



Mission statement of McKinleyville Community Services District:
"McKinleyville Community Services District provides authorized services fundamental to the health and well-being of the community."

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE (PARC) WILL BE HELD
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024 AT 6:00pm**

**LOCATION: MCSD Conference Room
1656 Sutter Road
McKinleyville, California**

Or

TELECONFERENCE Via ZOOM & TELEPHONE:
**Use ZOOM MEETING ID: 826 4834 2851 (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82648342851>) or
DIAL IN TOLL FREE: 1-669-900-6833 (No Password Required!)**

To participate in person, please come to the MCSD Conference Room.

To participate by teleconference, please use the toll free number listed above, or join through the internet at the Zoom App with weblink and ID number listed above.

AGENDA

6:00 p.m. (Start Time Changed!)

- I. a. Introductions, Call to Order & Flag Salute
b. Approval of Agenda
c. Approval of November 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- II. Communications
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Possible Addition of Tribal Land Acknowledgement to PARC Procedures (Information)
- V. Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update (Information)
- VI. Elect Officers & Renew Terms (Action)
- VII. McKinleyville Community Forest Report (Information)
- VIII. Parks & Recreation Director Report (Information)
- IX. Ad Hoc Committee Reports (Information)
- X. Discuss agenda topics for next meeting
- XI. Adjournment (Estimated 8:00 pm)

Posted 5:00 pm on December 13, 2024

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957.5, this agenda and complete packet are available for public inspection on the web at <https://mckinleyvillecsd.specialdistrict.org/parks-and-recreation-committee-parc-meetings> or upon request at the MCSD office, 1656 Sutter Road, McKinleyville. If you would like to receive the complete packet via email, free of charge, contact the Board Secretary at (707)839-3251 to be added to the mailing list.

McKinleyville Community Services District will, on request, make agendas available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Individuals who need this agenda in an alternative format or who need a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in the meeting should contact the Board Secretary at (707) 839-3251. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements for accommodations.

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE (PARC)
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.
IN PERSON AT THE MCSD OFFICE – 1656 SUTTER ROAD, MCKINLEYVILLE, CALIFORNIA**

Agenda Item I –

a. Introductions, Call To Order, & Flag Salute

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. with following committee members in attendance in person at the MCSD Office:

Phil Heidrick
Charlie Caldwell
Johnny Calkins
Heidi Conzelmann
Jane Fusek
Dana Merrill
Ciara Torres – Parent/Teacher Conf.

Julie Gianini-Previde – arrived at 6:45pm

Via Zoom:

**Patti Stuart (alternate)

*Scott Binder - MCSD Board Director (non-voting member)

Absent:

John Kulstad
Jennifer Ortega - Vice Chair

Staff in Attendance:

Kirsten Messmer

Members of the Public:

Baby Jeffrey Merrill

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Phil Heidrick.

b. Approval of Agenda

Motion: It was moved to approve the agenda, swapping Items VI and VII at align with the Staff Notes in the Packet.

Motion by: Committee Member Caldwell; **Second:** Committee Member Calkins

There were no comments from the Committee or public.

Roll Call: Ayes: Heidrick, Caldwell, Calkins, Conzelmann, Fusek, Merrill, Torres Nays: None

Absent: Gianini-Previde, Kulstad, Ortega

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

c. Approval of the October 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion: It was moved to approve the Meeting Minutes, removing the Master Plan Update from Agenda Topics for Next Meeting.

Motion by: Committee Member Caldwell; **Second:** Committee Member Merrill

There were no comments from the Committee or public.

Roll Call: Ayes: Heidrick, Caldwell, Calkins, Conzelmann, Fusek, Merrill, Torres Nays: None
Absent: Gianini-Previde, Kulstad, Ortega
Motion Summary: Motion passed.

Agenda Item II – Communications

No Communications

Agenda Item III – Public Comment

No Public Comment

Agenda Item IV – Possible Addition of Tribal Land Acknowledgement to PARC Procedures

Parks & Recreation Director Mesmer presented the item, giving an update on it's current status; which is that we are waiting to hear back from Michelle Vassel, the Tribal Administrator for the Wiyot Tribe. This was an informational item. No action was taken.

Agenda Item V – Review and Consider Evan Schwartz's Application for the Open Alternate Committee Member Seat

Motion: It was moved to recommend to the MCSD Board of Directors to appoint Evan Schwartz as an alternate to the PARC Committee.

Motion by: Committee Member Caldwell; **Second:** Committee Member Calkins
There were no comments from the Committee or public.

Roll Call: Ayes: Heidrick, Caldwell, Calkins, Conzelmann, Fusek, Merrill, Torres Nays: None
Absent: Gianini-Previde, Kulstad, Ortega

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

Agenda Item VI – McKinleyville Community Forest Report

McKinleyville Community Forest PARC Appointee member Ortega was absent, so Director Messmer gave an update on the last MCFC Meeting. The subcommittee for the Forest Management Plan/Funding/Budget (FMPFB) at the time of the meeting has had no members of the public apply to be on the subcommittee. The Trails Plan/Infrastructure/Clean Ups/Security (TICS) subcommittee now has these public members added to the Subcommittee:

1. Charlie Caldwell
2. Kenneth Burton
3. Phil Heidrick
4. Shaun Fyfe
5. Justin Brown
6. Nancy Morelli (Alternate)

The next TICS Meeting is Tuesday November 26 at 5:00pm at the MCSD Office Conference Room. The MCFC voted to recommend that the MCSD Board adopt Resolution 2024-21 Affirming Board Support of the existing MOUs with MBTTA and RCMB. They was also reports on the Subcommittee Meetings and an update on the CalVTP/CAL FIRE Grant.

Agenda Item VII – Plant Markers for the Botanical Garden

Committee Discussion ensued. This was an informational item. No action was taken.

Agenda Item VIII – Parks & Recreation Director Report

RECREATION PROGRAM UPDATES

- Drop-in Pickleball is back on its normal school year schedule: Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings 9:00am to 12:00pm at the McKinleyville Activity Center. Drop in is \$4 per person.
- Beginning Pickleball will have two fall sessions. Session 1 is November 7-21 on Thursday evenings from 6-8pm. Session 2 is December 5-19 on Thursday evenings from 6-8pm. Registration is full for Session 1. The Class Fee is \$40 for residents and \$45 for non-residents.
- Drop-in Kung Fu is on Tuesday and Thursday evenings 5:30pm-7:00pm \$10 per person per class. Bulk class passes are available to purchase at \$7.50 per class.
- Drop-in Tai Chi is Sundays 11:00am-12:00pm \$10 per person per class. Bulk class passes are available to purchase at \$7.50 per class. The Martial Arts classes are averaging 5-8 people per class.
- Fast Break Friday's is a drop-in basketball program for youth ages 13 to 17. Drop-in is \$5 per participant. It is averaging 18-20 participants per week.
- Staff are preparing for the upcoming Youth Basketball Season. As usual the Season runs January – March for 3rd-8th Graders. Registration is happening now, so far 119 players have signed up.
- Sunday Night drop-in Basketball is averaging 8-10 participants per week.
- Playgroup for children 0-5 years old runs every Thursday from 10:30am-12:30pm through the school year minus Holiday Break Weeks.
- The Tot-letics Basketball Sessions are currently running and have filled 34 spots out of 40. This program is for 3-5 year olds and hosts 40 children per class series. Enrollment for this program usually fills up.
- Staff have been preparing for the upcoming Thanksgiving week Breakout camp.
- The last Cooking Basics Class for Kids focused on Bread and Soup, and it had 7/8 spots filled. The next class will likely be scheduled after the holidays. These classes take place in the Teen Center Kitchen on Saturdays.
- The Adult Wood Bat Softball League has finished up for the year with the Humdingers taking home the Championship trophy.
- The upcoming Middle School Dances for the 24-25 school year have been scheduled. Five different PTOs reached out with an interest to partner on a dance. Four PTOs were selected lotto style via zoom. The line up for next year will be:
 - Friday, October 25, 2024 – Coastal Grove PTO
 - 267 Middle Schoolers attended the first dance!
 - Friday, December 6, 2024 – McKinleyville Schools PTO
 - Friday, February 7, 2025 – Jacoby Creek PTO
 - Friday, April 18, 2025 – Pacific Union PTO

