

CITY OF ALBANY
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT

Agenda date: June 12, 2014

TO: Albany Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Barry Miller, Planning Consultant
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SUBJECT: General Plan Update

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This is an informational report for discussion only.

BACKGROUND

The City of Albany is updating its General Plan, the long-range planning document used to guide Albany's growth and development for the next 20 years. The Plan is divided into "elements" (chapters) that address land use, transportation, housing, parks and open space, conservation, safety/noise, and community facilities. The existing General Plan was adopted in 1992 and does not reflect current data, forecasts, or issues in the City. Adoption of a General Plan is required by State law, and must be completed in conformance with Government Code requirements.

The Plan Update process started in March 2013 and is expected to be completed in early 2015. The new Plan will have a horizon year of 2035. The Planning and Zoning Commission has been holding monthly study sessions on the emerging Plan, and is the primary conduit for public discussion. Other City Commissions and Committees are also participating in the project through periodic updates and work sessions.

A briefing on the General Plan was provided to the Recreation and Parks Commission on July 11, 2013. Notes from that briefing are included as "**Attachment A**" to this staff report.

The Parks and Recreation Commission briefing on June 12 will focus on the General Plan Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element. The intent of this Element is to summarize existing park and open space resources in the City, identify needed improvements and priorities for the next 20 years in a general sense, and express the City's park and open space goals, policies, and action programs. The "existing conditions" section of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element is presently being drafted.

Goals, policies and actions for Parks, Recreation and Open Space are "**Attachment B**" to this staff report. **Attachment B will be sent out as a separate email on Monday June 9.** At the Study Session on June 12, the City's consultant will walk the Commission through the Draft goals and policies, and solicit feedback from Commissioners. A similar study session will be held on June 25 with the Planning and Zoning Commission. These study sessions will not be the last opportunity to comment—if needed, follow-up discussions with the Parks and Recreation Commission may be scheduled.

Parks and Recreation Policy Audit

The intent of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element of the General Plan is to integrate and synthesize existing policies, rather than to substantially change the City's park and open space policies. The General Plan is not intended to be an update of the 2004 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. It is broader in its scope, and less prescriptive in its recommendations.

Because the document is largely a synthesis of existing policies, one of the key tasks in preparing it was an "audit" of existing park-related policies in Albany. Among the documents reviewed were the 1992 General Plan, the 2004 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, the 2009 Albany Climate Action Plan, the UC Village Master Plan, and the plans and reports for Pierce Street Park.

It should be noted that there are numerous documents related to open space along the Albany waterfront, including documents covering Eastshore State Park, the Albany Bulb, Albany Beach, and the Bay Trail. These areas will be addressed in a separate chapter of the General Plan focused on the Albany Waterfront. The Waterfront Element will emphasize the open space value of the shoreline and will not be proposing changes in policy or changes to the General Plan Map in this area (under Measure C, such changes would be subject to a citywide vote).

A copy of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Policy Audit is appended to this document as **Attachment "C."**

Draft Goals, Policies, and Actions

As noted above, Attachment "B" (to be provided in a supplemental staff report on Monday June 9) includes the Draft Park, Recreation, and Open Space policies. This is a Working Draft for discussion only. Comments are encouraged and revisions are likely before a Draft General Plan is published.

Six goals are identified, corresponding to the following topics:

- Open Space Protection
- Park Expansion and Improvement
- Park Management and Maintenance
- Recreational Programming
- Joint Use and Collaboration
- Trails

Policies and actions have been drafted for each of the goals listed above. In each case, the source of the policy is listed in small (8 point italics) font. The statements have been rewritten (and in some cases completely restructured) to reflect the focus and format conventions of a General Plan. In some cases, the statements are new and reflect best practices or other directives. Feedback provided by the Parks and Recreation Commission at their July 2013 meeting (and by the Planning and Zoning Commission at their monthly meetings) has been incorporated into the new policies and actions.

Study Session Format

The study session is envisioned as 60 minutes in length. There will be a short PowerPoint presentation on the goals, policies, and actions followed by discussion. Commissioners will be asked to share their thoughts about the draft policies, including additional policies or topic areas that should be covered. Public comment will be considered before the close of the study session. Comments may also be submitted in writing after the Study Session via email or feedback on the Project website.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A.** Notes from July 13, 2013 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting on General Plan
- B.** Draft Park, Recreation, and Open Space Goals, Policies, and Actions (not included in this staff report)
- C.** Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Policy Audit (note: this is being provided for reference only. It is not required “background reading” for this agenda item)

The Albany Parks and Recreation Commission was briefed on the Albany General Plan at their regular meeting on July 11. Consultant Barry Miller delivered a PowerPoint presentation, highlighting the purpose of the General Plan, the status of the current Plan, the extent to which the Plan deals with parks and recreation issues, and a discussion of park issues that might be covered by the Plan. This was followed by a discussion with the Commission about long-range planning issues.

The following comments were made by the Commission:

- Is the idea to consolidate parks and rec policies in one part of the General Plan and then expand it?
- Is the “interactive” feature of the General Plan website open to all? How can we give comments from Albany residents more weight on the website than those from out of towners?
- Add a parks and rec survey to the website, and include a question about residency, so Albany resident comments can be distinguished from outsiders seeking to influence local policy
- Will the Planning and Zoning Commission hold large workshops, like the ones done during voices to vision? How can we avoid interest groups stacking the General Plan meetings, or people from outside of Albany influencing the outcome of our process?
- Can we have a study session on the Park Master Plan? Build in community participation—Park Master Plan is not really ready for an update yet
- Will General Plan address reclaimed water use, maintenance issues? Plan is more about facility planning and less about operations and maintenance
- Where will economic development issues be addressed, such as businesses located next door to houses
- The plan should take a regional perspective when it looks at recreational facilities. It’s not just about Albany—our residents use Point Isabel and other regional parks. We don’t have an 18-hole golf course in Albany, but the need for such facilities should still be addressed. Address the effects of facilities and spaces in nearby cities on the need for space and facilities in Albany.
- Look at joint powers agreements with other communities, for instance, the Tom Bates sportsfields. Those fields serve Albany even though they are in Berkeley and should be mentioned in the plan.
- Consider dog parks, canine recreation needs, dog park siting criteria.
- How do we keep a 20 year perspective when things change so quickly? How do you keep the Plan relevant?
- How can this commission be most helpful in this process?
- Can the Plan address donations of land? Urban agriculture and community gardens
- Plan must address Albany bulb homeless issues
- How will we deal with homeless in parks? Perhaps a joint meeting with the waterfront committee
- Projected trends—seniors—what is expected in demographics? Are we going to be like Emeryville? Or Hercules? Where are we going? Will Albany evolve as it has in the past or will it get more built up?

The public was invited to comment following the discussion but no comments were made.

ATTACHMENT C:
Policy Audit

AUDIT OF EXISTING ALBANY PARKS, RECREATION, and OPEN SPACE POLICIES				
Doc	Ref #	Existing statement	Topic	Evaluation
92 GP	Goal CROS-3	Preserve the crest of Albany Hill for public open space use.	Albany Hill	Can carry forward; this is also a land use policy
92 GP	Pol CROS-3.1	Designate the crest of Albany Hill for open space and require dedication of this area for public use through the City's subdivision ordinance requirements (see Land Use Element policies)	Albany Hill	Merge with Goal CROS-3; this version is preferable since it provides more specific policy-level direction. Also in Land Use
92 GP	Goal CROS-6	Develop the maximum feasible park and open space areas in Albany.	Open Space	Too vague. Replace with a statement that provides clearer direction.
92 GP	CROS-6.1	Update the 1974 Park and Recreation Master Plan for the City and establish specific goals, projects, funding sources and time schedules. This work should include detailed improvement and maintenance plans for the City's parks and be coordinated with the five-year capital improvement projects program.	Planning	Specific action item, subsequently implemented. This should be replaced with a directive to periodically update the Parks, Rec, OS Master Plan
92 GP	CROS-6.2	Work in conjunction with all existing and potential recreational land holding parties to promote joint planning, acquisition, development, and joint use and maintenance of park sites and recreational facilities, including child care, community facilities and athletic fields. Specifically, encourage and support joint planning efforts for the University of California lands (UC Village). Consideration should be given to moving the existing athletic fields and relocating other Village community facilities in order to achieve maximum coordination and benefits for both the Village residents and the City.	Joint Use	Possibly include a joint use goal, with a series of policies about collaborations with the School District, UC, and others
92 GP	CROS-6.3	Develop a plan for bikeways for Albany, linking bike paths in Berkeley and El Cerrito. Implement this plan as part of the City's overall road maintenance and traffic program within the annual capital projects budget, as well as through specific transportation funding.	Trails	This was done as part of the Active Transportation Plan. Cross-reference Transportation Element
92 GP	CROS-6.4	Increase non-automobile public access routes throughout the city by connecting major pathway systems such as the BART linear park to other City, regional and State parks.	Trails	Include a policy about trail connectivity under the goal on trails (cross reference Transportation Element)
92 GP	CROS-6.5	Continue to work with Alameda County on improving the operation and management of the Veterans Memorial Building and increasing community access to the facility.	Facilities	Still valid to include a policy on the Veterans Building, carry forward but edit
92 GP	Goal CROS-7	Achieve a complimentary mix of private and public uses at the Albany Waterfront which provide for maximum feasible open space, recreation, and public access to the waterfront area.	Waterfront	Move to Waterfront Element
92 GP	Pol CROS-7.1	Implement the Bay Trail Plan along the Albany shoreline. Work with the landowner, the track operator, appropriate citizen and environmental groups, the State Department of Parks and Recreation, Caltrans, the East Bay Regional Parks District, the Coastal Conservancy, and ABAG to achieve this goal.	Trails	Include general policy on Bay Trail in this Element, with more detail in the Waterfront Element

