

## OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION ELEMENTS

The concepts of conservation of resources, natural and man made, preservation of natural amenities; enhancement of the ecology and the quality of life are integrated into all elements of the general plan. Many portions of the plan, especially the land and safety elements, cover portions of the State's guidelines for the contents of the open space and conservation elements. Duplication of text has been avoided and cross references provided where feasible.

**AGRICULTURE** The soils map, on the following page, and the description of the Soil Characteristics, Appendix S-B, page S-B-1, indicate the orchards, grazing and forestry. The quality of the soils in the planning area for agricultural use is typically limited to grazing and wildlife habitat. Within the City limits commercial agriculture has almost been preempted by urbanization. Wildlife habitat has been reduced to riparian growth, pasture areas, and urban landscaping. The land use plan map, (back cover pocket) shows extensive agricultural conservations lands, over one-third of the total area, 2,287 acres, in the areas adjoining the City to the northeast, east, south, and west.

These areas are under Land Conservation Act, (Williamson Act), contracts entered into with the County and are expected to remain in agricultural use during the current planning period. They probably will not be needed for the expansion of the urban area within their minimum 10 year contract period.

It is the policy of the City of Jackson to encourage the maintenance of agricultural lands as open space conservation areas, so long as the owners of those lands desire such uses, and to zone agricultural lands within or annexing to the City, at large minimum parcel size such as 40 acre minimum, to encourage conservation of agricultural lands, where applicable.

**STREAM SIDES AND HILLSIDES** The streamside riparian areas are also the floodway areas. They are designated on the Land Use Plan for permanent open space use for wildlife habitat, recreation, and landscape areas compatible with their floodway function.

The planning area is hilly with many slopes of over 20%. The care, use and conservation of the steep hillsides is described in the Safety Element.

**PARKS, PLAYFIELDS, PLAYGROUNDS** The Land Use Plan shows the existing parks and recreational grounds and designates the generalized location of some possible neighborhood park/playground areas that might be provided in the future to serve those neighborhoods. A proposed stream side park is shown on the northern side of Jackson Creek in the proposed "Jones Ranch" development.

Public park and recreational grounds are divided into three functions: community-wide parks; neighborhood parks; and historic sites, monuments, and small landscaped areas. The standards for a community park are about 2 1/2 acres per thousand population with a minimum size of about 20 acres. The present city-wide park, Detert Park, 7 1/4 acres, meets the acres per population standard at this time but is well below the normal minimum size standard for a community-wide park.

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Detert Park is the most heavily used and most centrally located park in the City, and probably in the County, for the purpose of active recreation. Detert Park is located in the central business district of the City within very close walking distance to the most densely populated and commercialized areas. As such, it receives constant use by all age groups and categories of persons whether residents or tourists, preschoolers or senior citizens. Detert Park contains the most facilities for active recreation available in the County. It has a regulation size Little League baseball field, a tennis court, a handball practice court, a volleyball court, horseshoe pit, a substantial number of picnic tables and barbecues, and the largest collection of active play equipment (swings, slides, etc.) in the County. In addition, Detert Park has a swimming pool and bath house which is becoming inadequate because it is used not only by city residents but also by county residents and tourists. The Jackson Municipal Pool is the only pool in the County that offers swimming lessons to preschoolers and the handicapped as well as school age children. Thus, Detert Park provides a great variety of important recreational functions in a central location. The City Council will continue to maintain, upgrade and improve its facilities as monies become available.

The area standard for neighborhood parks and playgrounds is 2 acres per 1000 population, with a minimum size of 5 acres if adjoining a public school or 10 acres when separate from a school grounds which provides meeting rooms, rest rooms, equipment rooms, and parking lot. A neighborhood park-playground should be located within a half mile walking distance of all residential areas.

The three public school sites: Elementary - 7.4 acres, Senior Elementary - 11.7 acres, and High School - 40 acres provide playground and playfield space adequate for the open space recreational needs of their immediate neighborhoods.

New neighborhood park/playgrounds will be needed as the urban area develops. They are indicated on the land use plan in the future residential areas about evenly spaced around the perimeter of the existing built up area. Normally neighborhood park/playgrounds are 5 to 10 acres in size. Although underdeveloped land may be reserved for future use, if there is no reasonable prospect of providing adequate maintenance and operation funds, it would be better to provide fewer sites that are well developed, maintained, and operated than to have unkempt and unsupervised sites which may lead to fire, health and police problems. Land area or "in lieu fees" and original improvements for a park shall be provided by the developers of new residential neighborhoods. Maintenance and operation of local parks and playgrounds can be provided by a home owners association or an assessment district.