PARK & FACILITY MAINTENANCE UPDATES:

The Parks crew and NHES continue the routine schedule for landscape maintenance on Central Avenue and Open Space Zone landscaping. The Maintenance crew is working hard to catch up on the summer growth in all our landscaping areas. The Saturday SWAP crews have been doing a great job working on the Central Avenue OSMZs. Staff continue to keep up with daily/weekly routine facility and vehicle maintenance. Monthly inspections were conducted on all facilities and Open Spaces. Staff have been making the most out of our turn's use of the shared Flail Mower, tackling multiple areas needed around Hiller Park.

FACILITY RENTALS & USE

October Rentals:

- 5 Azalea Hall Rentals plus a weekly and a bi-weekly meeting room rental.
- 4 Pierson Park Rentals.
- 4 Teen Center Rentals.
- 4 Activity Center rentals and 2 Birthday Party Program Rentals in the Activity Center.
- The Teen Center Kitchen has one regular Vendor renting it for food preparation.

OTHER UPDATES:

- Staff continues to work with MUSD to provide staff for the school districts after school programs.
- Staff continues to participate as members of the McKinleyville Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, as well as serving on Fundraising Committees for the Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods.
- Staff continues to provide support to other departments of the District; assisting with accounts payable.

Agenda Item IX – Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Skate Park (Charlie Caldwell) – Member Caldwell let the committee know there are now new fundraising signs for the Skatepark Phase II that he will be hanging up at facilities around the skatepark and that the Skatepark Collective will have the original construction crew come out this summer to do a seal on the concrete to help maintain the park.

Fischer Ranch Estuary Project (Johnny Calkins) – Member Calkins let the committee know that there are and will be Cal Poly students out there studying the animals and habitats.

BMX Bike Track & Park at School/Washington (Charlie Caldwell) – No new information.

Community Garden (~~Charlie Caldwell~~ Ciara Torres) – Member Torres stepped up to take over reporting on the Community Garden, she also let the committee know that there is a Girl Scout Troop that would like to take on rehabbing the garden in the spring.

Agenda Item X – Discuss Agenda Topics for Next Meeting (December 18, 2025)

Agenda Items for next meeting:

- The committee would like to have a potluck at the next meeting.
- Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update due by end of 2025
- Nominations and appointments for the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary for 2025

Agenda Item XI - ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 6:55pm

Kirsten Messmer, Parks & Recreation Director



TO: MEMBERS, PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

FROM: KIRSTEN MESSMER, PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: STAFF NOTES FOR DECEMBER 18, 2024 MEETING

AGENDA ITEM I-

- a. Introductions, Call to Order & Flag Salute**
- b. Approval of Agenda - Action**
- c. Approval of November 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes - Action**

AGENDA ITEM II - Communications

Staff or members may communicate any pertinent information not already scheduled to be discussed on the agenda.

AGENDA ITEM III - Public Comment

Any person may address the Committee at this time upon any subject not identified on this Agenda but within the jurisdiction of the McKinleyville CSD Park And Recreation Committee.

AGENDA ITEM IV – Possible Addition of Tribal Land Acknowledgement to PARC Procedures

This item was discussed at the May 15th PARC meeting at which one statement was offered and comments made. It was decided to bring the item back in June to give committee members time to propose alternate statements for consideration. The statement below is one option provided by committee member Jane Fusek. This item was pulled from the June 19th PARC meeting to seek Tribal Approval. Staff contacted Michelle Vassel, the Tribal administrator for the Wiyot Tribe. Tribal Administrator Vassel has added the Tribal Land Acknowledgement below to their next Cultural Committee agenda for review and suggestions. At this point Staff is still waiting to hear back from Tribal Administrator Vassel.

“We acknowledge that the land we are meeting on, and the territorial jurisdiction of the McKinleyville Community Services District (MCSD) is unceded territory of the Wiyot People who continue to live and thrive here today. MCSD will strive to be good stewards of the land and learn from local indigenous peoples. This will be accomplished through developing respectful relationships with the native community that stem from a recognition of their deep understanding.”

Information

AGENDA ITEM V – Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update

Update on the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update needed to be completed by December of 2025.

Attachment V.1 – Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Action

AGENDA ITEM VI – Elect Officers & Renew Terms

Nominate & Appoint a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary for a term of one year. Review members whose term ends in January of 2025.

Terms Ending in January 2025:

Phil Heidrick
John Calkins

Action

AGENDA ITEM VII – McKinleyville Community Forest Report

Update on McKinleyville Community Forest from MCF Committee Member Jennifer Ortega or Kirsten Messmer. The MCFC did not meet in December. The next meeting is January 21, 2025.

Information

AGENDA ITEM VIII – Parks & Recreation Director Report

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- Staff are preparing for the upcoming Youth Basketball Season. As usual the Season runs January – March for 3rd-8th Graders. Registration is happening now, so far 225 players have signed up.
- Sunday Night drop-in Basketball is averaging 8-10 participants per week.
- Playgroup for children 0-5 years old runs every Thursday from 10:30am-12:30pm through the school year minus Holiday Break Weeks.
- The Tot-letics Basketball Sessions have finished. The next Tot-letics session will be Soccer and will run March 8-April 5, 2025.

- Due to the way the Holidays land there will not be a Breakout camp for Christmas or New Years Week. There will be Breakout for President's Week and Spring Break week.
- The last Cooking Basics Class for Kids focused on Bread and Soup, and it had 7/8 spots filled. The next class will likely be scheduled after the holidays. These classes take place in the Teen Center Kitchen on Saturdays.
- The upcoming Middle School Dances for the 24-25 school year have been scheduled. Five different PTOs reached out with an interest to partner on a dance. Four PTOs were selected lotto style via zoom. The line up for next year will be:
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Information

AGENDA ITEM IX – Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Skate Park (Charlie Caldwell)

Fischer Ranch Estuary Project (Johnny Calkins)
BMX Bike Track & Park at School/Washington (Charlie Caldwell)
Community Garden (Ciara Torres)

Information

AGENDA ITEM X – Discuss Agenda Topics for Next Meeting

Discussion

AGENDA ITEM XI – Adjournment

McKinleyville Community Services District

Department of Parks & Recreation

Parks & Recreation Master Plan



Adopted
January 2, 2019



Mouth of the Mad River

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Chapter 1: Introduction



Chapter One: Introduction

Introduction

The McKinleyville Community Services District (MCSD)'s Parks and Recreation Master Plan is intended to be a list of priorities for and strategies by MCSD for providing recreational facilities and programs to the 12,480 acre area inside District's boundaries (See Exhibit 1). The Plan should provide a blueprint of what the District intends to provide in the way of recreation for McKinleyville by the year 2031 with the understanding that the needs of the community and its resources will change over time. Therefore, the plan should be considered a living document and as such it will be updated as required by opportunities and improvements every 5 years.



Chapter 1 is an introduction to the McKinleyville community and the Master Plan document. It includes demographic information as well as definitions to terms used throughout the Master Plan. Chapter Two describes the recreational opportunities available to McKinleyville in 2018. Chapter Three describes the existing level of service for facilities and opportunities in McKinleyville while also providing a comparison of LOS's in communities with similar populations and population densities across the nation. Chapter Four discuss future planning, challenges, goals and strategies.

