

## SECTION 6 – Recommendations

### 6.1 Introduction

This section of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan discusses the recommendations for the following categories:

Parks Map	6-8
Mini-Parks	6-9
Neighborhood Parks	6-12
Community Parks	6-17
Regional Parks	6-20
Special Use Areas	6-22
Linear Parks	6-28
Open Space Areas (Greenways)	6-31
Schools	6-34
Trails and Pathways	6-36
Sports Fields Facilities	6-40
Other Recreation Facilities	6-42
Management	6-43
Maintenance	6-45
Recreation Programs	6-47

### 6.2 Goals and Policies

During the process of developing the Master Plan, including the Public Visioning meeting, other public input, a review of the Albany General Plan, and an evaluation of unmet community needs and interests, six goals were formulated to serve as a framework for the plan. These goals are stated below, each with a set of policies which will aid in furthering the goal. The policies, in turn, are supported by a series of recommended City actions, which are listed in this Section for various park, recreation and open space sites and facilities as well as for management, facilities maintenance and recreation programming.

**GOAL 1:** Preserve, enhance and, where possible, expand park and open space areas in Albany. Make Albany a green environment that integrates nature into neighborhoods, protects and supports native habitat, and educates residents about local vegetation and wildlife.

#### Policies:

**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.

- 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.
- 1.3 **Existing Neighborhood Parks:** Maintain and enhance existing neighborhood parks.
- 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.
- 1.5 **Community Park:** Maintain and improve Memorial Park to serve as the community park for the whole city.
- 1.6 **Open Space:** Preserve and expand open space areas, and conserve their natural qualities.

**GOAL 2:** Make Albany a center for cultural and arts activities, with open space for art displays and musical performances. Beautify public space through public arts programs, landscaped boulevards and community gardens. Promote arts related activities.

**Policies:**

- 2.1 **Promotion of the Arts:** Actively engage in promotion of arts and culture in Albany through the following actions:
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

**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.

**Policies:**

- 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.
- 3.2 Other Sports Fields:** 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 3.7 Exercise programs:** Support outdoor exercise programs in parks throughout the city (including martial arts and other exercise activities).

**GOAL 4:** Promote public uses of the waterfront, providing for maximum natural open space and recreation.

**Policies:**

- 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.
- 4.2 City land:** Enhance and maintain waterfront land owned by the City, exclusive of the bulb area.

**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.

**Policies:**

- 5.1 Ohlone Greenway:** Rehabilitate and enhance the Ohlone Greenway.
- 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.
- 5.3 Bay Trail:** 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.
- 5.4 Neighborhood paths:** Maintain existing pathways that provide mid-block connections within neighborhoods.
- 5.5 Albany Hill trails:** Complete a system of trail connections to Albany Hill Park.
- 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.

**GOAL 6:** Make Albany a City that provides high quality services and inviting, well-kept facilities that foster public enjoyment.

**Policies:**

- 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.

- 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. Prioritize repair, rehabilitation and preventative maintenance.
- 6.3 **Maintenance:** Maintain park and recreation facilities in a manner to make them safe, attractive, and a positive part of their neighborhoods.
- 6.4 **Maintenance standards:** Establish maintenance standards for park and recreation facilities.
- 6.5 **Maintenance budgeting:** Provide funding to maintain existing park and recreation facilities at levels that meet the community’s expectations.
- 6.6 **Cost-saving strategies:** Implement maintenance cost savings strategies that do not sacrifice the quality and care of the parks.
- 6.7 **Recreation programming:** Evaluate recreation programs on an on-going basis, addressing the needs of all segments of the community and the degree to which programs are self-sufficient.

The park sites listed below are referenced to the parks map. The map is a graphic representation illustrating the overall concept for where future parks should be located in Albany.) A draft map locating existing and proposed park sites is shown on page 6-8. Some important notes about the map are discussed below.

1. A letter of the alphabet and number (such as N-12) defines each site on the map. The number is for site identification only and corresponds to text in this section. The letter represents the type of existing or proposed park and is identified on the following page:

M	Mini-Park
N	Neighborhood Park
C	Community Park
R	Regional Park
SU	Special Use Park
L	Linear Park
OS	Open Space Areas
S	School

2. On the map, an asterisk illustrates proposed park sites. The intent is to only show a general location of where a park site should be located. The actual location will be determined based on land availability, acquisition cost and the property owner’s willingness to sell.

3. Names are for **reference purposes only** and not yet approved by City staff, Parks and Recreation Commission or the City Council.

*Overall Concept:*

The “ideal park system” for Albany is one made up of a hierarchy of various park types, each offering certain amenities for recreation and/or open space opportunities. Separately, each park type may serve only one basic function, but collectively they will serve the entire needs of the community.

The proposed park system for Albany expands on the existing system of providing a neighborhood and/or a community park within a half-mile radius of most residents. The goal of this concept is to provide easily accessible park facilities by bicycle or foot traffic without crossing of major barriers, such as arterial streets and railways. To achieve this goal, one additional site will need to be secured in the northwest portion of the City.

Supplementing these local (community and neighborhood) parks will be a regional park (operated by East Bay Regional Park District), specialized recreation areas (community center, child care and senior center), linear parks (including trails) and open space areas that serve the entire community.

With two neighborhood parks and one community park, the City already has a strong foundation with its current park system to expand upon this proposed concept. Subsequent development of the Eastshore State Park and other recreational facilities may satisfy a portion of the need for specialized facilities and areas (e.g., trails and sport fields).

Because of the lack of developable land, a major emphasis should be placed on developing non-traditional public and private “recreational” spaces, such as urban environments (plazas, cafes, etc.) and pedestrian corridors.

*Facility Index:*

The purpose of the table below is to provide a quick reference locating the discussion on specific facilities.

