Community Vision
Richmond, California in 2030

Richmond’s parks, public plazas and open spaces create a strong sense of community identity, promote health and wellness, and protect historical and cultural amenities that are part of the City’s legacy.

A variety of recreational programs and enrichment opportunities support the needs and interests of community members of all ages, incomes and abilities. Programs are accessible via public transit and pedestrian and bicycle routes that link schools and neighborhoods to program destinations.

Richmond’s integrated system of parks provides public access to the San Pablo Peninsula, large-scale open spaces, neighborhoods, schools, urban parks, recreational facilities and other key destinations. Safe, park-like connections along restored creek channels, pedestrian-friendly green streets and multi-use trails encourage walking and bicycling.

Some parks, plazas and open spaces are located near civic and commercial areas. Each park in the City features distinctive components such as rich landscape elements and public art that respond to Richmond’s cultural values and history. Adults and children benefit from contact with nature in the urban context through unstructured natural play settings and walking paths.
Richmond residents recognize the importance of high-quality parks and recreation facilities. Richmond’s parks, natural areas and recreational programs are integral to creating a community that is socially and physically connected. Programs and services provide valuable opportunities to engage and enrich residents and visitors alike. Parks, greenways and trails provide a variety of opportunities for recreation, social interaction, community-building and visual respite. The City’s existing park system provides a solid foundation for creating a comprehensive and integrated network that strengthens neighborhoods, improves community image and supports a strong economy. A well-designed, quality and accessible park system contributes to the economic attractiveness of an area and helps to draw private sector investment into the community.¹

The Parks and Recreation Element:

- Describes Richmond’s existing parks and recreational resources;
- Defines the City’s park performance standards;
- Presents Richmond’s “system of parks” concept in developing an interconnected network of open spaces and community facilities linked together via green multimodal corridors;
- Highlights key findings and recommendations based on an existing conditions analysis;
- Defines goals for improving existing parks, strategically expanding parklands and maximizing use of open space and community facilities;
- Provides a summary table identifying lead responsibilities for each implementing action; and
- Reviews the existing regulatory framework that guides parks and recreation planning efforts.

**Purpose of the Element**

Richmond is committed to maintaining exceptional parks, plazas and recreational amenities for its residents. The Parks and Recreation Element provides direction for developing and maintaining a comprehensive system of quality parks, recreational facilities, programs, support services and open space. General Plan goals, policies and implementing actions are focused to preserve resources and enrich parks and recreational offerings.

**Legal Requirement**

Although the Parks and Recreation Element is not a state-mandated element, the Parks and Recreation Element provides a policy framework to guide future decisions about important parkland resources and beneficial programs and services. The parks and Recreation Element complies with Section 65303 of the California Government Code which grants authority to local jurisdictions to include additional elements to those required by state law when they apply to the physical development of the jurisdiction.²
Richmond Today

Richmond is one of the few Bay Area cities that boast over 6,500 acres of parks and open space including local, regional, state and national resources (see Table 10.1: Parks and Open Space in Richmond and Map 10.1: Parks, Trails and Open Space). Approximately 5,718.5 acres of the parkland are owned and operated by regional agencies and are located along the shoreline and in the East Bay hills. The City owns approximately 250 acres of compact, neighborhood and community parks, and 510 acres of open space clustered mostly in El Sobrante Valley, Point Richmond and Point Molate that provide valuable recreational linkages to regional trails. In addition to these parkland resources, Richmond also enjoys a network of trails and greenways; joint-use, private and community facilities; and a variety of recreational programs and services.

City Parks

The City of Richmond is home to 74 parks including small pocket parks, play lots, neighborhood parks, playing fields, and joint-use parks.

Some open space and recreational resources in the City are difficult to access since they are physically isolated. For example, lack of connectivity due to railroads and freeways and poor transportation options keeps residents living in Central Richmond from routinely utilizing urban parks and the extensive open spaces surrounding the City.

Along with improved park access, Richmond’s core neighborhoods would benefit from safer, close-to-home resources that include flexible, multi-use spaces such as play lots and community greens. Neighborhood parks and greenways can support both passive and active recreation and perform an important role in community-building. Key priorities revolve around elevating the safety, visual appeal and quality of parks and recreational facilities. Many of the City’s parks and playgrounds are in need of improved maintenance.

Joint-Use Parks and Facilities

Many residents rely on nearby schools to provide recreational resources convenient to neighborhoods. Joint-use agreements allow for shared public access to school grounds or privately owned recreational spaces such as sports fields, playgrounds or community centers. Joint-use parks and facilities benefit the entire community by further activating recreational spaces throughout the day and providing conveniently located venues for neighbors to gather.

Richmond coordinates with the West Contra Costa Unified School District to allow public use of parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 10.1: Parks and Open Space</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Park Type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City-Owned Parks and Open Space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Parks and Open Space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint-Use Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: City of Richmond, East Bay Regional Park District
Currently, the City has a formal joint-use agreement with the District for the use of the Kennedy Swim Center, and has maintained playing fields at Olinda and Valley View schools, as well as other joint-use sites. Richmond continues to actively pursue joint-use opportunities to maximize use of existing recreational grounds and facilities in cooperation with schools and other public agencies.

### Recreational Facilities
The City owns and operates: eight community centers; two senior centers; a swim center; an indoor recreation complex; and a municipal natatorium. In addition to publicly owned and operated recreational facilities, several private facilities are located in Richmond including the Richmond Country Club, Marina Bay Yacht Harbor, Richmond Yacht Club Harbor, YMCA, Police Activities League, the Boys and Girls Club and Red Rock Marina.

### Regional and State Parks
Richmond has approximately 5,718 acres of regional and state parklands. These parklands provide active and passive recreational opportunities for residents and a rich plant and animal habitat. These parklands range in character from large-scale hillside open space areas to shoreline parks. They include vast trail systems and day use areas that are open to the public for a variety of activities such as hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, bird-watching, fishing and picnicking.

### Table 10.2: Recreational Facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annex Senior Center</td>
<td>5801 Huntington Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Booker T. Anderson Community Center</td>
<td>960 South 47th Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys and Girls Club</td>
<td>2801 Moran Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled People’s Recreation Center</td>
<td>1900 Barrett Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marina Bay Yacht Harbor</td>
<td>1340 Marina Way South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center</td>
<td>360 Harbor Way South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May Valley Community Center</td>
<td>3530 Morningside Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Auditorium Convention Center</td>
<td>403 Civic Center Plaza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevin Community Center</td>
<td>900 Williams Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parchester Community Center</td>
<td>900 Williams Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Activities League (PAL)</td>
<td>2200 Macdonald Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pt. Richmond Center</td>
<td>139 Washington Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Rock Marina</td>
<td>No address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond Country Club</td>
<td>1 Markovich Lane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond Municipal Natatorium (The “Plunge”)</td>
<td>1 E Richmond Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond Recreation Complex</td>
<td>3230 Macdonald Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond Senior Center</td>
<td>2525 Macdonald Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond Swim Center</td>
<td>S. 45th and Fall Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shields-Reid Community Center</td>
<td>1410 Kelsey Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington Field House</td>
<td>110 East Richmond Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YMCA</td>
<td>Various Locations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: City of Richmond
Some shoreline and hillside open space resources are separated from many residents by barriers such as Interstate 580, the Union Pacific-BNSF rail corridor and high-traffic streets and industrial areas. The completed San Francisco Bay Trail and Richmond Greenway will provide important connections, but additional multimodal routes are needed to improve connections with inner-city neighborhoods.

The following regional and state parks are located in Richmond:

**Point Isabel Regional Shoreline** is a 23-acre park located in southernmost Richmond on a small promontory. Not only does the park feature dramatic views of the Golden Gate Bridge, it is also the largest public off-leash dog park in the nation with over 500,000 dog visits per year.

**Wildcat Canyon Regional Park** encompasses 2,430 acres along the Wildcat Creek watershed and the surrounding hills and ridges. The park extends from the Tilden Nature Area in the south to historic Alvarado Park at the north end of Richmond. Popular with hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians, Wildcat Canyon includes a significant portion of the well-used Nimitz Way paved trail emanating from Inspiration Point in Tilden Park.

**Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline** is a 307-acre park in Point Richmond offering panoramic views of the Bay Area including San Francisco and the North Bay mountains. The park includes Keller Beach on San Pablo Bay, large picnic and barbecue areas, trails for cyclists, hikers and dog walkers and a bird-filled salt water lagoon.

