

CITY OF ALBANY  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
STAFF REPORT

Agenda date: September 8, 2011

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission  
**FROM:** Penelope Leach, Recreation and Community Services Director  
**SUBJECT:** Albany Hill Creekside Master Plan Update

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Information only

**BACKGROUND**

The Parks and Recreation Commission has been working on updating the 1991 Albany Hill Creekside Master Plan for the past several months. Please see the staff reports and presentation materials online on the City's website [www.albanyca.org](http://www.albanyca.org) for a complete status update. The Albany Hill Creekside Master Plan page can be found by clicking on the Parks and Recreation Commission page and choosing Albany Hill Creekside Master Plan from the menu on the left. The page is still going through construction, but should be updated by Tuesday, September 5.

This evening Susan Schwartz from Friends of Five Creeks will be presenting to the Commission information regarding vegetation management at Albany's Creekside Park and relevant adjacent areas.

Consultants, Cheryl Miller and Brad Gallup, continue to collect information and meet with staff to develop an updated plan for vegetation management on Albany Hill. Staff has also been researching the questions raised regarding Measure R Open Space funds and will be presenting a staff report to the Commission before the end of the calendar year.

At the October 2011 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, Cheryl Miller will be presenting the first draft of the vegetation management plan. At the November 2011 meeting, staff will be presenting information on access issues, easement issues, and an evaluation of the access recommendations from the 1991 Albany Hill Creekside Master Plan.

As staff has been collecting and presenting information and interviewing personnel regarding the updated Master Plan, the scope of the Master Plan continues to be refined. Easements and acquisition of the remaining open space on Albany Hill that the City does not own continue to be points of interest and inquiry. The scope, however, of the updated Master Plan does not include recommendations as to whether the City should or should not purchase additional easements and/or open space, but to learn how best to care for what City already owns with general

information as to what the City Council should consider if the Council chooses to acquire additional easements and/or Open Space. The primary purpose of the updated Plan is to create a “handbook” with associated costs for vegetation management with an emphasis on fire prevention. The updated Plan will contain goals, objectives, and best practices that could be applied to all of the open space areas on Albany Hill. The updated Plan will also incorporate the City’s relatively new Integrated Pest Management policy as well as contain access information including recommendations for trails, trail maintenance, and signage on City owned property.

The scope of the updated Master Plan will include recommendations for funding sources for the implementation of the updated Plan. In a presentation later this year, staff will present a comprehensive assessment of Measure R funds as the expectation is that Measure R funds would be used to implement the updated Master Plan; however, recommending spending Measure R funds to purchase more open space and/or easements is outside the scope of the updated Plan. Ultimately, it will be a City Council decision to evaluate the allocation of funds for Plan implementation to maintain existing public open space, and balancing those responsibilities and costs with maintaining or seeking additional funds for acquisition of easements or property.