**Table 6.1**  
Index of Individual Facility-Recommendations - **Existing**  
Albany Planning Area

Site Number	Park Name	Page Number
S-4	Albany Adult School	6-34
SU-18	Albany Community Center	6-25
S-6	Albany High School	6-34
OS-11a	Albany Hill Park	6-33
S-3	Cougar Field	6-34
SU-16	Albany Senior Center	6-24
L-13	Catherine's Walk	6-30
SU-9	Childcare Center	6-24
OS-26	Codornices Creek Restoration	6-33
S-17	Cornell Elementary School	6-35
OS-2	Creekside Park	6-33
M-29	Dartmouth Tot Lot	6-11
R-14	Eastshore State Park	6-21
SU-24	Fielding Fields	6-25
L-32	Manor Walk	6-30
S-30	Marin Elementary School	6-35
C-7	Memorial Park	6-18
S-19	Ocean View Elementary School	6-35
N-20	Ocean View Park	6-15
L-15	Ohlone Greenway	6-30
SU-35	Preschool Building	6-24
S-33	St. Mary's College High School	6-35
N-31	Terrace Park	6-16
SU-23	UC Village –Community Gardens	6-26
M-22	UC Village –Dowling Park	6-16
SU-28	UC Village –Gill Tract	6-26
M-25	UC Village –Playground	6-10
SU-27	UC Village –Field Relocation	6-26
SU-8	Veteran' Memorial Building	6-23
L-21	Waterfront Trail Park	6-30

**Table 6.2**  
Index of Individual Facility Recommendations - **Proposed**  
Albany Planning Area

Site Number	Park Name	Page Number
OS-11b	Albany Hill Trail Easement	6-33
OS-1	Cerrito Creek Restoration	6-32
L-5	Key Route Median	6-29
N-12a	Vista Neighborhood Park	6-14
N-12b	Pierce Street Park	6-13
SU-34	Gilman Street Field Project	6-27





**Mini Parks**

**Definition:** Mini-parks, tot lots and children's playgrounds are all small, single purpose play lots designed primarily for usage by young children and parents. Due to their size, the facilities are usually limited to a small open grass area, a children's playground and a small picnic area.

*Current Conditions:*

1. **Existing Conditions:**
  - a. Currently, there are three mini-parks in the Albany planning area. Two of these are owned by the City of Albany.
2. **Service Areas:**
  - a. Service Area: According to NRPA standards, the service radius for a mini-park is considered to be about a ¼-mile radius.
  - b. Size: Based on NRPA standards, typical mini-park ranges between 0.25 - 1.0 acres.

*Design and Development Policies:*

While larger neighborhood parks are more desirable, these types of parks may be appropriate due to the lack of available land in some areas.

1. **General Land Use Guidelines:**
  - a. Refer to the City's General Plan for specific land use and conservation polices related to public lands. (The applicable General Plan goals and policies are stated in Appendix E)
2. **Site Selection Criteria:**
  - a. While there is no size requirement for mini-parks, the minimum size should be at least 5,000-7,500 square feet.
  - b. The site should be central to the area it serves.
  - c. The site should be reasonably flat and usable and have the ability to support active uses.
  - d. If possible, walking distance should not exceed one-quarter mile, and not require crossing of arterial streets, or other barriers.

*Recommendations:*

The following are recommendations for existing and future mini-parks in the Albany area. The table below summarizes the recommendations for mini-parks.

1. **Summary of Recommendations:**

**Table 6.3**  
Summary of Mini-Park Recommendations  
Albany Planning Area

Park Number	Site	Existing Acres/ Proposed Acres	Action
M-26	UC Village – Playground	0.44	No recommendation
<b>M-30</b>	<b>Dartmouth Tot Lot</b>	0.07	Minor Improvements
<b>Total</b>		<b>0.51</b>	

Note: Bold sites are in City ownership

Existing Acres = 0.51 Acres  
Proposed Acres = 0.00 Acres

2. **Specific Improvements:**

**UC Village - Playground** **Site M-25**

Because this is owned and operated by the University of California, no recommendations have been made for this site. This is a relatively new facility and is intended to serve residents of University Village.

Dartmouth Tot Lot

Site M-29

This site is located at the corner of Dartmouth Street and Talbot Avenue. Current facilities at the site are limited to a children’s playground area. As a result, only minor improvements are recommended for this site. This would include:

Actions: Provide the following improvements:

- Replace the playground equipment
- Repair the drinking fountain
- Improve the signage
- Explore the feasibility of acquiring the adjacent lots in an effort to expand the recreational opportunities at this site. If this occurs, a picnic area and shelter building could be provided.



**Neighborhood Parks**

**Definition:** *Neighborhood parks are a combination playground and park, designed primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities. They are generally small in size (about 5 acres) and serve an area of approximately one-half mile radius. Typically, facilities found in a neighborhood park include a children’s playground, picnic areas, trails, open grass areas for passive use, outdoor basketball courts and multi-use sport fields for soccer, and Little League baseball. Optimum size is between 3 and 7 acres.*

*Current Conditions:*

**1. Existing Conditions:**

- a. Currently, there are three neighborhood parks, two of which are owned by the City of Albany. The two owned by the City are Ocean View Park and Terrace Park.

**2. Service Areas:**

- a. Service Area: The service radius for a neighborhood park is generally considered to be a half-mile radius
- b. Size: The NRPA standard for a neighborhood park is generally 3-7 acres. In Albany, the service standard is 1.3 to 3.6 acres.

*Design and Development Policies:*

**1. General Land Use Guidelines:**

- a. Refer to the City’s General Plan for specific land use and conservation policies related to public lands. (The applicable General Plan goals and policies are stated in Appendix E.)

**2. Site Selection Criteria:**

- a. Neighborhood parks should be no smaller than about three acres in size. If located next to or on a school site, the size may be reduced to 1-2 acres, depending on the existing school configuration.
- b. The site should be reasonably central to the neighborhood it is intended to serve.
- c. If possible, walking or bicycling distance should not exceed one-half mile for the area it serves. Access routes should minimize physical barriers and crossing of major arterials, freeways and railroads.
- d. The site should be visible from adjoining streets.
- e. Access to the site should be via a local residential street. The park should maximize street frontage to improve visibility, access and security. If located on a busy street, incorporate buffers and/or barriers appropriate to reduce vehicular hazards.