**Pinole Regional Shoreline** runs along 2,300 acres of the San Pablo Bay shoreline, offering superb views across the Bay in all directions, capturing views of San Francisco, Mount Tamalpais and the Marin Headlands. The park is a mix of grassland, woodland, beaches and low cliffs that are home to rich bird life including many ducks, shorebirds and the endangered Black Rail.

**Brooks Island Regional Preserve** is a 373-acre island preserve and bird sanctuary in San Francisco Bay located just off the Richmond Inner Harbor. The preserve includes a main island, sand spit and an offshore rock that serves as a shore bird rookery. The area provides nesting habitat for over 18 species of birds and is home to a variety of plant communities including native coastal grassland, salt marsh and northern coastal scrub. Brooks Island also provides wonderful views of the Bay Area from its 160-foot rocky peak and possesses a rich history from the Ohlone Indians, its original inhabitants for thousands of years.

**Sobrante Ridge Regional Preserve** is a 277-acre parkland preserve and home to the rare Alameda Manzanita along with other indigenous plant and animal species. The park includes a two and one-half mile trail system that leads to ridgetop vistas of
San Pablo and Richmond bays, Mount Diablo and Mount Tamalpais.

**Eastshore State Park** extends 8.5 miles along the shoreline between Richmond’s Marina Bay and the foot of the Bay Bridge, 9 acres of which are located in Richmond. It includes 1,854 acres of uplands and tidelands along the waterfronts of Richmond, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville and Oakland. The Park provides San Francisco Bay Trail access and parallels Interstate 80, the most heavily traveled corridor in the East Bay, making it highly visible and accessible. Though currently undeveloped, Eastshore State Park presents promising opportunities for future park programming and recreational activities.

**The National Park**
Richmond is home to a large collection of World War II-era sites and structures. These resources tell the story of government, industry and citizen-based efforts that led to victory in World War II.

In 2000, the National Park Service established Richmond’s Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park to preserve and interpret the stories and historic properties from the World War II home front era. The Park celebrates Richmond’s cultural heritage and commemorates the important contributions of millions of Americans, and women in particular, to the World War II shipbuilding effort.

While the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park originated as a public art memorial, it is now made up of a rich collection of related industrial and community-based resources that were built to address wartime needs. Resources range from waterfront parks to hospital and factory buildings to the Red Oak Victory Ship, among others (see map 15.1: Home Front Historical Resources). Marina Bay’s waterfront parks, including Shimada Friendship Park, Barbara and Jay Vincent Park, Lucretia W. Edwards Park, Sheridan Observation Point Park and the portion of the San Francisco Bay Trail that connects these parks complement the National Park. While a majority of resources are along the shoreline, some are located inland with a cluster at Cutting Boulevard and Harbour Way, and additional resources at MacDonald Avenue and Garrard Boulevard. The Park itself represents the entire collection of designated national resources and environs.

The National Historical Park Element of this General Plan establishes a framework for fully developing a national-caliber park facility that celebrates Richmond’s role in the home front effort and serves as a source of inspiration and pride for residents and visitors.

**Trails and Greenways**
Trails and greenways provide important multimodal connections in the community. The San Francisco Bay Trail links many of the City and regional parks
in Richmond including six City-owned parks in Marina Bay, Point Isabel Regional Shoreline and the Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline as well as the Richmond Greenway and Wildcat Creek Regional Trail. It also connects Richmond to other Bay Area communities through a network of regional walking and cycling trails such as the Richmond Greenway.

Thirty miles of the Bay Trail have been completed within Richmond—more than any other city. Eventually this planned 500-mile hiking and biking trail will encircle San Francisco and San Pablo bays. The Richmond sections of the Bay Trail will ultimately run along the shoreline wherever physically feasible. A priority is to close gaps in the Bay Trail as it runs through Richmond and establish linkages to Stege Marsh, Point Molate, Point San Pablo and Point Pinole. The effort to forge these connections is being led by the citizen-based Trails for Richmond Action Committee.

The Richmond Greenway is being developed in phases on an old railroad right-of-way that passes through core neighborhoods of the City. When completed, it will provide a much needed east-west connection through the City, tying together the Bay Trail that runs along the western edge of the City and the Ohlone Greenway that runs north-south along the east side of the City. The Friends of Richmond Greenway are leading the effort to complete the Greenway with community involvement and guidance from the National Park Service.

While the completed San Francisco Bay Trail and the Richmond Greenway will provide important connections, additional routes are needed to further link neighborhoods, schools, commercial centers, parks and community facilities.

The San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail also provides an important means of transportation and recreation in Richmond and is a unique asset to the community. The Water Trail is a network of linked access sites around the Bay that provide amenities designed for non-motorized, human-powered watercraft. Building on the enthusiasm for water-based recreation, the Cultural Heritage Water Trail proposed with this General Plan expands opportunities to experience the San Pablo and San Francisco bays and connect visitors with cultural heritage through interpretive features.

Recreational Programs and Services

The City of Richmond offers a variety of recreational programs and services to the public. Programs range from after-school and sports programs for youth and extended learning opportunities for adults and seniors, to neighborhood improvement and community safety. Local community centers, senior centers, parks and recreation facilities host many of these programs. Clean, functional, safe and attractive facilities and parks improve the quality of life in a community through leisure, wellness, education and social interaction and assists in the efforts to
Placemaking through Parks

Placemaking is a means of deliberately designing parks to create social interaction, community identity, beauty and livability. It is an approach to creating comfortable, stimulating parks that are not all alike. Placemaking draws on unique cultural, historic or environmental qualities of an area to create high-quality, distinctive parks where people of all ages and abilities can share experiences.

To create broad appeal, park facilities should be flexible to accommodate a wide range of experiences. For example, a sports field can be designed as a complete activity setting rather than just as a place for playing ball. In combination with elements such as picnic areas, a children's play area, a gathering area, restroom, drinking fountains and parking, a field can be designed as a place for the entire community. To make the area distinctive, one or several of these elements can be designed to reflect something unique about the community. Landmarks, art, water features, special facilities and park layout should respond to Richmond's culture, values and history. Park settings should be community places that are equitable and usable by a wide variety of people. For example a children's play area can be combined with other uses such as a library or farmer’s market to create multiple reasons for the community to gather.
address crime and violence. As the City evolves, it is important to ensure that these programs and services respond to the changing demographic, interests and needs.

Park Performance Standards

Well-designed park and open space systems incorporate different types of parks, each serving a specific function and providing a distinct type of recreational opportunity. Cities generally adopt performance standards including classification systems and design guidelines to direct the development and management of their parks and open spaces. Classification systems define various types of parks in regards to size, function and ideal service area, and provide the basis for determining which activities and facilities are appropriate within each park. Defining different types of parks helps assess the distribution of activities, ensuring a balanced offering of both active uses (such as soccer) and passive uses (such as bird-watching).

Identifying a target service area ensures that parks are accessible to residents. As an example, Richmond’s classification system specifies that every residence should be within one-half mile of a compact park or a larger park that has facilities for small children or seniors. Jurisdictions may tailor their own classification systems so that park types and service area targets are sensitive to local needs and priorities. Once a classification system is adopted it provides a means of analyzing where service gaps exist in distribution and access, and where acquisitions and capital improvements may be necessary. Categorizing also allows for direct comparisons of resources within a city or from one city to another.

Park Classification System

Richmond’s park classification system identifies park functions to serve a broad range of recreation and leisure activities appropriate to their surrounding context. In addition, each park type includes suggested acreages and service areas. The City of Richmond’s adopted service goal specifies a minimum of three acres of community or neighborhood parkland per 1,000 residents.

The City is divided into distinct planning areas. Each of these planning areas strives to adhere to the same service goal. Parkland access standards specify a need for neighborhood or community parks within a quarter to a half-mile radius of neighborhoods, ensuring convenient access for everyone. These standards represent minimum provisions. The City will not only meet, but strive to exceed park acreage standards targeting the park types and services that it currently lacks. A comprehensive parks master planning process will provide an opportunity to further tailor Richmond’s parkland types, and a citywide community needs assessment will pinpoint areas where facilities and services could most benefit from improvement.

Initiated with this General Plan, Richmond’s park classification system is composed of six general park types: compact parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, regional and national parks, joint-use parks and facilities and public plazas. A Parks Master Plan will provide a final comprehensive park classification system.
Compact Parks
Compact parks are small public spaces that encourage small group and individual activities. They are typically up to one acre in size and can include pocket parks, play lots, viewpoints, overlooks and plazas, and are located near residential areas or integrated into commercial areas. The service area for compact parks is an eighth to a quarter-mile. There are many more compact parks in the City which include pathway overlooks and waysides not shown in Table 10.3.

