

## **XIV. Recreation**

*Existent recreational activities for all residents, utilization of public parks and recreational sites, availability and proximity of community facilities.*

The county has six museums, one movie theatre and one amateur theatre company, Plumas-Eureka State Park (site of Johnsville Ski Bowl), a portion of Lassen National Volcanic Park, a portion of Lassen and Plumas National Forests, one federally designated wild and scenic river (the middle fork of the Feather River), the 130 mile Feather River Scenic Byway (Route 70), three game refuges, one federally designated wilderness area (Buck's Lake), 50 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail, seven golf courses, numerous lakes of varying sizes, 93 campgrounds and RV parks, and 53 motels and resorts.

There are four recreational entities serving Portola, Indian Valley, Chester and Quincy. Throughout the county there is a large emphasis on youth sports programs, including soccer, basketball, wrestling, skiing, football, tennis, ultimate disc, swimming, baseball and softball, and volleyball.

Chester's focus group for the Strategic Marketing Plan for Northern California identified the following recreation attractions: Lake Almanor with its range of activities, Caribou & Ishi Wilderness, Eagle Lake, Feather River, campgrounds, Chester Museum, Chester Winterfest, Cowboy Poetry, craft shows, fishing in streams and lake, two golf courses, hang gliding, hiking and bicycle trails, hunting, Lassen Scenic Byway, circle tours, Lassen Volcanic National Park, many small lakes, Pacific Coast Trail, snow sports, special events, and wildlife viewing.

Portola's focus group for the same project identified the following additional recreation attractions: arts and crafts fairs, backpacking and hiking trails, ballooning, historic sites at Beckwourth Cabin and Walker Mine, birding, Christmas tree cutting, deer migration, fairground and shows, the Feather River Inn Conference Center, special events, golf, Frazier Falls, Highway 70 Scenic Byway, horseback riding, ice skating at Grizzley Pond, Indian Heritage Areas, restaurants, lodging, recreation aviation, quilt shows, Railroad Days, tennis and train trips.

Quincy's focus group repeated many of the ones stated above as well as the following: Antelope and Bucks lakes, Butterfly Valley and Serpentine Area Botany Society, fall foliage drive, Feather and Indian Falls, gold panning, photo shots and places, and shopping.

Additional sports programs are available to adults, including basketball, softball and volleyball leagues. Classes, camps and clinics are offered in the areas of music, tennis, soccer, football, basketball, baseball, and swim team.

There are summer day camp "latchkey" programs throughout the county as well as before school activities in Quincy. During the school year, there are after school latchkey programs. Throughout the year there are a number of one and two day events,

including invitational softball, basketball, and wrestling tournaments, swim meets (Quincy), 5 and 10 K runs, the Plumas Century Bike Ride, Gold Digger Days, parades, and fireworks events.

Public swimming pools are operated seasonally in Quincy and Portola. Group and private swim lessons are taught at both facilities.

Public parks can be accessed in Indian Valley (two), Portola (one), Graeagle (one), Chester (one), and Quincy/Meadow Valley (three).

The community of Quincy operated a community recreation center from 1987 through 1993; however, the facility was vacated in 1993 for economic reasons. Both Quincy and Chester are in the planning stages of building skateboard facilities. All communities are desirous of developing and operating full-time multi-faceted community and recreation centers.

As described earlier, community residents expressed a desire for more recreation activities in their communities. Indian Valley's 1998-99 community surveys showed that 95% of respondents want a community center. Almost half wanted a combination center: community, resource (information only), and teen center. Three quarters wanted teen activities, 53% wanted music or art, 45% wanted summer recreation and cooking classes. The overwhelming majority (87%) wanted to locate it in Greenville.

The Healthy Start program conducted a survey of 56 families at the Greenville and Taylorsville Elementary Schools. Most respondents wanted recreation (70%).

