

Parks and Recreation Commission Briefing  
**Albany 2035**  
General Plan Update

July 11, 2013

**Work Session Overview**

- Purpose of the General Plan
- Parks and recreation in the existing General Plan
- Emerging issues and ideas for the updated Plan
- Commissioner discussion and comments
- Public comments

## General Plan Basics

- Required since 1937
- Expresses City's policy on land use
- "Comprehensive" =
  - covers entire city
  - covers all topics related to physical development
- "Long-range" (15-25 years)
- Includes narrative ("elements") and diagrams (maps)
- Subject to CEQA

### Mandatory Elements

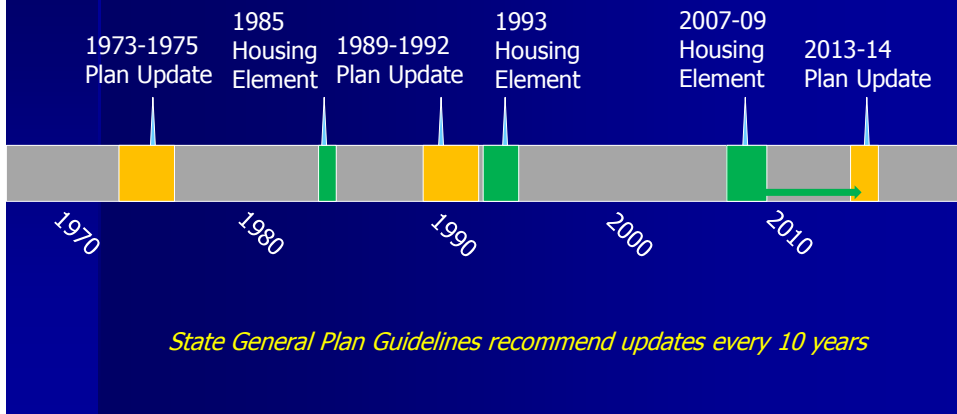
- Land Use
- Circulation
- Housing
- Open Space
- Conservation
- Safety
- Noise

*Cities may also add  
"optional elements"*

## General Plan Basics

- Goal
  - "A range of transportation choices for Albany residents."
- Policy
  - "Maintain a connected system of bike routes and lanes that make it possible to travel around Albany without a private automobile."
- Action
  - "Provide additional bike racks at City Hall by 2015."

## Albany General Plan History



## Why Update the Plan?

- Existing Plan is now 20+ years old
- Does not reflect recent city plans, studies, programs
- Does not reflect new legal mandates and requirements
- Does not reflect new issues or changing philosophies since 1992
- Many of the action programs have been completed
- Document itself is not "user friendly"--lacks compelling graphics and has a dated quality

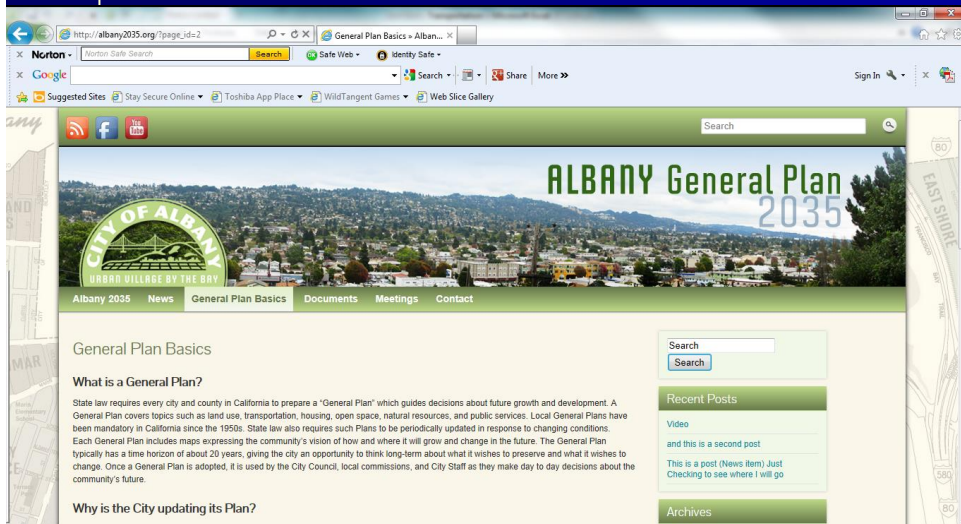
## Existing Plans to Incorporate

- Voices to Vision
- 2009 Housing Element
- Active Transportation Plan
- Public Arts Master Plan (2010)
- Albany Hill Creekside Master Plan
- Parks Master Plan (2004)
- Climate Action Plan (2009)
- Residential Design Guidelines
- San Pablo Av Vision Plan (1997)
- Eastshore State Park Plan
- Complete Streets documents
- Plans for UC Berkeley landholdings

