

**Groveland Community Services District**

**GROVELAND**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**  
**PARKS MASTER PLAN**

Revised March 2017

# GCSD Parks Master Plan

## District's Mission Statement:

*“Our mission is to deliver professional, environmentally sound, economic and compliant services that meet our customer’s needs for water and wastewater, fire protection, and park facilities in the unincorporated township of Groveland, California.*”

- **Professional** – by trained and certified professionals
- **Environmentally Sound** – while conserving and protecting natural resources
- **Economic** – within affordability and value standards
- **Compliant** – as required by law
- **Customer** – property owner, resident, business owner, and visitor

# **INTRODUCTION**

## **The Groveland Community Services District**

Groveland Community Services District (GCSD or the District) was established in 1953 to provide and oversee fire, water, wastewater, and parks services to the communities of Groveland and Big Oak Flats. In the 1970s, Boise Cascade Company developed the area to the immediate northwest known as Pine Mountain Lake, potentially increasing the number of District customers twenty-fold.

Special districts are separate local governments that deliver a diverse array of public services. Special districts localize costs and benefits of public services and allow local citizens to obtain the services they want at a price they are willing to pay. Generally speaking, special districts enjoy the same governing powers as other local governments.

## **Purpose of the Parks Master Plan**

The purpose of the Groveland Parks Master Plan is to guide the development and enhancement of publicly accessible parks throughout the Groveland community for the next 10-20 years. The Master Plan should be considered as the community's guide for creating new and rehabilitating existing parks to better serve the passive and active recreation needs of Groveland citizens.

This planning effort is being initiated for two main reasons:

- First, parks are one of the four primary services falling within the responsibility of the GCSD. As such, the District recognizes the need for a Parks Master Plan that provides a framework for directing the energy and resources of the GCSD staff and board members, as well as the community at-large, toward collective goals.

- Second, the community recognizes the importance of parks in Groveland resident's quality of life for generations to come. To this end, many Groveland residents have worked hard to create the existing park facilities now enjoyed by the Community. Many are also working to improve the existing park resources and create new park facilities. A Park Master plan facilitates these community-based efforts by defining envisioned public park facilities and providing implementation guidance for their rehabilitation and development.

The driving philosophy of the Parks Master Plan, and one embraced by the Groveland community, is that parks should contribute to the physical and social well being of all residents – youth and seniors, physically challenged and able bodied, and all others. Most importantly, the community wants and deserves park development that is intentional and that meets the diverse recreational needs of the Groveland citizenry. The Parks Master Plan provides Groveland residents, civic leaders, businesses, developers, landowners, GCSD staff and other members of the community with a vision of what the parks system in Groveland can be. It also provides guidance, standards, and tools for implementing the vision.

While the Parks Master Plan strives to include a framework for both the *means* and the *ends* toward achieving a parks system that will serve the full complement of needs within the Groveland community, it should be viewed as only a starting point. Ultimately, it will be up to partnerships comprised of Groveland residents, merchants, civic leaders, developers, landowners, GCSD staff and board members, business leaders, and other members of the community to implement this Parks Master Plan. Things will not “happen” just because they are in the Parks Master Plan. A wide range of community support and understanding is necessary to maintain the vision of “what can be” and to implement the specific steps necessary to build real park projects.

## ***Desired Changes to Current Park Facilities***

- *Improvement of lower park at Mary Laveroni Park for group events*
- *Rehabilitation of Leon Rose Ball Field for community use*
- *Better location for skateboard park*
- *More multi-use fields*
- *Development of a recreational fitness course and/or walking paths*

## **Park Needs and Standards**

### **Park Types**

According to the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), there are three general types of recreational open space: local park space, regional park space, and other recreational space or special uses.

The NRPA standards are intended for use only as a guide in developing park systems. Communities are complex and unique with many different physical, social and economic factors affecting their development - all of which must be considered when determining appropriate parks and recreation facilities.

### **Inventory of Existing Groveland Area Park Facilities**

<b><i>Facility</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>	<b><i>Responsible Agency</i></b>
<i>Mary Laveroni Park</i>	<i>* 23 acre facility just outside of downtown adjacent to Library and Museum complex * includes picnic areas, restrooms, play equipment, snack bar, and amphitheater * lower Mary Laveroni Park used for large events * unmarked trail in park's higher elevation</i>	<i>GCSD</i>

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<i>Leon Rose Ballpark</i>	<i>*1.22 acre facility that includes includes softball field with backstop, restrooms and small play area</i>	<i>GCSD</i>
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## **Groveland Parks System Recommended Improvements**

### **Outdoor Public Recreational Uses (Mary Laveroni Park)**

The following list of recommended improvements pertains to Mary Laveroni Park, which is organized into lower and upper sections. This park serves as the southern anchor of Groveland's park system, serving both local residents and visitors to the area due to its visible location along Highway 120. The park connects to lower Mary Laveroni Park and Leon Rose Ballpark via Ferretti Road, the Hetch Hetchy Railroad Trail, and the Tioga High School Trail. The recommended improvements for Mary Laveroni Park focus largely on enhancing existing facilities, as well as introducing better pedestrian and vehicular accessibility to all areas of the site.

#### **Improvement Details:**

##### **Upper Park**

- *Replacing current play structure to make ADA compliant*
- *Access to play structure needs improvement*
- *Routine maintenance of grounds, landscaping, trash receptacles, restrooms, parking lot, picnic areas*
- *Park rules signage should be introduced in more locations to reinforce proper behavior in the park*

##### **Lower Park**

- *Routine maintenance of grounds, landscaping, trash receptacles, restrooms, parking lot, picnic areas, and play structure could be improved to enhance image and condition of the park*

- *Park rules signage should be introduced in more locations to reinforce proper behavior in the park*
- *Deferred maintenance is needed to the shade structure, storage, and amphitheater facilities*

### **Leon Rose Ballpark**

- *Accessibility of public restrooms needs to be verified*
- *Accessibility improvement to and from parking lot (including signage) need to be verified*
- *Accessible pathway to existing play structure is needed or new play structure may be required if no longer ADA compliant*
- *Parking lot is in need of resurfacing, restriping and drainage improvements*
- *Undertake certified ADA Compliance assessment to identify opportunities to improve accessibility*
- *Routine maintenance of grounds, landscaping, trash receptacles, restrooms, parking lot, picnic areas and play structure could be improved*
- *Park entrance signage could be improved to allow motorists travelling along Ferretti road to more easily determine park location*
- *Park rules signage should be introduced in more locations to reinforce proper behavior in the park*

### **Goals of Park Committee**

1. Readjust current park lines
2. Improve current trail system to connect Mary Laveroni Park to Leon Rose Ballpark and the dog park
3. Change current trail system so that the trail is not going through the GCSD maintenance yard

**Final recommendation of the park committee is to continue the ongoing pursuit of available grants for the Groveland park system.**

