. Improvements in recreational vehicles, equipment, and foul-weather gear make winter camping easier.

All coastal parklands feel the crunch. Lifeguards report that weekdays in the summer are as busy as weekends, and that weekend days during spring and fall are significantly busier. The Department must increase lifeguard numbers and hours to ensure the safety of visitors.

Maintaining a safe and healthy environment for the parks and their visitors requires a diverse work force:

- Facility maintenance crews
- Interpreters
- Resource ecologists
- Rangers
- Administrators
- Environmental designers
- Archaeologists
- Computer technicians
- Seasonal aides
- Recreation specialists
- Educators
- Engineers
- Lifeguards
- Historians
- Restoration specialists
- Communicators
- Architects
- and many, many more.

	1987	2000	2020
Population	27.7 million	33.8 million	45 million
Park Visitation	55.7 million	80.3 million	?
Park Acreage	1.27 mil. acres	1.42 mil. acres	?
Park Employees	2,683	2,895	?

Because of state budget difficulties, the Department cut 225 positions in 1992. Today staffing remains 2.3 percent lower than the 1990 level despite significant increases in visitors and park acreage. Volunteers in the State Park System help enormously, and without them, many parks would have difficulty filling visitor needs. But volunteers can not replace critical functions, especially park safety and habitat management.

Local Communities depend on State Parks to help bring in tourists and revenue

A reduction in services, operating hours, and tours would affect revenues and employment in communities throughout the state. For example, the San Louis Obispo County Visitors and Convention Bureau calculated that a 10 percent drop in tours at Hearst Castle would result in a \$7 million per month decrease in visitor spending.



Volunteers Help Connect Parks With Communities

As interest and use of parks increases, so does the large cadre of Californians who volunteer their time and energy to support the State Park System. Californians give nearly a million hours of volunteer hours to the State Park System every year, helping to stretch park dollars and maximize the value of dollars spent.

Volunteers provide much-needed support as camp hosts and lead nature hikes. They give tours of museums and explain park history. They greet visitors and help run visitor centers. They participate in living history demonstrations and they answer phones. They roll up their sleeves and clean up beaches, and they build and maintain trails. They work with Junior Rangers and Junior Lifeguards, and also help with traditional park interpretation on hikes and tours and around campfires. In 2001-2001 they presented 148,234 interpretive activities.

California State Parks' Impact on Five Local Economies

Region	Annual Visitation	Annual Expenditures	Gross Output	Concession Revenue	Jobs
Central Coast	6,444,874	\$ 267,246,923	\$534,477,001	\$9,514,112	9,191
Sacramento	1,309,893	\$60,679,212	\$129,853,513	\$948,137	2,229
Humboldt Redwoods	537,336	\$21,533,321	\$40,913,310	(n/a)	706
Lake Oroville	1,025,845	\$16,816,289	\$34,323,897	\$3,819,099	570
San Clemente/San Onofre	3,326,196	\$199,410,874	\$494,422,677	\$60,406	8,008

CONCLUSION



Rapid growth throughout California is putting unprecedented demands on the State Park System. Increases in population and tourism coupled with renewed interest in state parks have resulted in greater use, greater wear and tear on the system, and greater need for specialists to adequately preserve and maintain the parks. The pace of development needed to accommodate population growth threatens to consume the open space that sets apart communities and gives them identity State Park System to move more acquire and develop parklands.



and forces the

Over the last 15 years, neither funding nor staffing have kept pace with the robust growth in attendance, State Park System acreage, and state population.

Increases 1987-88 to 2001-02

Attendance	53.6%
Population	24.9%
Acreage	14.4%
Staffing	7.9%
Funding*	5.4%

** Adjusted for inflation*



The state's population is highly diverse, and Californians' interests are changing. Certain populations and urban dwellers are increasingly under-served by parks. Trends in park use along with changes in public interests and attitudes challenge the Department of Parks and Recreation to adjust as necessary and appropriate to engage these under-served populations.