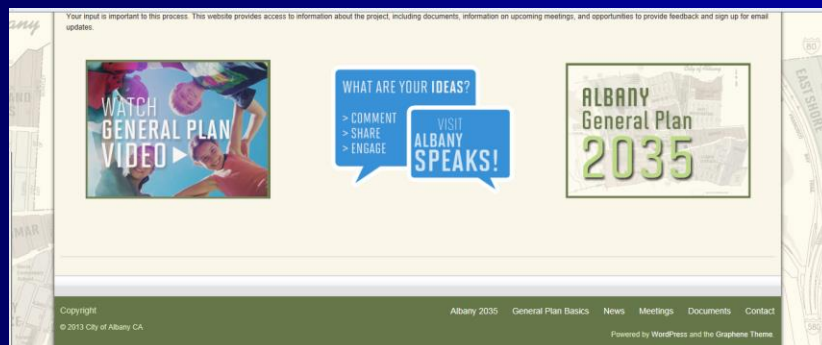
## Engaging the Community

- Planning/ Zoning Commission Study Sessions
- City Council Briefings
- Study Sessions with other Commissions
- General Plan “display” materials for City events
- Outreach to established organizations and neighborhood groups
- Project website and feedback links

# Engaging the Community: [www.albany2035.org](http://www.albany2035.org)



# Engaging the Community: [www.albany2035.org](http://www.albany2035.org)



## Proposed Plan Structure

### Current Structure

- Introduction
- Summary
- Land Use
- Circulation
- Housing
- Open Space, Recreation, and Conservation
- Community Health and Safety
- Implementation

### Proposed Structure

- Introduction
- **Framework**
- Land Use
- Transportation
- *Housing (summary)*
- Recreation and Open Space
- Conservation/ Sustainability
- Environmental Hazards
- **Community Services and Facilities**
- **Shoreline**
- Implementation

## Conservation, Recreation, and Open Space Element Highlights

- Geology
- Hydrology and water quality
- Climate and air quality
- Vegetation and wildlife
- Archaeology
- Creeks
- Waterfront
- Albany Hill
- Parks and recreation

## **Conservation, Recreation, and Open Space Element Highlights**

Provides policy directives to:

- Enhance natural features of creeks
- Increase tree planting
- Preserve the crest of Albany Hill
- Preserve the waterfront as place of scenic beauty
- Develop as much parkland as possible
- Balance private and public uses at waterfront
- Increase child care and senior services
- Provide for public art

## **What's Missing?**

- Recommendations of the 2004 Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Recognition of:
  - improvements over the last 20 years
  - new opportunities
  - new limitations and constraints
  - changing trends in service delivery
  - demographic trends and impacts on needs
- Discussion of new and emerging issues

## **Typical Topics Covered in a General Plan Parks/Rec Element**

- Park classification (community, neighborhood, etc.)
- Service standards (acres per 1,000 residents)
- New park opportunities
- Balancing competing demands for park space
- Siting guidelines for new facilities
- Responding to changes in service demand
- Park safety and maintenance
- Joint use of school facilities
- Role of other facilities in supplementing City parks

## **Incorporating the 2004 Master Plan**

Policies address:

- Park acreage and standards
- Cultural arts programming
- Sports and recreation facilities
- Waterfront recreation and access
- Pedestrian and bicycle trails
- Maintenance and service delivery



## Next Steps

- Policy Audit
- Existing Conditions Report
- Draft New Policies and Actions
  - Further Commission Input
- Draft Rec and Open Space Element
- General Plan Adoption Process

Parks and Recreation Commission Briefing  
Albany General Plan Update

July 11, 2013

Questions and Comments