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# Purpose, Vision, and Goals





Photo credit: Regional Parks staff

## PURPOSE, XŪŪP, AND GOALS

### Purpose

As described in Chapter 1, the purpose of the Master Plan is to guide the development of Tolay Lake Regional Park (Park) and to address the creation of permanent improvements and increased public access in balance with pre-historic cultural and natural resources. The Master Plan includes an assessment of park resources, a summary of public visioning and input related to park usage and programming, park development alternatives, a Resource Management Plan, recommendations for educational and interpretive elements, a Trails Plan, and an Operations and Maintenance Plan.

### Vision

Based on public input received for the vision of the Park, the Master Plan vision is to create a:

- Thriving, ecologically rich and fully restored landscape.
- Park that is respectful of the sacred and deep spiritual significance of the land.
- Park that tells the story of the rich history of the Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo of the land and region.
- Park that tells the story of the region's long and storied heritage.
- Outdoor recreation destination that inspires all ages and cultures.
- Place for innovative and interactive education and experiences.
- Landscape to experience, learn, and connect people to local agricultural heritage.
- Space to find peace and respite.
- Premiere destination for Sonoma County residents and all park visitors.



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## Goals

Overall goals of the master plan reflect the vision for the Park. The following goals guide the use, development, and management of the park and preserve. These goals were developed with public input and are consistent with the original intent for protecting the property and with County policies. Each goal is supported by more focused objectives.

The Master Plan implements the following five goals associated with development and operation of Tolay Lake Regional Park

1. Habitat Restoration and Enhancement
2. Cultural Resource Conservation
3. Open Space Protection
4. Environmental, Cultural, and Agricultural Study and Education
5. Public Access for Passive Recreation

## Habitat Restoration and Enhancement

### LAKE RESTORATION

The following goals guide the restoration of Tolay Lake. Additional details on habitat restoration goals are found in the Resource Management Plan chapter of the Master Plan.

*Goal #H1: Enhance the frequency and duration of inundation*

- Maintain or enhance seasonal wetland hydrology within the lake
- Evaluate the feasibility of creating some perennially inundated areas within the lake

*Goal #H2: Identify and reduce artificial constrictions to flow within and to and from the lake.*

- Restore lake level baseline conditions
- Do not increase flooding on upstream neighbor.

*Goal #H3: Cost effectively minimize artificial water control structures including drainage ditches, culverts, levees, dams.*

- Central lakebed channel, central causeway culvert, and associated levees.
- North Creek drainage channel, North Creek bypass culvert, and associated levees.
- Drainage channel 2 & 3, west causeway culvert, and associated levees.
- Farm bridge and bridge abutments.
- Horse shoe culvert.

*Goal #H4: Enhance habitat for migratory water fowl as feasible.*

- Dabbling ducks: < 8" water depth; large area; diverse topography.
- Waterfowl: 12" - 18" water depth, large area, diverse topography.
- Shorebirds and wading birds: shallow shorelines.
- Diving ducks: 2' - 10' water depth.

Note: shallower water depths (< 8") will attract a larger diversity of duck species than deeper (<8").

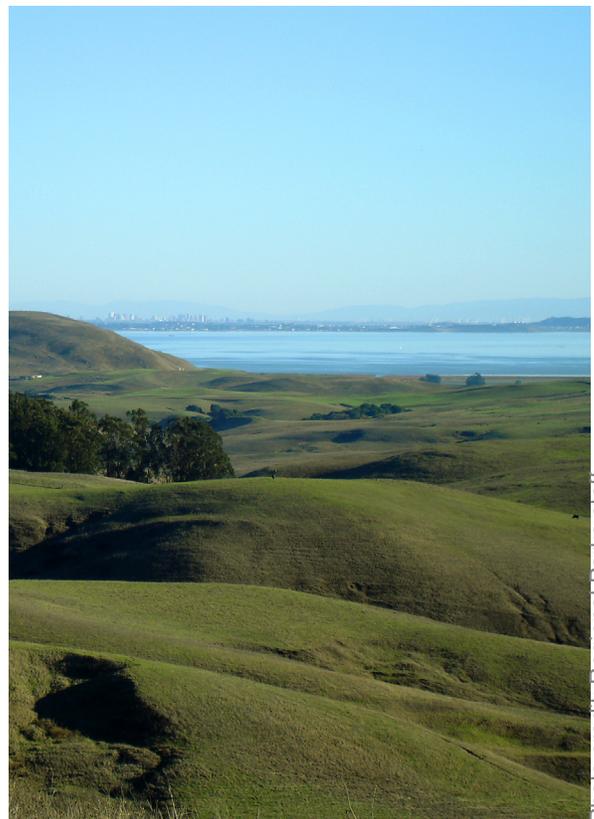


Photo credit: Regional Parks staff

*Goal #H5: Cost effectively restore and improve quality of seasonal wet meadow habitat.*

- North creek drainage channel.
- Incorporate wet meadow and/or riparian vegetation as appropriate.