Figure 10.1: Map of Richmond’s Compact Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abraham Braxton</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat Ramp</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downtown Plaza</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elm Playlot</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hensley</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humboldt</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humphrey Playlot</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huntington</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janice</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kern Playlot</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mendocino Playlot</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monterey Playlot</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solano Playlot</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewart Playground</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Playlot</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: City of Richmond
Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks function as a focal point or activity center for neighborhoods and have amenities such as picnic areas, play areas for children, open areas for informal group activity, landscaping, ball fields, organized fitness features, or special purpose facilities such as a community center. They are typically one to 10 acres in size and have a service area of a quarter to a half-mile. Richmond has a total of 89.37 acres of neighborhood parks.

Table 10.4: Neighborhood Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atchison</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara &amp; Jay Vincent</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay Vista</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belding-Garcia</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boorman</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burg</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country Club Vista</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crescent</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilltop Green</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John F. Kennedy</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judge Carroll</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucas</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucretia Edwards</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mira Vista</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevin</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Richmond Ballpark</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parchester</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rain Cloud</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheridan Point</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shields-Reid</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shimada Friendship</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: This table is continued on the next page.
Community Parks
Community parks serve a larger geographic area than compact and neighborhood parks and address specific community needs. These parks may include active features for large groups and passive open areas, fields and facilities to serve athletic events, community centers and buildings and pathways and trails to connect with neighborhoods and greenways. They are typically greater than 10 acres in size and have a service area of a half to three miles. Richmond has a total 181 of acres of community parks.

Table 10.5: Community Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Booker T. Anderson Jr.</td>
<td>22.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairmede</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilltop</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilltop Lake</td>
<td>36.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Moine</td>
<td>21.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr.</td>
<td>13.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholl</td>
<td>21.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Point Molate Beach</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond Greenway</td>
<td>11.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosie the Riveter, Marina Bay and Marina Green</td>
<td>13.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: City of Richmond

Table 10.4: Neighborhood Parks (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southside</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Court</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiller</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Memorial</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendell</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: City of Richmond

Figure 10.3: Map of Richmond’s Community Parks
Regional and National Parks
Regional and national parks are large-scale open spaces that protect natural and historical resources. These parks connect residents with the surrounding geography and preserve cultural assets and historical legacies that cross community boundaries. They provide opportunities for passive recreation such as hiking, bird-watching or other nature-based activities. Richmond has a total of 4,020 acres of Regional Parks within its city limits.

Figure 10.4: Map of Richmond’s Regional Parks

Table 10.6: Regional Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eastshore State Park</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline and Keller Beach</td>
<td>307.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pt. Isabel Regional Shoreline</td>
<td>23.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pt. Pinole Regional Shoreline</td>
<td>610.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooks Island Regional Park</td>
<td>373.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sobrante Ridge Regional Park</td>
<td>277.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildcat Canyon Regional Park and Alvarado</td>
<td>2,430.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: City of Richmond; East Bay Regional Park District

Note: regional parks are managed by the East Bay Regional Park District
Joint-Use Parks and Facilities

Joint-use parks and facilities include parks, playgrounds or recreation and cultural facilities that are not owned or partly owned by the City of Richmond, but are available to residents based on an agreement with the property owner or partner. Joint-use partners may include the School District, neighboring cities, public agencies, private entities or nonprofit organizations that typically own and operate facilities within the City, although these facilities may sometimes be located in a neighboring jurisdiction.

Table 10.7: Joint-Use Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fairmede</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilltop</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kennedy Swim Center</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olinda School Field</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley View School Field</td>
<td>11.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: City of Richmond

Figure 10.5: Map of Richmond’s Joint-Use Parks
Public Plazas

Public plazas provide opportunities for social gathering and passive recreation in a built-out urban area. These open spaces can include hardscaped and landscaped areas, seating and landmarks. Public plazas are often programmed with uses such as farmers’ markets and festivals.

Figure 10.6: Map of Richmond’s Public Plazas Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civic Center Plaza</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contra Costa County Courthouse Plaza</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Point Richmond Triangle</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevin Park Plaza</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevin Plaza</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevin Plaza West</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Market Square Stage</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: City of Richmond

Public plazas provide opportunities for gathering and passive recreation within the City.
Park System Guidelines and Design Criteria

Park system guidelines and design criteria work hand-in-hand with park classifications to ensure that parks provide expected benefits. They direct design decisions to ensure that the parks and open space system as a whole meets community needs.

Park system guidelines for developing Richmond’s integrated system of parks and open space include:

• Ensuring safety;
• Geographically dispersing various types of parks throughout the City;
• Ensuring open space access within a comfortable walking distance of residences;
• Creating a clear and attractive signage system;
• Developing flexible, close-to-home facilities that include informal natural play areas, community gardens, restored creeks and landscaping areas with trees, shrubs and flowers;
• Connecting all parks and community facilities to each other through a system of trails and pedestrian-friendly streets, greenways and bikeways;
• Incorporating sustainable design features and elements;
• Daylighting and restoring urban creeks where possible and incorporating creeks in park designs, as well as in multi-use trails and green streets that connect the City’s open spaces;
• Ensuring that no park is located in isolation from other community-serving facilities or residences; and
• Activating parks by locating them near community-serving facilities, commercial nodes, transit hubs and other gathering places.

In addition to these overarching system guidelines, more specific design criteria will help ensure that each park is high caliber, fits its context and functions effectively in connecting community members to one another and their environment. For example, design criteria may specify that parks: utilize high-quality, sustainable building materials; provide unstructured natural settings and a variety of landscape elements; include art and placemaking features to reflect the culture, values and history of the community; and incorporate facility maintenance standards and requirements as part of the design review process; among others. Specific design criteria for Richmond’s parks will be further developed as part of the parks master planning process.
Research indicates that contact with nature is essential to emotional and physical well-being. Current studies show that contact with nature points to broad public health benefits for both adults and children. This is true of both larger-scale experiences in nature (such as visiting wilderness areas, forests and rivers) and small-scale contact with nature (such as experiencing urban parks, gardens, creeks, water features, tree-lined streets, birds and even views of trees and flowers). Broadly, evidence suggests that contact with nature: reduces stress, anxiety and depression; restores attention; promotes recovery from mental fatigue and physical ailments; and fosters environmental stewardship.

In particular, studies show that natural settings promote physical and emotional developmental benefits in children. Since children are more physically active in natural environments, benefits include reductions in incidences of diabetes, obesity, attention-deficit disorder and other maladies. Positive attributes such as imagination, perception, creativity, self-esteem, sociability, motivation and stewardship have also been associated with children’s experiences in nature. Play in unstructured, natural settings is increasingly recognized as an essential component of wholesome child development. As such, public agencies and other children’s advocacy groups are striving to connect children and nature with forward-thinking initiatives like the California State Parks Children in Nature Campaign, the Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights and groundbreaking agreements to focus national and state efforts on these issues.
In addition to environmental, aesthetic and recreation benefits, parks also provide many economic benefits to cities.7

**Parks increase home values.** More than 100 years ago, Frederick Law Olmsted conducted a study of how New York’s Central Park affected adjacent property values. He found that over a 17-year period there was a $209 million increase in the value of the property impacted by the park. His study was not unique in finding that quality parks are often linked to increases in home and property values. In a more recent example, development of Atlanta’s Centennial Olympic Park spiked adjacent condominium prices from $115 to $250 per square foot.

**Parks increase municipal revenue.** Increased property values also mean higher municipal revenue to cities from property taxes. Tax revenues from increased retail activity and tourism-related expenditures further increase city revenue. In Oakland, California, the presence of the East Bay Regional Park District is estimated to stimulate about $254 million annually in park-related purchases, of which $74 million is spent in the local East Bay economy.

**Parks attract businesses and workers.** Parks and recreational amenities enhance quality of life and help attract both businesses and workers. Workers in what has been termed “the new economy” are selling knowledge as a main source of wealth creation and economic growth, as compared to physical labor. Since success and competitive advantage of knowledge-based businesses are increasingly tied to people rather than locations, people’s preferences for high-quality living environments are becoming important economic development considerations for cities and employers. A 1998 survey of 1,200 high-tech workers revealed that quality of life in a community increases job attractiveness by 33%.8
Richmond’s System of Parks

A long-term goal for Richmond is to develop an integrated system of parks: a system of large and small open spaces and community facilities linked together along natural creek channels, pedestrian-friendly streets and multimodal corridors from the hills to the bays. Developing open space and recreational resources hand-in-hand with pedestrian and bicycle improvements will better link neighborhoods together physically, connecting the community to open space resources, community facilities and key destinations throughout the City.

