



Board of Supervisors

Neighborhood Parks Workshop
March 24, 2026



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Introduction & Overview of Roles

Regional Parks – Bert Whitaker, Director

Permit Sonoma – Scott Orr, Director

Ag + Open Space – Misti Arias, General Manager

Public Infrastructure – Johannes J. Hoeverstsz, Director



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Neighborhood Parks

Purpose: Act as the recreational and social hub for specific residential neighborhoods, normally within walking distance.

Features: May include unique, locally tailored elements such as play areas, picnic spots, and small green spaces.

Natural Integration: Often incorporate local natural resources, such as creek side, riparian areas.

Scale: Smaller in scale compared to regional parks, focusing on immediate neighborhood needs rather than county-wide, high-density, or regional amenities.

Management: While sometimes managed by the county, these are often maintained by local communities or specific neighborhood planning groups.



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General Plan 2020

Public Facilities and Services Element | Environmental Justice Element

- **GOAL PF-2:** Assure that park and recreation, public education, fire suppression and emergency medical, and solid waste services, and public utility sites are available to the meet future needs of Sonoma County residents.
- **Policy EJ-3b:** Coordinate among Regional Parks, the Sonoma County Agricultural and Open Space District, community members, and other stakeholders in evaluating and addressing park and open space needs.
- **Policy EJ-3e:** Encourage the conversion of underutilized property or rights-of-way into parklets or other recreational facilities where it is appropriate, meets a community need, and is consistent with other General Plan policies.
- **EJ Program 8:** During the comprehensive update to the Sonoma County General Plan, consider developing park access ratios for local parks such as neighborhood and community parks that account for a service area with a dense population to provide better access. Evaluate options for long-term park operators for new local parks in the unincorporated County.



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Common Models for Developing Parks

- Public Agency Led
- Developer Driven / Impact Fees
- Community Driven /Non- Profit Led
- Temporary “Pop Up”





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Most Common Approaches among Bay Area Counties

Agency Type	Neighborhood Park Role
Incorporated Cities	Primary Provider
Local Park Districts / County Parks	Provider in unincorporated areas
Regional Park Agencies / Districts	Rarely direct provider
Open Space Districts	Rare – indirect role
All Agencies	Partnership and funding role growing



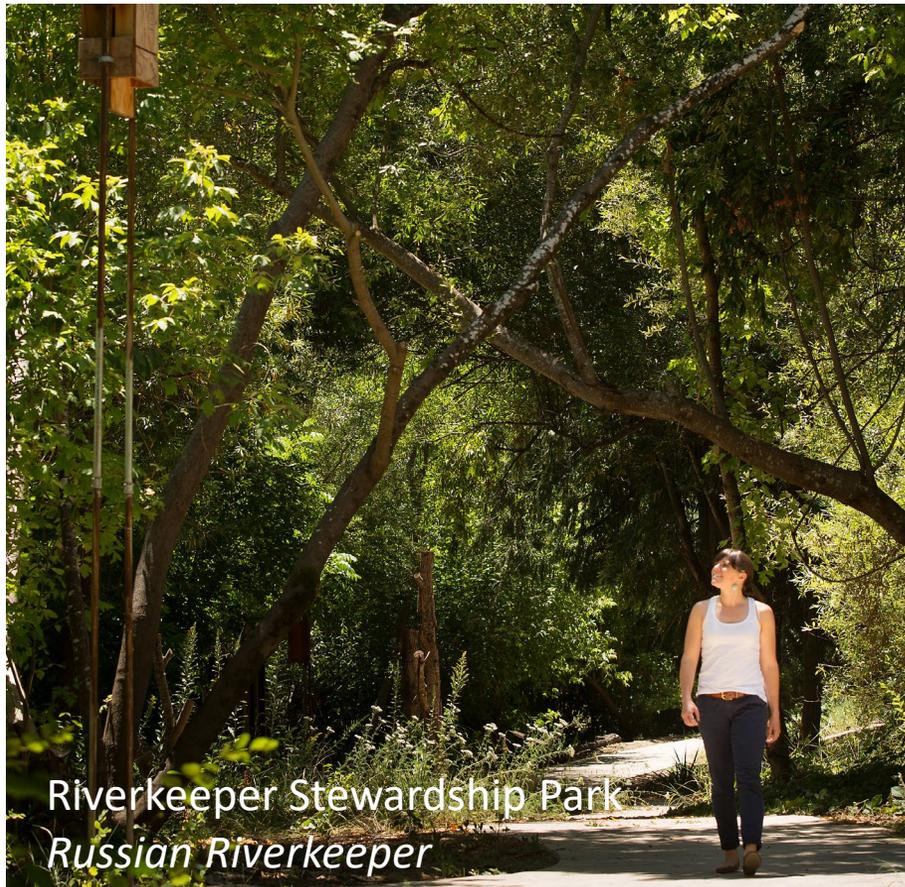
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Community Spaces Matching Grant Program

- Competitive grant program providing acquisition and improvement funds for community-centered open spaces, including neighborhood parks
- Supports projects within and near cities and communities
- Grantees are public agencies, non-profits and tribal organizations
- Prioritizes underserved areas and those lacking open spaces
- Supports community driven and responsive design and programming
- Ensures long term public access and fosters stewardship



Riverkeeper Stewardship Park
Russian Riverkeeper



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- **Completed Projects**

- Creekside Skate Park
- River Lane
- Riverkeeper Community Park

- **In Development and Open**

- Forever Forestville

- **In Development**

- Geyserville Community Plaza
- Graton Town Square
- Mark West Community Park
- Occidental Community Park
- Russian River Community Park