Purpose of the Plan

As stated above, this plan will provide MCSD with a strategy for achieving its highest priority projects. This is a planning tool, (not a strict guideline) for use by the residents of McKinleyville, the MCSD Recreation Advisory Committee, and the MCSD staff and Board of Directors.

For residents, the plan may serve as a catalog of recreational opportunities and as a source of information. For the MCSD Recreation Advisory Committee, the plan will focus development efforts on MCSD's high priority projects. For the MCSD staff and Board of Directors, the plan will serve as the basis for funding decisions and grant applications.

Setting

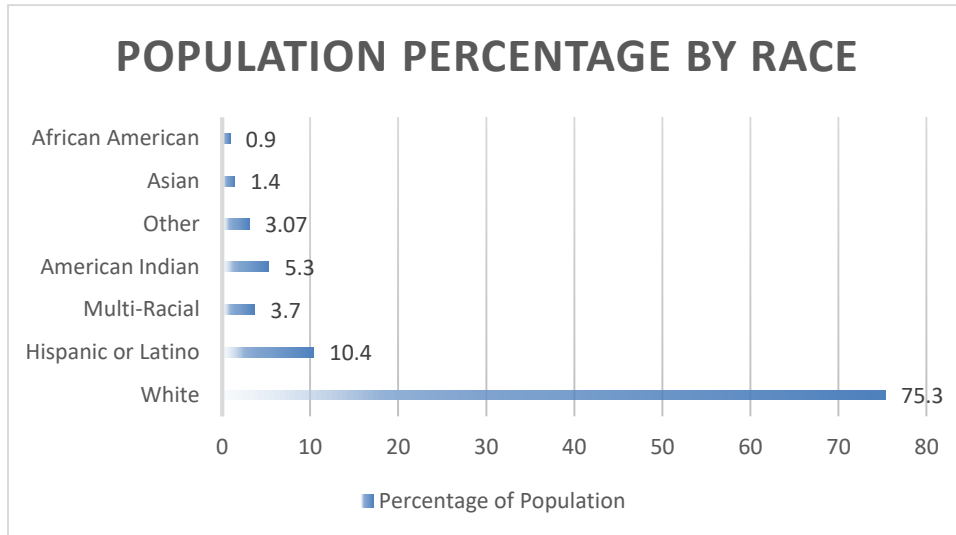
McKinleyville is an unincorporated community of approximately 16,948 people. Exhibit 1 illustrates the boundaries of the McKinleyville Community Services District that encompasses 12,480 acres. Most of the housing is located in the 4,000-acre rectangle formed by the Pacific Ocean, the Mad River, the foothills and the airport. Commercial activities are concentrated along Central Avenue from School Road to Murray Road.

Chapter One: Introduction

Since the 2010 US Census, McKinleyville has grown by 11.7%. According to the MCSD “Urban Water Management Plan” population in McKinleyville should increase to almost 18,147 people by the year 2030.

Demographics

According to US Census data released in December 2017, McKinleyville has a population of approximately 16,948. The population density was 815 people per square mile.

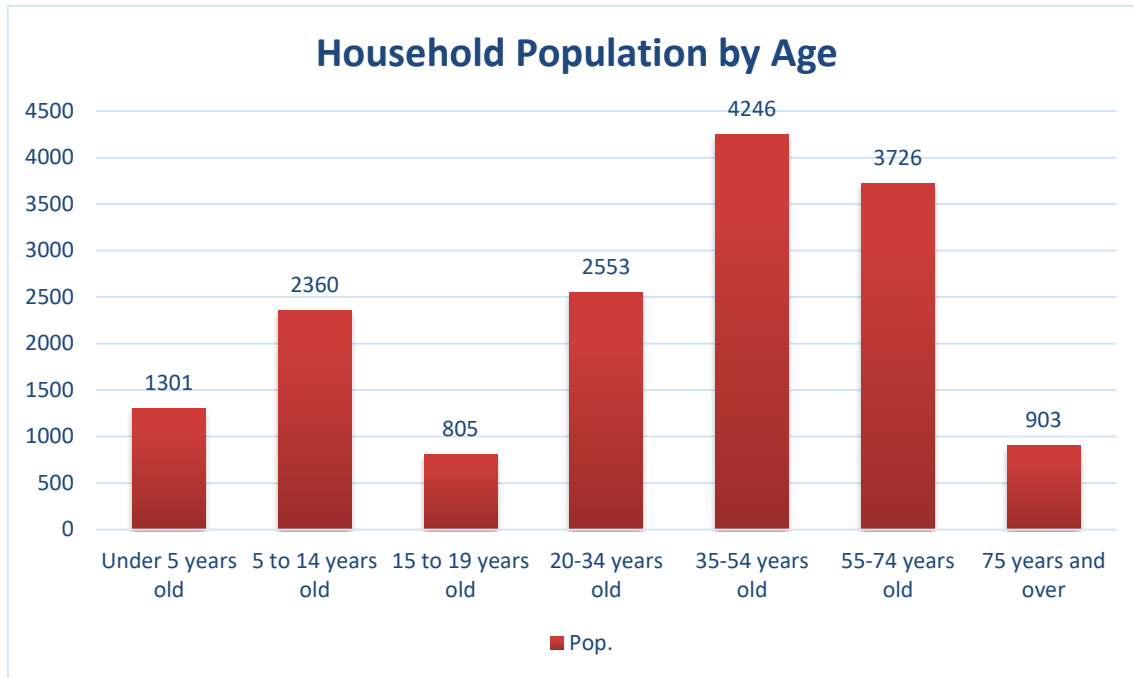


The 2015 American Community Survey by the US Census Bureau reported that there were 6,793 households, of which 2,199 (34.9%) had children under the age of 18 living in them. The average household size was 2.60. There were 4,197 families (66.6% of all households); the average family size was 3.4. The household counts in **bold** are what make up the **Total Number of Households**. The “Spousal led families” & “Other family types” total the “Number of Family led homes” and are in **red**.

Household Demographics	POP.	% of POP.
Total Population in Households	15,880	93.70%
Non-institutional group housing	85	0.50%
Total Number of Households	6,793	% of Households
Number of Family led homes	4524	66.6%
Number of Spousal led families	3023	44.5%
Number of Other family types	1501	22.1%
Number of Single Mother homes	1039	15.3%
Number of Single Father homes	455	6.7%

Chapter One: Introduction

Number of Non-family homes	2269	33.4%
People living alone	1766	26%



The household population was spread out with 4,466 people under the age of 20; 6,799 people aged 20-54; 3,726 people aged 55-74, and 903 people age 75 years of age or older. The median age was 36.7 years.



Chapter One: Introduction

Household Income Statistics	
Median Household Income	\$51,727
Average Household Income	\$65,441
Per Capita Household Income	\$25,419
	% of Household Population
Income Less than \$10,000	6.1%
Income \$10,000 to \$24,999	16.3%
Income \$25,000 to \$34,999	11.6%
Income \$35,000 to \$49,999	14.2%
Income \$50,000 to \$74,999	17.4%
Income \$75,000 to \$99,999	15.2%
Income \$100,000 to \$149,999	12%
Income \$150,000 to \$199,999	4.1%
Income greater than \$200,000	3.1%

Definitions

Select terms as used in this plan are defined as follows:

Active Recreation:

Involves organized and structured sports such as soccer, baseball and tennis.