Defining the System of Parks

The components of the system of parks concept include:

• Parks ranging from large regional parks to small neighborhood parks, community gardens and urban pocket parks;
• Community facilities such as schools, community centers, recreational facilities and cultural and enrichment centers;
• Gathering areas such as transit hubs and commercial plazas;
• Natural features such as creeks, marshes and bays; and
• Connectors such as paths, trails and green streets.

Linking these components together will create a vibrant resource system within the City. The aim is to: enhance the community’s use of trails, greenways, outdoor spaces and community facilities; improve how those areas complement and supplement Richmond’s parks, residential and commercial areas; and make the City more walkable and bicycle-friendly. The system of parks concept proposed in this General Plan emphasizes several attributes that are important to Richmond residents: access to open space and community facilities, citywide pedestrian and bicycle connections, environmental stewardship and community livability.

In developing this system, the City has an opportunity to simultaneously address critical environmental issues and enhance the City’s urban design with green infrastructure.

The system of parks concept seeks to highlight natural features, expand urban greenery and utilize natural systems to manage stormwater. As in most urban environments, many of Richmond’s creeks have been channelized and redirected underground. An integral part of Richmond’s vision for its parks and open space system includes daylighting and restoring creeks, integrating them into park designs and using them to connect open spaces via creekside trails and a system of pedestrian-friendly green streets. As a result, water quality is improved and polluted stormwater runoff flowing to creeks and the San Francisco Bay is reduced. Further, green streets can significantly reduce demand on the City’s stormwater drainage system, support habitat and create a more park-like condition for pedestrians.

Ongoing improvements to the City’s circulation system will emphasize: retrofitting streets as pedestrian-friendly green streets; daylighting and restoration of creeks; developing creekside trails; and connecting large and small open spaces along natural creek channels and green streets.

As the City takes steps to create this integrated system of parks, a range of strategies will be required to bridge gaps in the proposed network such as:

• Prioritizing park development along corridors where pedestrian and bicycle improvements are planned;
• Acquiring lots in residential areas as land becomes available to develop neighborhood or compact parks;
• Building an inventory of underutilized or unfavorable commercial sites and acquiring these lots as opportunities arise;
• Collaborating with developers, landowners and business owners to integrate small pocket parks, plazas, and rest stops into redevelopment projects on commercial corridors; and
• Pursuing joint-use agreements to maximize investment and use of existing facilities, especially those conveniently located in neighborhoods.

Additional guidelines and strategies for creating an integrated system of parks and public areas will be developed as part of the comprehensive parks master plan.
Richmond’s System of Parks Concept

Figure 10.7 illustrates a conceptual pattern of parks along multimodal trails and bicycle and pedestrian-friendly streets in Richmond. In the long-term, the system of parks would provide comfortable connections along park-like green streets to parks and other important community resources. Multimodal routes will also provide connections to valuable water access points provided by the Bay Water Trail and the proposed Cultural Heritage Water Trail.

The Richmond Greenway, Cutting Boulevard and Nevin and Solano avenues are envisioned as the primary east-west links through core neighborhoods. The Greenway will ultimately link the Bay Trail and the Ohlone Greenway. Creekside trails following Brookside Drive and San Pablo Creek as well as San Pablo and Rheem creeks will be explored as potential east-west connections in North Richmond. Marina/Giant Road and 23rd Street are major routes connecting the north and south ends of the City, as well as the San Francisco Bay Trail with segments located on portions of the Richmond Parkway, Cutting Boulevard, Marina Way, Regatta Boulevard and Central Avenue.

This framework of bicycle and pedestrian-friendly connections pinpoint locations for street improvements and park development. Locations of creeks will also drive decisions about where to incorporate green streets, creekside trails and parks that feature daylighted creeks.
Key Findings and Recommendations

Richmond’s existing parks, open spaces and greenways provide a strong network from which to enrich and expand recreational assets. While residents value their distinctive location characterized by hills, bay views, shoreline access and a variety of parks and recreational opportunities, the City faces a number of significant challenges as well. Chief among these is to provide safe open space in Central Richmond and connect these areas to regional parks and open space along the shoreline and in the hills. Other critical priorities include ensuring the safety of park visitors, protecting park property, elevating the visual appeal and quality of parks and recreational facilities and expanding park programming to best reflect residents’ needs and interests. Well-maintained, high-quality parks and recreational programs can help activate public spaces, support physical fitness and engage residents of all ages and abilities in healthy play and learning.

The following key findings and recommendations provide policy direction for Richmond’s parks and recreational resources.

Finding 1: Richmond has many neighborhood-serving facilities and amenities, but deferred maintenance, concern for safety and lack of adequate programming discourage their active use.

High-quality, safe, well-maintained parks and recreation areas are high priorities in the community. Many area playgrounds will benefit from rejuvenation, upgraded play equipment and accessibility improvements. Means of activating and improving the safety and quality of Richmond’s urban parks include:

- Deterring graffiti and other blight conditions in and around parks and open space areas;
- Designing safe environments that deter criminal activity, and programming facilities for active use throughout the day;
- Providing law enforcement, park stewards and park rangers to deter and respond to crime;
- Installing technology that has proven effective in deterring crime;
- Making parks and facilities accessible to everyone including children, seniors and people with disabilities;
- Properly maintaining equipment, lighting, facilities and fields; and
- Ensuring safe use through active neighborhood surveillance by surrounding residents.

Finding 2: Richmond has a wide range of park types, but the lack of safe, convenient access prevents many residents from routinely utilizing these resources.

Open space and recreational resources in the City can be difficult to access since many of them are largely isolated from one another rather than being part of an interconnected system. Shoreline and hillside regional parks are particularly difficult to access, especially for residents in core areas of the City where Interstate 580, the rail corridor, high-traffic streets and industrial areas act as barriers. Developing open space resources hand-in-hand with pedestrian and bicycle improvements will better link neighborhoods together physically and connect the community to open space resources, community facilities and key destinations throughout the City.

The means for improving these connections include:

- Creating a system of parks – a system of large and small open spaces and community facilities linked together along natural creek channels, green streets and multimodal corridors from the hills to the bay;
- Increasing connections to regional and state parks at the outer edges of the City;
- Expanding public access and circulation options to existing resources and/or developing new parks and green areas closer to, and within core neighborhoods and along multimodal routes; and
- Raising awareness about the City’s parks and recreation programs and services.

Finding 3: The current distribution of parks and recreational resources do not adequately serve all neighborhoods.

Many neighborhoods, most notably those in Central Richmond, have limited access to parks. New service standards for parks, recreational programs and facilities will firmly guide civic leaders toward ultimately achieving accessible parks for everyone. Ways to achieve more equitable park distribution and programming include:
• Assessing the current distribution of park types and functions throughout the City;
• Distributing resources for upgrades, new facilities and maintenance equally throughout the City; and
• Pursuing strategic partnerships with schools, public-serving agencies and nonprofit organizations to expand public access to parks and recreation facilities while more efficiently using existing facilities and amenities.

Finding 4: Richmond has extensive hillside and shoreline parklands, but there are still opportunities to expand public access to these larger-scale resources and increase overall contact with nature at a smaller scale in the urban environment.

Improved access to natural environments will: contribute to the City’s overall system of parks; enhance public enjoyment; provide public health benefits; offer convenient opportunities for hands-on experiences in nature; and potentially strengthen stewardship and ongoing support for open space preservation. Improving public access to the San Pablo peninsula, Wildcat Canyon, Hilltop Lake, Point Molate, Miller/Knox Park, shoreline areas, restored creeks and other natural areas are particularly promising opportunities. Strategies for increasing contact with nature include:

• Supporting strategies that will expand public access and interpretive opportunities in natural areas such as creeks, the shoreline and hills as appropriate to varying levels of habitat sensitivity;
• Promoting conservation, restoration and stewardship of resources;
• Integrating more urban green space, street trees, creeks and unstructured natural settings in urban areas such as neighborhood parks and schools; and
• Increasing public awareness of the value of connecting people to nature.

Finding 5: Richmond promotes green practices and standards, but these need to be expanded to include all parks and recreation facilities and operations.

The City is dedicated to using efficient and sustainable design and maintenance practices to conserve natural resources. Key components of Richmond’s parks and open space system include using green streets to link open spaces, expanding urban greenery and utilizing natural systems to manage stormwater. Richmond can support environmental stewardship by:

• Reducing impacts on the natural environment and restoring natural areas;
• Promoting green infrastructure and building practices to protect and enhance the natural environment while reducing ongoing costs for maintenance; and
• Integrating City activities with educational and recreational programs to raise awareness in schools and the community.