*Recommendations:*

The following are recommendations for existing and future neighborhood parks in the Albany area. The table on the following page summarizes the recommendations for neighborhood parks.

1. **Summary of Recommendations:**

**Table 6.4**  
Summary of Neighborhood Park Recommendations  
Albany Planning Area

Park Number	Site	Existing Acres/ (Proposed Acres)	Action
N-12a	Pierce Street Park (P)	(4.14)	Acquire/Plan/Develop
N-12b	Vista Neighborhood Park (P)	(2.00)	Acquire/Plan/Develop
<b>N-20</b>	<b>Ocean View Park</b>	3.61	Major Rehabilitation
M-22	UC Village – Dowling Park	1.70	No Action
<b>N-31</b>	<b>Terrace Park</b>	1.32	Minor Improvements
	<b>Total – Option A</b>	<b>8.63</b>	
	<b>Total – Option B</b>	<b>10.77</b>	

Note: Bold sites are in City ownership

<b>Existing Acres</b>	=	<b>6.63 Acres</b>
<b>Proposed Acres</b>		
<b>Option A=</b>		<b>2.00 Acres</b>
<b>Option B =</b>		<b>4.14 Acres</b>

2. **Specific Improvements:**

**Pierce Street Park (Proposed) Site N-12a**

The neighborhood park service area analysis revealed a need for a neighborhood park in this area of the city. This is one of two alternative sites that could serve the neighborhood park function in the northwest portion of the City.

At one time, this 4.14-acre parcel served as an off ramp from Interstate 80. However, the freeway connections have since been removed. As part of the Cal Trans mitigation plan, a sound wall was to be constructed through the property and a one-half acre mini-park was to be constructed to serve the neighborhood. This project was dropped in favor of developing the entire site into a park. The City is currently in the process of getting appraisals for the property.

Action: Continue to explore the feasibility of acquiring former freeway right-of-way (up to 4.14 acres for neighborhood park development including a part of a pedestrian bike trail linkage with the Bay Trail, community gardens, a natural open space area or other possibilities

**Vista Neighborhood Park (Proposed)**

**Site N-12b**

While the Vista School site is perfectly located and of ideal size to serve this function, it is unclear whether the site is available for redevelopment or how long the existing lease is with the current occupant. Both of these factors could influence the City's policy decisions for serving this neighborhood.

Action: 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.

**Ocean View Park**

**Site N-20**

This site is located off Buchanan Street adjacent to Ocean View Elementary School. Existing facilities include the Bill Lewis Teen Center, a lighted softball field, two tennis courts, a basketball court, a picnic area, an open play area, a parking area with 25+ spaces and 8' wide paved pathway. There are also plans underway to develop a small restroom building to support the use of the park.

Nearly all elements of the park require some type of renovation and/or upgrading in order to bring them up to an acceptable level. Furthermore, much of the park's infrastructure (e.g., utilities and drainage) requires improvement.

Throughout the planning process, there has been some discussion about redeveloping the entire site to improve the functionality of the site as well as address the quality of the facilities. However, after lengthy discussions, it was determined the best approach would be to modify the existing amenities because of the cost associated with the replacing the entire facility.

It is recommended that, prior to any renovation work, improvements, a development plan be prepared to

address, through a public process, the cohesiveness of the park and to ensure that the site will fulfill the neighborhood park function once completed.

Actions: Provide the following improvements:

- Reconstruct playfield (drainage, irrigation, grading)
- Replace field lighting
- Replace children’s playground area
- Construct a new picnic shelter
- Develop a permanent restroom building
- Add a new drinking fountain
- Thin existing trees; add new trees and landscaping, including improvement of visual relationship to Buchanan Street.
- Resurface tennis courts
- Resurface pathways
- Add support facilities (e.g., signage, bike racks, waste receptacles, benches and picnic tables).
- 

**UC Village - Dowling Park**

**Site M-22**

Since this is owned and operated by the University of California, no recommendations have been made for this site. This site currently serves the University Village and will be removed as part of step 2 of the village redevelopment.

Terrace Park

Site N-31

Terrace Park is located off Terrace Street, between Neilson Street and Peralta Avenue. Facilities at the site include two tennis courts, a basketball court, a picnic area, a children’s playground area, a perimeter pathway, and restroom building. In general, the park is in fair condition. However, several components require renovation and/or improvements.

Actions: Provide the following improvements:

- Renovate restroom building
- Replace turf and drainage system
- Upgrade irrigation system
- Upgrade picnic area
- Resurface basketball court and interior paving
- Replace pathway
- Add landscaping





**Community Parks**

**Definition:** *A community park is planned primarily to provide active and structured recreation opportunities. In general, community park facilities are designed for organized activities and sports, although individual and family activities are also encouraged. Community parks serve a much larger area and offer more facilities. As a result, they require more in terms of support facilities such as parking, restrooms, and covered play areas. Community parks usually have sport fields or similar facilities as the central focus of the park. Their service area is roughly a 1-2 mile radius. Optimum size is between 10 and 20 acres.*

*Current Conditions:*

1. **Existing Conditions:**
  - a. Although somewhat smaller than what is normally recommended, Memorial Park is the only community park in the Albany area.
2. **Service Area:**
  - a. Service Area: The service radius for a community park is about a 1.0-mile radius.
  - b. Size: 5 to 10 acres

*Design and Development Policies:*

1. **General Land Use Guidelines:**
  - a. Refer to the City's General Plan for specific land use and conservation policies related to public lands. (The applicable General Plan goals and policies are stated in Appendix E).
2. **Site Selection Criteria:**

*Since no new sites of this type have been identified for acquisition or development, no criteria have been cited.*

*Recommendations:*

The following are recommendations for existing community parks in the Albany area. The table shown below summarizes the recommendations for community parks.