Bicycle Path:

Describes a bikeway physically separated from motorized vehicular traffic, either within a road right of way or within an independent right of way. Bicycle paths should be distinguished from bicycle lanes or routes which share roadways with motorized vehicles. Bicycle Paths and Lanes are primarily established for non-motorized circulation as compared to recreation purposes. The Bicycle Lanes on the East and West side of Central Avenue from School Road to Railroad Avenue are examples.

Community Park:

Describes a recreational area of six plus acres available to the entire District service area.

Developed Parkland: land that has been developed for outdoor recreation purposes that is readily accessible to the public

Mini Park:

Describes a recreational area of less than two acres serving the area encompassed inside a 1-mile radius.

Chapter One: Introduction

Other Park:

Describes a recreational area of between 2 acres and 5 acres.

Neighborhood Park:

Describes a recreation area of 5 acres serving the area encompassed in a 2-mile radius.

Playground:

Describes a defined play area intended for use by older children (6-12 years); equipped with active play structures and fall absorbing footing material.

Preservation Area:

Describes a property that excludes or restricts public use to protect ecological, cultural or natural values.

Open Space:

Describes undeveloped or reclaimed land preserved for public use for its cultural, ecological, visual, educational, or recreational significance.

Passive Recreation:

Encompasses such unstructured, relatively quiet activities as picnicking, bird watching, kite flying and walking.



Perennial Stream:

Describes a stream that flows year round as compared to an intermittent stream that flows for a portion of the year or an ephemeral stream that only flows during a storm.

Riparian Habitat:

Describes the plant and wildlife community associated with stream-sides or wetlands.

Tot Lot:

Describes a defined play area intended for use by young children (1-5 years); equipped with play equipment, make believe settings and fall absorbing footing material.

Trail:

Describes a route that is designated for recreational use for one or more forms of transportation other than motor vehicles. Trails are primarily established for recreational

Chapter One: Introduction

activity as compared to circulation purposes. The nature trail from Parkside Drive to Widow White Creek is an example.

Undeveloped Land:

Describes a vacant property held in private ownership.

Useable Open Space:

Describes a dedicated permanent play surface for recreational opportunities and/or informal sports activities.

Watershed:

Describes a drainage basin, the area of land from which a stream gets its water supply.

Chapter 2: Inventory of Existing Opportunities



Chapter Two: Inventory of Existing Opportunities

Overview

McKinleyville is blessed with abundant natural beauty given our proximity to the Pacific Ocean, the Mad River, and several types of coniferous forests. Several lovely streams cross from the foothills to the ocean and native azaleas flourish in many areas throughout the community. The State of California, the County of Humboldt and the MCSD, own and operate a wide variety of parks and facilities. Additionally, MCSD, the McKinleyville Union School District, the Northern Humboldt Unified High School District, numerous non-profit organizations and a handful of businesses, provide recreational opportunities. These opportunities are summarized in the following tables and described in more detail throughout this chapter.



Parkland Classification

McKinleyville offers a variety of outdoor space for recreation. Most of the spaces can be classified as either Developed or Undeveloped. The table below outlines the number of each type and the corresponding acreage within McKinleyville’s boundaries.

Parkland Type	# of Sites	Acreage	Provider/Owner
<u>Developed Parkland</u>			
Community Parks	2	42	MCSD
Neighborhood Parks	4	1.1	MCSD & MUSD
County Parks	2	345.5	Humboldt County
State Park	2	150	State of California
Trails	7	n/a	Multiple agencies
<u>Undeveloped Parkland</u>			
Natural Areas & Open Spaces	15	190.75	Multiple agencies

Recreation Facility Types

Recreation facilities come in a variety of forms. There are facilities specific to sports recreation, active recreation, and passive recreation. Recreation facilities are both outdoor and indoor. The following table outlines the existing facilities within the boundaries of McKinleyville. It lists the type, the number of facilities available and the owner/operator of each facility.

Chapter Two: Inventory of Existing Opportunities

Table of Existing Recreation Facilities

FACILITY INVENTORY	PROVIDERS/OWNERS/MANAGERS			
FACILITY TYPE	MCS D	Public Schools	County	Other*
<u>Outdoor Facilities: Sports</u>				
Baseball Fields	3	1		
Softball Fields	3	1		
Soccer Fields	4	6		
Football Fields		2		
Multi-use Fields		6		
Basketball Courts		11		
Tennis Courts		6		
Golf Course				1
<u>Outdoor Facilities: Recreation</u>				
Boat Ramp			1	
Bocce Ball Courts	2			
Botanical Garden	1			
Camping			15	
Community Garden	1			
Dog Park	1			
Horseshoe Pits	3			
Ocean Access			2	1
Picnic Areas-Large	3			
Picnic Areas-Small	3		2	1
Playgrounds	3	3		2
Restrooms	3		1	
River Access	1		3	4
Trails	2		4	2
<u>Indoor Facilities</u>				
Gymnasium	1	4		
Multi-purpose Center	2	3		
Reception/Banquet Hall	1			1
Meeting Spaces	3	1		Unknown #

Existing Recreation Facilities

Community & Neighborhood Parks

McKinleyville Community Services District Owned

- **Hiller Park:**
Located at the west end of Hiller Road, is a 36 acre natural area with trails, meadows and woods. Adjacent to the Hammond Trail, the restrooms at Hiller Park serve the day users and the cyclists, hikers and riders using the trail. Hiller Park also has a group barbecue area including picnic tables, and two tot lots for kids ages 2-12. There is a large meadow area designated as a dog park where dogs may run and play off leash.
- **Pierson Park:**
A 6.2 acre site with a community center located east of Central Avenue between Pickett Road and Gwin Road. Pierson Park includes two playgrounds including a climbing rock, two covered picnic areas, singular picnic tables and barbecues, three horseshoe pits, two bocce ball courts, a community garden, restrooms and parking.
- **Larissa Park:**
A 0.17 acre mini-park located West of Central Avenue off of Reasor Road. Larissa Park has a tot lot playground for kids age 2-5, a grassy area, and picnic tables.

McKinleyville Union School District Owned

- **Dows Prairie School:**
The school campus holds two playgrounds for children 5-12 years old as well as open field space for multiple uses. The campus is open to the public during weekends and non-school hours. There are no public restrooms on the campus.
- **Morris School:**
The school campus holds two playgrounds for children 5-12 years old as well as open field space for multiple uses. The campus is open to the public during weekends and non-school hours. There are no public restrooms on the campus.

Outdoor Recreation Facilities

McKinleyville Community Services District Owned

- **Hiller Sports Complex:**
Includes two little league fields, one regulation sized softball field, one minor softball field, a Babe Ruth baseball field that doubles as a regulation softball field, two youth sized soccer fields and two collegiate sized soccer fields.

McKinleyville Union School District Owned - McKinleyville Union School District (MUSD) issues permits to individuals and groups to use their facilities.

- **Dows Prairie School:**

Chapter Two: Inventory of Existing Opportunities

The campus has field space large enough for soccer, backstops for baseball and softball practice, and outdoor basketball courts.

- **McKinleyville Middle School:**

The campus has field space large enough for soccer, backstops for baseball and softball practice, and outdoor basketball courts.

- **Morris School:**

The campus has field space large enough for soccer, backstops for baseball and softball practice, and outdoor basketball courts.

Northern Humboldt High School District Owned - Northern Humboldt Union High School District occasionally contracts for use of their facilities.

- **McKinleyville High School:**

The campus has a track, two full size football fields, two full size soccer fields, one baseball field, one softball field, 6 tennis courts and 2 half-court outdoor basketball courts.

County Owned

- **Clam Beach County Park:**

Operated by the County and consists of the 250 Acres on the coast south of the Little River Beach State Park to Widow White Creek. With more than three miles of beach, the area has historically been a popular recreational destination for McKinleyville residents. Facilities at the park include camping sites, restrooms, parking and an equestrian use area.