Finding 6: Richmond has a diverse, multicultural and multi-generational population that has a broad spectrum of recreational interests and enrichment needs.

Recreational programs and enrichment opportunities should be developed or expanded to serve people of all incomes, cultural backgrounds, ages and levels of physical capability. Opportunities to improve the relevance of programs and to improve service delivery involve:

• Assessing current demographics, needs and interests of residents and tailoring improvements and recreational programs to best meet community needs;
• Addressing barriers to program participation and service delivery;
• Supporting events and festivals that celebrate and promote the City’s multicultural identity; and
• Serving people with special needs.
Goals

GOAL PR1: An Integrated System of Parks, Green Streets and Trails
Develop strategies that will expand the system of large and small open spaces and community facilities linked together along natural creek channels, pedestrian-friendly green streets and multimodal corridors from the hills to the bay. Coordinate park development and upgrades with pedestrian and bicycle improvements to safely and comfortably connect residents to valuable recreational destinations. Create a system of parks that equitably serves diverse community needs, offers a range of park types, facilities and activities and highlights natural features wherever possible. Provide more transit opportunities to improve access to parks and recreation facilities.

GOAL PR2: Safe and High-Quality Parks and Recreational Facilities
Provide safe, high-quality, distinctive parks that support secure places for social interaction, community identity, beauty and livability. Base park designs on the unique cultural, historic and environmental setting of an area so that each park is distinctive. Promote safety and activate parks by programming for broad appeal, encouraging flexible spaces to accommodate a wide range of experiences and utilizing natural and technological surveillance measures.

GOAL PR3: Sustainable Design and Maintenance Practices
Use efficient and sustainable design and maintenance practices to conserve natural resources and support environmental stewardship. Where possible, highlight natural features, retrofit streets as green streets, expand urban greenery, daylight creeks, utilize natural systems to manage stormwater, and improve pedestrian and bicycle connections to encourage non-vehicular modes of transit. Reliable, long-term maintenance practices are critical to maintaining area parks as community assets. Promote maintenance practices that are efficient, sustainable and equitable.

GOAL PR4: Stewardship of the Natural Environment
Improve access to natural environments as appropriate to varying levels of habitat sensitivity. Doing this will: contribute to Richmond’s overall system of parks; enhance public enjoyment; provide public health benefits; offer convenient opportunities for hands-on experiences in nature; and potentially strengthen stewardship and ongoing support for open space preservation. Increase opportunities for contact with nature on a smaller scale by designing urban parks and play areas to incorporate natural features such as unstructured natural settings or creeks. Contribute to raising public awareness of natural and cultural resources and the value of connecting people to nature by encouraging interpretive features in the landscape and public education.
GOAL PR5: A Range of Quality Recreation Programs and Services
Develop and expand recreational services and enrichment opportunities to best serve people of all incomes, cultural backgrounds, ages and levels of physical capability. Provide a range of conveniently accessible, stimulating programs and services that meet the diverse needs of the community and improve the quality of life of all residents.
Policies and Implementing Actions

A range of policies and implementing actions are outlined below in relation to each of the goals. These policies mandate, encourage or allow certain actions to be pursued throughout the duration of the General Plan. Together they serve as strategic directions for City staff and partners, highlighting where time and resources should be focused.

Each policy may either be correlated with a number of actions, or simply a single key implementing action. Conversely, some actions may support a range of policies. The policies and implementing actions are organized in two parts. First, all goal-related policies are described and each policy description is followed by a list of its associated implementing actions. Then, implementing actions are described in greater detail in the following section.
GOAL PR1
An Integrated System of Parks, Green Streets and Trails

Policy PR1.1  Diverse Range of Park Types and Functions
Continue to provide a diverse range of park types, functions and recreational opportunities to meet the physical and social needs of the community. Regularly review the design and programming of all City parks to expand and diversify uses.

See also: HW1.2

Policy PR1.2  Multimodal Connections to Parks, Open Space and Recreational Facilities
Improve connections to parks, open space and recreational facilities through an interconnected network of pedestrian-friendly green streets, multimodal corridors and trails. Enhance trails and greenways to provide recreational opportunities for residents, connect neighborhoods and community uses, improve access to natural resources and the shoreline and promote walking and bicycling. On-street connections should be pedestrian and bicycle-friendly and incorporate green infrastructure where possible. Transit links along key corridors will allow residents and visitors to access parks, recreation facilities and open space areas. Developing open space and recreational resources hand-in-hand with pedestrian, bicycle and transit improvements will better link neighborhoods together physically, connecting the community to open space resources, community facilities and key destinations throughout the City.

Policy PR1.3  Equitable Distribution of Park and Recreation Facilities
Expand park and recreation opportunities in all neighborhoods and ensure that they are offered within comfortable walking distance of homes, schools and businesses in order to encourage more physically and socially active lifestyles. Continue to implement the parkland development standard of three acres of community or neighborhood parkland per 1,000 population in each neighborhood planning area. This represents a minimum provision which should be exceeded whenever possible. In established neighborhoods where land availability for new large parks is limited, prioritize improvement and maintenance of compact parks, play lots and plazas to increase access to recreation opportunities for residents. Encourage developers to meet the City’s park development standard within their proposed development projects.

See also: HW1.9
Policy PR1.4  
**Joint-Use Opportunities**
Promote access to non-City operated parks and recreational facilities. Existing resources operated by the East Bay Regional Parks District, school district, community groups or others may support residents’ interim needs for convenient access to parks and community centers. Joint-use opportunities serve to more efficiently utilize existing facilities and amenities, host programs in convenient neighborhood locations, better activate community areas so that they are in use during the day and in the evenings and enable the City and partners to share the cost of maintenance, upgrades and improvements for the benefit of the entire community.

*See also: HW1.5*
GOAL PR1
An Integrated System of Parks, Green Streets and Trails

Action PR1.A  Community Access and Mobility Criteria
Develop access and mobility criteria for capital improvement projects and new development to enhance physical access to community facilities, schools, parks, shoreline open spaces, historical destinations, commercial and employment centers and transit hubs. The criteria should address access by walking, bicycling and public transit as well as vehicular access.

The community access and mobility criteria should:

• Ensure safe connections to large and small open spaces, community facilities such as schools, community centers, recreational facilities, cultural and enrichment centers, historical destinations, transit hubs and commercial and employment centers;

• Address travel routes, infrastructure improvement needs and barriers such as roads, railroad lines, freeways, fences and natural features; and

• Provide bicycle and pedestrian-friendly routes including completion of major trails and pathways like the San Francisco Bay Trail and Richmond Greenway.

See also: CR2.A; EH3.D; HW4.A; CN2.F
**Action PR1.B**

*Park Performance Standards*

Refine and utilize park performance standards within the Parks Master Plan including a classification system, park system guidelines and design criteria to guide development and management of parks and open spaces and ensure a high-quality, equitable range of park types and functions distributed throughout the City.

Richmond’s park classification system identifies five major park types (with suggested acreages and service area radii) and a number of functions to serve a wide range of recreation and leisure activities appropriate to their surrounding context. The City’s service goal specifies a minimum of three acres of community or neighborhood parkland per 1,000 residents. Parkland access standards specify a need for neighborhood or community parks within a quarter to a half-mile radius of neighborhoods, ensuring equitable and convenient access. These standards represent minimum provisions which the City should strive to exceed whenever possible. A comprehensive parks master planning process will provide an opportunity to further tailor Richmond’s parkland types, and a citywide community needs assessment will pinpoint areas where facilities and services will benefit most from improvement.

Park system guidelines and design criteria should be developed to direct design decisions and ensure high-quality parks. In addition to these overarching system guidelines, more specific design criteria should be developed to ensure that each park fits its context and functions effectively in connecting community members to one another and their environment. Design criteria will specify that parks: utilize high-quality, sustainable building materials; provide a variety of landscape elements; include art and placemaking features to reflect the culture, values and history of the community; separate incompatible uses; connect open space areas where feasible; include adequate signage and information describing codes of conduct and City regulations; and incorporate facility maintenance standards and requirements as part of the design review process; among others. These design criteria are further developed as part of the parks master planning process.