1. **Summary of Recommendations:**

**Table 6.6**  
Summary of Community Park Recommendations  
Albany Planning Area

Park Number	Site	Existing Acres/ Proposed Acres	Action
C-7	<b>Memorial Park</b>	6.75	Major rehabilitation
<b>Total</b>		<b>6.75</b>	

Note: Bold sites are in City ownership

Existing Acres = 6.75 Acres  
Proposed Acres = 0.00 Acres

2. **Specific Improvements:**

**Memorial Park**

**Site C-7**

A master plan was prepared for this site in 1998. Phase I improvements were completed in 2004, which included a new children’s playground area, pathways, turf and irrigation improvements in the southern portion of the park.

Actions:

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:

- Develop a new entry promenade
- Reconstruct the ball field (turf, irrigation, drainage)
- Renovate other turf
- Improve the picnic area (tables and pads)
- Add trees and landscaping
- Improve perimeter sidewalks
- Install new support facilities (e.g., signage, bike racks, waste receptacles, benches, including benches at the tennis courts)

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 Memorial Park field.

3. Other activities: 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, community celebrations, etc.

**Regional Parks**

**Definition:** Regional parks are recreational areas serving the city and beyond. They are usually large in size and often include one specific use or feature that makes them unique. Typically, use focuses on passive types of recreational activities. Those located within urban areas sometimes offer a wider range of facilities and activities.

*Current Conditions:*

1. **Existing Conditions:**

- a. Currently, there is one regional park in the planning area. This site is owned by the State of California and is managed by the East Bay Regional Park District

2. **Service Area:**

- b. Service Area: Entire community and beyond
- c. Size: 100+ acres

*Design and Development Policies:*

1. **General Land Use Guidelines:**

- a. Refer to the City’s General Plan for specific land use and conservation policies related to public Lands and/or the Albany Waterfront. (The applicable General Plan goals and policies are stated in Appendix E).

2. **Site Selection Criteria:**

*Since no new sites of this type have been identified for acquisition or development, no criteria has been cited.*

*Recommendations:*

The following are recommendations for regional parks in the Albany area. The table below summarizes the recommendations for regional parks.

1. **Summary of Recommendations:**

**Table 6.6**  
Summary of Regional Park Recommendations  
Albany Planning Area

Park Number	Site	Existing Acres/ Proposed Acres	Action
R-14	Eastshore State Park	160.00	Coordination
<b>Total</b>			

Existing Acres = 160.00 Acres  
Proposed Acres = 0.00 Acres

2. Specific Improvements:

**Eastshore State Park**

**Site R-14**

Eastshore State Park is owned by the State of California and managed by the East Bay Regional Parks District.

Actions: Take the following actions in the development of the park.

- Complete transfer of the Albany “Bulb” to the State of California.
- Coordinate with the East Bay Regional Park District to implement the master plan for the site.
- Explore alternatives for securing additional waterfront property

***Special Use Areas***

***Definition:*** *Special use areas are miscellaneous public recreation areas or land occupied by a specialized facility. Some of the uses falling into this classification include special purpose areas, waterfront parks, community gardens, single purpose sites used for field sports or sites occupied by buildings.*

*Current Conditions:*

**1. Existing Conditions:**

Currently, there are eight special use areas in the Albany planning area. Six of these are owned by the City of Albany, and two are located outside the Albany planning area.

**2. Service Area:**

- a. Service Area: City-wide
- b. Size: Varies

*Design and Development  
Policies:*

**1. General Land Use Guidelines:**

- a. Refer to the City's General Plan for specific land use and conservation policies related to public lands. (The applicable General Plan goals and policies are stated in Appendix E.).

**2. Site Selection Criteria:**

- a. Size and location of facility will depend on the function of the facility considered. Due to the lack of available land, parcels with less than optimal acreage may be the only opportunities available.

*Recommendations:*

The following are recommendations for special use areas in the Albany area. The table below summarizes the recommendations for special use areas.

1. **Summary of Recommendations:**

**Table 6.7**  
Summary of Special Use Area Recommendations  
Albany Planning Area

Park Number	Site	Existing Acres/ Proposed Acres	Action
SU-8	Veterans' Memorial Building	-	Acquire/Renovate
SU-35	<b>Pre School Building</b>	-	Minor Improvements
SU-9	<b>Childcare Building</b>	-	No Action
SU-16	<b>Albany Senior Center</b>	1.04	Minor improvements
SU-18	<b>Albany Community Center</b>	0.25	Minor improvements
SU-23	UC Village – Community Gardens	3.54	No Action
SU-24	Fielding Fields	10.29	No Action
SU-27	UC Village – Recreation Center and Playfields	6.08	No Action
SU-28	UC Village – Gill Tract (P)	8.65	No Action
SU-34	Gilman St. Field Project (P)	16.00	Coordination
<b>Total</b>		<b>45.85</b>	

Note: Bold sites are in City ownership

Existing Acres = 21.20 Acres  
Proposed Acres = 24.65 Acres

2. **Specific Improvements:**

*“The Veteran’s Building is an under-used resource in the community”*

*--Community Member--*

**Veterans’ Memorial Building** **Site SU-8**

The building itself offers a number of opportunities for lease space (service groups, private organizations, school district) and recreation programming for the Recreation and Community Services Department (general interest classes, exercise/aerobics, etc.). However, in order to maximize program potential the building would benefit from remodeling and the purchase of additional supplies and materials.

Actions:

- Evaluate existing uses and obligations to current users (i.e. Veterans, Boy and Girl Scouts)

- Review and develop funding sources for building maintenance and project revenues from existing and anticipated use fees
- Explore funding sources for necessary upgrades to augment Measure F monies
- Review structural improvements and additions (i.e. outdoor patio space)
- Complete a transfer of ownership from the County to the City
- Undertake seismic, access and other necessary upgrades
- 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.
- Plan adaptive upgrades to the building relative to the programs to be housed there

**Pre School Building**

**Site SU-35**

This facility is located on Masonic Avenue.