Doc	Ref #	Existing statement	Topic	Evaluation
92 GP	Pol CROS-7.2	Consider the important surrounding wildlife and vegetation resources that must be adequately protected when developing the alignment of the Bay Trail.	Trails	Include policy in General Plan about designing trails to be sensitive to natural setting and resources. Also in Waterfront Element
92 GP	Pol CROS-7.3	Require that public access to the shoreline and to Albany Point be a part of any future waterfront development plans and that future automobile, pedestrian, and bicycle access be consistent with and coordinated with future State and regional park and open space plans at the Waterfront.	Waterfront	Move to Waterfront Element
92 GP	Pol CROS-7.4	Continue to work with the State Department of Parks and Recreation, the cities of Emeryville and Berkeley, and other State, regional, and local agencies to develop the former Albany landfill site into a State Waterfront Park and to develop the first phase of the Eastshore State Park.	Waterfront	Include general policy about increasing park acreage on waterfront in the Rec and Open Space Element, but the bulk of waterfront park policies should be in the Waterfront Element
92 GP	Pol CROS-7.5	Work closely with the EBRPD, the cities of Berkeley, Emeryville, Richmond, Oakland, and other State, regional, and local agencies to develop the former Albany landfill site into a State waterfront park and to develop the first phase of the Eastshore State Park.	Waterfront	Merge with 7.4 above and move to Waterfront Element
92 GP	Pol CROS-7.6	Assure that planning for the Eastshore State Park is consistent with the City's conceptual plan for the Albany portion of the Eastshore State Park."	Waterfront	Move to Waterfront Element
91 Creekside	LURec1	Provide for a future dedicated trail easement through the 11 acre parcel to connect with Hillside and Pierce Streets	Albany Hill	Action item to be carried forward--reword as needed
91 Creekside	LURec2	Dedicate a funding source for land acquisition and improvement on Albany Hill	Albany Hill	Replace with updated language regarding working with landowner and non-profits to ensure open space dedication on the remaining 11 acre site
91 Creekside	LURec3	Direct staff to work the Trust for Public Land on land purchase of adjacent parcels	Albany Hill	Merge with LU Rec 2 above
91 Creekside	LURec4	Provide a pedestrian bridge over Cerrito Creek to El Ceritto Park	Trails	Unclear where "El Cerrito Park" is. Is this the north side of Cerrito Creek west of San Pablo Av? If relevant, may carry forward
91 Creekside	LURec5-6	Provide a future gated access point from the Orientation Center for the Blind directly to Albany Hill, and for a future trail easement through the orientation center along the Creek to San Pablo Avenue if the use of the Orientation center changes	Trails	Valid action to carry forward in some fashion
PROS MP	Goal 1	Preserve, enhance and, where possible, expand park and open space areas in Albany. Make Albany a green environment that integrates nature with neighborhoods, protects and supports native habitat and educates residents about local vegetation and wildlife.	Open Space	First sentence is valid goal and should be used in lieu of CROS-6 in the 1992 Plan. Second sentence should be more tightly worded and restated as a goal to protect and enhance natural resources.
PROS MP	Pol 1.1	Level of service: Maintain a level of service for parkland, based on the land/population ratio shown on Table 3.2 of the Master Plan report.	Planning	Carry per capita standard forward.

Doc	Ref #	Existing statement	Topic	Evaluation
PROS MP	Pol 1.2	Standards: Observe standards for design and development of parks and open space areas as presented in Chapter 6 of the Master Plan report, as appropriate to the specific conditions of individual sites.	Planning	See above. Include policy with open space standards
PROS MP	Pol 1.3	Existing Neighborhood Parks: Maintain and enhance existing neighborhood parks.	Neighbor-hood Parks	OK, more of a goal than a policy
PROS MP	Action 1.3.1	1. Ocean View Park (N-20): Provide the following improvements: (a) reconstruct playfields (drainage, irrigation, lighting); (b) replace field lighting; (c) replace children's playground; (d) construct a new picnic shelter; (e) develop a permanent restroom building; (f) add a new drinking fountain; (g) thin existing trees, add new trees and landscaping, including improvement of visual relationship to Buchanan Street; (h) repair tennis courts; (i) resurface pathways; (j) add support facilities (e.g. signage, bike racks, waste receptacles, benches, and picnic tables.)	Neighbor-hood Parks	These improvements have been completed
PROS MP	Action 1.3.2	2. Terrace Park (N-31): Provide the following improvements: (a) renovate restroom building; (b) replace turf and drainage system; (c) upgrade irrigation system; (d) upgrade picnic area; (e) resurface basketball court and interior paving; (f) replace pathway; (g) add landscaping	Neighbor-hood Parks	These improvements have been completed
PROS MP	Pol 1.4	New neighborhood park: Create a new neighborhood park in the Albany Hill area so that all Albany residents have a neighborhood park within half a mile of their homes.	Neighbor-hood Parks	Be more specific and refer to Pierce Street Park
PROS MP	Action 1.4.1	Develop one (1) of the following sites, depending on considerations of site availability, cost and appropriateness to serve the neighborhood. (Pierce Street is listed first as a higher priority site): 1. Pierce Street site (N-12 a): Continue to explore the feasibility of acquiring this former freeway right-of-way (up to 4.14 acres) for neighborhood park development and other uses including a part of a pedestrian-bike trail linkage with the Bay Trail, community gardens, a natural open space area or other possibilities; OR 2. Vista School Site (N-12b): Investigate the possibility of securing an agreement with the Albany Unified School District for the purpose of developing the site in partnership for community uses, in a manner consistent with District needs. Explore various development alternatives including retaining all or a portion of the buildings. Should the site become available at a later date, the City should explore purchasing the site. Improvements to the site could include a new playground, ADA improvements and new steps to improve access to the site.	Neighbor-hood Parks	Update based on current status of Pierce St park, identify programmed improvements. Should indicate current status of Vista School and viability of a neighborhood park/ joint use park at that location
PROS MP	Pol 1.5	1.5 Community Park: Maintain and improve Memorial Park to serve as the community park for the whole city	Community Parks	OK to carry forward

Doc	Ref #	Existing statement	Topic	Evaluation
PROS MP	Action 1.5.1	1. Memorial Park Phase II (C-7): Complete the program of the 1998 Memorial Park master plan by undertaking Phase II, to include the following improvements: (a) Develop a new entry promenade on the south side; (b) Reconstruct the ball field (turf, irrigation, drainage); (c) renovate other turf; (d) Improve the picnic area (tables and pads); (e) Add trees and other landscaping; (f) improve perimeter sidewalks; (g) Install new support facilities (e.g., signage, bike racks, waste receptacles, benches, including benches at the tennis courts .	Community Parks	Most of these improvements have been completed (entry promenade has not been). May provide more general action to implement the Master Plan
PROS MP	Action 1.5.2	2. School use: Encourage Albany Unified School District to improve and expand the use of Cougar Field to allow greater and more varied community use of the facility and to alleviate the over-use of the Memorial Park field.	Joint Use	Still a valid policy (re: joint use and access to Cougar Field)
PROS MP	Pol 1.6	Open Space: Preserve and expand open space areas, and conserve their natural qualities.	Open Space	General open space goal, merge with earlier
PROS MP	Action 1.6.1	1. Albany Hill Park (OS-11a): (a) Explore options for acquiring additional lands contiguous to the park; (b) Implement the approved Albany Hill-Creekside Park Master Plan, including internal pathways; new or improved trail connections to Cerrito Creek and to Pierce Street, new signage, benches and vegetation management.	Albany Hill	Update to reflect current status of properties. Most of this is still applicable and should be carried forward
PROS MP	Action 1.6.2	2. Creekside Park (OS-2): (a) Implement the Albany Hill-Creekside Park Master Plan, including signage, benches, and vegetation management; (b) Consider the desirability and feasibility of a connection across Cerrito Creek to link with the Cerrito Creek Bay Trail connector; (c) Coordinate development with the City of El Cerrito for each city's Creekside Park.	Albany Hill	Most of this direction is still valid and should be carried forward, though reworded to reflect General Plan level of detail
PROS MP	Action 1.6.3	3. Cerrito Creek Restoration (OS-1): Coordinate planning and improvement efforts with the Cities of Richmond and El Cerrito and non-profit organizations, such as Friends of Five Creeks, to improve the condition of the creek corridor. Consider alternatives to the current design of the storm water retention facility.	Creek	OK to carry forward
PROS MP	Action 1.6.4	4. Codornices Creek Restoration (OS-26): Complete the coordinated program to realign and landscape the creek corridor with the City of Berkeley and the University of California.	Creek	OK to carry forward