*See also: PR1.C; PR1.E*
GOAL PR1
An Integrated System of Parks, Green Streets and Trails

**Action PR1.C**  
**Parks Master Plan**
Complete the development of the comprehensive long-range Parks Master Plan to address changing recreation interests, trends, needs and priorities. The Parks Master Plan should:

- Include a community needs assessment that looks at all types of park and recreation programs offered in the community including those that relate to arts and culture, education enrichment and human services;
- Identify long-term goals for the Recreation Department and the community;
- Describe current and future needs, interests and community preferences for improving new parks and community facilities, and expanding or initiating new programs and services;
- Present a long-range plan for physical park and community facility improvements;
- Refine performance standards and further develop park design guidelines and criteria;
- Develop a long-term strategy for the Richmond Greenway;
- Prioritize projects in areas that are underserved, deficient in parks and in need of facility improvements; and
- Outline funding mechanisms and strategies for managing the City’s commitments so that new requests and initiatives are considered in light of existing commitments.

*See also: HW1.A*
GOAL PR1
An Integrated System of Parks, Green Streets and Trails

**Action PR1.D**  
*Parkland Acquisition Plan*

Support the efforts of the East Bay Regional Parks District to retain and acquire land for the expansion of existing parks such as the Point Isabel Regional Shoreline. Based upon the findings of the Parks Master Plan, develop a parkland acquisition plan for achieving better distribution of parks in all neighborhood planning areas of the City and accomplishing an integrated system of parks. Identify areas that may need more parklands including: densely populated neighborhoods with limited open space; areas that are more than ½-mile from a neighborhood or community park; areas where substantial new housing growth is expected based on this General Plan; and areas where the existing recreational facilities need enhancement.

Prioritize park development along corridors where pedestrian and bicycle improvements are planned and target underserved areas and potential infill areas with space for new parks. Consider innovative and alternative strategies to provide park recreation space such as soccer fields and gardens over parking structures. Include policies that promote community ownership and use of left-over spaces in the City that may be blighted or unsafe. Support residents in their efforts to develop community gardens which will help promote a local food program. Identify potential funding sources.

Confirm a range of acquisition strategies including easements, donations, land purchases and park set-asides, parkland dedication or in-lieu fees for new or redevelopment projects. Bolster these strategies by applicable agency agreements, development agreements, conditions of approval, CC&R’s and dedicated deposits, among others. Include considerations for trail and greenway expansion. New trails and greenways may be developed to connect parks, community facilities and other City destinations such as commercial centers and neighborhoods. Additional preliminary strategies include:

- Building an inventory of underutilized or unfavorable commercial sites and focus efforts on acquiring these parcels as opportunities arise;
- Collaborating with developers, landowners and business owners to integrate small transit-oriented pocket parks or plazas into redevelopment projects on commercial corridors; and
- Prioritizing park development along corridors where pedestrian and bicycle improvements are planned and acquiring parcels in residential areas as land becomes available to develop neighborhood or compact parks.
GOAL PR1  
An Integrated System of Parks, Green Streets and Trails

**Action PR1.E**  
*Shoreline Parks Plan*

Within the framework of the Parks Master Plan, coordinate with other agencies and community groups to explore the potential for creating new parks and facilities particularly along the San Pablo Peninsula. Trails and greenways along the scenic shoreline should be enhanced to provide recreational opportunities and circulation access and to develop the shoreline as a visitor destination. Whenever possible, expand shoreline access and the development of both land and water sports and recreation activities along Richmond’s waterfront and shoreline (including creating a shoreline visitor water shuttle in partnership with the National Park Service) while respecting natural resources and considering impacts on the environment.

Coordinate efforts with community groups, property owners, and the BCDC to analyze gaps and identify opportunity sites for completing the Bay Trail; identification of routes and improvements needed to connect the shoreline with core urban areas of the City; bicycle and pedestrian trails to provide local connections between the waterfront and surrounding neighborhoods; and provisions to complete planned regional trails including the San Francisco Bay Trail, Richmond Greenway and Wildcat Creek Regional Trail. The Shoreline Parks Plan will be developed in coordination with specific plans for the waterfront. The Plan will also consider state and federal security requirements for the Chevron refinery and other important industries.

**Action PR1.F**  
*Joint-Use Agreements*

Pursue joint-use agreements with West Contra Costa Unified School District, East Bay Regional Parks District, neighboring cities, public agencies, private entities and nonprofit organizations that own and operate facilities within the City. In addition to providing more space for recreational and enrichment programming, strategic partnerships can provide the benefit of shared renovation, development, maintenance and operational costs.

*See also: ED1.E; EH1.D; HW1.G; CF2.A; AC1.D.*
GOAL PR1
An Integrated System of Parks, Green Streets and Trails

**Action PR1.G  Parkland Dedication Ordinance**
Update the parkland dedication ordinance that requires new development and redevelopment projects to provide adequate park and recreation opportunities to maintain the 3.0 acres per 1,000 population standard in applicable planning areas through a combination of park types as defined in the Parks and Recreation Element (to be updated and refined in the parks master plan).

Update the park impact fee ordinance that requires new development and redevelopment projects to pay a fair share to cover the cost of parkland acquisition and improvement if the development is unable to provide adequate parkland within the project. Prioritize park dedication over impact fees. Perform a nexus study periodically to update the criteria and fees.

Include provisions that prevent a net loss of parklands in the City. Require at least a 1:1 replacement if there is any loss of public open space or parkland due to redevelopment.

*See also: CN2.C; HW1.B*

**Action PR1.H  Park Dedication Incentives Program**
Develop an incentives program that encourages private development and public agencies to provide park and recreation facilities beyond the minimum requirements. Define priority needs where additional parks and recreational facilities may fill gaps in service.

*See also: HW1.C*

**Action PR1.I  Capital Improvement Program**
Coordinate development with the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to ensure completion of high-priority facility and infrastructure projects. Ensure that CIP projects are prioritized in economically depressed neighborhoods with the highest need.

*See also elements: CR1.G; CF1.C; GM2.A*

**Action PR1.J  Inter-Agency Collaboration**
Collaborate with the East Bay Regional Park District, California Department of Parks and Recreation, University of California and the National Park Service to ensure coordinated management of Richmond’s many parks and trails. Continue to enhance partnerships with these agencies to develop, manage and enhance park access, and acquire parkland and public spaces where possible.
GOAL PR2
Safe and High-Quality Parks and Recreational Services

**Policy PR2.1 High-Quality, Distinctive Parks**
Provide safe, high-quality and distinctive community gathering places with broad appeal. Designing parks with attention to place-making will foster social interaction, community identity, beauty and livability. Each park in the City should try to draw on the unique cultural, historic or environmental qualities of an area to create high-quality, distinctive parks where people of all ages and abilities can share experiences.

**Policy PR2.2 Safe Public Spaces and Facilities**
Protect visitors of parks and recreational facilities from exposure to structural and safety hazards, wildland fires, crime and other natural or human-induced incidents and promote park and facility design that discourages vandalism, deters crime, provides natural surveillance and creates a safe and comfortable environment. Improving public safety can be accomplished by appropriately designing parks, trails and recreation facilities, and by providing safe outdoor play structures and equipment in City-owned and operated facilities. Ensure fire safety in areas adjacent to open spaces prone to wild fires.

*See also: HW1.6*

**Policy PR2.3 Active Use and Natural Surveillance**
Provide a comprehensive range of programs to aid in natural surveillance. A robust schedule of programs, activities and services that serve community needs will encourage active use of facilities throughout the day, providing natural surveillance. Likewise, creating safe environments will encourage social gatherings and interaction in community facilities. Provide oversight by trained park stewards and law enforcement officers.
10 Parks and Recreation

GOAL PR2
Safe and High-Quality Parks and Recreational Services

Action PR2.A  Site Plan Review Guidelines
Develop guidelines and procedures for the review and approval of projects that include public spaces to ensure compliance with park design guidelines and standards.

Action PR2.B  Community-Based Self-evaluation and Transition Plan
Develop a community-based self-evaluation and transition plan to work toward access for all and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. With involvement from the community and specifically people with disabilities, the plan should assess the City’s ability to serve the needs of all Richmond residents and visitors. Specifically, the plan should assess policies, programs, services and facilities that are available to the public and provide recommendations for adapting service delivery methods and making physical improvements to ensure access for all. The plan should also include a timeline, priorities, implementation and financing strategies.

See also: CR1.F; HW4.I; CF1.K

Action PR2.C  Public Safety Design Guidelines
Develop and adopt design guidelines that deter criminal activity in neighborhoods, streets and public areas. Include guidelines for the design of play areas, parks, sports facilities, streets and sidewalks, plazas and urban pocket parks, and housing and commercial sites, among others. Require the early integration of crime prevention strategies such as community policing in new development and redevelopment projects including the involvement of the Police Department in the review of major projects in high-crime areas of the City.

