


**6.0 PARKS, RECREATION AND
RESOURCE CONSERVATION**

6.0 PARKS, RECREATION AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION

6.1 INTRODUCTION

State law requires that General Plans address the conservation, development, and utilization of open space and natural resources. This Parks, Recreation and Resource Conservation Element meets this requirement by addressing open space and resource conservation. The State encourages, but does not require, the General Plan to include a parks and/or recreation element. Because recreation is important to Colusa residents, and issues related to City parks and recreation are integrally related to the City's open space and natural resources, this element combines parks and recreation issues with resource conservation.

Open space not only functions to preserve habitat and natural resources but also allows visual and physical access to those resources and their associated recreational opportunities. Human beings are drawn to open space as a respite from the urban landscape of roadways and buildings. Both developed parklands and undeveloped natural features establish areas around which neighborhoods and cities are often centered or oriented. Open space also may define the edges of a community's urban development and the beginning of agricultural production or resource management.

Parks, recreation, and resource conservation policies serve as an important tool that can help ensure that Colusa's quality of life continues to improve as new development occurs. Maintaining and expanding existing parklands and facilities, as well as acquiring new ones, is essential for improving the City's recreational programs and parks. Support exists in the City for the development of new parks, possibly including a community park. The challenge for the City regarding park development is the allocation of limited revenue. The General Plan will address park development issues and present policies that require new development to integrate parkland as part of new projects.

The resource conservation issues discussed in this element include historic and cultural resources, air quality, biological resources, soils, agricultural lands, water quality and conservation, solid waste reduction, energy, and visual resources.

6.2.1 SETTING—OPEN SPACE

Colusa boasts an abundance of "green areas" through a combination of City parks and regional open space for its residents. The adjacent Colusa-Sacramento River State Recreation Area and nearby Colusa National Wildlife Refuge provide a riverfront and open space lands for both active and passive recreational uses. An array of recreational opportunities are also offered residents by City-owned and maintained neighborhood parks.

Open space in the Colusa area provides opportunities for resource conservation. While the urbanized areas do not contain significant wildlife resources or habitat, the City is located in close proximity to sizable waterfowl and raptor nesting areas. The Sacramento River is part of a major migratory route for birds on the Pacific Flyway and provides habitat to a number of species. These resource areas in and around Colusa are open to the public for hiking, biking, picnicking, bird watching, fishing, and boating.

One of the City's greatest assets is the abundance of open space in the form of parks, school grounds, fairgrounds, and a nearby golf course in the unincorporated County, which are discussed under Parks and Recreation section later in this element. Open space areas have a variety of uses, from passive recreation to the more active participation of organized sporting events, greatly adding to the quality of urban life.

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6.2.2 OUTLOOK—OPEN SPACE

As vacant lands surrounding the City are proposed for development, opportunities will arise to incorporate new parks into these areas. The City will also have the opportunity to work with developers to set aside open space lands to ensure the health of the environment.

Opportunities for increased access and enjoyment of the City's riverfront are a high priority for the City, since present access to the River within the City is limited and discontinuous. This priority is evidenced by the City's intention to promote redevelopment in a "Riverfront District" as discussed in the Land Use Element. The riverfront is a focal point for the development of a pedestrian/bike path that would encircle the City. (See the discussion and policies set forth on the development of bike paths in the Circulation Element.) Site layout and design will play a critical role in the enhancement of and access to the riverfront. Proper development and redevelopment of riverfront parcels can provide enjoyable views of the River, while preserving its shores from development.

6.2.3 GOALS, POLICIES, AND IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS FOR OPEN SPACE

Goal PRC-1:

To preserve, protect, and enhance an interconnected system of significant open space areas, including lands with sensitive local resources, to the maximum extent feasible.

Policy PRC – 1.1:

The City shall ensure that the development process respects the unique characteristics and functions of sensitive local resources. The preferred treatment is: first – avoidance, second – onsite restoration, third – in-kind replacement, and fourth – impact fees. Sensitive local resources include wetlands, riparian corridors, floodplains, and woodlands.

Implementing Action PRC-1.1.a: Development Review

Through the development review process, the City will use the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process to evaluate the impacts of proposed new development on natural resources. The CEQA process specifies that the City will refer any development proposal with a potential for direct or indirect impacts on open space and sensitive local resources to the City Planner, City Engineer, and other local agencies, as applicable, for review and comment.

Implementing Action PRC-1.1.b: Development Agreements

The City will require identified open space areas within new residential developments to be maintained by the project developers through development agreements; codes, covenants, and restrictions; or other means. The City will also ensure that new development is designed and constructed to integrate and preserve natural areas and features as open space to the maximum extent feasible. The City will collaborate with relevant county, state, and federal agencies on open space maintenance, preservation, and management issues.

Policy PRC – 1.2:

The City shall require that new development be designed and constructed to preserve the following types of areas and features as open space to the maximum extent feasible:

- High erosion hazard areas
- Scenic corridors
- Wetlands and riparian vegetation
- Drainage corridors
- Colusa-Sacramento River State Recreation Area
- Other areas of federal, state or local significance

Implementing Action PRC-1.2.a: Development Review (see Implementing Action PRC-1.1.a above).

Implementing Action PRC-1.2.b: Fees, Dedications, and Easements

Parcel lines (in the case of a subdivision) or easements (in the case of a subdivision or other development) will be located to optimize resource protection. If a sensitive local resource or significant corridor is proposed for inclusion in an open space parcel or easement, allowed uses and maintenance responsibilities within that parcel will be clearly defined and conditioned prior to map or project approval. Fees and dedications will also be used to ensure adequate preservation of sensitive local resources.

Policy PRC – 1.3:

As development and redevelopment occur, the City shall pursue, where feasible, public access to the Sacramento River from the nearest appropriate public street and/or walkway. Access shall be designed to minimize disturbance to residents and sensitive habitat areas.

Implementing Action PRC-1.3.a: Development Review (see Implementing Action PRC-1.1.a above).

Implementing Action PRC-1.3.b: Fees, Dedications and Easements

The City will use land dedications or public access easements to ensure that pedestrian access can be provided and maintained to public use areas.

6.3.1 SETTING—PARKS AND RECREATION

CITY PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

The City of Colusa maintains approximately 15.5 acres of parks and open space that are administered by the City’s Public Works Department, Recreation Division. This represents a ratio of approximately 2.9 acres of combined park land and open space per 1,000 residents. State standards recommend that at least three to five acres per 1,000 residents be devoted to

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neighborhood and Community Park and recreational purposes to ensure that the public interest (i.e., convenience, health, welfare and safety) is met.

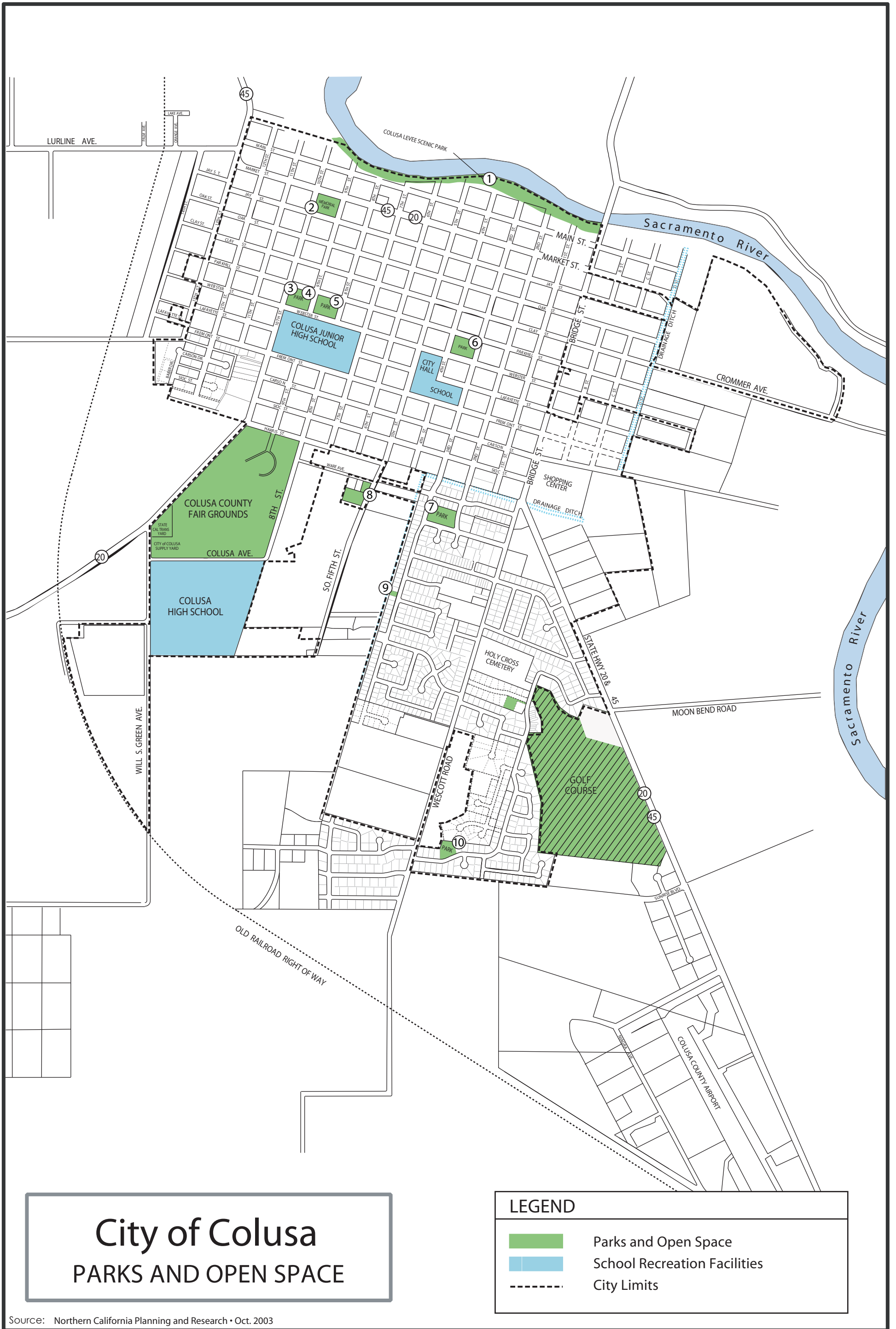
Figure 6.1 shows the location of existing parks and open space areas within the Planning Area. A summary of parks and recreation facilities and their approximate acreages are listed in Table 6.1 below.