- **Hammond Bridge River Access:**

Humboldt County maintains a parking area on the North bank of the Mad River adjacent to the Hammond Bridge abutment.

- **Little River Beach State Park:**

Operated by the State of California and consists of a 120 acre strip of land sandwiched between Highway 101 and the Pacific Ocean at the North End of McKinleyville. The park offers over a mile of beach for sightseeing, beachcombing, clamming, fishing and hiking.

- **Mad River County Park:**

Operated by the County and occupies a triangular spit of sand formed by the Mad River on the East and the Pacific Ocean on the West. The 95.5-acre park is a haven for fishermen and boaters with access into both the Mad River and the Pacific Ocean. Facilities at the Park include a boat ramp, restrooms, trails, picnic tables and parking. Mad River County Park is located across the Mad River (west side) from McKinleyville.

Chapter Two: Inventory of Existing Opportunities

- **Roping Arena:**
Humboldt County leases a roping arena and gymkhana grounds at the North end of Kjer Drive to the McKinleyville Rodeo Association.

State Owned

- **Azalea State Reserve:**
Operated by the State of California and consists of a 30-acre natural area located in the South East corner of McKinleyville. The Park features the native Western Azalea, and Rhododendron, which bloom during spring. Facilities at the Park include a self-guided nature trail, two picnic areas, a grass play area, seasonal restrooms and parking.
- **Vista Turnout:**
The State of California maintains a five acre Vista Turnout between Highway 101 and Clam Beach. The Hammond Trail can be accessed from this parking area.

Other Ownership (Private/Non-profit)

- **Beau Pre Golf Course:**
Beau Pre is a privately owned golf course open to the public on a fee basis.

Indoor Recreation Facilities

McKinleyville Community Services District Owned

- **Azalea Hall:** *(available for rent)*
A 6,820 square foot Community Center located in Pierson Park. Overlooking Pierson Park, Azalea Hall includes the 2,000 square foot **Hewitt Room**, which features natural wood-beamed ceilings, adjustable lighting, a stage and sound system, projector screen, and a fully equipped commercial kitchen. It seats up to 200 persons for banquets and 300 in assembly.



Azalea Hall also features a **Meeting Room**, which is an ideal place for small, quiet group meetings. It has a seating capacity of 50 persons for banquets and 75 in assembly. It is situated within our Senior Room, and is generally available after 4:00 pm each day.

- **McKinleyville Activity Center:** *(available for rent)*
A gymnasium located in Pierson Park. The facility is 10,000 square feet, featuring a full-size gymnasium, bleachers, a spacious lobby, a sound system, and a variety of indoor sporting equipment (including roller skates). This facility is ideal for sporting events, birthday parties, gatherings and larger special events and fundraisers.
- **The McKinleyville Library:**
Located in Pierson Park and maintained by the District and operated by the County. In 2010, the McKinleyville Library was expanded to include a 720 square foot conference room equipped with Wi-Fi.

Chapter Two: Inventory of Existing Opportunities

- **McKinleyville Teen & Community Center:** *(available for rent)*

A 6500 square foot multi-use facility. The facility has a large multi-purpose room that can be divided into two smaller classrooms or meeting rooms, a large lounge area for hanging out complete with games and independent activities for youth. There is also a commercial kitchen and a sound proof music room with space to accommodate a recording studio.

McKinleyville Union School District Owned - *McKinleyville Union School District (MUSD) issues permits to individuals and groups to use their facilities.*

- **Dows Prairie School:**

The campus has a multi-purpose room that can be used for indoor sports such as basketball or volleyball as well as for large group meetings.

- **McKinleyville Middle School:**

The campus has a conference room available for meetings, a multi-purpose room that can be used for indoor activities or classes, and a full size gymnasium.

- **Morris School:**

The campus has a multi-purpose room that can be used for indoor sports such as basketball or volleyball as well as for large group meetings.

Northern Humboldt High School District Owned - *Northern Humboldt Union High School District occasionally contracts for use of their facilities.*

- **McKinleyville High School:**

The campus has a multi-purpose room and a full size gymnasium.

Other Ownership (Private/Non-profit)

- **Dows Prairie Grange:**

A hall with a kitchen available to rent for parties, meetings and more.

- **Local Churches:**

McKinleyville has several churches which have meeting spaces available to community members.

- **McKinleyville Chamber of Commerce:**

The Chamber office has space for public meetings.

Chapter Two: Inventory of Existing Opportunities

Trails & Open Spaces

The State provides hiking opportunities at both the Azalea Reserve and at Little River State Beach. At Azalea Reserve there are two 0.3 mile looped, interpretive trails through the native azalea grove. At Little River State Beach hikers and equestrians can access over one mile of ocean frontage.

The Hammond Trail is a 12 foot wide separated path running from the Arcata Bottoms to Clam Beach. From the Mad River at the Hammond Bridge to its north terminus, the trail is about 4.5 miles long. The Hammond Trail is a very popular trail used by hikers and cyclists. Humboldt County has also constructed a river access spur trail off of the Hammond Trail just north of Murray Road. Construction of two additional miles from the north side of Widow White Creek to Clam Beach was recently completed.



Humboldt County also provides hiking and equestrian access at Clam Beach County Park and Mad River County Park. See Exhibit 2 for a map of Humboldt County Parks. MCSD provides a **1.5 mile looped nature trail at Hiller Park** that circles the wastewater treatment facility from the Hammond Trail.

The **Mid Town Trail** is partially constructed from Parkside Drive to Railroad Drive, about 0.4 of a mile. A portion of the central section of .5 miles will be completed as properties are developed. This is a paved bicycle and pedestrian path that will eventually link Murray Road to the Mill Creek Marketplace.

MCSD maintains a **0.3 mile trail on the south side of School Road** from Fischer Road to the Mad River Bluff. This is a paved bicycle and pedestrian trail.

The County provides bike lanes along portions of Central Avenue, School Road, McKinleyville Avenue, Murray Road and Hiller Road.

The **McKinleyville Land Trust maintains the Mad River Bluff trails** west of the **Hiller Park Loop Trails**. This trail system has recently been improved and allows for coastal access. McKinleyville Land Trust also maintains **0.65 miles of trails at the Chah-GAH-Cho** open space at the southern end of Betty Ct.

Open Space

MCSD and the McKinleyville Land Trust Land has been preserving land as open space since 1991. For MCSD's open space lands, they are available for passive recreation, but no overnight camping, and no motorized vehicles are allowed in them. This is also largely true of the McKinleyville Land Trust's lands, but interested individuals should check with the land trust for specific rules and regulations of their properties.

Chapter Two: Inventory of Existing Opportunities

In 1991, the MCSD Board adopted Ordinance 42 that enabled the District to accept donations of open space land or easements predicated on the formation of an assessment district to pay for long-term maintenance of that open space. Since 1991, the following open space resources have been preserved:

- **North Fork Wetland:**

MCSD holds an easement interest in the 2-acre wetland and riparian habitat, adjacent to the North Fork of Widow White Creek, North of Little Pond Drive.

- **Ridgewood Wetland:**

MCSD holds an easement interest in the 2-acre wetland located in the North West corner of the Ridgewood Subdivision (North of Sutter Road). The wetland is related to natural springs in that area.



- **McLund/Norton Creek Wildlife Area Wetland:**

MCSD owns a 1.59-acre wetland and pond located in the McLund Subdivision, south of Barnett Road, between Winchester and Chapparral Street. This area is also known as the Norton Creek Wildlife Area. Water to the pond is from upstream drainage of the Winchester subdivision. MCSD conducts an annual evaluation of the wetland. Basic maintenance occurs on a monthly basis to keep the trails clear and keep trash and debris out of the pond.