Include guidelines for parks and recreation facilities with particular focus on the following five areas: design and orientation of buildings, restrooms and parking areas; defensible space with no hidden areas or structures that block visibility and natural surveillance; ownership and control over public space; cameras and other technologies; lighting; and signage.

See also: ED1.A; LU2.C; SN2.A; HW1.H.
GOAL PR2
Safe and High-Quality Parks and Recreational Services

Action PR2.D  Crime Reduction Strategy
Continue to refine crime reduction strategies and park-watch programs in conjunction with local law enforcement agencies and residents. Explore the potential for creating community-watch programs and other security-enhancing strategies such as park rangers for routine patrolling, installing pedestrian-scaled lighting, tightening enforcement, increasing policing, setting up security cameras and locating small police substations in park areas with high crime rates. Address graffiti abatement, illegal trash dumping and theft of materials and parts by increased enforcement.

Action PR2.E  Emergency Communication and Management Program
Continue to support and refine the citywide emergency communication and management program in coordination with other City departments and public safety agencies. Incorporate emergency operation procedures such as installation of call boxes or security cameras in parks and train City workers in the use of park emergency equipment and protocols.

Action PR2.F  Parks and Recreational Facilities Renovation
Continue to renovate all park and recreational facilities as part of the City’s regular maintenance schedule.
GOAL PR3  
Sustainable Design and Maintenance Practices

**Policy PR3.1  Efficient and Sustainable Design and Maintenance Practices**
Promote conservation and energy efficiency in the design, construction and maintenance of parks, recreation facilities, landscaped areas and trails. Enhance the long-term fiscal and environmental sustainability of the City’s infrastructure by promoting green buildings, infrastructure and operations.

**Policy PR3.2  Equitable Maintenance and Renovation**
Provide equitable park maintenance, renovation and upgrading funding across planning areas. Provide a high standard of ongoing maintenance, renovation and upgrading of City parks and recreation facilities. Prevent deterioration and ensure that facilities continue to serve community needs. Ensure that the development of new parks does not jeopardize ongoing maintenance of existing parks.
**GOAL PR3**  
Sustainable Design and Maintenance Practices

**Action PR3.A**  
**Sustainability Guidelines for Parks and Recreation Facilities**  
Promote sustainability principles in the City’s park performance standards. The guidelines could be developed as part of the Parks Master Plan. Key components of Richmond’s parks and open space system should include developing green buildings and infrastructure, using green streets and multi-use trails to link open spaces, expanding urban greenery and utilizing natural systems to manage stormwater. Sustainability guidelines for parks should further guide the City in supporting environmental stewardship by:

- Reducing impacts on the natural environment;
- Promoting green infrastructure and building to protect and enhance the natural environment while reducing ongoing costs for maintenance;
- Integrating City activities with educational programs to raise awareness in schools and the community;
- Integrating daylighted creeks into green street design where possible, along with porous paving and vegetation to improve water quality and reduce demand on the City’s stormwater drainage system;
- Expanding urban greenery and highlighting natural features (both along the City’s streets and in public parks and urban spaces) to support and connect species habitat and create more park-like conditions in neighborhoods; and
- Redesigning streets to be bicycle and pedestrian-friendly and developing multi-use trails to encourage non-vehicular modes of transit.

**Action PR3.B**  
**Maintenance Guidelines**  
Adopt guidelines and best practices to enhance long-term fiscal and environmental sustainability in the maintenance, renovation and upgrading of parks, recreational facilities and trails in the City. Include guidelines for the types of vegetation, use of recycled water, composting or in-place decomposition of plant cuttings to minimize environmental impacts. Consider adapting and adopting the Bay Friendly Landscaping Principles developed by the East Bay Municipal Utility District. Address maintenance and upkeep of City parks. These sustainable maintenance guidelines should be integrated into the City’s overall park performance standards as well as into individual maintenance plans for parks, trails and recreational facilities.
**GOAL PR3**
Sustainable Design and Maintenance Practices

**Action PR3.C**  
*Urban Creek Restoration*
Where feasible, restore creek corridors in urban areas. Creeks currently diverted in culverts or hardened channels should be restored to their natural state. Adopt regional guidelines for channel creation or modification to ensure that channels meander, have a naturalized side slope and a varied channel bottom elevation. Include improvement standards for soft bottom channels.

*See also: CN1.H; HW9.N; EC6.C*

**Action PR3.D**  
*Water Conservation Program*
Continue to plan for and install state-of-the-art master irrigation controller systems in all new and existing parks and landscapes. Provide for other irrigation components that further enhance water conservation. Plan for and replace plant materials for better water conservation consistent with the Water Use Classification of Landscape Species (WUCOL) project plant lists developed by the State of California Department of Water Resources and University of California.

**Action PR3.E**  
*Green Building Design Guidelines*
Continue to refine the green building design guidelines to promote energy efficiency and environmental protection in parks and recreation facilities. Include guidelines for indoor and outdoor areas. Coordinate with other departments and agencies to ensure consistency across City policies and guidelines related to green design.

**Action PR3.F**  
*Parks Maintenance Plan*
Regularly update the maintenance plan for all City-owned and operated parks, trails, landscapes and greenways. Include funding mechanisms to support ongoing operations and life-cycle replacements. Consider the Hilltop Landscape Maintenance District and the Marina Bay Neighborhood Landscape Management Plan as models. The parks maintenance plan may be included in the Parks Master Plan. Work with the school district and other public agencies to develop community service credits for students.

*See also: HW1.D*

**Action PR3.G**  
*Recreation Facilities Maintenance Plan*
Regularly update the maintenance plan for City-owned and operated recreation facilities. Set minimum standards for maintenance levels at facilities and include a funding mechanism for ongoing operations. Continue efforts to prevent illegal dumping and graffiti.

*See also: HW1.F*
GOAL PR3
Sustainable Design and Maintenance Practices

**Action PR3.H**  
**Inter-Departmental Coordination**  
Coordinate with other City departments and agencies to integrate conservation and best practices into maintenance and operations of parks and recreation facilities. Areas for coordination may include the use of recycled water, waste recycling and energy efficient practices.

**Action PR3.I**  
**Partnerships and Sponsorships**  
Continue to develop partnerships with other agencies, community-based organizations, businesses, foundations and sports groups to maintain and upgrade parks and recreation facilities in the City. Identify partnering opportunities and work collaboratively to develop joint-use agreements. Explore opportunities for financial sponsorship of park and recreation facilities by corporate or non-profit partners, local businesses, foundations and support organizations. Continue the adopt-a-park program.
GOAL PR4
Stewardship of the Natural Environment

Policy PR4.1  Access to Large-Scale Natural Areas
Improve access to large-scale natural areas located in the City including regional parks along the shoreline and in the hills. These areas should be open for controlled access to improve public enjoyment and interpretation. Access should be limited where natural habitat is extremely sensitive. Work with transit agencies to improve connections and access to open space and recreation facilities from all Richmond neighborhoods.

See also: CN2.5; HW1.7

Policy PR4.2  Shoreline Access and Development
Enhance public access to and encourage development of water-dependent sports and recreation activities, such as kayaking, sailing, sail and kite boarding, swimming and fishing along the Richmond’s shoreline to encourage environmental awareness and improve public health and fitness.

See also: HW1.8

Policy PR4.3  Restoration and Rehabilitation
Support and promote the restoration of indigenous and native habitat in open space preserves, national and regional parks, local parks and landscaping. Include restoration of bay shore wetlands, establishment of native plant species and elimination of invasive exotic species.

Policy PR4.4  Urban Green Space
Increase opportunities to incorporate green space as part of the urban environment. Urban green space contribute broad public health benefits for both adults and children and improve quality of life and property values.

Policy PR4.5  Public Awareness
Build awareness about Richmond’s unique natural, historical and cultural resources through its parks and recreational facilities, programs and services. Opportunities include developing interpretive programs, incorporating displays and signage, conducting nature walks, coordinating with the school district to involve youth and integrating historic and cultural resources with parks and recreation planning to enhance local awareness of nationally significant amenities.
GOAL PR4
Stewardship of the Natural Environment

**Action PR4.A  Urban Greening Initiative**
Support and encourage citywide initiatives to increase opportunities for contact with nature. The initiative should:

- Improve access to urban parks, green spaces and natural environments;
- Protect and restore natural landscapes and habitat;
- Develop smaller, flexible, close-to-home facilities that include informal natural play areas, community gardens, restored creeks, landscaping with trees, shrubs and flowers;
- Plant street trees, well-landscaped urban environments, green streets and trails;
- Incorporate unstructured natural settings in public play areas, schools and other learning environments;
- Support development of curricula that relies on hands-on experiences in natural settings;
- Balance the need for organized recreation with the need for unstructured natural play environments;
- Utilize park performance standards including design guidelines and criteria to ensure that natural features are included in designs;
- Support school and community efforts to connect school children and youth to wilderness areas or other natural environments during the school year;
- Support efforts to increase public awareness of the value of connecting adults and children to nature;
- Work in partnership with organizations such as Groundwork Richmond (GWR) to improve the City’s outdoor environment; and
- Develop an Urban Greening Citywide Strategy that includes a citywide tree planting program. Consider creating an Urban Forestry Advisory Subcommittee within the Recreation and Parks Commission.