The City's recreational facilities include school grounds and 10 City parks that offer grassy play areas, picnic tables, barbeques, playground equipment, restrooms, a rock-climbing wall, a community pool, softball fields, tennis and volleyball courts, and horseshoe pits.

**TABLE 6.1
CITY OF COLUSA PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS**

Map Number*	Name	Location	Description
1	Colusa Levee Scenic Park	10th and Levee St. adjacent to Sacramento River Recreation Area	2.19 acres: built upon River levee; grass, trees, paved walking, jogging, biking trail, picnic tables, BBQ pits
2	Memorial Park	10th and Market Sts.	2.35 acres: shady, tree-filled; children's play area with swings and slide, rock-climbing wall, picnic tables, restroom, available electricity
3	A.B. Davison Park	10th St. between Webster and Parkhill	1.02 acres: grassy, tree-filled; paved walking paths throughout
4	Municipal Swimming Pool	9th St. between Webster and Parkhill	One 8ft. deep pool, one 3ft. deep pool, one wading pool – open during summer only
5	Will S. Green Park	8th St. between Webster and Parkhill	2.88 acres: barbeque facilities, picnic tables, horseshoe pit, children's play area with swings, slide, jungle gym, and glider swings for tots. 2.35 acres: two lighted tennis courts and children's play area, lots of shade trees, restrooms, group picnic area
6	Sankey/Elmwood Park	Between Webster and Parkhill and 3rd and 4th Sts.	0.58 acres: kindergarten playground with slide, swings, drinking fountain, picnic tables, BBQ pit, restrooms, tennis courts, volleyball area, electricity available
7	C.D. Semple Park	Corner of 3rd and Larson Ln.	1.2 acres: open grass area for play, picnic tables, BBQ facilities, playground
8	Lewis Tennant Ballfield Complex	Colusa Ave. across from Colusa High School	4.0 acres: site of Colusa Softball Assn. games and tournaments; 2 softball fields, restrooms, concession, picnic tables 0.33 acres: tot lot play area scaled to toddlers; sand surface
9	King-Vale Park	3rd St.	0.3 acre: sand surface, children's tot lot with swings, slide, merry go round
10	Leland L. Taylor Memorial Park	Country Club Dr.	1.0 acre: open grass area for play, picnic tables

Note: *See Figure 6.1 for park locations



City of Colusa PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

LEGEND	
	Parks and Open Space
	School Recreation Facilities
	City Limits

Source: Northern California Planning and Research • Oct. 2003



FIGURE 6.1
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

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placeholder page – delete from PDFCity recreation facilities, most of which are more than 20 years old, operate at or above capacity much of the time. The community pool located at Will S. Green Park is heavily utilized. On many summer days, attendance exceeds the pool's capacity. The 55-year old facility is in need of complete renovation. Improvements are required to comply with the American Disabilities Act (ADA), and expansion is needed to accommodate the growing population. Additional ballfields are needed to meet both current and projected demand. The City's little league field and two softball fields are inadequate to serve the number of organized teams in the City. Practice fields exist at the City schools and are heavily used.



Upgrades to existing City parks are needed. The two outdoor picnic and barbeque areas are used extensively. Needed improvements include installation of bathrooms at Veterans Memorial Park and Will S. Green Park. The former is also in need of playground equipment. Improvements needed for Sankey Park, C.D. Semple Park, Levee Park, and Leland Taylor Park include restroom facilities, basketball courts, picnic tables, and playground equipment, respectively.

The Old Boy Scout Cabin, located at 9th and Webster, is known as the "Senior Center" and is operated by the County. In the past, a daily lunch program was held at this location; however, that program is no longer operating for financial reasons. Currently, there is no facility in the City dedicated to providing activities and services to seniors. Aside from school facilities, Colusa has no multi-purpose indoor recreation facilities for activities such as volleyball, basketball, yoga, aerobics, martial arts, or dance programs.

Recreation Programs

The Recreation Division of the City's Public Works Department is also responsible for organizing recreational activities that are offered year-round to City and County residents. Activities include classes, trips, and special events, such as concerts in the park. The Recreation Division administers adult sports, after school/camp activities, aquatics, youth sports, and senior citizen programs. Adult sports include softball; children's activities include t-ball, basketball, and other team sports.

The Colusa Adult Canteen, which operates under the direction of the Recreation Division, is held at the Fellowship Hall of the Trinity Methodist Church on Fifth Street. This activity allows senior citizens the opportunity to meet and socialize with a pot-luck luncheon two times per month. The Department also operates the community swimming pool in the summer and organizes aquatics for all age groups.

Colusa Golf Club

Colusa Golf Club is located on the west side of State Route 20/45 and east of Country Club Estates outside the City limits. This nine-hole course is privately-owned but is open to the public. It is the only golf course within the Colusa Planning Area.

Colusa-Sacramento River State Recreation Area

The Colusa-Sacramento River State Recreation Area (SRA) is a 67-acre park located on the west side of the Sacramento River near downtown Colusa. The River Patwin Indian tribe once lived near the area, and in 1872, John Muir camped near what is now the park. The SRA once was

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used as a dump, but was filled, graded, and improved in 1964. The area was opened as a park that is now popular with campers, boaters, fishermen, and hikers.

Riverbank cottonwoods and willows shelter one of the finest fishing stretches in California, with king salmon, steelhead, rainbow trout, and striped bass found there. The river is on a major migratory route for birds of the Pacific Flyway and provides home to wide range of bird species.

The SRA also has boat launching facilities. However, due to siltation, the boat launch can become unusable for most of the year. As a result, the City is exploring alternative sites for a boat launch facility.

Colusa County Fairgrounds

The Colusa County Fairgrounds is located on 20 acres on 10th Street, north of Colusa High School. The facility, owned by the State of California and managed by the 44th District Agricultural Association, is home to annual events such as the Colusa County Fair, Colusa Farm Show, Western Days, and Holiday Craft Fair. Fairground facilities include several exhibition halls ranging in size from 3,500 to 10,500 square feet, a multi-use outdoor pavilion, a lighted grandstand with seating for 1,400 visitor, barns, 26 horse stalls, and 35 RV parking spaces . The Association offers rental of fairgrounds buildings and services

6.3.2 OUTLOOK—PARKS AND RECREATION

As the City of Colusa anticipates significant residential growth with this General Plan update, one of the challenges will be to maintain a healthy community, in part, through the provision of adequate parks and recreational facilities.

At potential buildout of the Planning Area, as described in *Chapter 2, Land Use*, the population of Colusa would stand at approximately 25,811 residents. The City will be assessing the park land and recreation facilities needs anticipated with this growth through the development of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan—one of the first actions to be undertaken upon adoption of this General Plan.



As the population increases, continual assessment will be required to determine whether the quantity and types of park land are meeting the changing needs of City residents. The City will plan and evaluate its parks and recreation facilities by applying the Parks and Recreation Master Plan's parks definitions, standards, and siting criteria, as well as the guiding policies of this General Plan.

PARK LAND CLASSIFICATIONS

As is the case with many small cities, Colusa's parks come in a range of sizes and types. Park land classifications have been created to assist in identifying the types of parks that a community may need. Park types are typically chosen according to the user group, service area, and/or type of facilities that are needed.

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The following park land classifications, adapted from industry standards, identify the types of parks that could likely fill current parkland deficiencies and meet future demand for parks in Colusa. *These classifications serve as guidelines only, and are not intended as City standards.* Park standards (e.g., function, size, service area, site characteristics, etc.) will be adopted in a Parks Master Plan, which is to be prepared as an implementing action of this element.

- **Mini-parks:** Typically range from 2,500 square feet to two (2) acres and service a “sub-neighborhood” area (within ¼-mile or a short walking distance). A mini-park is generally defined as a small, landscaped area that serves a concentrated or limited population, such as tots or senior citizens. This type of park would be located in close proximity to apartment complexes, medium-to-high density residential neighborhoods, and senior housing developments.
- **Neighborhood parks:** Generally five- (5) to 10-acre parks that provide scenic, aesthetic, and recreational value. Typical improvements found at neighborhood parks include athletic fields, multi-use turf areas, hard courts, and playground equipment. Some may provide more passive facilities such as picnicking, turf areas, and some natural areas. Neighborhood parks service an entire neighborhood (within a 1-mile radius) and may be developed as a joint-use school/park facility.
- **Community parks:** Publicly-owned land sites, usually in the range of 20 to 50 acres, with full public access intended to provide recreation opportunities beyond those supplied by neighborhood parks. Most regulation fields and active facilities are located in community parks. Such facilities as youth baseball, soccer, and softball fields are sited in “complexes” of four or more to allow for the most efficient use and for support facilities such as restrooms and concession stands. Community buildings, indoor recreation facilities, tennis courts, and swimming pools are also typically located in community parks. Such parks may contain picnic grounds and pathways, natural areas, and passive landscaped areas, and they require ample car and bicycle parking facilities. Community parks are expected to draw from the entire community and may include inter-community recreation and sports league activities.

PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The City has already identified the need for a new community park to meet demand for future recreational needs as new growth occurs. The community park has been envisioned as a site for soccer, little league, and softball fields and for Pop Warner football. This park would also provide areas for community gatherings and picnics,

In addition, a community center will be needed that can provide multi-use indoor facilities for the various programs that serve the City. This facility could provide a home for existing programs that lack a regular location, including classes for mature drivers, CPR, first aid, Community College Extension courses, and other community group meetings. The community center facility could be part of a larger Civic Center, which would house City Hall and potentially include a dedicated senior center.

One potential location for a new civic center (to include City Hall) is in the area encompassing Will S. Green Park, the Community Pool, and the old high school site on 10th Street. Potential locations for new outdoor recreational parks facilities sites have been identified in new growth areas east of downtown Colusa between Bridge Street and the Sacramento River and south of the High School. A potential site for a community park has been identified in the new growth area west of Highway 20 across from the Colusa County Fairgrounds.

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Neighborhood parks and mini-parks are also a necessary component of the City's overall parks system. It is anticipated that the location, design, and function of these parks will be determined as new developments are proposed.

6.3.3 GOALS, POLICIES, AND IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS FOR PARKS AND RECREATION

Goal PRC – 2:

To ensure a geographically-distributed and well-maintained system of park and recreational facilities.

Policy PRC – 2.1

The City shall ensure ongoing maintenance and corrections in deficiencies of existing community parks and facilities.

Implementing Action PRC-2.1.a: Capital Improvement Program

The City will identify sufficient annual funds through a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to ensure ongoing maintenance of and improvements to existing parks and recreational facilities.

Policy PRC – 2.2:

The City shall provide sufficient parkland and recreational facilities to meet the needs of all residents while new development continues to occur.

Implementing Action PRC-2.2.a: Parks and Recreation Master Plan

The City will adopt and implement a Parks and Recreation Master Plan prior to or concurrent with project approvals associated with large development projects. With this plan, park sites will be identified, and the City will work with developers to identify desired neighborhood park sites well in advance of subdivision development. Components of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan may include:

- Parkland and recreational facilities inventory, including number, size and type of parks and facilities; area and population served; and current maintenance responsibilities and costs.
- Identification of parkland and recreational facilities deficiencies and identification of measures to bring them into conformance with City standards.
- Projection of anticipated citywide recreation needs, according to demographics and trends. This would include identification of programs, activities, and facilities that consider the specialized needs of the disabled, children, and seniors.
- Establishment of parkland dedication requirements that can be tied to long-range parks and recreation facilities needs.
- Identification of existing and potential new areas for active and passive parkland development, including large private properties that are candidates for park acquisition by the nature of their location or resources. Consideration will depend on

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resident characteristics and needs, with emphasis on clustering and interconnecting community facilities, including schools.

- Development of parks design guidelines and siting standards to ensure efficient and safe park facilities. These guidelines and standards would be developed as performance standards to allow the City and developers the flexibility for varying circumstances – in terms of size, facilities, and service areas –that can ensure existing and future needs are met for all residents.
- Conceptual plan for a community center, in either new or existing buildings, to include space for a museum, performing arts, multi-purpose room, kitchen, day care, and after-school programs.
- Development of a gift/donation list of equipment or other items suitable for park and recreation purposes.
- Establishment of a schedule for the annual evaluation, maintenance, and replacement of existing parks facilities and recreational equipment.

Policy PRC – 2.3:

The City shall ensure that a park development ratio of at least five acres of parkland for every 1,000 Colusa residents is met.

Implementing Action PRC-2.3.a: Development Review

Projects will be reviewed to ensure that sufficient park development is included with the proposed development. Development review will implement the Parks and Recreation Master Plan when determining the appropriate acreage, park type, and improvements.

Implementing Action PRC-2.3.b: Dedications, Fees, and Exactions

The City will require new residential development to dedicate land or pay in-lieu fees and pay park fees for land purchase and development costs at the standard of at least five acres per 1,000 residents. Dedications of trail and path rights-of-way may be considered, in addition to the minimum park standard.

Implementing Action PRC-2.3.c: Development Agreements

The City will use development agreements to ensure that the design and development of project areas are consistent with the goals and policies of this element. Development agreements should specify the timing of construction of project improvements, including parklands, trails, and open space. Requirements for improvements and/or dedications and any credit to apply to park standards will be reflected in the agreement.

Policy PRC – 2.4:

The City shall continue to coordinate with local, regional and state agencies to ensure that parks facilities use is maximized.

Implementing Action PRC-2.4.a: Interagency Coordination

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The City will work jointly with local, regional, and state park agencies on joint use of recreational facilities, particularly when funding options for City program implementation require extended agency participation.

The City will also work with the appropriate state agencies to pursue the necessary means for relocating the State Recreation Area's boat launch facility to ensure that it is fully functional and operational.

Goal PRC – 3:

To provide a range of recreation programs that ensures the opportunity of participation for all City residents.

Policy PRC – 3.1:

The City shall continue to develop and support recreational opportunities for all ages, interests, and activity levels with an emphasis on recreation and programs for the youth and seniors of Colusa.

Implementing Action PRC-3.1.a: Parks and Recreation Master Plan (see Implementing Action PRC-2.2.a).

Implementing Action PRC-3.1.b: Public Involvement

The City will actively solicit input from the public in the planning and development of recreational programs to more effectively meet the needs of City residents. The City will involve teens, seniors, and other interest groups in the development of recreational and cultural programs to meet the needs of specific user groups. Primary means of public input will be through the Parks Commission, Planning Commission, and City Council, the bodies that review and act on proposed recreation improvements and programs.

Policy PRC – 3.2:

The City shall pursue opportunities for joint use of recreational facilities.

Implementing Action PRC-3.2.a: Interagency Coordination

The City will confer with other jurisdictions in an effort to identify new programs and approaches to parks, trails, and open space development that have proven successful in other communities. The City may develop joint powers agreements with the school district, the County, and other agencies to develop, administer, and use parks, open space, and recreation facilities and programs. These agreements could facilitate use of non-City-owned properties including, but not limited to, schools and the fairgrounds.

6.4.1 SETTING—HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY

The City of Colusa is located at the site of the former Native American village of Koru. Koru was the governing seat for the Korusi Tribe of Southern Wintun. There are several spellings of the names of tribal groups and villages along the Sacramento River in Colusa County: Koru, Ko-roo, Coru, Kol-loos, Coluse, Korusi, Ko-ru-si, Colusi, Colouse, and Colusa. The native language

pronunciation of “r” was a quick roll, which was probably interpreted by Euro-Americans as an “l”—a distortion that created the name “Colusa” (DeJarnatt 1886; Green 1880; Merriam n.d.; Rogers 1891).

Will S. Green, one of Colusa’s early settlers, recalled in his *History of Colusa County* (1880) that there were at least 15 Korusi villages along the Sacramento River when he arrived in 1850. He estimated the Korusi population along the River to be at least 1,000 and noted that village and family boundaries were marked by particular sloughs. Green lists the sloughs by name and states that “Loch-Loch” was located the farthest south at the mouth of Sycamore Slough, “Tu-tu” was located the farthest to the north about two miles above Princeton, and “Doc-doc” was located just below the City of Colusa. Most of these villages were well populated and had their own communal structures and sweat lodges (Green 1851; Rogers 1891).

The Korusi Tribe was included in the 1851 United States treaty negotiations with native populations (Heizer 1972:52–54). Chief Sioc, the Korusi Chief, signed a treaty with the United States government, and the remaining people of his tribe were relocated north of Koru. The Korusi relocated on the property of Colonel George Hagar in a village named “Tat-no.” Colonel Hagar stated that the Korusi would be welcome as long as he owned his land. Regardless, the relocation of the Korusi was traumatic, and as a result, Chief Sioc died in 1852 of a “broken heart” caused by the decline and corruption of his people and their ways. The decline of the Korusi, as with other groups of Native Americans, was relatively rapid after the establishment of permanent Euro-American settlements. By 1900, the dwindling population of Korusi occupied only two villages, “Tat-no” and “Wy-terre,” located nine miles north of Colusa (Green 1880; Hendrix 1992).

The 1851 treaty signed by Chief Sioc was one of the 18 treaties with California Indians never ratified by Congress. No formal rancheria was set up for the Korusi until 1907, when the government bought 40 acres approximately four (4) miles north of Colusa. By that time, there were only about 60 Native Americans left in Colusa County, and by 1918, the population had dwindled to only 50 (McComish and Lambert, 1918).

ARRIVAL OF EURO-AMERICANS

Mission registers provide the earliest historic accounts of Wintun populations. They indicate that Euro-American contact with Wintun groups occurred by at least 1800 (Johnson 1978:351). The influx of European and Spanish explorers and settlers during the 1830s and 1840s certainly affected Wintun populations. The discovery of gold at Sutter’s Mill in Coloma in 1848, however, was the catalyst that caused a dramatic alteration of both Native American and Euro-American cultural patterns in California. Once news of the discovery of gold spread, a flood of Euro-Americans entered the region and gravitated to the area of the “Mother Lode”. Initially, the Euro-American population grew slowly, but it soon exploded as the presence of large deposits of gold was confirmed in the Sacramento area. The population of California quickly swelled from an estimated 4,000 Euro-Americans in 1848 to 500,000 in 1850.

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Beginning in the late 19th century, Colusa County and the City of Colusa became agricultural centers for the production of wheat. Wheat was shipped down the Sacramento River and then shipped to England. In 1876, Colusa County produced 143,000 tons of wheat for export. In 1894, the wheat ranching bonanza came to an end when Australia, Argentina, and Canada all became major wheat exporters, and the price of wheat fell dramatically. In 1911-12, rice was introduced into the valley and eventually replaced wheat as the major agricultural crop in Colusa County. Rice required more water than other crops, which fostered the development of irrigation projects such as the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation Canal. Consequently, both rice and water have been major factors in the growth of both Colusa County and the City of Colusa.