*Goal #H6: Cost effectively restore and improve quality habitat in upland drainages that direct water to the lake.*

- Incorporate wetland and /or riparian vegetation as appropriate.
- Potentially this includes the North Creek, Eagle Creek, Pumpkin Patch channel, east-west channel, and drainage channels #1, #2, #3.

*Goal #H7: Create habitat for red-legged frogs and western pond turtles.*

- Refer to Goals #H11 and #H12.

*Goal #H8: Maintain passive hydraulic systems with minimal to no reliance on pumping or other mechanized systems.*

*Goal #H9: Increase the amount and quality of habitat for small mammals – prey species for raptors and burrowing owls- such as ground squirrels, rabbits, voles, and mice.*

- Create thick, dense hedgerows.
- Create riparian habitat adjacent to lake, ponds, and creeks.
- Create an un-grazed or managed-grazed grassland buffer around Tolay Lake to provide foraging and cover for small mammals.

*Goal #H10: Enhance/restore/create habitat for raptors.*

- Promote habitat for small mammals – see Goal #H9.
- Increase the amount of riparian habitat adjacent to the lake and other breeding ponds.
- Protect existing raptor perches such as mature riparian trees.
- Protect nesting sites.
- Control public access to provide undisturbed nesting and foraging habitat.

*Goal #H11: Enhance/restore/create habitat for red-legged frogs as feasible.*

- Provide late season drawdown to ensure successful breeding–water through August.
- Increase the amount of riparian habitat adjacent to the lake and other breeding ponds.
- Ensure a perennial water source within a quarter mile of the lake.
- Develop strategies to minimize possible bull frog or largemouth bass populations within existing stock ponds and/or lake.
- Create new breeding ponds in areas with appropriate hydrology.

*Goal #H12: Enhance/restore/create habitat for western pond turtles as feasible.*

- Create winter-overage and nesting habitat by increasing the riparian habitat around Tolay Lake and ponds.
- Create new breeding ponds in areas with appropriate hydrology.

*Goal #H13: Enhance/restore/create habitat for burrowing owls as feasible.*

- Promote small mammal habitat – see Goal #H9.
- Develop grassland management plan to encourage active burrows – shorter grass height in spring when owls are selecting burrows.
- Protect existing burrows from public access.
- Create new burrow mounds as feasible.

*Goal #H14: Enhance/restore/create habitat for song birds.*

- Increase the amount of riparian habitat adjacent to the lake and other breeding ponds.
- Create dense hedgerows where possible.

## Cultural Resource Conservation

*Goal #C1: Collaborate and maintain working relationship with the Tribe and other interdisciplinary partnerships.*

- Regional Parks and the Tribe in partnership will develop a monitoring plan to be implemented in joint venture.
- Regional Parks and the Tribe will together develop protection and preservation strategies to assess potential direct or indirect impacts to cultural resources.
- Tribal park access for traditional use and ceremony, ethno-botanical gathering and practices, tribal community education, and general tribal meeting or celebration will be allowed as legally permitted by law.
- Tribal private use of facilities will be scheduled through Regional Parks offices; both parties working in coordination to accommodate public access and private Tribal cultural events.
- Regional Parks and the Tribe will conduct regularly scheduled consultation to see how avoidance and protection strategies are being carried out and to reassess the success/failures of policies and practices.
- Regional Parks and the Tribe will continue to work collaboratively to update as necessary the cultural resources data base and confidentially share collection information.
- Regional Parks and the Tribe will continue to develop strategies to mitigate any and all unforeseen impacts to cultural resources.
- Regional Parks and the Tribe will collaboratively work to nominate Tolay Lake Regional Park for listing in the National Register of Historical Places (NRHP) and to designate the Tolay watershed as a NRHP District, including resource specific NRHP evaluations as contributors to the District.
- Regional Parks and the Tribe will develop interdisciplinary strategies through education, volunteers, and resource professionals to restore and protect needed natural resources for traditional ethno-botanical practices.

*Goal #C2: Establish collecting protocol for cultural resources.*

- Artifact collection and curation protocols will be developed including site specific recommendations for each impact.
- Support Tribal efforts to have all artifacts (e.g. charmstones) that have been removed from the Park to the tribe for repatriation.

*Goal #C3: Avoid and minimize impacts.*

- Establish setback buffers in coordination with the Tribe to ensure the avoidance and protection of cultural resources (avoidance standards can be



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found in Resource Management Plan, Chapter 6).

