

El Dorado County

Green Spaces

Local solutions for a healthier community

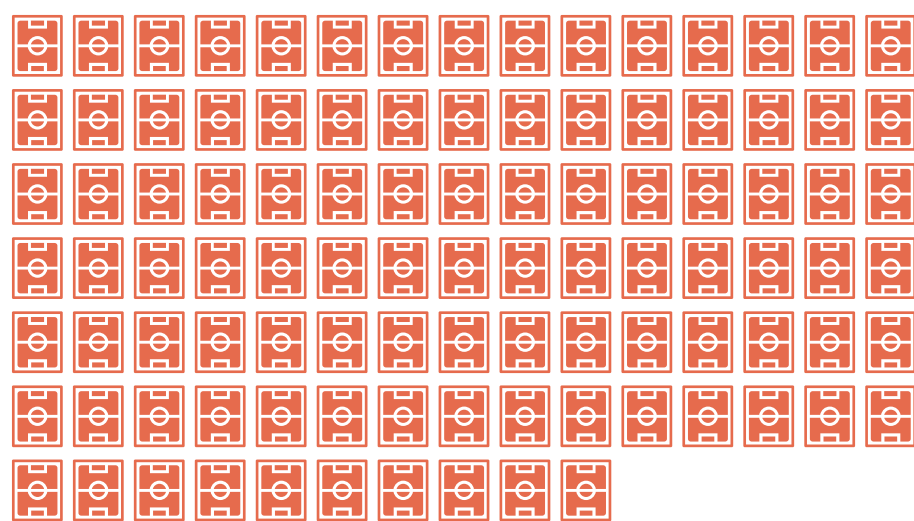
Green spaces have the power to strengthen communities and bring numerous social, environmental and health benefits.

El Dorado County has an exceptional array of unique natural and cultural resources that draw tourists from all over the world. While El Dorado County's natural resources and outdoor recreation attributes are largely recognized as a community asset and strength, too many neighborhoods in El Dorado County are "park poor", lacking adequate parks and green spaces.



In El Dorado County:

- The County aims to provide a total of 5 acres of park land per 1,000 residents, in the proportion of 2 acres of neighborhood parks, 1.5 acres of community parks, and 1.5 acres of regional parks (1).
- The deficit of neighborhood park acreage is 140 acres (1).
- The need for neighborhood parks in Diamond Springs, El Dorado, Shingle Springs, Camino, Pollock Pines and areas surrounding the City of Placerville are significant.



140 acres is roughly 106 football fields.

Take Action:

- Encourage policy makers to acquire and develop neighborhood parks.
- Advocate for pedestrian/bicycle access route providing direct, convenient connections to neighborhoods to parks as a required condition of approval for new residential developments.
- Work with El Dorado County Parks and trails to implement neighborhood parks standards and play a role in selecting which improvements will be provided in your neighborhood park.
- Encourage policy makers to make all parks in El Dorado County tobacco free.
- Get involved and consider volunteering for El Dorado County Parks and Trails.



Benefits of Green Spaces are Widespread



Green spaces purify and trap dust, soil and other particulate matter and stabilize and protect the soil against water and wind erosion (2). Trees provide habitat, food and protection to plants and animals, increasing local biodiversity (3).

Green residential spaces are gathering places where neighbors form social ties that produce stronger, safer neighborhoods (4).



More than 30 studies have shown that parks have a positive impact on nearby residential property values (5).

Studies show that people who live near trails are 50% more likely to meet physical activity guidelines (6).



Just being in, or viewing, green space for a few minutes reduces stress (3).

Resources

- Data about the health of El Dorado County communities can be found at www.welldorado.org.
- Information and resources on air quality can be found at <https://www.edcgov.us/Government/AirQualityManagement>.
- El Dorado County Parks and Trails can be found at <https://www.edcgov.us/Government/Parks>.
- El Dorado Hills Community Services District can be found at <http://www.eldoradohillscsd.org/>.
- Cameron Park Community Services District can be found at <http://www.cameronpark.org/>.
- City of Placerville Recreation and Parks can be found at <https://www.cityofplacerville.org/>.
- City of South Lake Tahoe Parks, Beaches and Recreation can be found at <http://www.cityofslt.us/>.

References

1. El Dorado County Parks and Trails Master Plan. March 2012. https://www.edcgov.us/government/parks/masterplan/documents/Master_Plan_Final_2012_03_approved.pdf
2. <http://www.ehrf.info/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/BenefitsofGreenSpace.pdf>
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4. https://planning-org-uploaded-media.s3.amazonaws.com/publication/download_pdf/Parks-Creat-Safer-Neighborhoods.pdf
5. <http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe-econvalueparks-rpt.pdf>
6. <https://activelivingresearch.org/blog/2012/06/infographic-role-communities-promoting-physical-activity>.