Actions: Retrofit the building for seismic improvements and make other minor renovations.

**Albany Senior Center**

**Site SU-16**

This structure is located on Masonic Avenue. Currently, facilities at the site are limited to a senior center.

Actions Upgrade the building to include a new roof and minor rehabilitation.

**Childcare Center**

**Site SU- 9**

This structure is located within Memorial Park. The City operates a state-licensed, after school childcare program for children in first through fifth grade. No recommendations are being proposed at this time.



**Albany Community Center**

**Site SU-18**

This structure is located at the corner of Masonic Avenue and Marin Avenue. Currently, facilities at the site are limited to a community center, library and parking area. The Recreation and Community Services Department is also located in this facility.

Actions:

- Refurbish wood floors
- Upgrade the perimeter landscaping



**UC Village – Community Gardens**

**Site SU-23**

Since this site is owned and operated by the University of California, no recommendations have been made for this property. This area will remain as part of the University Village redevelopment.

**Fielding Fields**

**Site SU-24**

This site is owned by the University of California and maintained by the Association of Sports Field Users. No recommendations have been made for this site. The City has recently authorized spending \$95,000 from Measure R Ball Field funds to help with ball field modifications necessary for the Codornices Creek project.

**UC Field Relocation**

**Site SU-27**

Since this is owned and operated by the University of California, no recommendations have been made for this site. These facilities may be relocated as part of step 3 of the Village redevelopment.

Action: Cooperate with the University of California, local sports 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.

**UC Village Gill Tract**

**Site SU-28**

Similar to the other University properties, this site is owned and operated by the University of California. Currently undeveloped, the site has been designated by the University as the new location for the Village Recreation Center and ball fields.

Action: Acquire is possible, and if not coordinate planning with University of California for mutually beneficial uses for this area. Seek to accommodate multiple recreation uses of the site with particular consideration for protection of the natural environmental features, including significant trees and the Village Creek habitat. Consult with the community concerning combinations of 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.

- Baseball/softball fields (relocation) and recreation center for Village residents
- Performance venue such as an amphitheatre or band shell with picnic accommodations
- Urban agricultural activity such as a community garden, demonstration organic farm or eco-park, with related educational programs, in coordination with the school district or foundation partnerships
- Museum space for local history

**Gilman Street Fields**

**Site SU-34**

This site is located outside of the City of Albany, south of Gilman Street and the Golden Gate Fields property, west of Interstate 80.

Action: 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 the project.

**Linear Parks**

**Definition:** Linear parks are developed landscaped areas and other lands that follow linear corridors, such as abandoned railroad right-of-ways, canals, power lines and other elongated features. This type of park usually contains trails, landscaped areas, viewpoints and seating areas.

*Current Conditions:*

**1. Existing Conditions:**

Currently, there are no linear parks in the Albany planning area.

**2. Service Area:**

- a. Service Area: Citywide.
- b. Size: Varies

*Design and Development  
Policies:*

**1. General Land Use Guidelines:**

- a. Refer to the City's General Plan for specific land use and conservation polices related to public lands. (The applicable General Plan goals and policies are stated in Appendix E).

**2. Site Selection Criteria:**

- a. Linear parks should generally follow utility, railways or other linear corridors. In some instances, they can be located adjacent to roadways/railways as long as there is adequate space for a separated median or buffer area.
- b. Linear parks should be at least 25 to 50 feet wide. However, in some instances, narrower corridors will be accepted.

*Recommendations:* The following are recommendations for linear parks in the Albany area. The table below summarizes the recommendations for linear parks.

1. **Summary of Recommendations:**

**Table 6.8**  
Summary of Linear Park Recommendations  
Albany Planning Area

Park Number	Site	Existing Acres/ Proposed Acres	Action
L-5	<b>Key Route Median (P)</b>	1.40	Planning, and Development
L-14	<b>Catherine’s Walk</b>	0.02	Planning and Development
L-15	<b>Ohlone Greenway</b>	8.89	Upgrade
L-21	<b>Waterfront Trail Park</b>	0.30	Upgrade
L-32	<b>Manor Walk</b>	0.11	Upgrade
<b>Total</b>		<b>10.72</b>	

Note: Bold sites are in City ownership. A portion of Key Route is owned by AUSD.

Existing Acres = 9.32 Acres  
Proposed Acres = 1.40 Acres

2. **Specific Improvements:**

**Key Route Median (Proposed) Site L-5**

Currently, this site consists of a large median located in the center of Key Route Boulevard, extending from Solano Avenue on the South to the El Cerrito border on the North.

Action: Redevelop the median into a linear park equipped with a trail, landscaping and site amenities.

**Catherine’s Walk**

**Site L-13**

This is a small corridor on the south side of Albany Hill. Facilities at the site are limited to a walkway with stairs and some remnant vegetation.

Actions: Prepare a plan for this site to include safety improvements and a maintenance plan.

**Ohlone Greenway**

**Site L-15**

This site lies adjacent to Masonic Avenue and follows the course of the BART tracks. It stretches from the El Cerrito city limits to the Berkeley city limits.

Actions: 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 new lighting system throughout the length of the Greenway
- Basic upgrades including an automatic irrigation system and general landscape improvements
- Specialized trail surfaces for bicycles, running and walking
- Game courts
- An interpretive trail, historic, natural or artistic.
- Native plantings
- Community gardens
- Play structures. (Tots)

**Waterfront Trail Park**

**Site L-21**

This is a linear park lying within a portion of the right-of-way of Buchanan Street, between properties of the Eastshore State Park and Golden Gate Fields. The park contains a segment of the Bay Trail.

Actions: 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.

**Manor Walk**

**Site L-32**

Actions: Make minor improvements, including landscaping and pavement repair or replacement.