Doc	Ref #	Existing statement	Topic	Evaluation
PROS MP	Action 1.6.5	5. Gill Tract (SU-28): Acquire if possible, and if not coordinate planning with the University of California for mutually beneficial uses of this area. Seek to accommodate Village Creek habitat. Consult with the community concerning combinations of protection of the natural environmental features, including significant trees and the multiple recreation uses of the site with particular consideration for facilities and activities, which might include, but not be limited to the following types, which have been suggested thus far by the University and by residents: (a) Baseball/softball fields (relocation) and recreation center for Village residents; (b) Performance venue such as an amphitheatre or bandshell with picnic accommodations; (c) Urban agricultural activity such as a community garden, demonstration organic farm or eco-park, with related educational programs, in coordination with the school district and/or foundation partnerships; (d) museum space for local history.	Gill Tract	This statement is a bit confusing and should be re-phrased and updated to provide clearer direction. The lettered items at the end are the most relevant and should be carried forward.
PROS MP	Goal 2-A	Make Albany a center for cultural and arts activities, with open space for art displays and musical performances	Culture	Acceptable goal to carry forward, though probably in Community Services and Facilities Element rather than Open Space Element
PROS MP	Goal 2-B	Beautify public space through public arts programs, landscaped boulevards and community gardens	Culture	Covered to some degree in Land Use Element
PROS MP	Goal 2-C	Promote arts related activities.	Culture	Include the arts in Community Services and Facilities Element
PROS MP	Policy 2.1	Promotion of the Arts: Actively engage in promotion of arts and culture in Albany through the following actions	Culture	Include the arts in Community Services and Facilities Element
PROS MP	Action 2.1.A	(a) Increase the visibility of the arts through partnerships with other agencies and organizations; (b) Encourage collaboration among art, business, education, heritage, tourism, city beautification, and recreation organizations; (c) Promote public arts organizations as partners in community development; (d) Encourage and sponsor art installations at various points throughout the City.	Culture	All good policies--should include in Community Services and Facilities
PROS MP	Pol 2.2	Space for programs: Take advantage of opportunities to enhance and expand indoor space, and associated outdoor areas, for a variety of recreational programs, including arts and cultural programs	Programs	Tighten up and restate as policy to develop recreational programs suitable for the spaces available in Albany
PROS MP	Action 2.2.1	Albany Community Center (SU-18): (a) refurbish the wood floors; (b) upgrade the perimeter landscaping.	Facilities	Improvements have been completed

Doc	Ref #	Existing statement	Topic	Evaluation
PROS MP	Action 2.2.2	Veterans Memorial Building (SU-8): (a) Evaluate existing uses and obligations to current users (e.g., Veterans, Boy and Girl Scouts); (b) Review and develop funding sources for building maintenance and project revenues from existing and anticipated use fees; (c) Explore funding sources for necessary upgrades to augment Measure F monies; (d) Review structural improvements and additions (e.g., outdoor patio space); (e) Secure a transfer of ownership from the county to the city; (f) undertake seismic, access, and other necessary upgrades; (g) Evaluate options for programming and the anticipated revenue that could be generated from operations. Some possible uses include performing arts classes and presentations, general recreation and adult interest programming (such as computer classes, fitness training, a teen center and a local history center); (h) Plan adaptive upgrades to the building relative to programs to be housed there.	Facilities	Most of these improvements have been completed. Transfer of ownership not yet achieved and seismic evaluation and improvements should be carried forward.
PROS MP	Policy 2.3	Outdoor cultural space: Provide flexible outdoor space that can be programmed for performances and other cultural activities. Utilize design review and permitting process to encourage creation of open spaces as part of private development projects.	Culture	Valid policy to include in GP, once edited
PROS MP	Action 2.3.1	Memorial Park (C-7): In designing improvements to Memorial Park, consider how various spaces (such as the entry promenade) can be made useful for such events as art displays, concerts, theatrical performances and community celebrations.	Culture	This is an operational policy that is not really appropriate for the General Plan, but GP could include a broader policy on designing park spaces for community gatherings
PROS MP	Policy 2.4	Beautification and amenities: In planning public improvements, (such as street medians and islands, parking facilities, etc.) and in reviewing private development projects, (particularly along San Pablo and Solano Avenues and at the Golden Gate Fields site) be alert to opportunities to create new spaces for public activities, public art and for landscaping and other beautification efforts.	Aesthetics	Valid to include policy about creating pocket parks and plazas and other gathering paces along the corridors and elsewhere
PROS MP	Action 2.4.1	1. Key Route Median (L-5): Redevelop the median into a linear park equipped with a trail, landscaping and site amenities.	Aesthetics	Ok to carry into GP as action
PROS MP	Action 2.4.2	2. Street Tree Program: Continue, expand and promote the City's program of planting and maintaining street trees throughout the community.	Aesthetics	OK to include in GP, probably in Conservation Element
PROS MP	Action 2.4.3	3. Community Gardens: Establish community gardens, where feasible, in all parks, with educational programming.	Facilities	Should include policy to establish community gardens
PROS MP	Goal 3	Provide high quality sports and recreation facilities that accommodate children, youth, families and seniors year-round and at all times of day. Increase the range of City sponsored programs for all age groups, including childcare and senior citizen programs.	Facilities	Good goal, still valid

Doc	Ref #	Existing statement	Topic	Evaluation
PROS MP	Policy 3.1	City Sports Fields: Renovate and maintain City sports fields, and continue to cooperate with area-wide sports field users for purposes of field use and maintenance.	Facilities	Good policy, still valid
PROS MP	Action 3.1.1	Ocean View Fields (N-20): See proposed actions for Ocean View Park under Policy 1.3	Neighbor-hood Parks	See above
PROS MP	Action 3.1.2	Memorial Park Fields (C-7): See proposed actions for Memorial Park Phase II under Policy 1.5	Community Parks	See above
PROS MP	Policy 3.2	Cooperate with other agencies and organizations in creating new sports field facilities. Relevant parties include the Joint Powers Agreement Committee, Albany Unified School District, Associated Sports Field Users and Albany field user groups. Select sites in consideration of shielding from vehicle pollution. In each case consider the costs and benefits of the uses of artificial turf and night lighting as means of expanding the usability of fields.	Facilities	Good to have a policy about developing more sports fields. Note policy calls for artificial turf and night lighting, both of which could require further discussion
PROS MP	Action 3.2.1	U.C. Fields Relocation (SU-27): Cooperate with the University of California, local groups and the community at large, in relocating the existing baseball/softball fields within the University's Albany properties, should the existing fields be lost to any future development.	Joint Use	Good to have a policy regarding no net loss of open space on the UCV property
PROS MP	Action 3.2.2	Gilman site (SU-34): Continue City support of the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to develop the Gilman Street property west of Interstate 80 in Berkeley, and other possible projects in the region. Preliminary design programs indicate there would be 2 soccer fields, 3 ball fields, field house, picnic area, play area and parking. The City of Berkeley will be responsible for the design and construction. The East Bay Regional Park District is pursuing grants to fund this project.	Joint Use	Good to have a policy regarding the JPA for the fields at the end of Gilman Street
PROS MP	Action 3.2.3	Cougar Field (S-3): Develop a use agreement between the City and the Albany Unified School District. Support the District in efforts to win the approval of the City of El Cerrito for lighting of the field to expand the use potential of the facility.	Joint Use	Use Agreement was signed and lighting was installed
PROS MP	Policy 3.3	Children's facilities and programs: Continue to provide and maintain facilities for childcare and early childhood education programs operated by the City or by private interests. Offer after-school teen programs (such as a teen café, after-school activities), possibly at the Veteran's Memorial Building or at Albany High School.	Programs	Good to include a General Plan policy on child care and early childhood education. Cross-reference with community facilities and services element
PROS MP	Action 3.3.1	Pre-school building (SU-35): Retrofit the building for seismic improvements and make other minor renovations.	Facilities	Need to update based on current status

