

OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Objective 1

INCREASE OPEN SPACE TO MEET THE LONG-TERM NEEDS OF THE CITY AND BAY REGION

Policy 1.1

Ensure equitable distribution of open spaces throughout the City.

- All residents and workers within 10 minute walk to a public open space
- All resident's and workers within walking distance (defined as ½ mile) to full range of recreational opportunities & facilities - passive/nature; active/sports facilities; playgrounds.

Policy 1.2

Acquire and develop neighborhood-serving open space in residential neighborhoods deficient in open space.

- Increase recreational opportunities & facilities in high need areas: high density, low income, high concentration of children and elderly
- Design recreational opportunities & facilities based on needs of these populations

Policy 1.3

Develop new public open spaces along the shoreline.

- Bay Trail gaps and Blue Greenway along Southeast waterfront
- Bay trail gaps and Lands End/ China Beach/Presidio connection along Northeast waterfront
- Embarcadero Open Space (from planning process underway)
- Ocean Beach Improvements (from GGNRA process underway)
- Implement blue greenway projects

Policy 1.4

Develop regionally-serving open spaces in opportunity areas: Treasure Island, Yerba Buena Island, and Hunters Point Shipyard.

- Complete development of planned open space system in Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island that includes a range of wetlands, parks, playgrounds, recreational areas, public spaces and natural habitat, with educational and cultural amenities to attract a regional audience.
- Hunter's Point Shipyard should meet local open space needs as well as enhance wildlife habitat to create a regional destination

Policy 1.5

Assure the provision of privately developed open space to serve new residential and commercial development.

- Require that new development provide usable outdoor open space
- Increase requirements where they under serve residents (i.e., Downtown, SoMa)
- Improve Residential Design Guidelines for private open space

Policy 1.6

Encourage privately developed open space to be environmentally sustainable, landscaped and enjoyable by its residents.

- Update and apply Residential Open Space Guidelines

- Explore incentives to activate roofs for active and environmental uses

Policy 1.7

Encourage privately developed open space to be publicly accessible.

- Update requirements in dense neighborhoods to provide incentives to project sponsors to include a portion of the required open space publicly-accessible open space in
- Amend requirements for private, publicly accessible open space downtown (C-3 district) to be more accessible.

Policy 1.8

Require the consideration of open space as a potential use on surplus City properties.

- If not deemed suitable for housing, examine site's appropriateness as open space
- Perform Citywide evaluation of appropriateness of all publicly owned underutilized sites in open space deficient neighborhoods for open space development, even if not deemed surplus.

Policy 1.9

Pursue the use of schoolyards as publicly-accessibly open space during non-school hours.

- Expand SFUSD program to open more public schools on weekends and during non-school hours.
- Consider partnering with private school sites to offer similar programming.

Policy 1.10

Creatively develop existing publicly-owned rights of way and streets into open space.

- Street greening projects
- Street closures (temporary and permanent)
- Expand pilot program of "living streets" and alleys where traffic is calmed and sidewalks are widened to create pocket parks.

Policy 1.11

Encourage access to San Francisco owned reservoirs both in San Francisco and in neighboring cities.

Policy 1.12

Maximize joint use of other public properties and facilities, including parking lots, freeway right-of-ways and rooftops.

- Public parking lots to serve as active recreational spaces during off-business hours.
- Public buildings to include active roof space which is accessible to public
- Utilize space under freeways creatively, consider for skate parks, green space, etc.

Policy 1.13

Expand partnerships with regional park districts, open space agencies, private sector and nonprofit institutions to acquire and manage existing open spaces.

- Explore cooperative management systems where each agency can focus on what it does best: recreation, habitat, cultural activities or environmental sustainability.

OBJECTIVE 2

ENSURE A HIGH PERFORMING OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

Policy 2.1

- **Encourage the activation of existing open spaces through:**
 - diverse recreational opportunities that respond to the demographics of the user community.
 - Designing multifunctional open spaces that are compatible with both active and passive recreational uses.
 - programming for a healthy, active lifestyle.
 - Where appropriate adding amenities, such as concessions, that would serve and attract open space visitors.
 - innovative community uses such as for food production, education, bee keeping, etc.

Policy 2.2

Gradually eliminate and prevent new non-recreational serving uses in parks and playgrounds.

- Only necessary cultural activities, if it provides a corresponding increase in park programming and activation
- Require no net loss of open space if transfers or expansions of non-recreational uses are warranted.

Policy 2.3

Prioritize the activation of underutilized open spaces, McLaren Park, Ocean Beach, and residential neighborhoods deficient in open space.

Policy 2.4

Update and Reassess the Golden Gate Park Master Plan.

Policy 2.5

Maintain open spaces to the highest level of quality.

- Re-evaluate the San Francisco Park Maintenance Standards to ensure they meet the needs of community

Policy 2.6

Preserve sunlight in public open spaces.

- Continue to implement planning code requirements to project Rec Park owned properties from shadows.

Policy 2.7

Reduce, eliminate and prevent new non-recreational serving uses in public open spaces. (This policy is too similar to Policy 2.2 and will be deleted.)

Policy 2.8

Reduce or eliminate automobile traffic in and around public open spaces.

- Consider eliminating some current roadway cut-throughs and ensure new ones are necessary for park access

- Increase traffic calming on roads in parks.
- Establish strict speed limits in and around parks.

**OBJECTIVE 3
IMPROVE ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY TO OPEN SPACE**

Policy 3.1

Develop a Citywide recreational network that creates strong connections between open spaces.

- Network of walkable streets and bike lanes that *function* as connectors, promote non-vehicular connections.

Policy 3.2

Develop green streets as connections between open spaces.

- Focus on *design* of streets to include landscape and green elements – trees, sustainable plantings pocket parks, sitting areas, community gardens.

