

## **Case for Preservation of ALL of Cameron Meadows as a Nature Park**

The proposed housing development would severely distract from the attraction of the area used by 1,000's of residents for passive recreation.

Although it is privately owned, over the last 40 years it has been discovered by local residents as a place "to get away from it all".

Cameron Meadows is the only "natural" area in Cameron Park and surrounding regions consisting of grassland, oak forest, high chaparral, riparian and fresh water ecological environments that is readily accessible to the local community. Together with the adjacent land owned by the Pine Hill Preserve(40 acres) and El Dorado County (20 acres) is has 6 miles of "social" trails.

The pond is nestled in a small valley far enough away from roads and housing developments that it provides a feeling of "being in nature" for those who visit. And visit they do - more than 6,000 visits per month. They walk (with/without dogs), run, bicycle, photograph, bird watch etc. Many with family and friends.

Since September 2021 visitors to the proposed development site have been given the opportunity to register their support of keeping the area as it is - no houses.

To date more than 800 people have registered.

Many have also provided comments on what they consider unique about the area and how often they visit the site. See: Rescue Rasmussen Pond Visitor List

The Applicant commissioned a "Community Review" that is available at:

<https://www.liveat-cameronmeadows.com/home>

Approximately 95% of the comments are against any housing development. Further analysis is available from the website host.

It is not surprising that so many people visit Cameron Meadows. Within the Cameron Park Community Service District (CP CSD) Park and Recreation Master Plan 2014, is a table showing the "Predicted Activity Preference" of residents. Of the 37 activities surveyed, the top of the list is Bird watching 68%, closely followed, in order by Backpacking/Hiking 60%, Bicycling - mountain in/road 57%, Education courses 55%, and Photography 55%.

ref: <https://www.cameronpark.org/files/1e8833a15/Cameron-Park-CSD-Parks-and-Recreation-Master-Plan-Update-Final-2014-05-14.pdf> p42)

It is most likely that if it was public land, and advertised as a nature park by the CP CSD, many more people would visit as it is within walking and cycling distance of more than 1000 homes and a 5 to 10 minute drive from most of Cameron Park.

Even though it is private land, many of the trails are described on websites such as: alltrails.com, trailforks.com, eldoradohiking.com. Also it has at least six entry points with good off street and on street parking away from major roads that do not interfere with nearby residents.

It can be visited for a peaceful half hour stroll or a rigorous half day hike.

Once this area is paved over it will be lost forever to the present and future generations.

The proposed Cameron Meadows housing development will:

- Cover most of the grasslands with high density housing.
- Restrict access to the pond for people and a large number of wildlife.
- Destroy the major passive recreation asset of the region.

It is of interest to note that one of the objectives in the latest CP CSD Parks and Recreation Report is to alleviate the pressure on Cameron Park Lake. See: Big Picture Strategies in <https://www.cameronpark.org/files/34b0939a6/Park-Improvement-Plan-PPt.pdf>

Cameron Meadows is included in the Cameron Park Community Region. One of the conditions of the project will be its inclusion in CP CSD. As indicated in the table below, inclusion of all of Cameron Meadows as a Nature Park would provide compliance of CP CSD with the recommended parks and recreation acres per head of population.

Cameron Park Community Services District, El Dorado County  
 Recommended Parks and Recreation Acres per Head of Population  
 Reference: CP CSD Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update Final 2014

for Other Parks	5	acres per 1000 pop
for Nature Parks	5	acres per 1000 pop
Cameron Park Population	20	thousand

AREA OF PARKS LISTED ON CP CSD  
 WEBSITE

	Park Type	Other	Nature	Total
Cameron Park Lake		56.5		
Christa McAuliffe Park		7.1		
Dave West Park		6.2		
Eastwood Park		2.2		
Gateway Park			13.3	
Dog Park			4.9	
Northview Park		5.2		
Rasmussen Park		10.1		
Royal Park			10.4	
	Total Area	87.3	28.6	115.9
	acres/pop	4.4	1.4	5.8
Area of Lake in CP Lake park	45.0			
Total without lake		42.3	28.6	70.9
	acres/pop	2.1	1.4	3.5
Area of Rasmussen Pond	4.0			
Area of Cameron Meadows	100.0			
Total without Lake and Pond		42.3	128.6	170.9
	acres/pop	2.1	6.4	8.5

The table shows that Cameron Park does NOT have the recommended parks and recreation acres per head of population. If the area of the water in Cameron Park Lake that most visitors can only look at, is subtracted, the acres/pop does not equal even 50% of the recommendation.

The option to buy Cameron Meadows for the purpose of a housing development was taken up very shortly after it was put on the market. It is believed from the amount of community support for Cameron Meadows to be a nature park that given the opportunity, arrangements could be made to raise funds to purchase the property for the use of community for passive recreation.