Doc	Ref #	Existing statement	Topic	Evaluation
PROS MP	Policy 3.4	Mini-parks/tot lots: Maintain and enhance existing toddler play facilities, and be alert to future needs and opportunities for locating additional facilities at suitable locations within parks or locations along the Ohlone Greenway (such as near San Gabriel or Solano Avenues), or at additional locations through land acquisition or in conjunction with private development projects.	Mini-Parks	Good to carry a policy forward on tot lots and opportunities for new mini parks
PROS MP	Action 3.4.1	Dartmouth Tot Lot (M-29): Provide the following improvements: (a) Replace the playground equipment; (b) Repair drinking fountain; (c) Improve the signage; (d) Explore the feasibility of acquiring adjacent lots in an effort to expand the recreational opportunities at this site. If this occurs, a picnic area and shelter building should be provided.	Mini-Parks	(a) through (c) were completed. (d) was not completed and was contingent on acquiring additional land. May carry forward.
PROS MP	Policy 3.5	Senior services: Maintain and enhance specialized programs for senior citizens at the Senior Center and at other locations in the City. Expand off-site activities such as tours and travel.	Programs	Good to carry a policy forward on senior services. Cross reference in Community Services and Facilities
PROS MP	Action 3.5.1	Albany Senior Center (SU-16): Upgrade the building to include a new roof and minor rehabilitation.	Programs	Roof was repaired. Carry forward an implementing action to maintain and enhance the building.
PROS MP	Policy 3.6	General interest programs for adults: Emphasize a range of classes and activities for adults, such as computer instruction, job training, crafts, lifetime sports, fitness, etc.	Programs	Good to carry a policy forward on providing a diverse range of classes and activities. Add something about responsiveness to demographic change.
PROS MP	Policy 3.7	Exercise programs: Support outdoor exercise programs in parks throughout the city (including martial arts and other exercise activities).	Programs	Carry forward, still valid
PROS MP	Goal 4	Promote public uses of the waterfront, providing for maximum natural open space and recreation.	Waterfront	Move to Waterfront Element, x-ref in Rec and Open Space
PROS MP	Policy 4.1	State Park: Participate actively in the planning and development of the Eastshore State Park, including the ultimate incorporation of the Albany Bulb into the park area, and possible additional land acquisition in the future.	Waterfront	Move to Waterfront Element, x-ref in Rec and Open Space
PROS MP	Action 4..1.1	Eastshore State Park (R-14): Take the following actions in the development of the State park: (a) Complete transfer of the Albany "Bulb" to the State of California; (b) Coordinate with the East Bay Regional Park District to implement the master plan for the site; (c) Explore alternatives for expanding the Eastshore State Park by securing additional waterfront property.	Waterfront	Move to Waterfront Element, x-ref in Rec and Open Space
PROS MP	Policy 4.2	City land: Enhance and maintain waterfront land owned by the City, exclusive of the bulb area.	Waterfront	Move to Waterfront Element, x-ref in Rec and Open Space

Doc	Ref #	Existing statement	Topic	Evaluation
PROS MP	Action 4.2.1	Waterfront Trail Park (L-21): Upgrade the area lying within a portion of the right-of-way of Buchanan Street extension to include enhancing the “cove” structure as a site for small-scale, participatory educational programs, picnic tables, a restroom (porta-potty) facility, drinking fountain and additional landscaping. Considering the region-serving nature of the site, make use of non-City financial resources to the maximum extent possible.	Waterfront	Move to Waterfront Element, x-ref in Rec and Open Space
PROS MP	Goal 5	Establish an integrated, comprehensive system of pedestrian and bike routes linking all neighborhoods and schools to recreational facilities throughout the city, including the waterfront.	Trails	Good goal, but should focus on the recreational aspects since this topic is also covered in the Transportation Element
PROS MP	Policy 5.1	Ohlone Greenway: Rehabilitate and enhance the Ohlone Greenway.	Trails	Good to have General Plan policy to maintain and enhance the Greenway
PROS MP	Action 5..1.	Ohlone Greenway (L-15): Prepare a development plan for Albany’s portion of the Ohlone Greenway. The planning process should include consideration of the following types of improvements: (a) A new lighting system throughout the length of the Greenway; (b) Basic upgrades including an automatic irrigation system, and general landscaping improvements; (c) Specialized trail surfaces for bicycles, running and walking; (d) Game courts; (e) An interpretive trail, historic, natural or artistic (f) Native planting; (g) Community gardens; (h) Play structures, especially where needed for more “eyes on the park”.	Trails	Some of these improvements (a, b, c, f) were completed and others (d, e, g, and h) were not. Play structures not feasible due to noise compatibility issues from BART. Carry forward a more generalized recommendation to maintain and enhance the greenway.
PROS MP	Policy 5.2	Waterfront access: Cooperate with other agencies in completing a system of pedestrian and bikeway connections from BART and the Ohlone Greenway to the Bay Trail.	Trails	This is already in the Transportation Element but can either repeat or cross-reference here
PROS MP	Action 5.2.1	Cerrito Creek-Bay Trail Connector (T-4): Participate with other agencies in developing trail links between El Cerrito Plaza and the Bay Trail. The Albany portions include (a) a connection generally by way of Pierce Street to the Buchanan overcrossing; (b) Re-alignment of the existing connection from the Buchanan overcrossing to the Bay Trail on the west side of I-580	Trails	Superseded by Active Transportation Plan
PROS MP	Policy 5.3	Bay Trail (T-2): Cooperate with appropriate agencies in completing local segments of the regional trail around the Bay, including connection through the Golden Gate Fields site to the Berkeley city limits.	Trails	Good to include this in the Rec-OS Element, with more specific direction in the Waterfront Element
PROS MP	Policy 5.4	Neighborhood paths: Maintain existing pathways that provide mid-block connections within neighborhoods.	Trails	Good--carry forward
PROS MP	Action 5.4.1	Manor Way (L-32): Make minor improvements, including landscaping and pavement repair or replacement.	Trails	Update based on improvements made since 2004.
PROS MP	Action 5.4.2	Catherine’s Walk (L-13): Prepare a plan for this site to include safety improvements and a maintenance plan.	Trails	This was completed.

Doc	Ref #	Existing statement	Topic	Evaluation
PROS MP	Policy 5.5	Albany Hill trails (T-3): Complete a system of trail connections to Albany Hill Park.	Trails	Valid to include action about completing trails on Albany Hill
PROS MP	Action 5.5.1	From Creekside Park (T-3): Upgrade the existing trail from Creekside Park to the top of the hill.	Trails	The 2012 Creekside Master Plan should be followed for Albany Hill and Creekside Park. Upgrading the trail is not in that plan.
PROS MP	Action 5.5.2	To Pierce Street (T-3): Secure a trail access to Pierce Street via the undeveloped property on the west side of the hill, and/or through easement or other agreement with the condominium associations that own open space reserves on the hill.	Trails	Still valid, carry forward but edit
PROS MP	Policy 5.6	Creek trails: Develop trails along the creeks that border Albany, in association with the neighboring cities and other jurisdictions such as flood control agencies and the Corps of Engineers.	Trails	Carry forward, still valid
PROS MP	Action 5.6.1	Codornices Creek Trail (T-7): Complete the current trail project, along the Albany-Berkeley border from the sports fields at Fifth Street to east of Tenth Street. Continue to plan for linkages to other pedestrian paths, routes and bikeways including potential connections to the Bay Trail.	Trails	Update based on improvements made since 2004.
PROS MP	Action 5.6.2	Cerrito Creek Trail (T-1): See proposal for Creekside Park, under Policy 1.6 on page 5.	Trails	See Pol 1.6
PROS MP	Goal 6	Make Albany a City that provides high quality services and inviting, well-kept facilities that foster public enjoyment.	Programs	Include goal on programs and facilities
PROS MP	Policy 6.1	Public participation: The City will engage in a public review process as each improvement project proceeds to design and construction, including public meetings and other activities to secure broad participation.	Programs	Include policy on public participation
PROS MP	Action 6.1.1	Review: Responsible City staff will direct plans for City parks, open space, landscape and street beautification projects to the Parks and Recreation Commission for review in public meetings. Publicize all meetings and workshops in as many ways as possible.	Facilities	Include policy on the role/importance of the Parks and Rec Commission
PROS MP	Policy 6.2	Resource Management: The City will employ a variety of enhanced management techniques and efficiency measures in order to achieve the most benefit from its resources and maintain a high quality of services and facilities.	Operations	Include policy on efficient management of land and facilities
PROS MP	Action 6.2.1	Partnerships: Continue to foster partnerships/joint use opportunities with other agencies and organizations (e.g., City of Berkeley, City of El Cerrito, Albany Unified School District, University of California, local sport groups) to improve park and recreation services; and monitor maintenance responsibilities among these parties to ensure efficient use of all resources within the city.	Joint Use	Include policy on partnerships and joint use