- New park features are designed to avoid sensitive resources by distance, natural physical barriers, exclusionary fencing and/or capping of resources.
- Mitigation measures will be developed on a case by case basis and will include a clear process and set of protocols for inadvertent discoveries.

*Goal #C4: Implement monitoring and adaptive management program to ensure the continued preservation of cultural resources.*

- Work in partnership with an established set of values and guidelines still recognizing the need for adaptive management to best protect cultural resources in a dynamic environment.
- Conduct surveys and monitor after wild-land fires (prescribed burns) to identify cultural resources and to identify and record impacts.
- Develop adaptive management restoration enhancement activities to support Native American traditional ethno-botanical practices.
- Conduct site condition assessments for the documented cultural resources and incorporate new information gathered through any and all additional resource studies or inadvertent discoveries.
- Exclude livestock as needed and as feasible with exclusionary fencing from culturally sensitive areas.
- Exclude the public as needed and as feasible from culturally sensitive areas, with a variety of protection measures that may include but not be exclusive to: exclusionary fencing, planting, signage, etc.
- Ensure examination and thresholds for use of chemicals within the park; identify and restrict frequency and type of chemical to protect ethno-botanical and native plant gathering areas, animals, etc.
- Update ethno-historical documentation and studies as needed.
- Conserve, preserve, and restore native plants and habitat for traditional cultural gathering purposes.



Photo credit: Regional Parks staff

## Open Space Protection

*Goal #OS1: Protect views of San Pablo Bay, San Francisco, Mt. Tamalpais, Oakland, Mt. Diablo, Mt. St. Helena, and other scenic landscapes.*

- Provide visitors access to areas of the park that present outstanding viewing opportunities.
- Install interpretive signage of the region at vistas identifying places and land features of significance.
- Install seating, and/or shade structures, picnic facilities and interpretive signage at key park vistas.

*Goal #OS2: Protect opportunities to experience a working rural landscape.*

- Ensure that agricultural practices are compatible with natural resource protections.
- Ensure visitor programs and facilities are compatible with sustainable agricultural uses within the park.

*Goal #OS3: Protect opportunities to experience solitude.*

- Provide single use trails in designated areas of the park to enhance opportunities for solitude.
- Install park benches at location just off the trail to enhance opportunities for solitude and reflection.

## Environmental, Cultural, and Agricultural Study and Education

*Goal #ES1: Provide visitors diverse options to learn about the environmental and traditional cultural practices, and historical and current best management agricultural and land management practices.*

- Provide visitors with technology enabled options to learn about the park.
- Provide interpretive signage to educate and inform visitors.
- Provide interpretive built elements for visitors to experience.
- Provide visitors “hands on” options to learn about the park.

*Goal #ES2: Partner with subject matter experts to develop educational programs that are accurate and help visitors better understand the unique features of the park.*

- Maintain consultation with the Tribe to develop and maintain cultural resource programs.
- Develop a team of subject matter expert docent volunteers.



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## Public Access

The following goals relate to park access to provide park users a holistic experience while preserving and protecting the sites cultural and natural resources.

*Goal #P1: Provide visitors the opportunity to view and/or learn about wildlife in a manner that does not harm or disturb wildlife.*

- Provide limited quality physical and visual access to the lake.
- Provide clear delineation of public access near the lake.
- Provide small boat (canoe or kayak) access only for seasonal Ranger led open water tours.
- Stage docent staff or volunteers, equipped with binoculars and knowledge, at key locations along trails to give the general public opportunity to view and learn about local wildlife.
- Install interpretive signage integrated with park operations to help inform the general public on wildlife and how to respect, preserve and restore wild-lands/ best practices.
- Install interpretive/regulatory signage informing park users of public exclusionary zones for protection of restoration and cultural and natural resources.

*Goal #P2: Provide a minimum of one pedestrian/vehicular crossing of Tolay Lake and Creek.*

- Provide pedestrian crossings at a locations integrated with the overall trail plan.
- Provide vehicular crossing to accommodate emergency, park staff service vehicles and ranch operations.
- Provide emergency vehicular access to and from Stage Gulch Road.

*Goal #P3: Provide the Tribe access to the property and lake for ceremonial rituals, native habitat restoration and management, and plant gathering.*

- Provide pedestrian access to open water for Native American rituals.
- Provide small boat (canoe or kayak) access to open water for Native American rituals.
- Provide limited exclusive access for ceremonial rituals in the park:
  - » The Tribe will be required to schedule an exclusive special event with Park Operations Staff and the area of the event, use, time and day will be agreed upon by both parties prior to event.
  - » Regional Parks will accommodate as feasible exclusive tribal ceremonial events.
- Provide access for plant collection to predefined and legally permitted areas within the park.



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