### **Community Input**

Residents of each community in the county participated in community meetings or completed surveys which were tabulated separately for adults and teens. At the community meetings, each participant was asked to name key issues in fourteen areas and then to prioritize their top five local and top three countywide priorities, by using red dots for local and blue dots for countywide priorities. Therefore the number of times an item was mentioned in a community meeting would not match the number of dots. Respondents to the surveys were asked to comment on each of the fourteen areas and to set three priorities for local and countywide improvements. The survey totals show the number of times a topic was commented upon in a survey. Each respondent had several opportunities to comment on each area and generally took that opportunity. The number does not address the range of comments within a topic, for instance, "yes, golf course" and "no more golf courses" or simply the comment "yes." The "total" column adds up all the dots, participants and responses from the surveys. Each response was counted and reported in Table 1.

**Table 1: Comparison of Input about Recreation from Community Meetings and Adult and Teen Surveys, by Community**

	Community Meetings			Adult Survey	Teen Surveys	Total
	Red	Blue	#			
Chester/Lake Almanor	19	6	21	25	6	77
Indian Valley	47	7	25	18	6	392
Mohawk Valley	13	0	11	33	335	191
Portola	27	13	71	56	24	191
Quincy	46	12	114	53	163	388

Table 2 shows the number of responses in the subtopics mentioned most frequently in the area of recreation, by community and type of input. They are listed in the order of most frequently mentioned, from most frequently to least.

**Table 2: Most Frequently Raised Issues within Recreation, by Community and Type of Input**

CM = Community Meetings T = Teen Surveys A = Adult Surveys	Total			Indian Valley			Mohawk Valley			Portola			Quincy			Chester/Lake Almanor		
	CM	A	T	CM	A	T	CM	A	T	CM	A	T	CM	A	T	CM	A	T
More recreation	3	17	154	1					3		9	1		1	99	2	7	51
Skateboard park	11	5	90			1			2	4	1		1	3	60	6	1	27
Youth recreation	14	9	75		2	1				11	2	5		2	42	3	3	27
Recreation center	8	9	79	2	1							1	2	4	74	4	4	4
Swimming pool	26	13	47	1	2		3			6	5	1		1	4	16	5	42
Hiking/biking trails	48	18	13		3	1	9	5		33	4	1	2	6	6	4		5
Ball parks	25	15	29		2	1	1			3	4		2	8	19	19	1	9
Movies/theatre/concerts	17	11	36	1	1					2	6			1	11	14	3	25
Outdoor recreation	19	20	25	2	4		3	2		3	6			1	16	11	7	9
Park	18	5	21	2	1		1			3	2		2	2	19	10		2
Indoor recreation	8	11	14	2			3			1	4		1	1	12	1	6	2
Other	9	7	13							3	2				1	6	5	12
Skating	14	3	8				1			6	2				4	7	1	4
Beach Access	10	4	0	1												9	4	
Senior recreation	7	4	0	1				1		1	1		1			4	2	
Protect environment from recreation	6	5	0		2		3			3	3							

## Detail of categories in Table 2:

- More recreation: reflects all comments that request more recreation, without specifying type.
- Skateboard park: specific references for a skateboard park.
- Youth recreation: recreation specifically for youth, including activities to keep them busy.
- Recreation center: this included requests for recreation centers, centers for youth and for seniors.
- Swimming pool: includes indoor, outdoor, year-round, lap, lessons, team, etc.
- Hiking/biking trails: includes all hiking, bicycle, river, nature paths, both in towns and in nature.
- Ball parks: parks for any ball activity, including soccer, softball, baseball, football (including lights for stadium), tennis, golf, miniature golf, etc.
- Movies/theatre/concerts: while this appears also in the arts category, many people listed it again under recreation.
- Outdoor recreation: any type of outdoor recreation not covered in other categories. (For example, all hiking paths are removed from this, however, skiing is not.)
- Park: includes in town parks, with playgrounds.
- Indoor recreation: includes gyms, weights, dance classes, ropes, etc.
- Other: could include fishing, train activities, fast food, etc.
- Skating: includes indoor, outdoor, year-round, roller, in-line, and ice skating.
- Beach Access: at rivers and lakes.
- Senior recreation: recreation for seniors.
- Protect environment from recreation: includes any mention of the need to protect the environment from the effects of recreation (such as erosion, loss of meadows, etc).
- Recreation district: requests for a governmental recreation district, either for the town or expanded for the city.
- Enough recreation: comments stating that the area has enough recreation, that the amount is fine or good.