Doc	Ref #	Existing statement	Topic	Evaluation
PROS MP	Action 6.2.2	Field use priorities: Continue to give priorities for field use to 1) City sponsored programs and services; 2) School district programs and 3) Other organized sport leagues. Post a public schedule of reserved uses of fields and field closures.	Operations	This may be too operational for the General Plan, but could include
PROS MP	Action 6.2.3	Maintenance costs: Develop a cost tracking system for park maintenance activities.	Operations	Too operational for General Plan
PROS MP	Action 6.2.4	Volunteers: Use volunteers as a means of providing more service on a limited budget. Create a mechanism so people can volunteer in such roles as assistance with special events, performance of minor maintenance duties, and assistance with administrative tasks. This may include an "Adopt-A-Park" Program through formal or informal agreements with neighborhood groups and service clubs. Communicate with the public about specific opportunities for volunteer assistance.	Operations	Include policy on volunteers and park stewards
PROS MP	Action 6.2.5	Planning: Maintain an on-going planning effort to establish design and development standards for parks and recreation facilities. This may include specifications for types of equipment, models and materials used in development and maintenance, and a comprehensive signage program for all park, recreation and open space related facilities. Include consideration of maintenance methods in the initial planning of new or renovated facilities. Maximize the opportunities for organic and sustainable landscape.	Planning	Include policy on park planning and design specifications and standards
PROS MP	Policy 6.3	Maintenance: Maintain park and recreation facilities in a manner to make them safe, attractive, and a positive part of their neighborhoods. Prioritize repair, rehabilitation and preventative maintenance.	Operations	Include policy on maintenance
PROS MP	Action 6.3.1	Alternative workforce: Determine which park maintenance tasks are best performed by the City, and which tasks could be better performed by contractors, user groups or other non-profit entities. Develop clear plans and specifications for contracting maintenance tasks to local community groups or sport field user organizations. In contracting park maintenance tasks, consider both private and non-profit as well as other groups.	Operations	Include policy to efficiently manage maintenance activities conducted by staff, volunteers, stewards, non-profits etc
PROS MP	Action 6.3.3	Commission oversight: Assign to the Parks and Recreation Commission responsibility to develop and oversee park maintenance policy. The Public Works Maintenance Manager should meet with the Commission at least quarterly to report on and discuss park maintenance effectiveness.	Operations	This is operational and probably too detailed for the General Plan
PROS MP	Action 6.3.4	Tracking requests: Establish a tracking system to ensure that staff adequately addresses maintenance requests from the public.	Operations	This is operational and probably too detailed for the General Plan

Doc	Ref #	Existing statement	Topic	Evaluation
PROS MP	Action 6.3.5	Maintenance plan: Develop a maintenance management plan for parks, recreation and open space facilities, including a specific budget for parks maintenance, time and performance tasks for each distinct maintenance task, e.g., mowing, turf management, edging, pruning, litter pick-up, etc.	Operations	Include General Plan action on developing maintenance management plans
PROS MP	Policy 6.4	Maintenance standards: Establish maintenance standards for park and recreation facilities.	Operations	Include General Plan policy on maintenance standards
PROS MP	Action 6.4.1	Pest management: Develop a pest management policy that favors the use of organic or natural methods. Through a thorough and public process, consider the careful and limited use of chemicals of the least toxic nature.	Operations	Include General Plan policy on integrated pest management
PROS MP	Action 6.4.2	Sports field standards: Develop and adhere to maintenance standards for sports field maintenance, with emphasis on turf management and/or use of artificial surfaces.	Operations	Merge with earlier policy on maintenance. Artificial turf is a separate issue, and may be the subject of a separate policy (or not addressed as a GP issue)
PROS MP	Action 6.4.3	Field closures: Establish field closure policy and enforcement measures to prevent overuse of fields or use of fields when wet.	Operations	Operational policy--beyond level of detail for GP
PROS MP	Policy 6.5	Maintenance budgeting: Provide funding to maintain existing park and recreation facilities at levels that meet the community's expectations.	Funding	Incorporate as part of broader policy on funding
PROS MP	Action 6.5.1	Expenditure threshold: Establish a minimum threshold for maintenance operations to ensure that park maintenance receives an equitable share of the City's overall maintenance budget.	Operations	Incorporate into maintenance policy
PROS MP	Action 6.5.2	Separation of budgets: Develop separate budgets for City-wide maintenance responsibilities (e.g., beautification, medians and traffic islands, open space management, sports field maintenance and building maintenance services).	Funding	Interesting policy--is it followed in practice? Can consider incorporating in GP
PROS MP	Action 6.5.3	Dedication of fees: Revenues generated from the rental of fields should be dedicated to park and field maintenance.	Funding	Probably too detailed and operational for General Plan
PROS MP	Action 6.5.4	Workforce: Consider developing a specialized crew dedicated to park maintenance.	Operations	Status? May be too detailed for GP
PROS MP	Policy 6.6	Cost-saving strategies: Implement maintenance cost savings strategies that do not sacrifice the quality and care of the parks.	Operations	Carry forward, still valid
PROS MP	Action 6.6.1	Cost-saving improvements: Reduce day-to-day maintenance costs through minor improvements such as installation of automated irrigation and creation of mowing strips along playgrounds, picnic areas and other locations.	Operations	Carry forward, still valid
PROS MP	Policy 6.7	Recreation programming: Evaluate recreation programs on an on-going basis, addressing the needs and interests of all segments of the community and the degree to which programs are self-sufficient.	Programs	Add a policy to periodically evaluate programs and adjust based on recreational trends, consumer preferences, demographics, attendance, etc
PROS MP	Action 6.7.1	Trends: Monitor trends and public interests and actively develop and offer new programs accordingly.	Planning	See above, merge with 6.7

Doc	Ref #	Existing statement	Topic	Evaluation
PROS MP	Action 6.7.2	Non-City providers: Encourage other public and private service providers to meet recreation needs. Where possible (possibly at the Veterans Building), lease space (long-term) to groups and commercial interests to conduct recreation programs, at their own expense for operating and maintenance costs.	Private Rec	Good---include policy on private recreation and non City service providers
PROS MP	Action 6.7.3	Evaluation: Continually evaluate programs in terms of persons served, overall community interests, program costs and fee structure. To the extent that City sponsored programs require subsidy, establish an overall subsidy rate at the beginning of each year.	Operations	Include action on periodic monitoring, evaluation, and satisfaction/user surveys
PROS MP	Action 6.7.4	Inter-agency programming: Form a recreation services committee consisting of representatives from other agencies and organizations for the purpose of coordinating services. Agencies represented should include the Albany Unified School District, UC Village, YMCA and other recreation providers.	Intergovernmental	Include action on coordination with other agencies
PROS MP	Funding	Potential Funding Approaches: Several funding approaches below are suggested for capital projects to close the 2.1 million dollar gap and to enhance park maintenance. Additional funding sources such as taxes or fees for parks and park maintenance, other than appropriate user fees, will not be considered until and unless the other methods mentioned have been fully explored and found infeasible. (1) Reprioritization of park maintenance, and increasing the park maintenance budget; (2) Improve park maintenance through improved management procedures and oversight; (3) Funding of expanded maintenance through savings as a result of upgraded infrastructure; (4) Local fundraising efforts. (Capital generation); (5) Regional and state grants; (6) Development partnerships with local groups, including project partnerships with local groups such as the Rotary Club and others; (7) Lighting and Landscaping District. One suggestion is to form a new Lighting and Landscaping district, which would be in addition to the existing districts that were established in 1988 and 1996.	Funding	Include action on increasing funding using various strategies as shown here
UCV-MP	Goal 4	Provide a variety of open space and recreation facilities for Village families and surrounding communities.	Open Space	Could include a general policy on open space within UC Village
UCV-MP	Obj 4-1	To provide outdoor spaces for varied activities to serve the different age groups at the Village.	Planning	this could be merged with a citywide policy on the same topic (providing varied spaces to serve the needs of different age groups)
UCV-MP	Obj 4-2	To provide open space and recreation that is accessible for both Village residents and surrounding communities.	Joint Use	Good to have a joint use policy that references UCV
UCV-MP	Pol 4.3	Provide open space and recreation facilities that serve the needs of Villagers.	Planning	Merge with Obj 4.1
UCV-MP	Pol 4.4	Maintain some level of community access to designated open space and recreation facilities.	Joint Use	Merge with Obj 4.2