These issues make it increasingly difficult to fulfill the mission of the State Park System and make these places available, accessible, and safe. The State Park System needs designers, builders, maintenance crews, historians, ecologists, archaeologists, skilled communicators,

rangers, lifeguards, and more to fulfill essential mission-based roles. The State Park System has grown, but because its funding base and staffing levels have not always kept pace, the Department is hard-pressed to provide the best stewardship for state parks.

The realistic assessment in this document of the changes and trends in the state will help the Department plan to accommodate change for decades to come. The preservation of habitats and species, the caretaking and interpretation of California's history, and the stewardship of these special places all demand a broader view and a longer commitment.

Parks are an essential part of the high quality of life that is synonymous with California. The state's parks make the most beautiful and historic parts of the state available for Californians to experience. Parks create jobs, and they give communities distinction.

As the demand for open space and parklands grows over the next two decades, Californians will continue to recognize the power of parks in today's society as well as the importance of parks for future generations. Investing in parks is an investment in the people of California.



Anza-Borrego Desert SP

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Planning Division of California State Parks acknowledges the assistance of Penny Hill and Brian Collett in the preparation of the State Park System Plan. Special thanks for photo research are extended to the staff of the Interpretive Publications Unit: Gail Dudding, Laurena Cabanero, Carol Cullens, Tom Lindberg, Pat McLatchey, and Ron Warr; and the staff of the Photographic Archives: Jennifer Heichel, Wil Jorae, and Ron Rife.

In addition, the following individuals assisted in providing photographs or graphics for the plan: Ron Allison, Trisha Bennett, Pati Brown, Rebecca Brown, Brian Cahill, Philip Carey, Paula David, Janet Didion, Tom Durant (National Park Service), Hoyt Fields, Jim Fitzpatrick, Jack Frost, Nancy Fuller, Mary Helmich, Randy Jamison, Kevin Joe, Ken Kramer, Ron Krueper, Mike Lynch, Ken McKowen, Nancy Mendez, John Mott, Donald Neuwirth, Noah Tilghman, Anne Marie Tipton, and Tina Williams.

PHOTO CREDITS

All photos are courtesy of California State Parks or © California State Parks, unless noted below.

Inside cover – © John Birchard Photography, p. ii (beach) – Ken Kramer, p. vi (surf) – Ken Kramer, p. 2 – stock, p. 4 (canoe) – Kevin Joe, p. 5 – stock, p. 6 (sprawl) – stock and (creek) © Frank Balthis, p.7 (bicyclists) – stock and (picnic) – Ron Allison and (binoculars) – Ken Kramer, p. 8 (underwater) – Ken Kramer, p. 10 (campsite) – Ron Allison, p. (Lion Dancers) – Jack Frost, p. 14 – Jenny Rosenberg, p. 15 (Los Encinos) – Trisha Bennett, p. 17 (picnic) – City of Oakland Office of Parks and

Recreation, p.19 (tools) – stock, p. 20 (divers) – Ken Kramer and (kids) – City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation, p. 22 – stock, p. 24 (fire) – Tom Moss, p. 25 (volunteer) – Marla Hastings, p. 26 (planting) – Ken Kramer, p. 28 (ceiling) – Hoyt Fields, p. 28 (jetskier) – Ken Kramer, p. 29 (aerial) – Ken Kramer, p. 30 (boy) – City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation, p. 35 (video) – City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation, p. 36 (divers) – Ken Kramer, p. 37 (Crystal Cove) – Ken Kramer, p. 41 (lion dancers) – Jack Frost, and (swimmers) – Ken Kramer, p.42 (desert) – © Vince McDonald