***Open Space Areas***

*is defined as undeveloped land primarily left in its natural environment with recreation uses as a secondary objective. It is usually owned or managed by a governmental agency and may or may not have public access. This type of land often includes wetlands, steep hillsides or other similar spaces. In some cases, environmentally sensitive areas are considered as open space and can include wildlife habitats, stream and creek corridors, or unique and/or endangered plant species.*

*Current Conditions:*

**1. Existing Conditions:**

- a. In the Albany area, there is one existing area that falls under the natural open space category.

**2. Service Areas:**

- a. There is no defined service area for open space. Service area is determined by its intended purpose such as separation of neighborhoods, preservation of environmentally sensitive areas and steep hillsides.

*Design and Development  
Policies:*

**1. General Land Use Guidelines:**

- a. Refer to the City's General Plan for specific land use and conservation policies related to public lands. (The applicable General Plan goals and policies are stated in Appendix E).
- b. Creek conservation zone consists of a 200' wide corridor (100' from center line of creek).

**2. Site Selection Criteria:**

- a. Emphasis should be placed on those areas offering unique features or have the potential to be lost to development.
- b. An analysis should be made to determine if unique qualities and conditions exist that warrant the acquisition of the site for open space.
- c. Areas difficult or impossible to develop should have a low priority of acquisition. Other mechanisms should be used to maintain the preservation of these areas.

**Definition:** *Natural open space*

Recommendations:

1. Summary of Recommendations:

**Table 6.9**  
Summary of Open Space Recommendations  
Albany Planning Area

Park Number	Site	Existing Acres/ Proposed Acres	Action
OS-1	Cerrito Creek Restoration	8.40	Planning
OS-2	<b>Creekside Park</b>	5.11	Planning
OS-11a	<b>Albany Hill Park (public)</b>	12.75	Planning
OS-11b	Albany Hill Trail Easement	10.01	Coordination
OS-26	Codornices Creek Restoration	7.90	Planning
<b>Total</b>		<b>44.17</b>	

Note: Bold sites are in City ownership

Existing Acres = 27.87 Acres  
Proposed Acres = 16.30 Acres

2. Specific Improvements:

**Cerrito Creek Restoration** **Site OS-1**

This site follows the northern boundary of the city limits.

This City’s current General Plan recommends land along Cerrito Creek be conserved (100-foot wide corridor, measured south of the creek centerline per Creek Conservation Zone identified in the General Plan) for wildlife habitat and the development of a multi-purpose trail.

**Action:** 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 creek corridor. Consider alternatives to the current design of the storm water retention facility.



**Creekside Park**

**Site OS-2**

This site lies adjacent to Albany Hill Park at the base of Albany Hill. Currently, there are no facilities at this site.

Actions:

- Implement the Albany Hill-Creekside Park Master Plan, including signage, benches, and vegetation management
- Consider the desirability and feasibility of a connection across Cerrito Creek to link with the Cerrito Creek Bay Trail connector
- Coordinate development with the City of El Cerrito for each city's Creekside Park.

**Albany Hill Park**

**Site OS-1 1a**

Actions:

- Explore options for acquiring additional lands contiguous to the park
- 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 Trail Easement**

**Site OS-1 1b**

See "Albany Hill Trails" listing, Site T-3

**Codornices Creek Restoration**

**Site OS-26**

This site follows the southern boundary of the city limits.

This City's current General Plan recommends land along Codornices Creek is conserved (100-foot wide corridor, measured south of the creek centerline per Creek Conservation Zone identified in the General Plan) for wildlife habitat and the development of a multi-purpose trail.

Action: Complete the coordinated program to realign and landscape the creek corridor with the City of Berkeley and the University of California.

**School Play Areas**

**Table 6.10**  
Summary of School Recommendations  
Albany Planning Area

Park Number	Site	Existing Acres/ Proposed Acres	Action
S-3	Cougar Field	4.18	Pursue use agreement for Cougar Field
S-4	Albany Adult School	0.77	No Action
S-6	Albany High School	4.20	No Action
S-17	Cornell Elementary School	2.69	No Action
S-19	Ocean View Elementary School	4.30	No Action
S-30	Marin Elementary School	2.63	No Action
S-33	St Mary's High School	13.87	No Action
<b>Total</b>		<b>32.64</b>	

Existing Acres = 32.64 Acres  
Proposed Acres = 0.00 Acres

**Cougar Field** **Site 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.

**Albany Adult School** **Site S-4**

Since this site is owned and operated by the Albany School District, no recommendations have been made.

**Albany High School** **Site S-6**

It is recommended the City work with the school district to coordinate use of school facilities for community use.

**Cornell Elementary School**

**Site S-17**

Since this site is owned and operated by the Albany School District, no recommendations have been made.

**Ocean View Elementary School**

**Site S-19**

Coordinate with the School District to upgrade facilities on the school property in exchange for community use.

**Marin Elementary School**

**Site S-30**

Since this site is owned and operated by the Albany Unified School District, no recommendations have been made.

**St Mary's High School**

**Site S-33**

Since this site is privately owned and operated, no recommendations have been made. However, the City should approach the school regarding the use and availability of their outdoor sport facilities.

## 6.4 Trails and Pathways

*Trails and pathways are designed to provide walking, bicycling, equestrian, and other non-motorized recreational opportunities. By providing linkages to other areas and facilities, they can provide non-vehicular options for travel throughout the community. Trails can be designed for a single or multiple types of users. The trails and pathways emphasized here are those that are recreational and multiple uses in nature. Bike routes with more emphasis on transportation are not included in this definition.*

*Trails may be either unsurfaced or treated with a variety of hard surfacing materials including concrete, asphalt or granite chips. Unsurfaced trails may be left in their natural condition or supplemented with gravel, bark chips, sand or other material. Surfacing will be dependent upon the soil type, slopes, type of use and amount of use.*

### 1. Existing Conditions:

- a. In Albany, there is one multi-use pathway, which is not part of any internal park pathways or internal trails. All totaled, there are 2.0 miles of paved pathways in the Albany area.

### 2. Service Areas:

- a. The service area for trails depends on its primary function. It may be regional in nature and connect to other communities or be local and designed to serve a neighborhood only.

