

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: Feb 6, 2012

Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: 2012 Albany Hill Creekside Master Plan

REPORT BY: Penelope Leach, Assistant City Manager/Community Services Director

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive a presentation on the 2012 Albany Hill Creekside Master Plan, and place adoption of the Plan on a subsequent Council agenda.

BACKGROUND

In 1991 the City adopted the Albany Hill Creekside Master Plan. Although many of the elements in the '91 plan are still valid and useful today, staff recommended and Council approved updating the '91 Master Plan in May 2011 due to changing City policies and changing needs particularly with vegetation management. The primary question of, "what does the community want Albany Hill to look like in 20 years" as well as vegetation/fuel management, land acquisition, access, and the vast number of Eucalyptus trees on the Hill needed to be addressed in an updated plan.

Consultant, Cheryl Miller and associates, were contracted to draft the vegetation management portion of the plan with staff drafting the Access and Circulation portion of the plan. The Parks and Recreation Commission working with the community, consultant, and staff have been discussing the plan at each of its meetings since June 2011. During the planning process staff and the Commission heard from representatives from Friends of Five Creek and Friends of Albany Hill and were able to incorporate many of their suggestions into the draft plan.

DISCUSSION

The updated plan provides a long-term vegetation management plan with an emphasis on fire prevention, as well as a plan for trail maintenance and trail improvements. The draft plan also takes into consideration the City's adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy.

After discussing the draft vegetation management plan in detail, the consultant consolidated the recommendations into a "score sheet" that summarizes the vegetation management options for

each vegetation section identified on the maps on pages 5 and 13. The score sheet gives options for the level of management with a range of associated costs. This exercise allowed the Commissioners to ascertain the impact of varying levels of care while comparing it to the fiscal investment. The score sheet is attached. The yellow highlighted items on the score sheet were preferred by the majority of Commissioners. Additionally, the Commission felt that the preferred options support the goals and objectives of the draft vegetation management plan as stated on page 9.

The overall objectives of the updated access and circulation portion of the plan are to maintain the existing trails (with no additional trails recommended), improve circulation with relatively minor trail improvements, and develop a maintenance plan that includes an annual inspection of the trails and trail amenities such as benches, steps, and signs. Nearly all of the recommendations from the 1991 Albany Hill Creekside Master Plan remain in the 2012 updated Plan with the addition of more detailed trail maintenance and erosion control recommendations.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

The Albany Hill Creekside Master Plan will provide a long-term plan that emphasizes fire prevention, removal of invasive/non-native plants, and protection of sensitive habitat and well as improve the trail experience through improved access and circulation.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact for approving the plan. Staff will return during the regular budget cycle with recommendations for funding for the upcoming fiscal year.

Attachment

Draft 2012 Albany Hill Master Plan