Doc	Ref #	Existing statement	Topic	Evaluation
UCV-MP	Pol 4.5	Where feasible, preserve natural vegetation with plant and animal habitat values.	Planning	Should clarify that this applies to parks--designing and improving consistent with the policies in the Conservation Element
UCV-MP	Pol 4.6	Protect preserved natural areas from degradation by adjacent uses.	Planning	Merge with 4.5
UCV-MP	Pol 4.7	Reserve space for at least one youth soccer, one youth softball, and two youth baseball fields.	Facilities	Incorporate in narrative
UCV-MP	Pol 4.8	Provide outdoor recreation space in the vicinity of the community center.	Facilities	Incorporate in narrative
UCV-MP	Pol 4.9	Minimize noise transmission from playing areas to nearby residences.	Operations	Potential citywide policy regarding compatibility of recreational uses with nearby sensitive receptors. X-reference with Noise Element
UCV-MP	Pol 4.10	Design courtyards for housing for families with children to accommodate children's play	Planning	Potential citywide policy regarding incorporation of private open space and courtyards in new development. Planning and Zoning Commission also expressed interest in this.
UCV-MP	Pol 4.11	Where feasible, provide semi-private open spaces associated with family-oriented units.	Planning	include citywide policy to maintain private open space requirements in the Municipal Code
UCV-MP	Pol 4.12	Provide playgrounds to serve neighborhoods where they are convenient to laundry facilities	Facilities	UC village only--not General Plan
UCV-MP	Pol 4.13	Provide age appropriate playground and open space recreation areas.	Planning	Merge with Obj 4-1
UCV-MP	Pol 4.14	Provide security measures in play areas for young children to protect them from traffic and help keep them contained.	Operations	General policy on designing for security
UCV-MP	Pol 4.15	Landscape recreational areas differently to distinguish them from private and semiprivate open space.	Operations	Not necessary in General Plan
UCV-MP	Pol 4.16	Provide community gardens.	Facilities	Citywide policy. Should include in General Plan
UCV-MP	Pol 4.17	Where feasible, use creeks as an important landscape element.	Creek	Citywide policy. Should include in General Plan
UCV-MP	Pol 4.18	Provide appropriate safety measures to minimize the creek as an attractive nuisance for children.	Creek	Merge with 4.17
<i>Note: Documents that deal exclusively with the Waterfront area open space will be included in the Waterfront Element of the General Plan</i>				

APPENDIX B: DRAFT General Plan Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element Goals and Policies

Goal 1: OPEN SPACE PROTECTION

Maximize the preservation, enhancement, and expansion of open space in Albany for natural resource protection, food production, hazard prevention and abatement, aesthetics, and recreation. (PROS MP Goal 1, Pol 1.6, expanded)

Policy 1.1: Green Community. Maintain Albany as a green community that integrates open space and nature with neighborhoods, protects natural habitat, and educates residents about local vegetation and wildlife. (PROS MP Goal 1)

Policy 1.2: Albany Hill. Designate the crest of Albany Hill for open space and require dedication of this area for conservation and public access as a condition of approval for any proposed development on parcels along the ridgeline. Albany Hill should be considered an essential and valuable regional open space resource. (1992 GP, CROS-3 and 3.1)

Policy 1.3: Albany Waterfront. Recognize the importance of the Albany waterfront as a multi-use open space area and a vital part of the cultural landscape of the East Bay. The City will work toward achieving the maximum feasible open space and recreational uses in the waterfront area and improved public access to and along the Albany shoreline. All future land use decisions for the area west of Interstate 80 shall be consistent with State and regional park plans, trail plans, and Bay conservation and shoreline access plans. (1992 GP, Goal CROS-7, PROS MP Goal 4)

See the General Plan Waterfront Element for a complete set of goals, policies, and actions for the shoreline open space area.

Policy 1.4: Urban Open Space. Incorporate a variety of small open spaces, such as pocket parks, plazas, courtyards, rooftop gardens, tot lots, and landscaped areas, into new development. (new)

Policy 1.5: Open Space in the Public Realm. Enhance the open space value of Albany's streets and public spaces through street tree planting, landscaping, and maintenance and expansion of the urban tree canopy (new, adapted from PROS MP Action 2.4.2 and Goal 2-B).

Policy 1.6: Open Space as a Component of Capital Projects. In planning public improvements such as streetscape projects and public buildings, consider opportunities for public art, landscaping, community gathering places, and other open spaces that beautify the community and supplement existing recreational facilities. *(PROS MP Pol 2.4)*

Policy 1.7: Community Gardens. Encourage the creation of community gardens in Albany, and the use of open land for food production and urban agriculture. A variety of locations should be considered including parks, school yards, university lands, and other public and private properties. *(PROS Action 2.4.3)*

Policy 1.8: Creeks. Recognize creeks as an important open space element, and a means of defining the edges of the city and bringing open space and nature into neighborhoods. *(new)*

Policy 1.9: Residential Yards. Maintain requirements for structural setbacks and minimum yard areas on residential lots to create a sense of openness, provide space for plants and landscaping, and enhance the beauty of Albany. *(new)*

Possible Implementing Actions

Action 1.A: Priority Conservation Area. Maintain the undeveloped portions of Albany Hill as a regionally designated "Priority Conservation Area." *(new)*

Action 1.B: Creekside Master Plan Implementation. Implement the open space management recommendations of the 2012 Creekside Master Plan, including vegetation management, trail improvements, signage and other park improvements. *(new)*

Action 1.C: Albany Hill Conservation Easements. Work the owner of the 11-acre vacant parcel south of Gateway Towers and land conservation organizations to develop a site plan for the property which maximizes the conservation of open space on the upper slopes and ridgeline portions of the site. Continue to work with owners of other private properties on Albany Hill to reduce fire hazards and manage the Hill's unique ecosystem. *(LU Rec-2 and Rec-3 from Creekside Master Plan; PROS MP Action 1.6.1)*

Action 1.D: Private Open Space Standards. Maintain requirements for private open space, such as patios and balconies, for new residential units. *(adapted from UCV-MP, Pol 4.11)*

Action 1.E: Eastshore State Park: Actively participate in the planning and development of McLaughlin Eastshore State Park, including the ultimate incorporation of the Albany Bulb into the park area. *(PROS MP Action 4.1)*

Goal 2: PARKLAND EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT

Expand and improve Albany's park system to keep pace with population growth and meet the demand for recreational facilities in the City. *(new)*

Policy 2.1: Park Hierarchy. Maintain a hierarchy of mini-parks, neighborhood parks, and community parks in Albany, with guidelines to distinguish the types of uses and activities appropriate in each park type. *(PROS MP Pol 1.3, 1.5).*

Memorial Park should continue be designated as a community park, intended to meet citywide needs and host citywide activities. Ocean View and Terrace Parks should both continue to be designated as neighborhood parks, as should the proposed new park at Pierce Street.

Policy 2.2: Non-Traditional Parks. Supplement traditional City parks with linear parks, special use parks, school facilities, regional open spaces, and other unique parks that complement the network. *(PROS MP)*

Policy 2.3: Per Capita Service Standards. Maintain per capita service standards (acres per 1,000 residents) for parkland. These standards should ensure that the current ratios of parkland acreage to population for Mini-Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, Linear Parks, and Special Use Areas are maintained at their current levels or are increased in the future. Service standards should provide the basis for parkland dedication and in-lieu fee requirements for new development. *(PROS MP Pol 1.1)*

Question for Parks and Rec Commission: Should the 2004 standards be carried forward or changed?

Policy 2.4: Site Design and Planning Standards. Observe standards for the design and development of parks and open space areas as presented in the Albany Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. The site plan for each park should be appropriate to its specific conditions and context, and should maximize public access and visibility. *(PROS MP, Pol 1.2)*

Policy 2.5: New Parks. Pursue the development of new parks that accommodate services and facilities not present in Albany today and that respond to increased demand for park and recreational space and facilities. *(new)*

- Policy 2.6: New Facilities in Existing Parks.** Balance the demand for new recreational facilities and structures with the need for unprogrammed open space that meets other recreational needs. Where possible, the development of new recreational facilities and amenities should avoid displacing or crowding out other activities. Maintaining a mix of passive and active open spaces is important to the function and aesthetics of community, neighborhood, and regional parks. *(new)*
- Policy 2.7: Resource Preservation.** Design and plan new parks in a manner that preserves and enhances natural resources, protects trees and significant topographic features, and is consistent with the sustainability principles articulated in the General Plan Conservation Element. *(UCV MP Pol 4.5)*
- Policy 2.8: Recreational Land Use Compatibility.** Ensure that park design and activity programming is sensitive to adjacent land uses, taking into consideration both the effect of the park on nearby uses and the effect of nearby uses on the park. This would include efforts to reduce noise and lighting conflicts due to potentially loud or night-time park activities near sensitive receptors (such as schools or homes), as well as consideration of parking and other impacts. *(new)*
- Policy 2.9: Park Expansion.** Explore opportunities to expand existing City parks on to vacant or underutilized land on the perimeter of each park site. *(new)*
- Policy 2.10: Public Participation.** Engage the public in the design and review of proposed new parks and park improvements, including public meetings and other activities which secure broad participation. *(PROS MP Pol 6.1)*
- Policy 2.11: Private and Non-Profit Recreational Facilities.** Encourage the development of additional private and non-profit recreational facilities that are open to the general public, and that complement the array of leisure-time activities available to Albany residents. *(new)*