### *Design and Development Policies:*

#### 1. General Land Use Guidelines:

- a. Refer to the City's General Plan for specific transportation policies related to public lands. (The applicable General Plan goals and policies are stated in Appendix E)

#### 2. Site Selection Criteria:

- a. Trail easements or dedications need to be secured in order to complete trail segments and the overall network.
- b. Whenever possible, recreation pathways and trails should be separated from the roadway and designed to minimize potential conflicts between motorists and trail users.
- c. Pathways/trails (including on-street bikeways) should be looped and interconnected to provide a variety of trail lengths and destinations.

- e. Enhance accessibility wherever possible, with high priority being given to trails with convenient trailheads.
- f. Pathways (including on-street bikeway) should be developed throughout the community to provide linkages to schools, parks, and other significant destination points. .

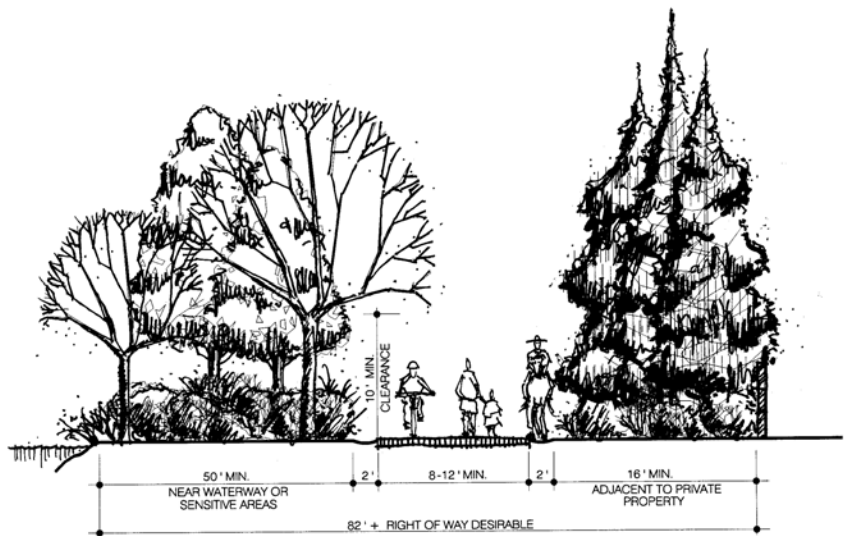


FIGURE 6.1  
Off-Street Multi-Purpose Trail

The primary purpose of the trails and pathway system is to provide recreational walking, bicycling and hiking opportunities. This does not negate that these same trails may not also meet some transportation needs as well.

- d. Trails should be located and designed to provide a diversity of challenges. Applicable to trails on Albany Hill.

1. Summary of Recommendations:

**Table 6.11**  
Summary of Trail Recommendations  
Albany Planning Area

Trail Number	Site	Length in Feet		Type
		(Miles)	[Proposed]	
T-1	Cerrito Creek -Bay Trail Connector	[4,900]		Pave
T-2	Bay Trail	5,400	[3,500]	Pave
	Eastshore Connection	[700]		Pave
	Eastshore Bulb Extension	[2,300]		Pave
T-3	Albany Hill Trails	[3,600]		Remain unpaved
T-4	Waterfront Trail	[5,600]		Pave
T-5	Ohlone Greenway Trail	5,900		Pave
T-6	Key Route Median Trail	[2,800]		Pave
T-7	Codornices Creek Trail	[8,900]		Pave
<b>Total</b>		<b>38,600 LF</b>		<b>(7.31 Miles)</b>

2. Specific Improvements:

**Cerrito Creek Bay Trail Connector (proposed) T-1**

Participate with other agencies in developing trail links between El Cerrito Plaza and the Bay Trail. The Albany portions include:

- A connection generally by way of Pierce Street to the Buchanan overcrossing.
- Re-alignment of the existing connection from the Buchanan overcrossing to the Bay Trail on the west side of I-580

**Bay Trail T-2**

Action: 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.

*“Establishing a presence at the Waterfront Trail will help reduce vandalism”*

*--Community Member--*

**Albany Hill Trails (proposed)**

**T-3**

**Actions:** Complete a system of trail connections to Albany Hill Park.

1. From Creekside Park: Upgrade the existing trail from Creekside Park to the top of the hill.
2. To Pierce Street: 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.

**Ohlone Greenway Park Trail**

**T-5**

Resurface pathways for walkers/runners and bicycles beneath BART tracks. (Also see L-15)



**Key Route Median Trail**

**T-6**

Develop trail along Key Route median. (See L-5)

**Codornices Creek Trail**

**T-7**

**Actions:** 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 and routes, including potential connections to the Bay Trail. (Also see OS-26)

## 6.5 Sports Field Facilities

*Sport fields are designed to provide practice, league and tournament play opportunities. They can be designed specifically for one sport, such as soccer or baseball or be designed to accommodate multi-uses.*

*General Guidelines:*

1. **General Guidelines:**
  - a. Offer organized sport programs where they are not provided by other organizations.
  - b. Provide fields and facilities based on the historical use pattern and the community’s needs.
  - c. Evaluate sport programs in terms of persons served, overall community interests and costs.
  - d. Develop a facility use agreement with local agencies and organizations that will maximize facility use and promote centralized scheduling.
  - e. Develop policies and procedures for field usage and scheduling priorities.
  - f. Develop policies for field closure, rest and rotation.

Field sports are important recreation facilities in Albany. At the current time there is considerable need for various types of sport fields. It is important to recognize that the existing fields identified below have been inventoried based on their use.

The Recreation Needs Assessment revealed the following demand for sport fields:

**Table 6.12**  
Existing and Future Sport Field Needs  
Albany Planning Area

Field Type	Existing Inventory	Build-out Demand	Additional Need
Baseball/Softball Fields	6	7	1
Soccer Fields	4	6	2

The above needs are based on normal amounts of league play and practice and reflect demand based on Albany residents only. The demand will be satisfied by the development of fields on the future special use sites.