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

Admiral William Standley SRA
 Ahjumawi Lava Springs SP
 Anderson Marsh SHP
 Andrew Molera SP
 Angel Island SP
 Annadel SB
 Año Nuevo SP
 Año Nuevo SR
 Antelope Valley CA Poppy Reserve SR
 Antelope Valley Indian Museum
 Anza-Borrego Desert SP
 Armstrong Redwoods SR
 Arthur B. Ripley Desert Woodland SP
 Asilomar SB&Conference Grounds
 Auburn SRA
 Austin Creek SRA
 Azalea SR
 Bale Grist Mill SHP
 Bean Hollow SB
 Benbow Lake SRA
 Benicia Capital SHP
 Benicia SRA
 Bethany Reservoir SRA
 Bidwell Mansion SHP
 Bidwell-Sacramento River SP
 Big Basin Redwoods SP
 Bodie SHP
 Bolsa Chica SB
 Border Field SP
 Bothe-Napa Valley SP
 Brannon Island SRA
 Burleigh H. Murray Ranch
 Burton Creek SP
 Butano SP
 CA Mining & Mineral Museum
 Calaveras Big Trees SP
 California Citrus SHP
 California State Capitol Museum
 Candlestick Point SRA
 Cardiff SB
 Carlsbad SB
 Carmel River SB
 Carnegie SVRA
 Carpinteria SB
 Caspar Headlands SB
 Caspar Headlands SR
 Castaic Lake SRA
 Castle Crags SP
 Castle Rock SP
 Castro Adobe
 Caswell Memorial SP
 Cayucos SB
 China Camp SP
 Chino Hills SP
 Chumash Painted Cave SHP
 Clay Pit SVRA
 Clear Lake SP
 Colonel Allensworth SHP
 Columbia SHP
 Colusa-Sacramento River SRA
 Cornfield
 Corona del Mar SB
 Crystal Cove SP
 Cuyamaca Rancho SP
 D.L. Bliss SP
 Del Norte Coast Redwoods SP
 Delta Meadows
 Dockweiler SB
 Doheny SB
 Donner Memorial SP
 Eastshore SP
 El Capitan SB
 El Presidio de Santa Barbara SHP
 Emerald Bay SP
 Emma Wood SB
 Empire Mine SHP
 Estero Bay
 Folsom Lake SRA
 Folsom Powerhouse SHP
 Fort Humboldt SHP
 Fort Ord Dunes SP
 Fort Ross SHP
 Fort Tejon SHP
 Franks Tract SRA
 Frémont Peak SP
 Garrapata SP
 Gaviota SP
 George J. Hatfield SRA
 Governor's Mansion SHP
 Gray Whale Cove SB
 Great Valley Grasslands SP
 Greenwood SB
 Grizzly Creek Redwoods SP
 Grover Hot Springs SP
 Half Moon Bay SB
 Harry A. Merlo SRA
 Hatton Canyon
 Hearst San Simeon SHM
 Heber Dunes SVRA
 Hendy Woods SP
 Henry Cowell Redwoods SP
 Henry W. Coe SP
 Hollister Hills SVRA
 Humboldt Lagoons SP
 Humboldt Redwoods SP
 Hungry Valley SVRA
 Huntington SB
 Indian Grinding Rock SHP
 Indio Hills Palms
 Jack London SHP
 Jedediah Smith Redwoods SP
 John B. Dewitt SR
 John Little SR
 John Marsh Home
 Jug Handle SR
 Julia Pfeiffer Burns SP
 Kenneth Hahn SRA
 Kings Beach SRA
 Kruse Rhododendron SR
 La Purísima Mission SHP
 Lake Del Valle SRA
 Lake Oroville SRA
 Lake Perris SRA
 Lake Valley SRA
 Leland Stanford Mansion SHP
 Leo Carrillo SP
 Leucadia SB
 Lighthouse Field SB
 Limekiln SP
 Little River SB
 Los Encinos SHP
 Los Osos Oaks SR
 MacKerricher SP
 Mailliard Redwoods SR