- **Foster-Steiner OSMZ:**

Just west of Norton Creek Wildlife Area, these two subdivisions have dedicated riparian property and detention basins on both sides of Norton Creek. These areas are an extension of the Norton Wildlife area and are similarly maintained.

- **Fernwood OSMZ:**

MCSD owns a 7-acre wetland and detention basin with informal trails to the north and east of Parkside Dr. accessible from the eastern end of Parkside Dr. Widow White Creek runs through the wetland.

- **Magnolia OSMZ:**

MCSD owns a 4-acre wetland and detention basin south of Widow White Creek and north of Honeycomb Ave.

- **Burtchett Wetland:**

MCSD holds an easement interest in the 0.26-acre wetland located in the Burtchett Subdivision at the South East corner of Bartow and Central Avenue. This wetland is related to the Mill Creek riparian corridor. MCSD conducts an annual evaluation of the wetland and remediates any non-conformance with the Wetlands Management Plan.

Chapter Two: Inventory of Existing Opportunities

- **Sutter Ranch OSMZ:**
MCSD maintains a 3-acre open space and storm drainage area in the Sutter Ranch Subdivision.
- **Central Estates OSMZ:**
MCSD holds an easement interest in the Central Estates subdivision that consists of a 1.75-acre detention basin which includes 9,704 square feet of paved trail (approximately 0.25 acres).
- **Hiller East Property:**
The MCSD Water and Sewer Dept. owns a 58-acre swath of land east of the Hammond Trail and north of the Hiller Sports Site. This space accommodates informal trails is a storm water detention basin and irrigation. It is open to the public when not being utilized for irrigation.
- **Fischer Ranch River Trail:**
In 1996, MCSD also purchased the 152-acre Fischer Ranch Dairy on School Road most of which is not open to public access. On the Fischer Ranch site, MCSD maintains a trail along the river which includes 2.75-acres of opens space and connects to a paved trail along School Road connecting the Hammond Trail with the Mad River.
- **Hewitt Ranch:**
A 14 acre site off Azalea Road that is currently undeveloped, but is available to the public for passive recreation. It is a beautiful forested area with a few small creeks and a few relatively small grassland areas.
- **School Road and Washington Avenue:**
A 3 Acre property was purchased in 2012. This area will be developed for recreational use in the future.
- **North Bank Road River Access:**
The access point for this undeveloped parcel of 33 acres between North Bank Road and the Mad River is located across from the Ramey Pump station on North Bank Rd. Informal trails currently exist and are often used by fishing enthusiasts to walk to the river bank.
- **Chah-GAH-Cho:**
The McKinleyville Land Trust owns and maintains a 9.2-acre open space preserve to the south of the Mill Creek Marketplace.
- **Dows Prairie Educational Wetland:**
In 2008, the McKinleyville Land Trust acquired a seasonal wetland adjacent to Dow's Prairie Elementary School near the corner of Central Avenue and Grange Road in McKinleyville. The 2.55-acre site includes a seasonal pond that usually fills with water in early winter and dries by late spring or early summer. In order to prevent destruction of frog eggs or sensitive habitat and to allow native plant restoration, access is limited.

Chapter Two: Inventory of Existing Opportunities

The wetland is a rare and precious resource for Dow's Prairie students and teachers. The McKinleyville Land Trust will provide specialist guest lecturers in ecology, history, cultural studies, art and more to Dow's students, and the school will follow grade level appropriate curriculum.

- **Mad River Bluffs:**

The McKinleyville Land Trust purchased the 49.4-acre parcel of coastal bluff forest west of the Wastewater Management Facility and maintains this area as a preserve containing established trails and coastal access points. Mad River Bluffs has a fairly extensive trail network, two river-access locations, interpretive signs, garbage cans, and "Doggi-Pot" stations. Dogs are allowed on the property when under the control of their owners.

McKinleyville also has large areas dedicated to open space including the beach to the west, the banks of the Mad River, the Airport, the Highway 101 corridor, and the MCSD Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Privately Owned Undeveloped Land

McKinleyville has large tracts of privately held land that are not yet developed. The development of these lands is controlled by the owner and by the County's General Plan. The County adopted the most current General Plan in 2017. The McKinleyville Area Plan was adopted in 2003 and is included as an element in the General Plan. Since 2010 McKinleyville has



experienced 12.5% of the growth in the County due to the infrastructure being in place to accommodate new development. The General Plan is focused on infill development and has established an Urban Limit Line to prevent sprawl. Densities are increasing to allow for more economical development and preservation of agricultural lands.

Recreational and Cultural Programs

MCSD and vendors leasing space from MCSD provide a wide range of recreational activities at the McKinleyville Activity Center. MCSD programs include roller skating, youth and adult basketball, sports training camps, kid's camps, drop in programs and numerous leisure programs. Vendors provide classes such as dancing, cooking, training classes, exercise, gymnastics and specialty classes, for a nominal fee.

The McKinleyville Senior Center occupies a portion of Azalea Hall. Vendors lease portions of the Hall for cultural and social activities including classes, dancing, meetings and church services.

In addition to MCSD's programs, several groups offer a variety of cultural and recreational services. McKinleyville Little League provides a baseball program for 8-15-year-old boys and girls at Hiller Sports Complex. Mad River Girls Fast Pitch Softball provides a softball program for youth at Hiller Sports Complex. The Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods offers

Chapter Two: Inventory of Existing Opportunities

“T Ball” for youth under 9 at Dows Prairie and McKinleyville Schools, as well as Teen programming at the McKinleyville Teen & Community Center. The Mad River Youth Soccer League offers organized soccer for youth under 14 at Hiller Sports Complex. The McKinleyville Senior Center has an active program for Seniors. The McKinleyville Rodeo Association holds gymkhanas and rodeos at the roping arena. The Grange, Moose Lodge, Rotary Club, Lions Club, Federated Women’s Club, 4H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire, Chamber of Commerce, Merchants Association, McKinleyville Area Fund, School Boosters, PTOs, Friends of the Library, McKinleyville Family Resource Center and the Humboldt Skate Park Collective are all active, as well as numerous churches. Several businesses provide a variety of hobby and craft activities.

Chapter 3: Community Levels of Service



Chapter Three: Community Levels of Service



Overview

Each community must pick services and opportunities that match the interests of its residents with a host of factors including current and estimated future demographics, climate, setting, land use and funding. This plan establishes levels of service unique to McKinleyville that recognize the desires of the community as expressed through recreational surveys, the current use of existing facilities, our coastal climate, the abundance of adjacent open space, the adopted land use plan for McKinleyville,

and the limited funding available to build and maintain facilities. This plan establishes levels of service and assesses future needs.

Recreation Facility Levels of Service

Chapter 2 outlined the existing inventory of recreational facilities and opportunities in McKinleyville. For each of the facilities within McKinleyville's inventory a current level of service can be determined by dividing the population by the number of each specific facility.

The table on the following page shows current LOS's for existing opportunities and provides a comparison of LOS's in similarly sized communities within the western region of the United States. Levels of service are calculated by taking the total population divided by number of existing facilities/opportunities. The table shows LOS for the recreation facilities and opportunities listed in Chapter 2. The left hand column of the table lists the facilities/opportunities. The second column displays the current level of service in McKinleyville and the third column shows comparative average levels of service for communities of similar population size and population densities.

The Level of Service for each facility is illustrated as a fraction, 1 unit (facility or opportunity) per number of residents served by that one facility. Where there is more than one facility or opportunity, for example outdoor basketball courts, the total population is divided by the total number of courts resulting in the number of residents served by one court which means that McKinleyville can serve 1,454 residents per existing outdoor basketball court. Not all amenities have a comparable level of service as not all communities have the same amenities. No population standards are proposed for Ocean Access, River Access or Trails.