RECENT HISTORY

The City was founded in 1850, and numerous historic resources still exist among the many buildings in the downtown area and along the Sacramento River. In September 2002, the City of Colusa Heritage Preservation Committee (HPC) published the City of Colusa Historic Resources Inventory. This document identifies 244 buildings that are either considered locally significant, eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHP), or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). **Table 6.2** identifies the existing sites in the City listed on the NRHP and 15 properties recognized as historically significant by the local government as identified by HPC.

TABLE 6.2
CALIFORNIA REGISTER OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES BUILDINGS IN COLUSA

Site	Address	Status
Colusa Carnegie Library	260 Sixth St	1S
Colusa Grammar School	425 Webster St.	1S
Colusa High School and Grounds	745 10th St.	1S
I.O.O.F Building	215 Fifth Street	5S1
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church	642 Fifth Street	5S1
Hart-Albery House	659 Jay Street	5S1
First Christian Church	725 Jay Street	5S1
Chinatown	735 Main Street	5B1
Chinatown	739 Main Street	5D
Chinatown	741 Main Street	5D
Chinatown	745 Main Street	5D
Chinatown	749 Main Street	5D
Chinatown	753 Main Street	5D
Chinatown	757 Main Street	5D
Chinatown	761 Main Street	5D
Colusa County Courthouse	547 Market Street	5S1
Our Lady of Lourdes Church	345 Oak Street	5S1
Will S. Green House	220 Sixth Street	5S1

1S Individual property listed in the National Register by the Keeper. Listed in the California Register.

5D Contributor to a district that is listed or designated locally.

5S1 Individual property that is listed or designated locally.

5B1 Locally significant both individually (listed, eligible, or appears eligible) and as a contributor to a district that is locally listed, designated, determined eligible or appears eligible through survey evaluation.

Source: Cit of Colusa Historic Resources Inventory, September 2002.

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The City of Colusa commissioned a cultural resources study of the Planning Area. These investigations included: a records search at the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) at Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park; a sacred lands search conducted by the Native American Heritage Commission; consultation with the Native American community; and archival research. Archaeological and historical investigations identified that the City's Planning Area is archaeologically sensitive for both prehistoric and historic sites and artifacts. The investigation identified eight archaeological sites within the Planning Area. However, these sites are not listed here in order to protect their integrity.

6.4.2 OUTLOOK—HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES



Preservation of historic buildings in the City has always been a priority for residents of Colusa. With the adoption of the Landmark and Historic Preservation Ordinance in 1975, the City officially established a program that will be updated and revised to reflect the updated General Plan. The City's overall preservation objectives are to identify, protect, and encourage preservation of Colusa's historic and cultural resources throughout the City.

The restoration of historic buildings to meet modern building codes can become cost restrictive for property owners. In addition, some alterations required by these modern codes could detract from the historic aspects of the structures. In the future, the City will encourage property owners to pursue historic designation for their structures and sites under federal, state, or local authority. This designation would enable historical property owners to implement alternative building regulations for the rehabilitation, preservation, restoration, or relocation of structures designated as qualified historic buildings, as allowed by the State Historical Building Code (Title 24, Part 8).

6.4.3 GOALS, POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS FOR HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Goal PRC – 4:

To protect the City's historical and cultural resources.

Policy PRC – 4.1:

The City shall encourage the inclusion of significant sites or districts in the Federal or State Historical Register.

Implementing Action PRC-4.1.a: Landmark and Historic Preservation Ordinance

The City will update the Landmark and Historic Preservation Ordinance to ensure effective preservation, protection, and management of Colusa's historic and cultural resources.

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Policy PRC – 4.2:

The City shall preserve identified cultural and historic landmarks and buildings and ensure that new development, redevelopment, alterations, and remodeling projects are sensitive to the historic context.

Implementing Action PRC-4.2.a: Development Review

As a part of the development review process, discretionary development projects will be required to identify any important historic and cultural sites the development may impact and avoid disturbance to or degradation of these resources.

Implementing Action PRC-4.2.b: Public Awareness and Education

The City's role in public education about cultural and historic resources will be to work with the Heritage Preservation Committee to promote involvement in historical preservation, construction of informational markers, and historic structure restoration efforts. In partnerships with this group and local historians, outreach efforts will be made to solicit involvement in signage design, funding, and construction through local schools, businesses, and residents.

Policy PRC-4.3:

The City shall encourage the preservation, enhancement, and conservation of historic and older neighborhoods through its direct actions.

Implementing Action PRC-4.3.a: Federal, State, and/or Local Funding

The City will work cooperatively with private developers to pursue financial incentives through federal, state, and local funding sources that encourage structural rehabilitation and restoration of private historic properties. The City will also pursue grants for historic preservation, such as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the California Heritage Fund (provided by the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000).

Implementing Action PRC-4.3.b: Mills Act

The City will participate in the Mills Act Tax Abatement Program as an economic incentive for private property owners to actively participate in the restoration of their properties. The Mills Act legislation grants participating local governments (cities and counties) the authority to enter into contracts with owners of qualified historic properties that actively participate in the restoration and maintenance of their historic properties while receiving property tax relief.

6.5.1 SETTING--AIR QUALITY

Colusa enjoys good air quality most of the year due to Valley breezes and the community's relative distance from large urban areas. However, the City is still seasonally affected by wheat and rice burning, even though the State of California passed a law more than a decade ago phasing out rice straw burning in the Sacramento Valley. Without conscious efforts on other fronts to maintain current air quality standards as significant new development occurs, serious threats to the public health could result. Primary sources of pollutants include increased emissions from motor vehicles, as well as stationary sources such as industrial development.

Children, seniors, fetuses, pregnant women, and persons with existing health problems, such as respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, are especially sensitive to the effects of air pollutants, particularly carbon and monoxide and ozone. Typical sensitive receptor populations are likely to be located in facilities such as schools, retirement homes, convalescent homes, hospitals, and medical clinics.

The Colusa County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) is the agency responsible for ensuring healthful air quality in Colusa County. According to the Colusa County APCD 2000 Attainment/Non-attainment Status report, the City of Colusa and Colusa County are designated unclassified/attainment for federal ozone levels and unclassified for particulate matter (PM₁₀) levels. State levels for ozone have been designated non-attainment/transitional, and PM₁₀ levels are non-attainment.

In 2001, the Colusa County APCD implemented the Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program to provide grants for the incremental cost of new low-emission heavy-duty engines and low-emission retrofit technologies. The exhausts from heavy-duty diesel engines are a significant source of smog-forming emissions, contributing to PM₁₀ levels and increasing toxic air contaminants (TAC).

The following Federal and State Designations define the air quality setting in Colusa County.

Federal Designations:

- **Non-attainment** - Any area that does not meet (or that contributes to ambient air quality in a nearby area that does not meet) the national primary or secondary ambient air quality standard for the pollutant.
- **Attainment** - Any area that meets the national primary or secondary ambient air quality standard for the pollutant.
- **Unclassifiable** - Any area that cannot be classified on the basis of available information as meeting or not meeting the national primary or secondary ambient air quality standard for the pollutant.

State Designations:

- **Unclassified** - A pollutant is designated unclassified if the data are incomplete and do not support a designation of attainment or non-attainment.
- **Attainment** - A pollutant is designated attainment if the state standard for that pollutant was not violated at any site in the area during a three-year period.

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- **Non-attainment** - A pollutant is designated non-attainment if there was at least one violation of a state standard for that pollutant in the area.
- **Non-attainment/Transitional** - A subcategory of the non-attainment designation. An area is designated non-attainment/transitional to signify that the area is close to attaining the standard for that pollutant.

6.5.2 OUTLOOK—AIR QUALITY

Buildout under this General Plan will result in a substantial increase in vehicle emissions as a direct result of population growth. Regional growth will continue to adversely affect air quality as well. Land use patterns that minimize automobile use, along with Design Guidelines to be developed as part of the Community Character & Design Element, will directly benefit the City's air quality. The emphasis on traditional neighborhood design encourages and facilitates walking and biking, which is expected to reduce the amount of local automobile travel and resultant vehicle emissions. Proposed site preparation and construction activities standards and the use of trees and vegetation for air contaminant reduction will further serve to reduce the adverse impacts of growth on air quality.

6.5.3 GOALS POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS FOR AIR QUALITY

Goal PRC – 5:

To recognize improved air quality as a health benefit and to preserve air quality as a natural resource.

Policy PRC-5.1:

The City shall require that site preparation and construction activities incorporate effective measures to minimize dust and pollutant emissions from motorized construction equipment and vehicles.

Implementing Action PRC-5.1.a: Development Review

Projects will be evaluated for their potential impacts to air quality as part of the development review process, applying the California Environmental Act (CEQA) Guidelines and in consultation with Colusa County Air Pollution Control District (APCD).

Implementing Action PRC-5.1.b: Best Management Practices

The City will require that developers use best management practices (BMPs) as recommended by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Colusa County APCD. Approaches to design, construction, and maintenance techniques should ensure that development would not cause or worsen air quality.

Policy PRC-5.2:

New development shall provide a street design that includes multiple vehicular access points and bicycle/pedestrian pathways within neighborhoods. The circulation system shall increase community connectivity and avoid long, circuitous routes to commercial districts, schools, and other neighborhoods.

Implementing Action PRC-5.2.a: Development Review

Through the CEQA environmental review process, as part of development review, proposed development projects will be evaluated to determine the extent to which they minimize motor vehicle traffic.

