

CITY OF ALBANY  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
STAFF REPORT

Agenda date: April 12, 2012

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission

**FROM:** Penelope Leach, Assistant City Manager/Recreation and Community Services Director

**SUBJECT:** Ohlone Greenway Planning

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Discussion only

**BACKGROUND**

BART is currently seismically retrofitting the columns under the BART tracks in Albany. Gates and Associates, a consulting firm hired by the City to assist in creating a Master Plan for the Ohlone Greenway, worked with the Commission, staff, and citizens to develop and review design plans for the Ohlone Greenway. During the planning phase in 2008, the community involvement process for the design of the Ohlone Greenway was extensive. Ideas regarding a par course, community gardens, a tree demonstration area, play equipment, etc., were ideas generated from the community discussions. Due to funding limitations, the plan that was ultimately submitted and approved by Council included pedestrian/bicycle path, irrigation, and tree/vegetation improvements only.

Planning for the Ohlone Greenway was again discussed after Measure WW was passed in 2008. For the first few months in 2009, the Parks and Recreation Commission developed a list of potential projects for Measure WW funding. Ohlone Greenway improvements were among the projects listed, but did not end up on the list of projects presented and approved by Council.

In December 2011 discussion regarding Ohlone Greenway recreational amenities was again brought to the Parks and Recreation Commission by a group of residents interested in replacing the par course. In an effort to have a comprehensive plan and consider short-term and long-term community needs and potential projects for the Ohlone Greenway, the Parks and Recreation Commission has agreed to open up the discussion again to hear what amenities the community would like to see along the Ohlone Greenway.

**DISCUSSION**

Per the licensing agreement with BART no work other than that specifically detailed in

the contract may take place until the completion of the project. BART has exclusive rights to the property until such time that the project is complete. There is no exact completion date as the project will go into late 2012 and possibly early 2013.

Staff attended the annual California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS) conference in March and had an opportunity to speak with several vendors that provide various types of recreational equipment. Among the vendors were a few that manufacture par course equipment. Par course equipment has evolved since the equipment along the Ohlone Greenway was installed in the early 1990's. Here are a few links to websites showing modern day par course equipment.

[www.greenfieldsfitness.com](http://www.greenfieldsfitness.com).

[www.parisoutdoorfitness.com](http://www.parisoutdoorfitness.com)

[www.bciburke.com/healthquest](http://www.bciburke.com/healthquest)

The Parks and Recreation Commission also received a letter from Transition Albany supporting the installation of a fruit tree orchard along the east side of the Ohlone Greenway. Please see the attached letter.

The par course and the orchard are the only two specific requests that staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission have recently received. Now that the Commission has opened up the discussion, more recommendation from the community may be proposed.