Policy 3.3

Develop a trail system that links city parks and public open space, ridge lines and hilltops, the Bay and ocean, and neighborhoods, and ties into the regional hiking trail system.

- Complete the City's trail system to connect the Golden Gate Recreational Area trails, Bay Trail, Blue Greenway and the Ridge Trail as a continuous system
- Connect gaps in this system ,such as the connection between Lands End and the Presidio
- Encourage regional connections to systems such as the San Brno Mountains to the south and Marin along the Golden Gate Bridge to the north

Policy 3.4

Develop ecological greenways throughout the City that connect animals and people to open spaces.

- Urban pedestrian trail from Golden Gate Park through Twin Peaks, Glen Park, to McLaren Park and then extends from McLaren Park through the Zoo, to Lake Merced and through to Ocean Beach.

Policy 3.5

Ensure that open space is accessible.

- Design parks to have accessible entries, pathways and facilities.
- Design parks to include clear sightlines and provide good lighting.
- Prioritize the elements of the Bike Plan that connect to open spaces.
- Express local bus service to major amenities such as Chrissy Field and Golden Gate Park (next round of TEP)
- Evaluate a Green Transit Program that provides direct service from dense neighborhoods.

Objective 4

PROTECT THE BIODIVERSITY, NATURAL HABITATS, AND ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY OF OPEN SPACES

Policy 4.1

Require the inclusion of environmentally-sustainable design principles into all open space construction and renovation.

- Require materials and drought tolerant plantings that work with the natural environment.
- Encourage and recognize increasing ability to produce renewable energy in our parks and open spaces
- Limit pervious surfaces, such as hardscape areas and parking lots.
- Maintain a cut fill balance of soil to minimize need to transport soil to or from the project site.

Policy 4.2

Preserve the unique and natural qualities and features of existing high-quality open spaces.

- Implement the Significant Natural Resource Areas Management Plan to ensure that appropriate and effective techniques are used for the management and restoration of natural areas.
- Proactively seek assistance from other governmental agencies, Parks and Recreation Open Space Advisory Committee, and the community in formulating solutions for the challenges to maintaining high quality open spaces.

Policy 4.3

Promote biodiversity, protect and restore intact native habitat.

- Preserve existing trees of San Francisco, which provide shade and habitat, and stabilize the soil.
- Preserve existing mature shrubs and understory vegetation in our parks to promote and preserve habitat.
- Create connections between open spaces to enhance the species range of movement while expanding habitat variety for those species.

Policy 4.4

Protect and restore wetlands as part of ecological development in waterfront areas.

- Revegetate and monitor wetlands.
- Apply adaptive restoration (or the experimental testing of alternative approaches in restoration) methods of wetlands stewardship.

Policy 4.5

Create public educational opportunities about San Francisco's natural heritage.

- Offer high-quality and relevant environmental educational programs to San Francisco students and the public.
- Offer programs to foster in youth an understanding of their important role in helping to build healthy social and natural communities.
- Strengthen efforts in collaborative environmental education, co-leading programming in the Natural Areas with additional expertise from partner agencies.

Policy 4.6

Maintain, restore, and expand the urban forest.

- Re-initiate the completion of the city's urban forest plan.
- Conduct a comprehensive tree inventory.
- Identify a stable funding source for street tree and landscape maintenance.

OBJECTIVE 5

ENGAGE COMMUNITIES IN THE STEWARDHIP OF THEIR OPEN SPACES

Policy 5.1

Involve communities in the design, programming and improvement of their local open spaces.

- Community design charrette for all new renovated spaces.
- Design open space to be an integral ingredient of neighborhood character.

Policy 5.2

Encourage the development of community-initiated open spaces.

- Expand community garden opportunities throughout the city.
- Support street parks, locally-improved streets and shared school playfields
- Funding program for community-initiated spaces.
- Establish a source of funding for community-initiated spaces

Policy 5.3

Provide tools to support community open space efforts.

- Education program: strategies for designating, financing and developing urban open space.
- Governmental and financial support, technical support, and management/maintenance equipment

Policy 5.4

Reduce governmental barriers to community open space efforts.

- Streamline permitting requirements
- Address legal/liability issues of privately owned/publicly accessible open space

Policy 5.5

Encourage and foster stewardship of open spaces .

- Dept of Recreation and Parks' volunteer program
- Coordinate City and regional volunteer maintenance programs
- Establish an Adopt-a-Park Program to create public-private partnerships that support community open spaces.

Policy 5.6

Support urban agriculture through the creation and maintenance of community, rooftop, schoolyard and kitchen gardens.

- Support for groups that help to develop horticulture skills.
- Code modifications that support community agriculture, such as zoning, health and building code adjustments.
- Programs to foster planting in under-utilized backyards, providing education, soil, seeds and maintenance support.

OBJECTIVE 6

SECURE LONG-TERM FUNDING FOR OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION AND MAINTENANCE

Policy 6.1

Allow flexible use of public funding for acquisition or development of open space.

- Consider impact fee revenue funding for enterprise agencies such as the Port, or even private entities, if financial support would provide a significant benefit to the City's open space network.

Policy 6.2

Develop innovative long-term funding mechanisms.

- Citywide impact fee to fund open space
- Local taxes to support parks, such as Park Improvement Districts.
- Voluntary contributions as a part of property tax or utility bills, to fund improvements to local open space

Policy 6.3

Pursue public-private partnerships and leases that generate new operating revenues for open spaces where appropriate.

- Explore opportunities for revenue-generating--kiosks, bicycle rental, café, corporate sponsorships
- Expand grant function in Dept of Rec & Parks.
- Increase fundraising to support City parks through partnerships with local groups.

Policy 6.4

Develop maintenance plans for all open spaces.