Possible Implementing Actions

- Action 2.A: Parkland Fees and Dedication.** Maintain park in-lieu fees and/or dedication requirements to ensure that new development pays its fair share or otherwise provides for the demand for parkland and recreational facilities it creates. *(new)*
- Action 2.B: Pierce Street Park.** Develop a new park on the 4.5-acre former freeway right-of-way site bounded by Pierce Street, Cleveland and Washington Avenues and the I-80 freeway. Development of the site should be phased based on the availability of funds and community input. *(adapted from PROS MP Action 1.4.1)*

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Action 2.C: Design Standards. Continue efforts to establish recreational facility design standards, potentially including specifications for signage and the types of equipment, models and materials to be used in park development (*PROS MP Action 6.2.5*)

Action 2.D: Master Plan Updates. Periodically update the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan to identify specific projects, funding sources, and time schedules for implementation. This should include detailed improvement and maintenance plans for the City's parks, which are coordinated with the five-year Capital Improvements Program. (*92 GP, Policy CROS-6.1*)

Goal 3: PARK MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Maintain and enhance Albany's parks so that they provide attractive open spaces and high-quality recreational facilities that serve children, youth, families, and seniors. *(PROS MP Goal 3)*

Policy 3.1: Planning for Diverse User Groups. Ensure that Albany's parks are designed to provide for residents of all ages, cultural backgrounds, and physical capabilities. This should include outdoor spaces for varied activities which serve the needs of different user groups. *(new)*

Policy 3.2: Modernization. Continue to enhance and modernize recreational buildings such as the pre-school building and the senior center. *(PROS MP-Actions 3.3.1, 3.5.1)*

Policy 3.3: Sports Fields. Renovate and maintain City sports fields and continue to collaborate with areawide sports field users on field programming and maintenance. Explore opportunities to create new sports fields, including fields on locations outside of Albany, through joint powers agreements, and joint efforts with field users. In addition, to increase the usefulness of athletic fields, encourage field designs and configurations that can accommodate multiple sports rather than one sport alone. *(adapted from PROS MP Pol 3.1)*

Policy 3.4: Outdoor Cultural Space. Provide flexible outdoor spaces in City parks that can be programmed for community gatherings, art displays, performances and other cultural activities. *(PROS MP Pol 2.3, Action 2.3.1)*

Policy 3.5: Dogs. Continue to work with local dog owners, park users, and community organizations to balance the demand for dog play areas with other considerations such as habitat protection, safety, and accommodation of active open space uses. Maintain a community dog park at Memorial Park and allowances for leashed dogs on city and regional park properties. *(new)*

Policy 3.6: Night Lighting and Artificial Turf. Consider the costs and benefits of night lighting and artificial turf as a means of expanding the usability of fields. *(PROS MP Policy 3.2)*

Policy 3.7: Maintenance. Maintain park and recreation facilities in a manner which keeps them safe, attractive, clean, and a positive part of their neighborhoods. In the annual budgeting process, a priority should be placed on the repair, rehabilitation and preventive maintenance of park facilities. *(PROS MP Policy 6.3 and 6.5)*

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- Policy 3.8: Vegetation Management.** Ensure that park landscaping and maintenance practices are consistent with City policies to reduce wildfire hazards and manage vegetation, especially in Creekside Park and elsewhere on Albany Hill. These practices should also reinforce City programs to conserve water and promote Bay-friendly landscaping. *(new)*
- Policy 3.9: Volunteers.** Use volunteers to supplement City staff and extend the range of recreational services that are provided to Albany residents. The City should offer volunteer opportunities for such tasks as assistance with special events, administrative tasks, and “adopt a park” maintenance and stewardship programs. *(PROS MP Action 6.2.4)*
- Policy 3.10: Security.** Ensure that the design and operation of City parks maximizes the security and personal safety of park users. *(new)*
- Policy 3.11: Integrated Pest Management.** Apply integrated pest management principles in park maintenance, with an emphasis on non-toxic, environmentally-safe pest control methods *(PROS MP Action 6.4.1)*
- Policy 3.12: Scheduling.** Coordinate the scheduling of activities in recreation centers, on sports fields, at playgrounds, and in parks in general to avoid conflicts, reduce wear and tear, and more evenly distribute activities among parks. As noted in Goal 4, this should include coordination with the Albany Unified School District. *(new)*
- Policy 3.13: Funding.** Consider a variety of strategies to increase funding for capital projects and to enhance park maintenance, such as local fundraising, grants, development partnerships, and special taxing districts such as Landscape and Lighting Assessment Districts. *(PROS MP)*

Possible Implementing Actions

- Action 3.A: Parks and Recreation Commission.** Maintain a City Parks and Recreation Commission with the responsibility for reviewing plans for parks, open space, landscaping, and street beautification, and considering public input on such plans. The Parks and Recreation Commission should also advise on park maintenance activities and other matters concerning the delivery of park and recreation services. *(PROS MP Action 6.1.1 and 6.3.3)*
- Action 3.B: Memorial Park Master Plan.** Update the 1998 Memorial Park Master Plan and identify needed improvements for the coming years. This may include improvements to the entry promenade, as called for by the 2004 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. *(new, updates PROS Action1.5.1)*

Action 3.C Park Improvement Programs. Conduct periodic needs assessments, master planning, and improvement programs for neighborhood parks , including Ocean View Park and Terrace Park, and mini-parks, including Dartmouth Tot Lot and San Gabriel Mini-Park. *(new)*

Action 3.D: Playground Improvements. Develop an improvement and/or replacement program for Albany’s playgrounds. As part of this program, consideration should be given to expanding the Dartmouth Tot Lot and developing a picnic area and shelter. *(PROS MP Action 3.4.1., expanded)*

Action 3.F: Maintenance Programs. Develop and periodically update maintenance standards and programs for parks, sports fields, and other recreational facilities, including budgets for the various tasks required to keep each park and field in good condition. *(PROS MP Action 6.3.5, 6.4.2, and Pol 6.4, Action 6.5.1 and .2, Pol 6.6, Action 6.6.1)*

Citywide budgeting practices and procedures should ensure that adequate funds are set aside for park maintenance and that line items are established for specific park maintenance activities (e.g., sports field maintenance, building maintenance, medians and traffic islands, etc.). Maintenance practices should aim for reduced costs through minor improvements such as installation of automated irrigation systems and drought-tolerant landscaping.

Action 3.F: Maintenance Assessment. Regularly evaluate the distribution of maintenance tasks between City workers and other parties, including contractors, non-profits, park user groups and neighborhood residents. Clear operating procedures should be followed for all maintenance activities, and for the delegation of maintenance tasks to entities other than City staff. *(PROS MP Action 6.5.1)*

Action 3.G: Reclaimed Water Use. Continue to explore opportunities for reclaimed water use on City parks, and on medians and planting strips. *(new)*

Goal 4: RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Provide high quality services and recreational programs that meet the diverse sports, fitness, and leisure time needs of Albany residents. *(adapted from PROS MP Goal 6)*

Policy 4.1: Responsiveness to Demographic Change. Ensure that recreational programs are periodically evaluated and adjusted in response to demographic changes in the city, recreational trends, changes in technology and consumer preferences, and other factors. *(adapted from PROS MP Pol 6.7 and Action 6.7.1)*

Policy 4.2: Children and Teen Programs. Continue to provide and maintain facilities for child care, early childhood education, and teen programs operated by the City or by private interests. *(PROS MP Pol 3.3)*

Policy 4.3: Senior Services. Maintain and enhance programs for senior citizens at the Albany Senior Center and at other locations in the City. Expand off-site activities such as tours and travel. *(PROS MP Pol 3.5)*

Policy 4.4: General Interest Programs. Provide a range of recreational activities and life-long learning classes for adults, such as computer instruction, job training, crafts, sports, and fitness. *(PROS MP Pol 3.6)*

Policy 4.5: Community Events. Hold communitywide events such as concerts and festivals in City parks as a way to build community spirit, bring residents together, and celebrate the value of parks to Albany. Such events should be managed to ensure that maintenance needs, parking, noise, litter, and other impacts are addressed. *(new)*

Policy 4.6: Fitness. Support exercise and fitness programs which contribute to the health and wellness of Albany residents, including martial arts and other physical activities. *(PROS MP Pol 3.7)*

Policy 4.7: Arts and Leisure. Incorporate arts, leisure, cultural, and continuing education programming into recreational programs, to complement sports, play, and active recreation. *(PROS MP Pol 2.2)*

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Possible Implementing Actions

Action 4.A: Evaluations. Continually evaluate programs in terms of costs, fee structure, persons served, community interests, and the level of subsidy required. (PROS MP Pol 6.7 and Action 6.7.3)

See the Community Services and Facilities Element for additional policies and actions on arts and cultural programs, senior services, and child care.