Implementing Action PRC-5.2.b: Design Review Ordinance (See Implementing Action CCD-1.1.a in Chapter 3.0 Community Character and Design)

The City will adopt a Design Review Ordinance that establishes a process to consider a wide range of design issues with development projects. These include such things as open space and natural features, pedestrian and traffic circulation, building scale and massing, architectural history and details, signs and advertising features, landscaping, site lighting, and utility connections. The Design Review process will provide the public with an opportunity to review and comment on all development projects requiring a permit before the Design Review Board makes a final decision on the project.

Implementing Action PRC-5.2.c: Design Guidelines (See Implementing Action CCD-1.1.b in Chapter 3.0 Community Character and Design)

The City will adopt Community Design Guidelines in which preservation and enhancement of the City's existing character will be the overriding design principle. These Guidelines, to be used in conjunction with the City's zoning ordinance, will include specific design criteria for various development types.

Policy PRC-5.3:

The City shall ensure that residents' exposure to post-construction emissions is minimized.

Implementing Action PRC-5.3.a: Development Review

Through the development review process, projects will be required to demonstrate that existing and/or future sensitive receptors are protected from significant air emissions or odors through the use of adequate buffer zones, setbacks, or other site design techniques.

Implementing Action PRC-5.3.b: Interagency Coordination

The City will periodically consult with the Colusa County Air Pollution Control District and Colusa County to ensure compliance with federal and state ambient air quality standards. This may include limiting the use of wood-burning devices, new construction methods, and conversion to natural gas fireplaces in remodeling projects.

Policy PRC-5.4:

The City shall ensure that existing trees and vegetation are retained and incorporated into the project design wherever feasible.

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Implementing Action PRC-5.4.a: Development Review

Through the development review process, a landscaping plan will be prepared and reviewed for each project to ensure maximum retention and addition of mature trees and other vegetation that will contribute to absorption of carbon emissions.

Implementing Action PRC-5.4.b: Community Design Guidelines (see Implementing Action PRC-5.2.b above).

Implementing Action PRC-5.4.c: Landscape Ordinance

The City will adopt and implement a landscape ordinance, which will establish standards for landscaping as part of new development. Requirements will specify the preparation of a landscape plan that shows appropriate application of trees and other vegetation. This ordinance will be applied in the design and development of private and public development projects and will be consistent with other provisions of the General Plan.

Policy PRC-5.5:

The City shall encourage the use of public transportation as an alternative to the automobile.

Implementation Action PRC 5.5.a: Public Awareness and Education

The City will provide public information describing how well-integrated land use and transportation planning, combined with greater use of public transit, can reduce vehicle miles of travel and motor vehicle emissions that contribute to air pollution, thereby improving the community's air quality.

6.6.1 SETTING—BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Colusa is located next to the Sacramento River, in an area with high levels of waterfowl activity and raptor nesting. The River Basin contains a number of species, subspecies, and genetically distinct populations of fish that are presently listed as federally- or state-threatened/endangered species or species that appear to be approaching that status. However, the urbanized areas both in and just outside of the City limits are generally less likely to contain significant wildlife resources or habitat, and the California Department of Fish and Game has indicated there are no endangered animal species within the City of Colusa.

Just south of the City of Colusa, the federal government maintains the Colusa National Wildlife Refuge, part of the Pacific Flyway, which provides winter refuge for migrating waterfowl, such as ducks and geese. The 10,783-acre refuge consists of about 7,600 acres of managed wetlands, uplands, riparian habitat, and vernal pools. The refuge supports several endangered plants and animals, including transplanted colonies of palmate-braced bird's-beak, species of fairy shrimp, vernal pool tadpole shrimp, giant garter snake, wintering peregrine falcon, bald eagle, and breeding tri-colored blackbird. Resident wildlife includes grebe, heron, blackbird, golden eagle, beaver, muskrat, black-tailed deer, and other species typical of upland and wetland habitats. Approximately 9,000 people hunt on the refuge each year, and 73,000 people use the visitor center, auto tour route, and walking trail.

Although the urbanized area of the City of Colusa and outlying areas do not have species or vegetation which fall into the rare, threatened, or endangered categories, the City does consider its large variety of mature trees lining its streets a significant resource.

6.6.2 OUTLOOK—BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Biological resources in and around the City have, and will continue to be, impacted by development. Buildout of the General Plan would result in the conversion of large tracts of undeveloped prime agricultural land which could adversely affect sensitive habitat. However, infill development in more developed areas of the City is not expected to adversely affect important biological habitats or plant species. To mitigate the impacts of development, the City may require projects to integrate or set aside lands of biological significance.

The General Plan Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR) will identify special status species and habitats that occur within the General Plan Planning Area. This information will be used as a starting point for future site planning of large developments when proposed. While this information is intended to serve as a general guide in identifying screening-level risk assessments (SLRAs), site-specific biological resource evaluations may also be required to determine if a project could result in potentially significant impacts to sensitive biological resources.

6.6.3 GOALS, POLICIES, AND IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS FOR BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Goal PRC – 6:

To preserve and protect the biological resources of the City.

Policy PRC – 6.1:

The City shall protect and preserve the area’s biological resources.

Implementing Action PRC-6.1.a: Development Review

Through the development review process, and consistent with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the City will require development projects to avoid disturbing biological resources within the City, to the greatest extent feasible. The City will ensure that adverse impacts to sensitive biological resources are mitigated to the maximum extent feasible. Mitigation measures will be specific, feasible actions that will actually improve adverse environmental conditions. A mitigation measure is considered feasible if it is capable of being accomplished within a reasonable period of time, taking into consideration economic, environmental, legal, social and technological factors. The City will encourage measures that will, in order of priority, avoid, reduce, and/or rectify adverse effects. Priority will be given to measures that mitigate impacts on-site and in-kind. Priority will be given to measures that maintain the integrity of habitat areas, preferably on site.

If, during the development review process, the City determines that a proposed project has the potential to affect biological resources, the City may require the applicant to prepare, at the applicant’s expense, a biological resources assessment, a wetlands delineation, an arborist report, and/or other technical information that will allow the City to assess the project’s potential to cause adverse impacts to biological resources.

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The City's review of proposed development projects will include, but is not necessarily limited to, the following considerations:

- Preservation of heritage oaks and oak woodland habitat;
- Protection of special-status plant and animal species as defined by state and federal regulations;
- Conservation of sensitive wildlife habitat, and mitigation for any loss of that habitat, if appropriate;
- Avoidance of wetlands and riparian plant communities, and mitigation for any loss of that habitat, as appropriate;
- Replanting of native vegetation.

Implementing Action PRC-6.1.b: Interagency Coordination

The City will coordinate with Colusa County and responsible resource and regulatory agencies during project development. The purpose will be to ensure that ample opportunity is given to solicit their comments concerning potential impacts to threatened and endangered species or other sensitive biological resources within the planning area.

Implementing Action PRC - 6.1.c: No Net Loss of Wetlands

As part of the development review process, the City will ensure that proposed development projects cause no net loss of wetlands. The term "no net loss" may include mitigation implemented through participation in an off-site mitigation bank or similar mitigation mechanism acceptable to the City and permitting agencies. On a case-by-case basis, the City will consult with permitting agencies regarding the most appropriate mitigation strategy for each development project. Strategies that may be considered include 1) avoidance, 2) acre-for-acre mitigation, in which the acreage of preserved or restored wetlands is directly related to the acreage of affected wetlands, 3) habitat-based mitigation, in which the acreage of preserved or restored wetland habitat is directly related to the acreage of affected wetland habitat, or 4) a combination of these strategies. Wetlands to be preserved and/or restored shall be of the same type as those affected, and shall be located within the same biological region.

Implementing Action PRC – 6.1.d: Native Vegetation List

The City will develop a list of native vegetation to be used as a landscape pallet within open space areas (e.g., parks, preserves, etc.). Through the development review process the City will encourage developers to incorporate native plants into landscape plans for new development. The City shall implement a public education program to encourage citizens to incorporate native plants in residential and commercial landscaping throughout the City

Policy PRC – 6.2:

The City shall ensure that projects identify alternative site designs where sensitive habitat areas may be adversely affected.

Implementing Action PRC-6.2.a: Development Review (see Implementing Action PRC-6.1.a above).

Policy PRC – 6.3:

The City shall continue to preserve and maintain trees within City.

Implementing Action PRC-6.3.a: City Code 19.3

The City will continue to implement its Ordinance governing the protection of mature trees (City Code 19.3) by maintaining the Tree Commission and application submittal process.

Implementing Action PRC-6.3.b: Development Review

The City will require tree planting along street frontages for all new development projects. The City will also review and update tree planting requirements for parking areas and new development.

6.7.1 SETTING—SOILS

According to the *Soil Survey of Colusa County, California*, four soil types, with sub variations, comprise the primary soils found in the Planning Area: the Colusa Series, Sycamore Series, and Marvin Series. **Figure 6.2** identifies each soil type relative to their location throughout the City.

COLUMBIA SERIES

Columbia Series soils consist of very deep, moderately well drained soils formed in alluvium from mixed sources. These soils are located on flood plains and natural levees and have slopes of 0 to 8 percent. Soils are moderately well-drained; negligible to medium runoff; moderately rapid permeability. Clay substratum phase has slow permeability below a depth of 40 inches. Except where drained, these soils are saturated at 20 to 48 inches for several months in the period from November to April. In areas not protected by levees or other flood control structures, these soils are subject to occasional to frequent, brief to long periods of flooding in November to May. Rare flooding occurs in partly protected areas. These soils are used for irrigated hay, small grain, and orchard and row crops. Vegetation consists of a fairly dense cover of oaks, cottonwoods, willows, vines, shrubs, and grasses near stream channels, but more open away from the channels.

COLUSA SERIES

Colusa Series soils are derived from mixed river sediments, which contain a predominance of micaceous granite material. Colusa subsoil structure has no definition, but includes distinct horizontal characteristics. Variations in this series include deep subsoil, which may be stratified and underlain at various depths by a moderately dense clay substratum that resembles Marvin Series soil material. Alkali content varies in amount and consists of sodium carbonate alkali.