 Malakoff Diggins SHP
 Malibu Creek SP
 Malibu Lagoon SB
 Manchester SP
 Mandalay SB
 Manresa SB
 Marconi Conference Center SHP
 Marina SB
 Marshall Gold Discovery SHP
 McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial SP
 McConnell SRA
 McGrath SB
 Mendocino Headlands SP
 Mendocino Woodlands SP
 Mill Creek
 Millerton Lake SRA
 Mono Lake Tufa SR
 Montaña de Oro SP
 Montara SB
 Monterey SB
 Monterey SHP
 Montgomery Woods SR
 Moonlight SB
 Morro Bay SP
 Morro Strand SB
 Moss Landing SB
 Mount Diablo SP
 Mount San Jacinto SP
 Mount Tamalpais SP
 Natural Bridges SB
 Navarro River Redwoods SP
 New Brighton SB
 Oceano Dunes SVRA
 Ocotillo Wells SVRA
 Old Sacramento SHP
 Old Town San Diego SHP
 Olompali SHP
 Pacheco SP
 Pacifica SB
 Palomar Mountain SP
 Patrick's Point SP
 Pelican SB
 Pescadero SB
 Petaluma Adobe SHP
 Pfeiffer Big Sur SP
 Picacho SRA
 Pigeon Point Light Station SHP
 Pio Pico SHP
 Pismo SB
 Placerita Canyon SP
 Plumas-Eureka SP
 Point Cabrillo
 Point Dume SB
 Point Lobos Ranch
 Point Lobos SR
 Point Montara Light Station
 Point Mugu SP
 Point Sal SB
 Point Sur SHP
 Pomponio SB
 Portola Redwoods SP
 Prairie City SVRA
 Prairie Creek Redwoods SP
 Providence Mountains SRA
 Railtown 1897 SHP
 Red Rock Canyon SP
 Refugio SB
 Reynolds WC
 Richardson Grove SP
 Robert H. Meyer Memorial SB
 Robert Louis Stevenson SP
 Robert W. Crown Memorial SB
 Russian Gulch SP
 Saddleback Butte SP
 Salinas River SB
 Salt Point SP
 Salton Sea SRA
 Samuel P. Taylor SP
 San Bruno Mountain SP
 San Buenaventura SB
 San Clemente SB
 San Elijo SB
 San Gregorio SB
 San Juan Bautista SHP
 San Luis Reservoir SRA
 San Onofre SB
 San Pasqual Battlefield SHP
 San Simeon SP
 Santa Cruz Mission SHP
 Santa Monica SB
 Santa Susana Pass SHP
 Schooner Gulch SB
 Seacliff SB
 Shasta SHP
 Silver Strand SB
 Silverwood Lake SRA
 Sinkyone Wilderness SP
 Smithe Redwoods SR
 Sonoma Coast SB
 Sonoma SHP
 South Carlsbad SB
 South Yuba River SP
 Standish-Hickey SRA
 State Indian Museum SHP
 Stone Lake
 Sugar Pine Point SP
 Sugarloaf Ridge SP
 Sunset SB
 Sutter's Fort SHP
 Tahoe SRA
 Taylor Yard
 The Forest of Nisene Marks SP
 Thornton SB
 Tolowa Dunes SP
 Tomales Bay SP
 Tomo-Kahni SHP
 Topanga SP
 Torrey Pines SB
 Torrey Pines SR
 Trinidad SB
 Tule Elk SR
 Turlock Lake SRA
 Twin Lakes SB
 Van Damme SP
 Verdugo Mountains
 Ward Creek
 Washoe Meadows SP
 Wassama Round House SHP
 Watts Towers of Simon Rodia SHP
 Weaverville Joss House SHP
 Westport-Union Landing SB
 Wilder Ranch SP
 Will Rogers SB
 Will Rogers SHP
 William B. Ide Adobe SHP
 William Randolph Hearst Mem. SB
 Woodland Opera House SHP
 Woodland Bridge SRA
 Zmudowski SB