Goal 5: JOINT USE AND COLLABORATION

Promote joint planning, acquisition, development, maintenance, and use of park sites, school sites, UC Village open space, and other recreational and community facilities. *(adapted from 1992 GP Pol CROS-6.2)*

Policy 5.1: School District Facilities. Support joint use agreements between the City of Albany and the Albany Unified School District to increase after-hours access to school facilities for Albany residents and school day access to facilities in City parks for Albany students. *(new)*

Policy 5.2: UC Village. Work with the University of California to maintain baseball/ softball fields, a recreation center for Village residents, a community garden, and other amenities which benefit UC Village residents and Albany as a whole. Promote access to the parks and athletic fields within UC Village by Albany residents and sports teams, and encourage the University to maintain a “no net loss” policy for the recreational open space acreage within the UC Village property. *(PROS MP Action 1.6.5, Action 3.2.1, UCV MP, Pol 4.7 and 4.8)*

In accordance with the UC Village Master Plan, space should be provided for at least one youth soccer and youth softball field, and two youth baseball fields, on the UC Village property. In addition, outdoor recreation space should be provided near the UC Village Community Center.

Policy 5.3: Gill Tract. Coordinate with the University of California for mutually beneficial uses of the Gill Tract. Such plans should protect and enhance Village Creek and other natural environmental features, including significant trees. *(PROS MP Action 1.6.5)*

See the Land Use Element for additional policies on the Gill Tract.

Policy 5.4: Veterans Memorial Building. Collaborate with Alameda County on the operation and management of the Veterans Memorial Building, with the ultimate goal of transferring ownership of the building to the City. *(92 GP Pol CROS-6.)*

Policy 5.5: East Bay Regional Park District. Work with the EBRPD to improve awareness of regional recreational facilities and parks among Albany residents, and to expand the regional park system for the benefit of all residents in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, including those in Albany. *(new)*

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Policy 5.6: Adjacent Cities. Continue to foster partnerships and joint use opportunities with the cities of Berkeley, Richmond, and El Cerrito to improve park and recreational services and ensure the most efficient use of local resources. *(PROS MP Action 6.2.1)*

See the Waterfront Element for a discussion of coordination with regional, state, and federal agencies on waterfront park improvements.

Policy 5.7: Program Development. Coordinate the development of recreational and community service programs with other agencies and organizations, including the School District, UC Village, the YMCA, and other service providers, to avoid redundancy and maximize the choices available to Albany residents. *(PROS MP Action 6.7.4)*

Possible Implementing Actions

Action 5.A: Tom Bates Sports Complex (Gilman Street Fields). Continue City support for joint powers agreements to operate sports facilities in nearby communities, including the Tom Bates Regional Sports Complex at the west end of Gilman Street in Berkeley. *(PROS MP Action 3.2.2)*

Action 5.B: Vista School. Work with the Albany Unified School District to explore improvements on the Vista School site which would augment the recreational options available to residents in the surrounding neighborhood *(PROS MP Action 1.4.1)*

Action 5.C: Cougar Field. Encourage the Albany Unified School District to improve and expand the use of Cougar Field to allow greater and more varied community use of the facility and to alleviate the overuse of Memorial Park Field *(PROS MP Action 1.5.2, Action 3.2.3)*

Action 5.D: Funding and Community Access Improvements at Veterans Memorial Building. Continue to explore potential funding sources for the maintenance, improvement, and acquisition of the Veterans Memorial Building, consistent with the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. Until the building can be acquired, the City will work with Alameda County on improving building operations and increasing community access. *(PROS MP Action 2.2.2, 1992 GP Pol CROS-6.5)*

Goal 6: TRAILS

Develop an integrated, comprehensive system of trails linking neighborhoods and schools to recreational facilities and open spaces, including the waterfront. (PROS MP Goal 5)

Policy 6.1: Trail Sustainability. Ensure that the planning and design of trails is sensitive to environmental protection priorities and issues such as sea level rise, habitat protection, and hillside erosion. If necessary, identify secondary alignments in the event trails must be seasonally closed for habitat protection purposes. (adapted from 92 GP Pol CROS-7.2, and expanded)

Policy 6.2: Connecting Trails. Focus trail development in Albany on improvements that connect existing pathway and trail systems and make it safer and easier to travel around the city on foot or by bicycle. (adapted from 92 GP Pol CROS-6.4)

See the Transportation Element for additional policies on trails and connectivity.

Policy 6.3: Trail Safety. Ensure that trails are designed to maximize user safety and reduce potential conflicts between pedestrians, bicycles, motor vehicles, and trains. (new)

See the Transportation Element for additional policies on trail safety.

Policy 6.4: Interpretive Signage. Encourage interpretive signage and other features which educate trail users about Albany's natural resources and history. (new)

Policy 6.5: Waterfront Access. Improve trail connections to the Albany waterfront, particularly between the Ohlone Greenway and the Bay Trail. (PROS MP Policy 5.2)

Policy 6.6: Bay Trail. Work cooperatively with appropriate agencies in completing local segments of the Bay Trail, including spur trails between the waterfront and Albany neighborhoods. The City supports the long-term vision of a continuous shoreline trail for non-motorized vehicles around San Francisco Bay. (PROS MP Pol 5.3)

See the Waterfront Element for additional policies on shoreline access and trail improvements.

Policy 6.7: Albany Hill. Maintain and expand the system of trails on Albany Hill, including connections between Creekside Park and the neighborhoods on the hill's perimeter. (PROS MP Policy 5.5, Action 5.5.2)

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Policy 6.8: Creek Trails. Coordinate trail planning and improvement programs for Cerrito and Codornices Creeks with the cities of Berkeley, Richmond and El Cerrito, non-profit organizations such as Friends of Five Creeks, and appropriate county, state and federal regulatory agencies. *(adapted from PROS MP Action 1.6.3 and 1.6.4; Pol 5.6)*

Policy 6.9: Transportation ROWs. Continue to support the enhancement of transportation rights-of-way (ROWs) for linear parks and trails, such as the Ohlone Greenway beneath the elevated BART line. *(adapted from PROS MP Policy 5.1)*

Policy 6.10: Mid-Block Paths. Maintain existing pathways that provide mid-block connections within neighborhoods, including Manor Way and Catherine's Walk. *(PROS MP Policy 5.4, Action 5.4.1 and 5.4.2)*

Possible Implementing Actions

Action 6.A: Bay Trail Improvements. Continue implementation of the Bay Trail Plan along the Albany shoreline, and ensure that provisions for Bay Trail spurs and improvements are included in any future plans for Golden Gate Fields. The City will work with landowners, appropriate citizen and environmental groups, the State Department of Parks and Recreation, Caltrans, the Regional Park District, the Coastal Conservancy, and ABAG to implement this action. *(92 GP Pol CROS-7.1)*

Action 6.B: Albany Hill Trails. Provide for a dedicated trail easement through the 11-acre parcel on the west side of Albany Hill, with connections between Pierce Street, the end of Hillside Avenue, and existing trails in Creekside Park. *(Creekside MP, LU Rec1; PROS MP Action 5.5.2)*

Action 6.C: Cerrito Creek Trail. Provide for a pedestrian bridge across Cerrito Creek between Albany Hill and the north side of the Creek in El Cerrito, consistent with the adopted Creekside Master Plan. Explore options to provide additional linear creek access between San Pablo Avenue and Albany Hill, including a potential future trail easement on the north end of the Orientation Center for the Blind property. *(Creekside MP, LU Rec 4 and 5-6; PROS MP Action 5.2.1, Action 1.6.2)*

Action 6.D: Codornices Creek Trail. Continue joint planning with the University of California and the City of Berkeley on improvements to the Codornices Creek Trail. Explore options for eventual spur connections to the Bay Trail. *(PROS MP Action 5.6.1)*

See the Transportation Element for additional policies and actions on connections between the waterfront and UC Village.

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- Action 6.E: Community-Based Creek Restoration.** Continue to support the work of Friends of Albany Hill, Friends of Five Creeks, and other community based organizations to enhance the open space and trail potential of Codornices Creek, Cerrito Creek, Village Creek, and other natural areas in the city. (new)
- Action 6.F: Ohlone Greenway.** Pursue improvements to the Ohlone Greenway, such as game courts, interpretive signage (historic, natural, cultural, etc.), tot lots, toddler play facilities, and community gardens, where appropriate and compatible with noise levels, nearby residences, and other design factors. (PROS MP, Action 5.1.1 and Pol 3.4)
- Action 6.G: Key Route Median.** Pursue trail improvements, landscaping, and other amenities on the Key Route Boulevard median between Solano Avenue and El Cerrito. (PROS MP Action 2.4.1)
- Action 6.H: Active Transportation Plan Updates.** Periodically update the Albany Active Transportation Plan to update information and plans for pedestrian and bicycle trails and pathways in and around the city. (adapted from 92 GP Pol CROS-6.3)