The Wheels Park is a major point of historical interest in the Mother Lode region. It is located in the northern part of the City on both sides of Jackson Gate Road. The park preserves the historic remnants of a portion of the Kennedy Mine operations. It contains about 8.4 acres. When the State or a regional park system is in position to take over the care and operation of these historic sites, they should be transferred to that jurisdiction.

The Kennedy Impoundment Dam park of 14 acres is located in the center of the proposed "Wheels" planned unit development. It is proposed to be developed as a community-wide park with playfields, tot lot and landscaped quiet areas as funds are available for development, maintenance and operation. It will supplement Detert Park in providing the needed community-wide playfield facilities as well as providing local park and playground space.

St. Sava Mission provides a children's camp of about seven acres within the Mission's large property in the southeastern part of the City. The land use plan encourages the Mission to maintain that desirable campground operation on its property.

In the proposed "Jones Ranch" planned unit development a park of about 9 acres is proposed along the northern side of Jackson Creek. It should be maintained as a natural area park which together with the riparian area along the creek will help to maintain important wildlife habitat. The floodway-riparian areas along the streams within the City total about 45 acres.

Amador County maintains a museum and park on the 1.6 acre block bounded by Summit, Church, North, and Kearny Streets. The museum and grounds is part of the old historic center of Jackson and a popular stopping point for persons visiting the Mother Lode region.

Caltrans provides an overlook area on the western side of highway 49/88 at the northern entrance to the City. Good displays are provided which identify the major historic features to be seen from this spot. Although the site is only about an acre in size, it is one of the special features of the Jackson area for the visitor.

At the intersection of Sutter Street and Highway 49/88 the City maintains a small park containing the Kit Carson Mountain Men's Hut. The site provides landscaping for the sharp angle intersection as well as an assembly place for the civic organization which helps preserve the history of places and customs in the foothill area.

**POLICIES** It is the policy of the City of Jackson to preserve the floodway, riparian, and steep hillside areas as far as practicable, but not at the expense of overriding economic considerations.

It is the policy of the City of Jackson to have the developers of large residential areas provide neighborhood parks and playgrounds for their developments.

OPEN SPACE, PARK, PLAYFIELD, AND PLAYGROUND AREA

Type of Area	Acres
SCHOOL GROUNDS	59
Elementary School	7
Sr. Elementary School	12
High School	40
PARKS	92
Detert	7
Wheels	9
Impoundment Dam	14
Jones Ranch	9
Mountain Men	-
Proposed Neighborhood	50
Overlook	1
County Museum	2
ST. SAVA CAMP	7
FLOODWAY - RIPARIAN AREAS	45
Sub Total	203
AGRICULTURAL PRESERVES	2,287
Total	2,490

MINERAL RESOURCES The soils in the Jackson area are relatively shallow, (0 to 5 feet), and of limited quality for export. There is little likelihood that they would be mined commercially except for local gravel pockets that are suitable for construction aggregates. Rock suitable for crushing for fill and aggregates is available throughout the region. Selected rock may be used in the manufacture of bricks, blocks, and tile. The largest "open pit" operation is expected to be the removal of 150,000 tons of sand from a mine tailing deposit in the Wheels Planned Unit Development site. Within the City limits urbanization has preempted the opening of new open-pit areas.

State mandated environmental concerns are the major obstacles to reopening an old gold mine or starting a new deep mine. If the state regulatory agencies can be satisfied, the value of the minerals in the deep mines may offer economic opportunities. A full environmental impact report and adequate

mitigation of any adverse impacts would be required by the state before the starting up of a new mine or the reopening of a closed one.

The pollution prevention responsibilities of the State and the regional control boards are considered adequate to maintain the desirable quality of the air and water resources in the area. If a local problem develops or is foreseen, it is the policy of the City to adopt the regulations or controls which are required by the State or by regional boards to supplement the State and regional regulations needed to maintain a healthful living environment in the City. The City will preserve the terrain within the city limits by extension of the application of the County's grading and surface mining regulations to the City's jurisdiction or by the preparation and adoption of specific grading and mining regulations for the City.

To prevent pollution by waste waters it is the policy of the City to complete and maintain the sanitary sewerage and waste water treatment system now being designed.