Chapter Three: Community Levels of Service

FACILITY INVENTORY		
FACILITY TYPE	EXISTING LEVEL OF SERVICE MCKINLEYVILLE	AVG LEVEL OF SERVICE FOR SIMILARLY SIZED COMMUNITIES
<u>Outdoor Facilities: Sports</u>		
Baseball Fields	1 per 4,237	1 per 6,890
Softball Fields	1 per 4,237	1 per 6,597
Soccer Fields	1 per 2,825	1 per 4,107
Football Fields	1 per 8,474	No data
Multi-use Fields	1 per 2,825	1 per 6,308
Basketball Courts	1 per 1,454	1 per 4,505
Tennis Courts	1 per 2,825	1 per 3,279
Golf Course	1 per 16,948	No data
<u>Outdoor Facilities: Recreation</u>		
Boat Ramp	1 per 16,948	No data
Bocce Ball Courts	1 per 8,474	No data
Botanical Garden	1 per 16,948	No data
Camping	1 per 1,130	No data
Community Garden	1 per 8,474	1 per 10,872
Dog Park	1 per 16,948	1 per 15,713
Horseshoe Pits	1 per 5,669	No data
Ocean Access	1 per 8,474	No data
Picnic Areas-Large	1 per 5,649	No data
Picnic Areas-Small	1 per 2,825	No data
Playgrounds	1 per 2,119	1 per 3,447
Restrooms	1 per 4,237	No data
River Access	1 per 2,119	No data
Trails	1 per 2,119	No data
<u>Indoor Facilities</u>		
Gymnasium	1 per 3,390	1 per 10,707
Multi-purpose Center	1 per 3,390	1 per 9,682
Reception/Banquet Hall	1 per 8,474	1 per 10,750
Meeting Spaces	1 per 4,237	No data

Chapter 4: Planning for the Future



Chapter 4: Planning for the Future

Overview

In planning for the future this chapter will establish a prioritization for the development of programs and recreation opportunities in McKinleyville based on existing gaps in services, public interests, and projected future needs according to projected population growth. Planning will align with the existing McKinleyville Community Plan, Humboldt County General Plan and the Humboldt County Regional Trails Plan. This chapter will also note the potential obstacles and challenges to implementation of plan elements. To determine needs and interests, existing opportunities and levels of service were assessed and compared with those of similarly sized communities, and a Community Questionnaire and survey process was conducted among the residents of McKinleyville.

Key Findings from Community Input

MCSO is committed to serving the recreational needs and interests of the residents within the District. Through a community questionnaire distributed to over 5,000 residents, several key findings were determined in terms of community interest and gaps in services and opportunities.

- Community values trails, open spaces and opportunities to access and experience nature.
- Trails and playgrounds are the most heavily used or frequently accessed outdoor recreation opportunities in McKinleyville.
- Youth programs are the most utilized recreation programs. There is a need and desire for broader adult recreation opportunities, specifically for adults 18-65 years of age. More senior programming is also desired.
- Majority of questionnaire respondents reported participating in some sort of outdoor recreation activity 5 or more times per year. Walking, hiking and biking being the activity most reported.
- Lack of participation in opportunities was reported to be due mostly to lack of knowledge of opportunities that are available.
- Activities community residents would like more of in McKinleyville:
 - Live music and public events in parks (i.e. concerts/movies in park; farmers market)
 - More trails both connecting places and nature
 - Swimming pool
 - Trail biking opportunities
 - Live theater
- Overall residents expressed satisfaction with MCSO parks & recreation facilities and programs. Lack of satisfaction was most frequently reported for the following reasons:

Chapter 4: Planning for the Future

- Concern about and fear of homeless inhabitants and presence in parks and open spaces.
 - Drug use/presence and crime occurring at and/or near parks and trails
 - Lack of activities for Seniors
 - Insufficient trail maintenance
 - Condition of park restrooms and early closures of restrooms at parks
 - Playground safety surfacing
 - Rubber chips smell bad; concern over toxicity of rubber chips and youth exposure to toxins
 - Not enough outdoor sport/rec areas for youth to access when not involved in organized youth sport programs
 - Cost of sport field use for Youth Sport Organizations
- Residents ranked development priorities for existing District owned, undeveloped properties as follows:
 1. 3.1 acres at Washington Ave. and School Road
 2. 33 acres of river front on North Bank Rd.
 - Most requested type of development for both properties was trails, park/playground and picnic areas.
 3. The 14 acre Hewitt Ranch property was ranked lowest in terms of development priority.
 - Most frequent suggestions for future funding allocations from community:
 - Development of trails and access to natural areas
 - Improvements to existing facilities (i.e. existing park restrooms need upgrades, better trail maintenance, better field maintenance)
 - Replacement of rubber chips in playgrounds with wood chips
 - Skate park
 - Community responded in support of pesticide and herbicide free maintenance, however responses were equally divided regarding agreement to pay extra fees to cover the additional costs of such maintenance.
 - Most of Community feels that recreation opportunities are easily accessible. Those struggling to access opportunities cited the following reasons as barriers:
 - Lack of transportation
 - Cost of opportunities
 - Travel distance to opportunities
 - No opportunities of interest offered or available
 - Lack of awareness of existing opportunities
 - Disability access to recreation could be improved upon

Chapter 4: Planning for the Future

Existing Plans and Projects

The McKinleyville Area Plan, the Humboldt County General Plan and the Humboldt County Regional Trails Plan all have elements that pertain to recreation opportunities in McKinleyville. MCSD is committed to working collaboratively with the County and other agencies when feasible in order to implement the existing plans.

Currently the Humboldt Skatepark Collective (HSC), a non-profit organization dedicated to the development of skateparks in Humboldt county, is working with MCSD to build a skatepark in a District owned lot southwest of Pierson Park and Azalea Hall. It is anticipated that this park will be completed by 2020.

The District currently owns three undeveloped properties that were acquired for the purpose of providing outdoor recreation opportunities. The feasibility of development of each of these properties has yet to be assessed. Before any development can occur feasibility studies outlining what types of opportunities might be viable at each property and an analysis of the cost of development as well as ongoing maintenance and operations will need to be completed. MCSD's 20-year Strategic Plan has outlined the development of these properties as priorities within the next 20 years.

In addition to currently owned undeveloped properties, the 20-year Strategic Plan has also identified the acquisition and operation of a Community Forest as a priority within the next 20 years.

Priorities for Development & Growth

As noted in the key findings from the public input process, the recreation programming offered by the District is not fully meeting the desires of the adult community. Staff will continue to add programs and classes that target both adult and senior residents in order to fill that gap. Additionally, there is a lack in recreation opportunities for residents with disabilities. Creating inclusive spaces and opportunities is also a priority for the District.

McKinleyville residents value access to open spaces and trails. The District is committed to developing such amenities on District owned properties and also working with the County and other organizations to increase such opportunities to the extent that funding and capacity will allow.

As the population increases in McKinleyville, the Parks & Recreation Department will continually assess and analyze levels of service (LOS) for recreation opportunities. (Refer to the table in Chapter 3 for current LOS). Every community is unique and therefore there are no level of service standards for many recreation amenities or opportunities. California Department of Parks & Recreation has adopted the following standards for communities:

- 3 park acres for every 1,000 residents and
- A park available within a half mile of every residence.