Topography associated with these soils is flat with many shallow drainage channels. Drainage is poor with a high annual water table.

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MARVIN SERIES

Marvin Series soils consist of soil derived from transported alluvium of mixed origin with a predominance of granitic rock. These soils occupy the older and imperfectly drained portions of the flood plain and/or occur near the flat basin area of a river channel. The subsoils are moderately compacted with accumulations of lime. Surface and subsoil drainage tends to be poor.

SYCAMORE SERIES

Sycamore Series soils are composed of a group of alluvial soils formed from transported materials that are dominantly granitic in character. This series also contains some basic and sedimentary alluvium. Surface textures range from fine sandy loam to clay loams. Most of the loams have been inherited from ground water reaching the lower profile during the rainy season. Parent materials are generally non-calcareous, but the subsoils are calcareous. The topography of these soils is generally flat, with gently sloping flood plain relief. The soil type is generally well drained with little to no erosion.

6.7.2 OUTLOOK—SOILS

Soil conservation is an important aspect of natural resource management – both during construction and after development. Development under buildout of this General Plan will significantly disturb soils. The policy and implementing actions in this element are intended to preserve or minimize disturbance to soils primarily through the use of sound grading and erosion control techniques. The General Plan policy will rely on proposed local ordinances and Best Management Practices (BMPs) recommended by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) as the primary guidelines for grading and erosion control measures.

In addition, knowledge of soils limitations and their suitability for development will help to conserve this limited resource and determine proper land use. The soils map (**Figure 6.2**), combined with the Colusa County Resource Conservation District's *Soil Survey of Colusa County, California*, define the characteristics of soils in Colusa. This information can be applied to constraints analyses as new development is proposed.

6.7.3 GOALS, POLICIES, AND IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS FOR SOILS

Goal PRC – 7:

To protect and preserve soils as a natural resource.

Policy PRC-7.1:

The City shall minimize soil erosion and sedimentation by maintaining compatible land uses, suitable building designs, and appropriate construction techniques.

Implementing Action PRC-7.1.a: Best Management Practices

The City will require that developers use Best Management Practices (BMPs) as recommended by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Approaches to design, construction, and maintenance techniques should ensure that development would not cause or worsen erosion and sedimentation. Techniques will include erosion

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and sediment control practices, such as hay bales, turbidity screens, temporary vegetation, and other management practices during construction. The City will require that these measures be left in place until disturbed areas are stabilized with permanent vegetation that will prevent the transport of sediment offsite.

Implementing Action PRC-7.1.b: Development Review

Developments will be reviewed to ensure that sound soil conservation practices and minimization of land alterations are incorporated into project design and construction.

Implementing Action PRC-7.1.c: Grading and Erosion Control Ordinance

The City will adopt and implement a grading and erosion control ordinance that includes specific standards for project construction and erosion control. This ordinance will address prompt revegetation of disturbed areas, avoidance of grading activities during wet weather, avoidance of drainage corridors and riverbanks, and other erosion control measures.

6.8.1 SETTING—AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Colusa's urbanized core is surrounded by prime agricultural lands. Section 56064 of the Government Code broadly defines land as "prime agricultural land" if it meets any of the following criteria:

- a) Land, that if irrigated, qualifies for rating as class I or class II in the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service land use capability classification
- b) Land that qualifies for rating 8 through 100 Storie Index Rating
- c) Land that supports livestock used for the production of food and fiber that has an annual carrying capacity equivalent to at least one animal unit per acre
- d) Land planted with fruit or nut-bearing trees, vines, bushes, or crops that have a nonbearing period of less than five years and that will return not less than \$400 per acre from the production of unprocessed agricultural plant production on an annual basis.

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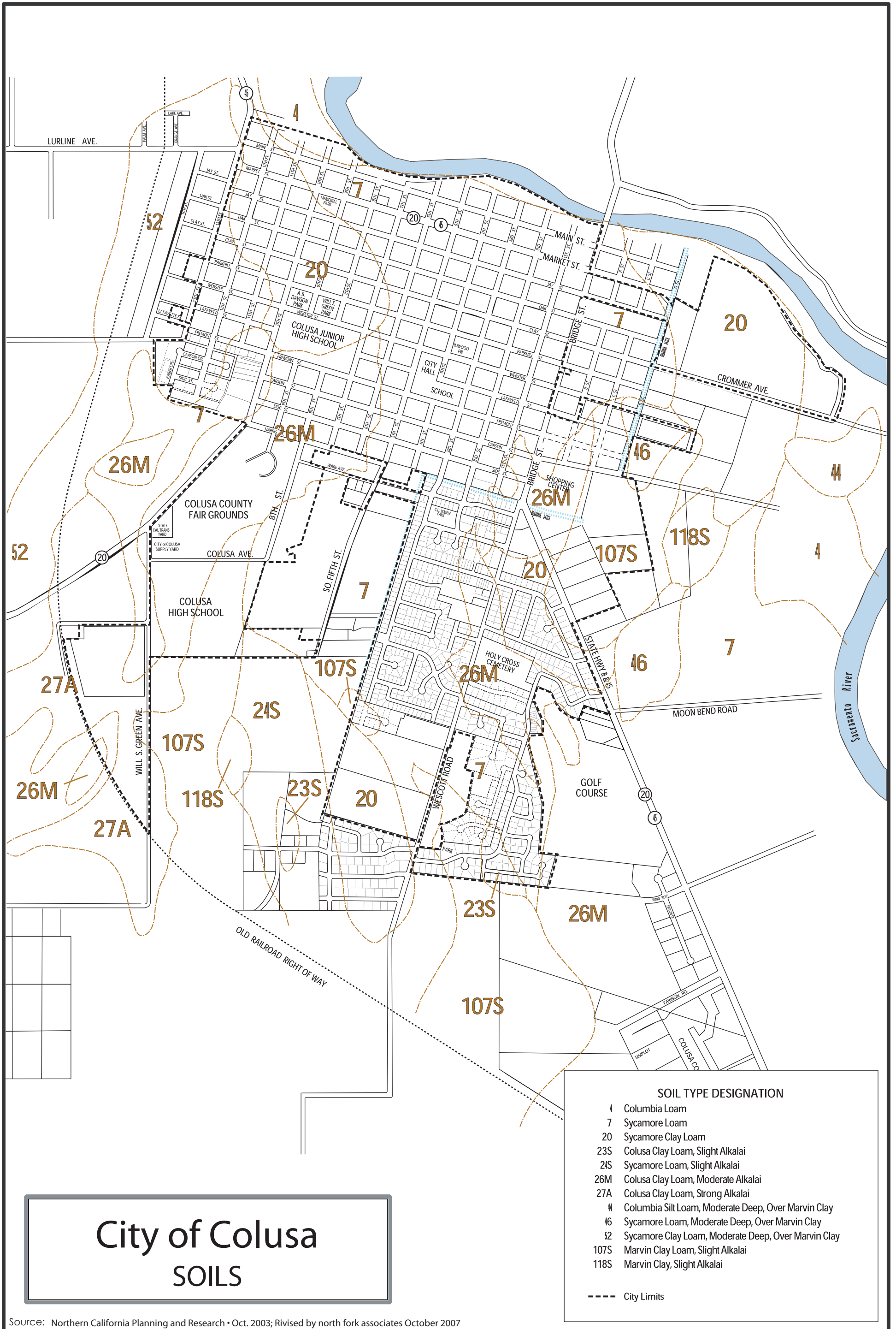


FIGURE 6.2
SOILS MAP

Agriculture is, by far, the County's leading industry and accounts for most of the City's economic base as well. The crops grown on this land – mainly rice, tomatoes, almonds, prunes, and wheat – account for a large part of Colusa County's total revenue each year.

6.8.2 OUTLOOK—AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Implementation of the Land Use Element may result in substantial conversions of prime agricultural land to urban uses. However, the County General Plan Land Use designations anticipate such conversions.

Although Colusa has not designated any of its lands in the Planning Area for agricultural uses, the preservation of farmland is a critical component in maintaining Colusa's rural, small-town character. As the City develops and expands, it will continue to support agricultural conservation practices and will oppose premature efforts to intensify development outside its planning boundaries.

As land at the outer edge of the Planning Area is annexed into the City for urban development, the City will work with developers and landowners to ensure that sufficient transition areas are maintained between urban and agricultural land uses. The need for buffer areas to separate urban development from agricultural land may vary from project to project and from lot to lot, depending on the adjacent agricultural use. The City will adhere to agricultural buffer standards within the limits established by the State of California.

This General Plan does not propose a Right-to-Farm ordinance because the areas shown as prime agricultural land within the City's Sphere of Influence are already designated in the Colusa County General Plan as Agricultural-Transitional (AT), Rural Residential (RR), or Urban Residential (UR), which provide for varying intensities of residential development.

6.8.3 GOALS, POLICIES, AND IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Goal PRC-8:

To retain agricultural land uses beyond the City's urban growth boundary.

Policy PRC 8.1:

The City shall support efforts to preserve existing agricultural land uses in areas outside the City's sphere of influence.

Implementing Action LU-8.1.a: Interagency Coordination (see Implementing Action LU-2.1.c above).

Implementing Action LU-8.1.b: Public/Private Partnerships

The City will work with Colusa County, nonprofit organizations, and landowners to establish programs that will protect prime agricultural areas within one-quarter (¼) to one-half (½) mile of the sphere of influence boundary, including a process to implement techniques such as transfer of development rights, agricultural conservation easements, and farmland trusts.

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The City will also work with Colusa County to establish mutually reinforcing goals of city-centered development in order to prevent the intrusion of residential development into agricultural lands.