*Recommendations:*

In an effort to meet all of the sport field needs, particularly places for practice, it is recommended the City work with the school district to upgrade and/or expand fields at school sites. While these fields would primarily be used for practice, they need to be upgraded and maintained at a better level in order to ensure safe playing conditions.

To meet future sport field needs, the table on the following table re-allocates and distributes the fields.

**1. Specific Recommendations:**

**Table 6.13**  
Re-Allocation of Sports Fields  
Albany Planning Area

	Existing			Proposed	
	Baseball/ Softball	Soccer		Baseball/ Softball	Soccer
<b>Existing</b>					
Memorial Park	1	1		1	1
Ocean View Park	1	1		1	1
Fielding Fields	1	2		1	2
UC Village Playfields	2			2	
Albany Middle School	1			1	
<b>Proposed</b>					
Gilman Street Fields				3 <sup>1</sup>	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>

<sup>1</sup> Three fields are proposed for development which will help to fulfill Albany’s long-term obligation for soccer and baseball fields based on the proposed demand standards.

For new fields, sites should be selected with consideration of shielding users from automotive pollution. In each case, consider the costs and benefits of the uses of artificial turf and night lighting as a means of expanding the usability of fields.

## 6.6 Other Types of Recreational Facilities

1. **Mini Parks**  
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 greenway areas.
2. **Aquatic Facilities:** No recommendations for aquatic facilities have been proposed because of the high cost of development and presence of the existing swimming pool located at Albany High School.
3. **Miscellaneous Areas: Urban Spaces:** Seek opportunities to create publicly accessible plaza areas or mini-parks within business districts, either as public projects or as amenities of private projects.
4. **Landscaped Areas:** The City should explore every opportunity for developing and maintaining City beautification areas and street median/triangles.
5. **General:** Upon further analysis, if it is determined a major indoor competitive pool is needed; it is recommended the City should explore this option as a potential regional collaboration similar to the Gilman Street Sport Fields project.

## 6.7 Management

The management policies are intended to provide general guidelines for the administration and management of recreation and leisure services programs.

*Recommendations:*

Consolidating Park and Recreation Services was discussed and while many communities have park maintenance and recreation services combined into one department, it was determined that this is not a viable option for the City of Albany due to the City's small size. The existing maintenance staff performs a variety of tasks that deal with not only parks, but also storm drains, sewers and streets. Consolidating services under one department sometimes offers efficiencies in coordinating both park operations and recreation programs. Albany is a better served with an organizational structure in which multiple services are performed by maintenance staff for efficient supervision and deployment of resources.

*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.*

*Responsible City staff will direct plans for City parks, open space, landscape and street beautification projects to the Park and Recreation Commission for review in public meetings. All meetings and workshops will be publicized in as many ways as possible.*

*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.*

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.
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.
3. *Maintenance costs.* Develop a cost tracking system for park maintenance activities.
4. *Volunteers.* Use volunteers as means of providing more service on a limited budget, 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.

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.

## 6.8 Maintenance

manner to make them safe, attractive, and a positive part of their neighborhoods. Prioritize repair, rehabilitation and preventative maintenance.

### *Recommendations:*

1. ***Alternative workforce:*** Determine which park maintenance tasks are best performed by the City, and which could be performed by contractors, user groups or other non-profit entities. Develop clear plans and specifications for contracting park 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.
2. ***Commission oversight:*** Assign to the Park 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 and discuss park maintenance effectiveness.
3. ***Tracking requests:*** Establish a tracking system to ensure that staff adequately addresses maintenance request from the public.
4. ***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.

Maintenance standards: Establish maintenance standards for park and recreation facilities.

1. ***Pest management:*** Develop a pest management policy and program 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.
2. ***Sports field standards:*** Develop and adhere to maintenance standards for sports fields, with emphasis on turf management and/or use of artificial surfaces.
3. ***Field closures:*** Establish field closure policy and enforcement measures to prevent overuse of fields or use of fields when wet.

Maintenance budgeting: Provide funding to maintain existing park and recreation facilities at levels that meet the community's expectations.

Maintain park and recreation facilities in a

**threshold:** Establish a minimum threshold for maintenance operations to ensure that park maintenance receives an equitable share of the City's overall maintenance budget.

2. **Separation of budgets:** Develop separate budgets for City-wide maintenance responsibilities (e.g., beatification, medians and traffic islands, open space management, sports field maintenance and building maintenance services).
3. **Dedication of fees:** Revenues generated from the rental of fields should be dedicated to park and field maintenance.
4. **Workforce:** Consider developing a specialized crew dedicated to park maintenance.

Cost-saving strategies: Implement maintenance cost savings strategies that do not sacrifice the quality and care of the parks.

Cost-saving improvements: Reduce day-to-day maintenance costs through minor improvements such as installation automated irrigation and creation of mowing strips along playgrounds, picnic areas and other locations.

## 1. Expenditure

## 6.9 Recreation Programs

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 sufficient.

1. **Trends:** Monitor trends in public interests and actively develop and offer new programs accordingly.
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.
3. **Evaluation:** Continually evaluate programs in terms of persons served, overall community interest, 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.
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, adjoining cities, University of California, YMCA and other recreation providers.
5. **Miscellaneous program offerings:**
  - 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 Veterans' Memorial Building or at Albany High School.
  - 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.
  - Emphasize a range of classes and activities for adults, such as computer instruction, job training, crafts, lifetime sports and fitness.
  - Support outdoor exercise programs in parks throughout the city (including martial arts and other exercise activities).
  - Continue, expand and promote the City's program of planting and maintaining street trees throughout the community.
  - Establish community gardens, where feasible, in all parks, with educational programming.
  - Actively engage in promotion of arts and culture in Albany through the following activities:

- 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 the public arts organizations as partners in the community development process.
- d. Encourage and sponsor art installations at various points throughout the City.



