

ALBANY 2035 GENERAL PLAN

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION STUDY SESSION

June 25, 2014

General Plan Elements



- Introduction
- Framework
- Land Use
- Transportation
- *Housing*
- **Recreation and Open Space**
- Conservation/ Sustainability
- Environmental Hazards
- Community Services and Facilities
- Waterfront

Policy Audit for Parks, Rec, OS



Slide 3

- 1992 General Plan
- 2004 Parks Recreation and Open Space Master Plan
- Albany Hill-Creekside Master Plan
- UC Village Master Plan
- Waterfront Park Plans

Policy Audit



Slide 4

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-17	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	Move to Waterfront Element	

1 Open Space Protection



Slide 5

Maximize the preservation, enhancement, and expansion of open space in Albany for natural resource protection, food production, hazard prevention and abatement, aesthetics, and recreation.

- Green community
- Albany Hill open space conservation
- Waterfront open space conservation
- Creeks
- Urban open spaces and streetscapes
- Community gardens and urban agriculture
- Residential yards

2 Parkland Expansion and Improvement



Slide 6

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

- Park hierarchy
- Service standards (ac/1,000) and planning standards
- Planning for new parks
- Balancing demand for facilities with need for open space
- Resource preservation in parks
- Compatibility with surrounding uses
- Private and non-profit recreational facilities

3 Park Management and Maintenance

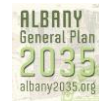


Slide 7

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.

- Planning for multiple users
- Modernization
- Sports fields
- Cultural space
- Dogs
- Night lighting/ turf
- Maintenance
- Vegetation management
- Use of volunteers
- Security
- Scheduling
- Funding

4 Recreational Programming



Slide 8

Provide high quality services and recreational programs that meet the diverse sports, fitness, and leisure time needs of Albany residents.

- Responding to demographic change
- Focus on key user groups
 - ▣ Children / Teens
 - ▣ Seniors
 - ▣ Adults
- Creating “community” through parks
- Promoting health and fitness
- Arts and Leisure

5 Joint Use and Collaboration



Slide 9

Promote joint planning, acquisition, development, maintenance, and use of park sites, school sites, UC Village open space, and other recreational and community facilities.

- School facilities
- UC Village/ Gill Tract
- Veterans Building
- EBRPD
- Adjacent cities
- Coordination in programming

6 Trails



Slide 10

Develop an integrated, comprehensive system of trails linking neighborhoods and schools to recreational facilities and open spaces, including the waterfront.

- Sustainable design
- Connectivity
- Trail safety
- Signage
- Waterfront access/ Bay Trail and spurs
- Albany Hill trails
- Creek trails
- Transportation corridors (Ohlone Greenway)
- Mid-block paths

Service Standards



Slide 11

Existing Parks and Recreation Master Plan sets standards for park acreage per 1,000 residents

Type	Acres/1,000 people
Mini-Park	0.05
Neighborhood Park	0.39
Community Park	0.40
Regional Park	9.52
Special Use Park	1.26
Linear Park	0.55
Open Space	1.66
TOTAL	13.83

Source: 2004 Albany Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

- These standards are based on population of about 16,900.
- Current population is 18,500.
- Forecasts indicate about 20,000 by 2035.
- General Plans typically use a single standard for all active parks rather than individual park categories
- Potentially set new standard such as 3.0 acres per 1,000 for active parks?

Feedback from Parks and Rec Commission



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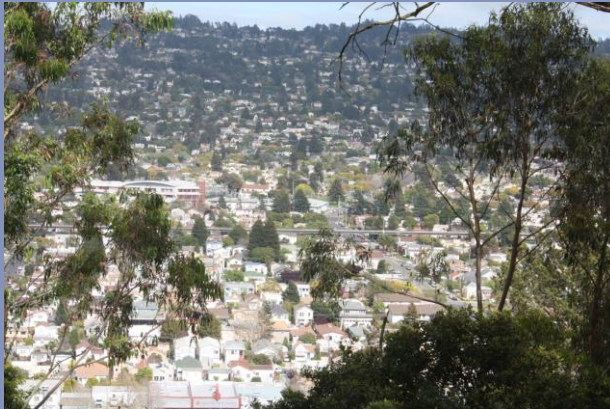
- Consolidate and clarify per capita service standards
- Questions regarding definition of open space and implications of a goal to “maximize” it
- Impacts of open space policies on private property
- Clarify policies on dogs, turf, night lighting
- Edits to joint use policies
- Minor changes re: policies on signage, trail safety, Ohlone Greenway, vegetation management
- Include policies on rooftop open space, I-80 open space, open space and stormwater management

Discussion Questions



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- Are there missing topics requiring policies?
- Do the policies provide the right direction?
- Are there additional action programs needed to implement the policies?
- Can the City clarify its service standards?



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