Implementing Action PRC-8.1.c: Development Review Process

The Development Review process will include a project-specific assessment of loss of Prime Farmland and determine appropriate mitigation (type and amount) in accordance with the City's adopted policy or program that provides for mitigating loss of Prime Farmland within the General Plan's Planning Area.

6.9.1 SETTING – WATER QUALITY AND WATER CONSERVATION

The City of Colusa is within the Colusa sub-basin of the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin, which has a surface area of 918,380 acres or 1,434 square miles. The Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin is bounded on the east by the Sacramento River, on the west by the Coast Range and foothills, on the south by Cache Creek, and on the north by Stony Creek. Average annual precipitation is up to 27 inches. Regional rainfall is concentrated during the winter months and varies from 17 to 27 inches, with practically no rain from May to September. Groundwater level data show an average seasonal fluctuation of approximately five feet for normal and dry years, with no increasing or decreasing trends in groundwater levels. Groundwater level supplies have an estimated storage capacity, to a depth of 200 feet, of approximately 13,025,887 acre-feet (one acre-foot equals 325,851 gallons).

The Colusa sub-basin aquifer system is composed of continental deposits of late Tertiary to Quaternary age. The Tehama formation is the predominant water-bearing unit within the Colusa Sub-basin, consisting of moderately compacted silt, clay, and fine silty sand enclosing lenses of sand and gravel, silt and gravel, and cemented conglomerate.

GROUND WATER

Groundwater quality in the region is generally good, as evidenced by widespread low total dissolved solids, with some localized contamination. Sodium bicarbonate waters typically occur in the Colusa planning area, with high levels of nitrates and manganese impairments. However, these levels are not significant and are not indicative of the water quality delivered to the consumer. (See the Community Facilities Services Element for further discussion on water treatment and delivery.)

SURFACE WATER

The northern border of the City of Colusa is defined by the Sacramento River. Other streams in the general area of Colusa are Lurline, Freshwater, and Salt Creeks, but these are redirected to the south, away from Colusa via the Colusa Drainage Canal. The Sacramento River winds approximately 90 miles upstream from Sacramento into Colusa County.



The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has collected water quality data for the Sacramento River since 1955, while the U.S. Geological Service gauging station has recorded flow since 1921. The water quality of the Sacramento River and its major tributaries supports beneficial uses most of the time, including drinking and irrigation water, recreation, and protection of fish and other aquatic life. Most of the water in the Sacramento River and its major tributaries, such as the Feather and American Rivers, is derived from melting snow that enters the Rivers by managed discharges of water from reservoirs. Because the snow is pure, much of the Sacramento River and its large tributaries have low concentrations of dissolved minerals. Variable climatic conditions and variation in the amounts of rainfall, coupled with competing demands for water uses, affect the aquatic ecology of this basin.

6.9.2 OUTLOOK – WATER QUALITY AND WATER CONSERVATION

The Sacramento River and inland drainages are among the most significant and valuable of Colusa's natural resources. Development adjacent to the river and natural drainage areas will need to be designed, constructed, and maintained to avoid adverse impacts on riparian vegetation, river bank stability, and water quality to the maximum extent feasible.

The City's commitment to water conservation and water quality for both surface water and groundwater are demonstrated through its General Plan policies. Implementing actions emphasize the use of buffers and proper design to minimize urban runoff and pollutants entering waterways. (*Water supply policies are discussed in the Municipal Facilities and Services Element.*) In addition to land use considerations, key implementing actions to protect water resources involve the use of setbacks, best management practices (BMPs) for grading, drainage and erosion control, along with site design. The City will encourage the use of natural stormwater drainage systems to preserve and enhance existing natural features.

6.9.3 GOALS, POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS FOR WATER QUALITY AND WATER CONSERVATION

Goal PRC- 9:

To manage and protect the City's water resources.
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Policy PRC – 9.1:

The City shall require natural drainage flows be maintained in new development projects to the greatest extent feasible.

Implementing Action PRC-9.1.a: Development Review

As part of the development review process, the City will review individual projects to determine the setback requirements that will adequately buffer natural drainage corridors from development. The City will require that new development protect natural drainage corridors and other watercourses from the adverse effects of construction activities and urban runoff.

Policy PRC- 9.2:

The City shall periodically review the status of the City's groundwater resources.

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Implementing Action PRC-9.2.a: Water Resources Report

The City will prepare a Water Resources bi-annual report to the City Council. This report, in part, will include an analysis of groundwater resources. The City will use this report to ensure groundwater resources are protected from contamination and overdraft. As part of the Water Resources Report, the Public Works Department will analyze the quality of drinking water in the City. The City will encourage activities that maintain and improve drinking water quality.

Policy PRC – 9.3:

The City shall maintain its ability to meet its water supply requirements.

Implementing Action PRC-9.3.a: Development Review

As part of the development review process, the City will evaluate the incorporation of water conservation techniques in all new development.

Implementing Action PRC-9.3.b: Development Impact Fees (see Implementing Action MFS-1.1.b).

Policy PRC-9.4

The City shall encourage the use of treated wastewater and other non-potable water sources for irrigation and groundwater recharge.

Implementation Action PRC-9.4.a: Landscape Ordinance

The City will adopt and implement a landscape ordinance, which will establish standards for water-conserving landscaping in order to reduce water use in developed areas. Requirements will specify the use of reclaimed water, trees, and other vegetation. This ordinance will be applied in the design and development of private and public development projects and will be consistent with the provisions of the General Plan.

Implementation Action PRC-9.4.b: Interagency Coordination



In cooperation with the Colusa County Water District, the City will identify and develop opportunities for reuse of non-potable water, including reclaimed water, for non-domestic uses.

6.10.1 SETTING – SOLID WASTE REDUCTION

Solid waste is defined as any unwanted or discarded material that is not a liquid or a gas. In Colusa, common solid wastes include paper products, metals, glass, plastics, cloth, food scraps, rock, soil, yard waste, and wood. Presently, the City produces approximately 40 tons of household solid waste per day. Since much of this material is

recyclable, conservation efforts to reduce solid waste and landfill volumes are an important component of this General Plan.

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Currently, the City provides solid waste disposal services to City residents and businesses. Waste is collected and transported in compliance with County and State regulations governing solid waste disposal to the Ostrom Road Landfill in Yuba County. Recycling in the City is provided by both private and public entities. The City of Colusa provides a drop-off center for plastics, aluminum cans, and glass, which is collected by and maintained by the Lions Club. The City also provides pickup for newspaper and yard waste. Private contractors in the City provide recycling facilities for plastics, aluminum, glass, newspaper, cardboard, white paper, and colored paper. Additionally, local businesses such as Holiday Market, Rite Aid Pharmacy, and Chung Sun Market recycle cardboard.

The reduction of solid waste has become a major issue in California and throughout the country. Not only is the amount of solid waste increasing each year, but disposal areas are becoming scarce. The State of California has established goals for solid waste reduction and increased use of secondary (recycled) materials. State Assembly Bill 939 requires the reduction of solid waste for all jurisdictions throughout the State. In keeping with the State's goal for the reduction of solid waste, in 2005, the City of Colusa reduced solid waste by more than 2,300 tons through recycling efforts in the City. **Table 6.3** identifies the amount of waste diverted from landfills due to reduction efforts in the City for the year 2005.

**TABLE 6.3
CITY OF COLUSA SOLID WASTE DIVERTED FROM LANDFILLS - 2005**

Product	Amount		
	City	Private	Total
Plastics	5 tons	33.7 tons	38.7 tons
Aluminum	2.7 tons	112.6 tons	115.3 tons
Glass	12 tons	103.8 tons	115.8 tons
Newspaper	Included in private	67 tons	67 tons
White Paper	-	0.6 tons	0.6 tons
Colored Paper	-	1.5 tons	1.5 tons
Cardboard	-	293 tons	293 tons
Yard Waste	1,672 tons	-	1,672 tons
Total	1,691.7 tons	612.2 tons	2,303.9 tons

Source: City of Colusa Public Works

6.10.2 OUTLOOK – SOLID WASTE REDUCTION

On October 27, 1998 a Regional Agency Formation Agreement was approved by the City of Williams, City of Colusa, and County of Colusa (County). The Regional Agency was created through a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) as a condition of the California Integrated Waste Management Board's conditional approval of the City of Williams and the City of Colusa's Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE). This Regional Agency allows the three jurisdictions to consolidate integrated waste management planning and diversion reporting.

The Regional Agency has prepared a Summary Plan for Colusa County, which provides an overview of the waste management infrastructure for the County and its incorporated cities. The Summary Plan describes the goals and objectives developed by the County and Local Task Force to guide the County in coordinating countywide diversion programs. The Summary Plan also includes important demographic data. This Plan summarizes the individual program

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components of each jurisdiction's Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE), Household Hazardous Waste Element (HHWE), and Nondisposal Facility Element (NDFE).

The City of Colusa will continue to work with the City of Williams and Colusa County to achieve its solid waste reduction goals. Future development within the planning area is not expected to affect the ability of the City or its solid waste disposal services to continue their part in implementing solid waste reduction programs.

6.10.3 GOALS, POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS FOR SOLID WASTE REDUCTION

Goal PRC – 10:

To minimize the solid waste stream in the City.

Policy PRC-10.1:

The City shall continue to encourage recycling, waste reduction, and the re-use of materials to reduce the amount of solid waste generated in Colusa.

Implementing Action PRC-10.1.a: Assembly Bill (AB) 939

The City will continue to comply with the requirements of AB 939 with regard to meeting state-mandated targets for reductions in the amount of solid waste generated in Colusa.