The Humboldt County General Plan and McKinleyville Area Plan have also adopted the standard of three park acres for every 1,000 residents. While the standard of a park

Chapter 4: Planning for the Future

within ½ mile of every residence is a state standard it has not been adopted by the county at this time. It is a priority for the District to meet these standards. Currently McKinleyville residents have access to 538 acres of parkland and open spaces, however not all McKinleyville residents reside within ½ mile of a park. As funding and resources become available, the District is committed to developing parks toward meeting this standard.

For amenities and opportunities other than park acreage and access McKinleyville Parks & Recreation will endeavor to use public input and LOS assessment and comparisons to establish levels of service that best meet the needs of the community.

Challenges

The greatest challenge to developing recreation opportunities is funding. Labor costs are rising faster than revenues are able to rise. Operation and maintenance funding comes from a small finite pool of resources which include a combination of user fees, tax dollars from the county and the Measure B Assessment fees. While tax dollars and Measure B Assessment fees are relatively consistent and predictable, facility use fees are not as predictable and reliable. The cost of maintaining and operating facilities significantly exceeds the revenues from use fees each year, yet use fees are established at rates that are competitive with other publicly owned and operated facilities with affordability and cost recovery considerations also playing a part in the rate setting process. All of the recreation programs offered by the District must cover the cost of providing them. Participation fees and enrollment minimums are set in order to achieve that goal. As labor costs increase due to minimum wage increases, the act of setting fees to cover programming costs, while maintaining affordability of participation is becoming more and more challenging.

Capacity, both in labor as well as facility space and time, is also a challenge to expansion and development. Recreation programs are staffed primarily by part-time employees. Limited available shifts, low unemployment and competition for skilled workers impacts the District's ability to attract and retain part-time staff, making it difficult to expand programming. Without enough qualified staff, programs cannot be created and implemented. Additionally, finding available time and space within the District facilities, that also meets the scheduling needs of program participants, poses a challenge to program expansion.

Goals

Currently, the goals for the District's Parks & Recreation department as outlined in the District's Strategic Plan include:

- Seeking funding for the acquisition and operation of a Community Forest
- Conducting feasibility studies and fiscal analysis for the development of the following District owned properties:
 - Washington Ave.-School Rd Property: a 3 acre parcel off of Washington Ave. and School Rd. This property is not open to the public at this time.

Chapter 4: Planning for the Future

- North Bank Rd. River Property: a 33-acre property along the Mad River off of North Bank Rd. This property in its undeveloped condition is open to the public, accessible from the dirt parking area across from the Ramey Pump Station and Azalea Rd. There are a series of informal trails that lead from the parking area to the river. During the winter this trail system generally becomes flooded as the river level rises in the rainy season.
- Hewitt Ranch: a 14 acre forested property located off of Azalea Rd, between Hewitt Ave. and Cochran. This property is open to the public now, however the only available access point is at the end of Bryan Lane, which has no available parking.

Additional goals not identified in the District's strategic plan, but which address the unmet needs of the community include:

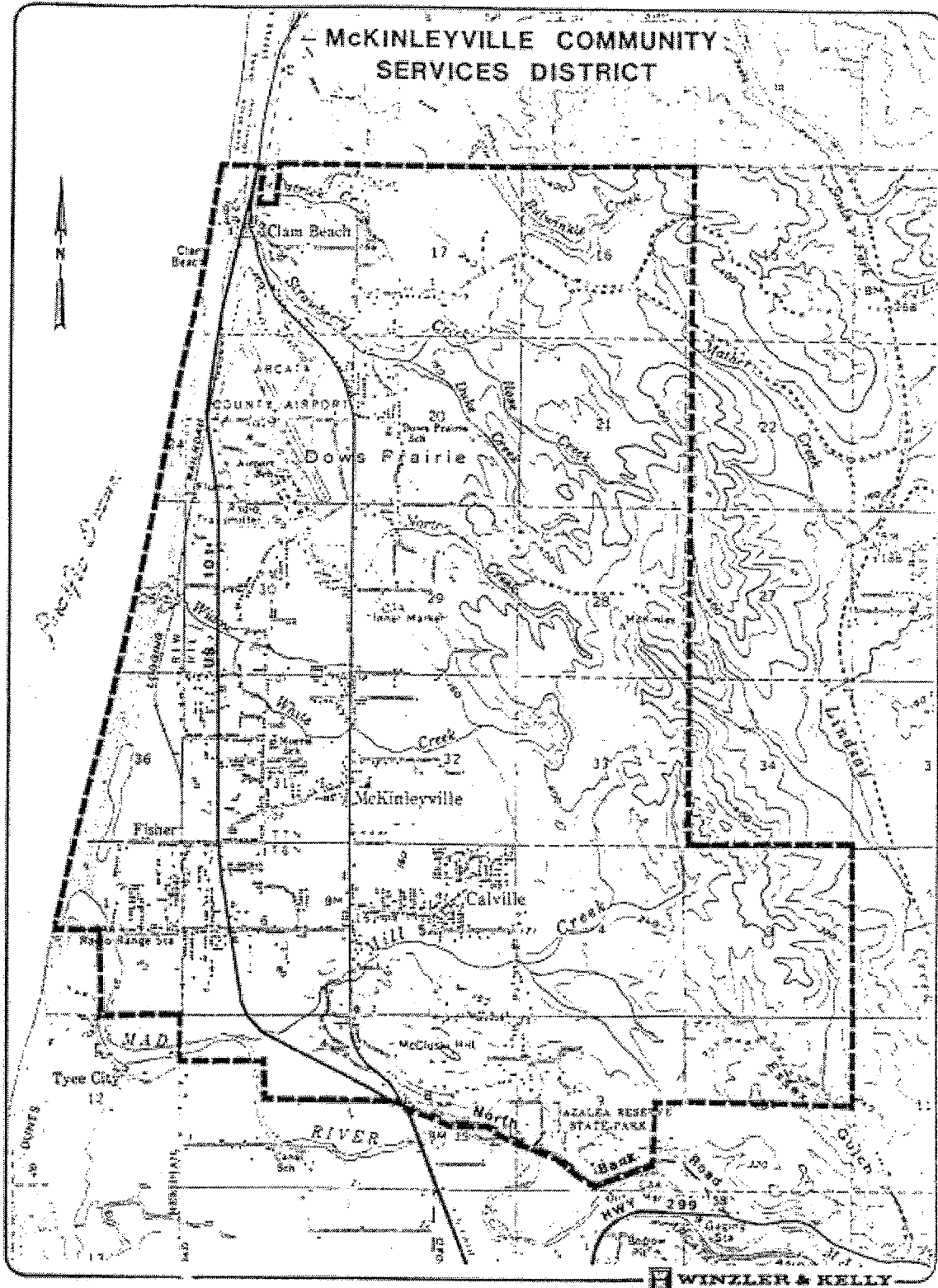
- Expanding/Increasing Adult recreation program opportunities.
- Increase paid use of District owned facilities.
- Seeking out ways to increase recreation opportunities and accessibility to existing opportunities for disabled participants.
- Seeking funding for development and maintenance of neighborhood parks in order to meet the state standard of having every resident living within ½ mile of a park.

Implementation Strategies

The following strategies will be employed by Staff in order to achieve the goals as defined above:

- Staff will seek to collaborate and partner with other entities and organizations toward achievement of established goals whenever and wherever feasible.
- Staff will seek grants and sponsorships to fulfill funding where gaps in funding exist.
- Develop and enact a comprehensive marketing strategy to increase awareness of existing opportunities and increase use and participation by the community.
- Staff will solicit public input on all property development possibilities before moving forward with any development.
- Staff will work with County of Humboldt to implement existing trails plans to the extent that District resources allow.

Exhibit 1 District Boundaries



Humboldt County Parks

1106 Second Street

Eureka, CA 95501

(707) 445-7651

EXHIBIT 2