- **Pre-Application/Technical Assistance**

- Forestville Skatespot and Community Park



Russian River Community Park
Sonoma County Public Infrastructure

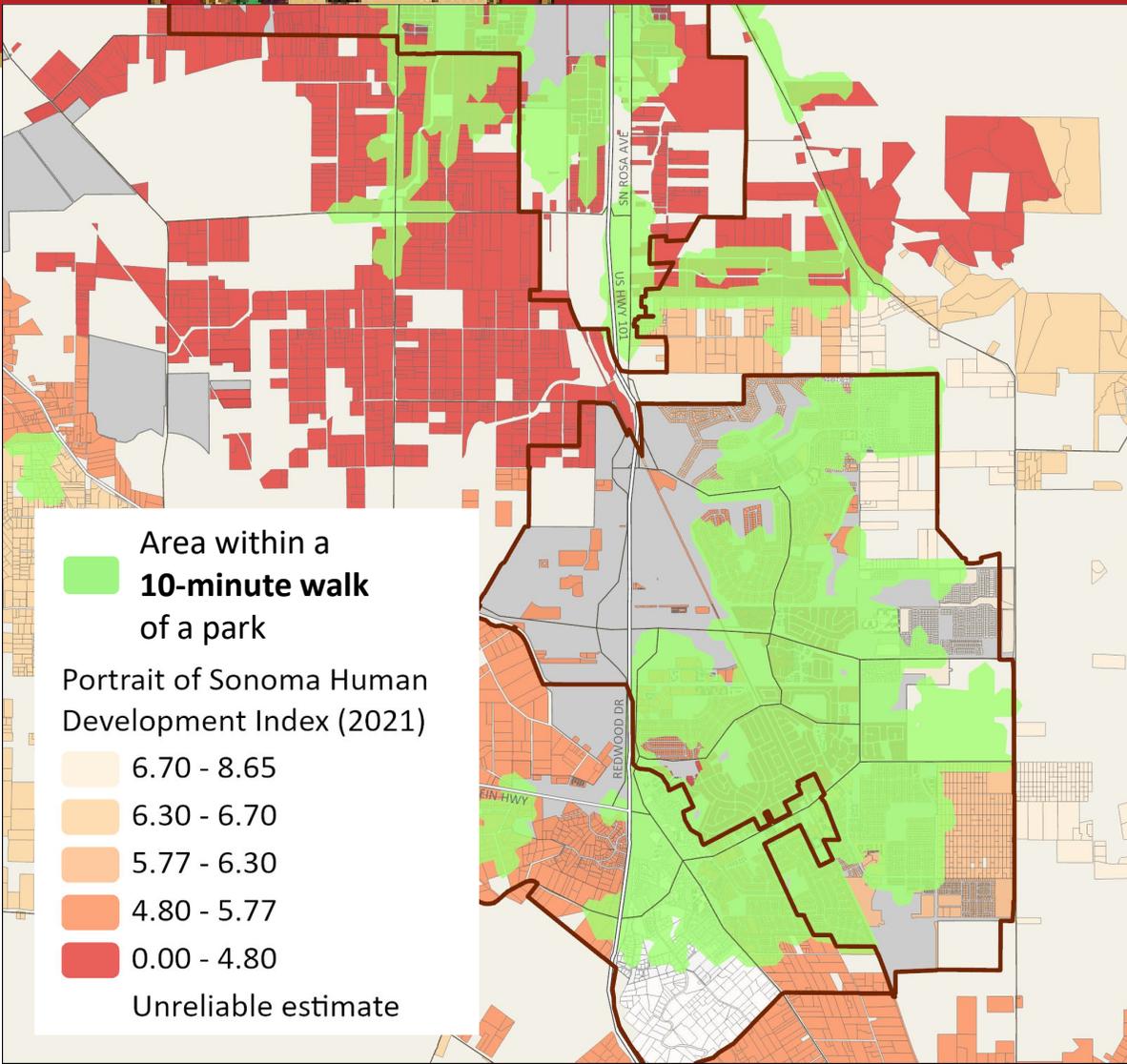


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Parks Gap Analysis

- Ag + Open Space and Regional Parks developed a digital tool to identify communities in Sonoma County lacking publicly accessible open spaces.
- Measured by project locations not within a 10-minute walk to a public open space or park.



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Public Infrastructure (PI) –Neighborhood Parks

- 4 Projects – Design Only
 - Geyserville Community Plaza
 - Occidental Outdoor Community Space
 - Russian River Community Park
 - Forestville Skate Spot
- On properties owned by the County and managed by PI
- Design and permitting in progress
- Grants and community fundraising ongoing
- Funding strategy for construction and long-term operations and maintenance not yet identified





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Project	Location	Partners	Public Funding Secured	Status	Estimated Construction Cost
Geyserville Community Plaza	County Transit Park n Ride Site	Geyserville Alexander Valley Municipal Advisory Council	\$400K State Coastal Conservancy \$1M CSG Grant*	Design Phase	\$3M
Occidental Outdoor Community Space	Existing downtown parklet and parking lot	Occidental Community Council, Occidental Community Services District	\$550K Community Infrastructure Funds \$700 CSG Grant*	Design Phase	\$2M

* Community Spaces Matching Grant Program – Ag + Open Space



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Project	Location	Partners	Public Funding Secured	Status	Estimated Construction Cost
Russian River Community Park	County Transit Park n Ride Site	Russian River Area Resource Advocates, Guerneville Elementary School, Russian River Park & Recreation District	\$750K Community Infrastructure Funds \$1M CSG Grant*	Design Phase	\$5M
Forestville Skate Spot	Portion of Forestville Road Maintenance Yard County Road Yard	Forestville Skate Spot 501c(3)	\$320K Community Infrastructure Funds	Design Phase	\$2M

* Community Spaces Matching Grant Program – Ag + Open Space



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Workshop Discussion