Implementing Action PRC-10.1.b: Source Reduction and Recycling Program

The City will implement a program of source reduction and recycling to include the following components to the maximum extent feasible:

- Provision of solid waste reduction facilities for the recycling of plastics, glass, aluminum cans and newspaper and collection of yard waste.
- Curbside recycling program for Colusa residents.
- Use of recycled concrete in all base material utilized in City and private road construction.
- Purchase of recycled, recyclable, or reusable products and materials for use in City facilities where feasible.
- The contractor selection process will include a demonstration by contractors that a portion of their products and/or services includes the use of recycled materials.

Implementing Action PRC-10.1.c: Public Awareness and Education

As part of the joint cities-county solid waste reduction effort, the City will facilitate and/or co-sponsor local events that focus on solid waste reduction and recycling in an effort to educate the public about the countywide efforts to meet its goals. Possible events, as suggested by the California Integrated Waste Management Board, include:

- America Recycles Day

- Boxing Days
- Holiday Waste Reduction
- Second Chance Week
- Waste Awareness Week

Targeted materials include:

- Grass and yard waste recycling
- Home composting
- Unwanted mail
- Excess packaging

Joint cities-county efforts will also encourage involving others through Environmental Roundtables that bring together key citizens and business leaders to discuss waste reduction issues on a regular basis. These events offer opportunities for education, information sharing, waste exchanging, and support. Often groups are formed about a specific industry or type of business such as hospitals or school districts, or by issue such as reuse, packaging, or composting.

6.11.1 SETTING—ENERGY

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) provides electricity and natural gas in the City. PG&E is a privately owned utility whose service area covers most of northern and central California. PG&E provides energy conservation services for residents, as well as energy assistance programs help low-income households conserve energy and control utility costs. These programs include the California Alternate Rate for Energy (CARE) program and the Relief for Energy Assistance through Community Help (REACH) program, which provides one-time energy assistance to qualifying customers. PG&E has also sponsored rebate programs that encourage customers to purchase more energy-efficient appliances and heating and cooling systems.

6.11.2 OUTLOOK—ENERGY

Californians have become more energy-conscious since the energy crisis in 1972. The advent of deregulation, the rapidly escalating cost of energy, and ever-decreasing availability of fuel sources has prompted government agencies to conserve energy and look for alternatives to the use of non-renewable resources. Strategies used by state and local communities include improving the efficiency of transportation systems, replacing fixtures that use a lot of energy with newer and more efficient equipment, and promoting recycling.

Title 24 of the California Administrative Code sets forth mandatory energy standards for new development and requires the adoption of an “energy budget.” Future developments must meet these standards, and the City is responsible for ensuring that they do.

As electricity and natural gas costs continue to rise, energy conservation will become increasingly important to the community. This General Plan addresses conservation of energy

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through policies and implementing actions aimed at making the City's homes and businesses as energy-efficient as possible.

6.11.3 GOALS, POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS FOR ENERGY

Goal PRC – 11:

To reduce consumption of energy sources in Colusa.

Policy PRC-11.1:

The City shall seek to minimize energy impacts from new residential and commercial projects.

Implementing Action PRC-11.1.a: Development Review (see Implementing Action PRC-1.1.a).

Implementation Action PRC 11.1.b: Public Awareness and Education

The City will provide information on available energy conservation techniques and products to the public and builders. Resources will include information on programs such as Pacific Gas and Electric's "Savings by Design" program for remodeling residences as a means of reducing energy demands and costs.

Implementation Action PRC 11.1.c: Title 24 Uniform Building Code

The City will require energy efficient siting and building design in all new development projects consistent with the requirements of Title 24 of the California Administrative Code. Measures include building orientation and shading, landscaping, use of active and passive solar heating and hot water systems, etc. The City will also investigate and consider adopting Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) sustainability standards for residential and commercial development.

Policy PRC 11.2:

The City shall utilize new, environmentally safe energy sources to the maximum extent feasible.

Implementation Action PRC- 11.2.a: Facilities Master Plan

As part of its Facilities Master Plan, the City will evaluate options for use of alternative energy systems when retrofitting or constructing new City facilities or when purchasing new equipment, provided they meet all public, safety, health, and design requirements and are proven to be reliable.

Implementation Action PRC-11.2.b: Capital Improvement Program

The City will consider incorporating into its Capital Improvement Program a green fleet that includes the City's purchase of fuel-efficient and alternative-fuel vehicles.

6.12.1 SETTING—VISUAL RESOURCES

A variety of visual resources contribute to the City's tranquil quality of life. The Sacramento River is an important scenic water feature that also serves as a recreational resource. Trees and other

riparian vegetation grow along the riverbanks, providing a green and shaded area during the summer months when temperatures are hot and other vegetation becomes dry. While views of the Sacramento River from the City and other portions of the Planning Area are obstructed by a levee along the southern bank, a bicycle/pedestrian path along the top of the levee provides key vantage points for views of the River.

While not within the City's Planning Area, the Sutter Buttes and the Coast Range are significant assets to the extent they provide a breathtaking backdrop to the City, enhancing its rural character and providing a nearby resource for passive recreation. Located just nine miles east of the City, the Sutter Buttes are readily visible from nearly every part of the Planning Area that is not significantly obstructed by trees or tall structures.

Diverse commercial and residential landscapes, including several historical buildings, create a visual spectrum that shows Colusa's heritage and culture. Originally, the City's commercial area developed adjacent to the Sacramento River, which reflected its status as a steamship port. Today, much of the City's historical commercial area is located between Main Street and Oak Street, interspersed with historic residences. The variety of housing styles reflects architectural styles spanning many decades. Many homes from the 19th century "Victorian" era can still be seen, along with "California Bungalows," and other housing types from more recent periods.

The City developed on a traditional grid street pattern lined with broad shade trees that have created its "small town" atmosphere. More recent residential developments in the southern portion of the City are suburban in character. Visual characteristics in these developments include wider and more curvilinear streets, cul-de-sacs, and greater prominence of garages in the streetscape.

6.12.2 OUTLOOK—VISUAL RESOURCES

The City of Colusa will use the tools provided in this General Plan to retain its small-town character in what is now a desirable rural setting. In an effort to avoid generic suburban architectural styles, the policies and implementing actions of this element seek to preserve open space areas and views as an important feature of the community. Together with the design guidelines provided for in the Community Character and Design element, the policies and implementing actions in this element will help to further strengthen the visual interest of the city.

The gateway areas are visual focal points for those entering the City on SR 20 and SR 20/45. Buildout under this General Plan will bring substantial new development in close proximity to these routes—portions of which are within sensitive viewing corridors that take in the Sacramento River, the Sutter Buttes, and the Coast Range. Consequently, proper siting and design of development projects in these areas are critical to maintaining a desirable aesthetic quality in these areas.

Development should be sensitive to the key natural features of the area, including ecological systems, vegetative communities, mature trees, watercourses, landforms, archaeological and historical resources, and architecturally significant structures. Proposed projects should identify and conserve special areas of high ecological sensitivity throughout the City. By respecting and preserving important natural resources and visual character, development may serve as an asset rather than a detriment to the community.

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6.12.3 GOALS, POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS FOR VISUAL RESOURCES

Goal PRC – 12:

To protect the visual and scenic resources of Colusa – recognizing their importance in the quality of life for City residents and in promoting recreation and tourism.

Policy PRC – 12.1:

The City shall require new development in scenic areas (e.g., river banks, Highway 20 corridor, and Sacramento River waterfront) to use planning design, construction, and maintenance techniques that:

- Incorporate design and screening measures to minimize the visibility of structures and graded areas.
- Maximize views in sensitive viewing areas and corridors.
- Maintain the character and visual quality of the area.

Implementing Action PRC-12.1.a: Development Review (see Implementing Action PRC-1.1.a).

Implementing Action PRC-12.1.b: Interagency Coordination

The City, in cooperation with relevant agencies, will enhance the Sacramento River and its riverfront as a scenic resource consistent with water-oriented recreation.

Policy PRC-12.2:

The City shall develop and implement specific design standards intended to accomplish the goal of protecting scenic viewsheds.

Implementing Action PRC-12.2.a: Design Guidelines

The City will develop and implement specific criteria, consisting of design guidelines and development standards, to maximize protection of the City's scenic viewsheds. See Community Character and Design Element, Implementing Action CCD-1.1.b for a more detailed description of the Design Guidelines

Implementing Action PRC-12.2.b: Environmental/Visual Constraints Map

The City will require with each development proposal an environmental/visual constraints map, based on the findings of a project-specific site assessment that identifies significant viewsheds for the Sacramento River, Sutter Buttes, and Coast Range that could be potentially impacted by the project.

Policy PRC – 12.3:

The City shall enhance the Sacramento River and its waterfront as a scenic resource consistent with water-oriented recreation.

Implementing Action PRC-12.3.a: Development Review (see Implementing Action PRC-1.1.a).

Implementing Action PRC-12.3.b: Riverfront Plan

The City will work with developers to undertake a major planning effort for the Riverfront District as delineated on the Land Use Map (**Figure 2.4**). A primary objective of the *Riverfront Plan* will be to preserve and enhance views of the Sacramento River. A more detailed description of the Riverfront Plan is provided in the Land Use Element, Implementing Action LU-7.1.a.

Implementing Action PRC-12.3.c: Environmental/Visual Constraints Map (see Implementing Action PRC-12.2.b).

Policy PRC – 12.4:

The City shall ensure that new roads, parking, and utilities be designed to minimize visual impacts. Unless limited by geological or engineering constraints, utilities shall be installed underground, and roadways and parking areas shall be landscaped and designed to accommodate the natural terrain.

Implementing Action PRC-12.4.a: Development Review (see Implementing Action PRC-1.1.a).

Policy PRC – 12.5:

The City shall continue to preserve and maintain trees within City rights-of-way.

Implementing Action PRC-12.5.a: City Code 19.3

The City will continue to implement its Ordinance governing the protection of mature trees (City Code 19.3) by maintaining the Tree Commission and application submittal process.

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