*See also PR4.A*
**GOAL PR4**

**Stewardship of the Natural Environment**

**Action PR4.B**

**Urban Forestry Management Plan**
Continue to implement the urban forest management plan to guide landscaping practices in urban areas of the City, reduce the heat-island effect and contribute to carbon mitigation. Continue the adopt-a-tree program. Coordinate the plan with the “City of Richmond urban Forest Management/Master Plan Reforestation supplement (1997)” and related documents for this purpose. Update the plan to establish the following measures:

- Create guidelines to establish minimum planting standards and require appropriate tree species and planting densities within newly landscaped areas;
- Update the list of trees to be used as a guideline for all tree planting and focus on local native species;
- Identify maintenance and planting standards for street trees, ensuring that the best practices in urban forestry are being utilized including best practices for pruning around above-ground utility lines to ensure the best health and form of street trees;
- Update zoning requirements for street trees in new developments and in parking lots;
- Outline coordination efforts with EBMUD to offer programs or other resources to provide property owners with information on proper tree selection, proper location to reduce heat transfer effects, planting and maintenance; and
- Establish guidelines that require all native tree habitats to be protected and when avoidance is not possible, require mitigation efforts as required by the Public and Private Tree Preservation Ordinance.

*See also: CN6.E; HW9.M; EC6.E; CF3.C*

**Action PR4.C**

**Bay Trail and Shoreline Access Ordinance**
Develop and adopt an ordinance that requires future developments near the shoreline to provide public access where the San Francisco Bay Trail is planned and to provide public access to the shoreline where feasible.
GOAL PR4
Stewardship of the Natural Environment

**Action PR4.D** Public Awareness and Information Program
Consider creating a program to raise awareness about the City's unique natural, historical and cultural resources and amenities. Promote tourism, economic development, education, conservation and preservation and other objectives through the plan. Collaborate with educational and community service providers to create educational opportunities for youth and families. Include cultural heritage programs that educate residents about Native Americans, winemaking, shrimping, whaling and other aspects of Richmond's history. Collaborate with the travel and tourism industry to increase visitor awareness about aquatic sports and recreation and eco-tourism opportunities along Richmond's shoreline.

**Action PR4.E** Conservator Guidelines
Develop conservator guidelines for all public displays of art and historically related monuments in parks, trails, landscapes and facilities.

**Action PR4.F** Citywide Signage Guidelines
Develop citywide signage guidelines that create uniform signage for parks and recreation facilities in the City. Consider directional signs to facilities as well as appropriate signage within facilities and landmark locations. Include provisions for trail signage and interpretive exhibits along the Bay Trail and the Cultural Heritage Shoreline Trail. Consider providing displays of the Richmond Greenway's history along the trail similar to the Bay Trail's exhibits. The signage guidelines may be developed as part of the Parks Master Plan or as an independent effort. Coordinate with the National Park Service and East Bay Regional Park District to ensure consistency at a regional level. Coordinate with objectives of the interpretive signage and wayfinding plan proposed specifically for National Historical Park sites.

**Action PR4.G** Interpretive Trails Guidelines
Develop guidelines for the design, construction and maintenance of trails in the City. Include guidelines for signage and interpretive exhibits that use signs, art and other visual clues to enhance user experience. Highlight the rich natural and cultural history of the City and provide education and information to users. Coordinate the guidelines with the National Park Service, University of California, East Bay Regional Park District, Bay Trail and Ridge Trail to enhance user experience on regional trail connections.
GOAL PR5
A Range of Quality Recreation Programs and Services

Policy PR5.1 Recreation Programs and Services
Expand and tailor recreational programs and services to meet evolving community needs. Programs and services should remain accessible and relevant to today's residents, responding to unique cultural, historic and social needs as well as changing demographics.

See also: HW1.3
GOAL PR5
A Range of Quality Recreation Programs and Services

**Action PR5.A  Citywide Recreation Program**
Regularly update the City’s recreation program to: support efforts by the Recreation and Parks Commission to enhance existing programs or develop new programs to serve people of all incomes, cultural backgrounds, ages and levels of physical capability; and encourage more intensive use of facilities throughout the day. Target programs for school-age youth during after-school hours, summer recess and weekends; and program areas related to arts and culture. Refining the recreation program may occur as part of the Parks Master Plan development process. Work with youth leaders to engage their peers and ensure that all new programming is designed with the active input of youth.

*See also: HW1.E*

**Action PR5.B  Festivals and Events Funding**
Continue to support local festivals and events in support of the celebration of key activities within the City of Richmond. This may be done in collaboration with non-profits or other organizations.

*See also: Action ED1.H*

**Action PR5.C  Outreach Program**
Develop an effective outreach program for all City programs and services. An important aspect of providing enrichment to the community is the successful delivery of information about program availability to the general public. Improving communication, considering multilingual needs, and widely distributing outreach materials highlighting Richmond’s broad spectrum of programs and services could have a significant impact on citizen engagement.

**Action PR5.D  After-School Programs**
Coordinate with the West Contra Costa Unified School District, service providers, community-based organizations and volunteers to enhance and expand after-school programs in the City.

**Action PR5.E  Preschool and Childcare Program**
Coordinate with Contra Costa County, service providers, community-based organizations and volunteers to enhance and expand pre-school and daycare programs in the City.
**Action PR5.F**  
*Richmond Shuttle Service Feasibility Study*

Explore the potential for a City-operated shuttle service to complement transit and paratransit services in Richmond. The shuttle service could link key destinations throughout the City including schools, community facilities, parks, major employment centers, commercial centers, health facilities, transit centers and neighborhoods. In addition, the service should provide convenient weekend access between neighborhoods and cultural, recreational and commercial destinations such as regional open space, national park sites, museums, cultural events and the Downtown. Based on feasibility study outcomes, develop follow-up steps such as a plan for service delivery and funding.

*See also: CR1.J*
### Summary of Implementing Actions

The table presented on the following pages is a tool for guiding implementation of the City's Parks and Recreation Element. Organized by the community’s broad goals, the table provides an overview of policies and implementing actions detailed in the previous section. Each action is linked to a designated lead responsible party. Related policies are identified in the final column.

#### Goal PR1: An Integrated System of Parks, Green Streets and Trails

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Lead Responsibility</th>
<th>Supporting Policies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PR1.A</td>
<td>Community Access and Mobility Criteria</td>
<td>Planning and Building Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR1.B</td>
<td>Park Performance Standards</td>
<td>Recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR1.C</td>
<td>Parks Master Plan</td>
<td>Recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR1.D</td>
<td>Parkland Acquisition Plan</td>
<td>Public Works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR1.E</td>
<td>Shoreline Parks Plan</td>
<td>Recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR1.F</td>
<td>Joint-Use Agreements</td>
<td>City Manager’s Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR1.G</td>
<td>Parkland Dedication Ordinance</td>
<td>Planning and Building Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR1.H</td>
<td>Park Dedication Incentives Program</td>
<td>Planning and Building Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR1.I</td>
<td>Capital Improvement Program</td>
<td>Public Works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR1.J</td>
<td>Inter-Agency Collaboration</td>
<td>Recreation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Goal PR2: Safe and High-Quality Parks and Recreational Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Lead Responsibility</th>
<th>Supporting Policies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PR2.A</td>
<td>Site Plan Review Guidelines</td>
<td>Planning and Building Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR2.B</td>
<td>Community-Based Self-evaluation and Transition Plan</td>
<td>Public Works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR2.C</td>
<td>Public Safety Design Guidelines</td>
<td>Planning and Building Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR2.D</td>
<td>Crime Reduction Strategy</td>
<td>Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR2.E</td>
<td>Emergency Communication and Management Program</td>
<td>Office of Emergency Services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Goal PR2: Safe and High-Quality Parks and Recreational Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Lead Responsibility</th>
<th>Supporting Policies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PR2.F</td>
<td>Parks and Recreational Facilities Renovation</td>
<td>Parks and Public Facilities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Goal PR3: Sustainable Design and Maintenance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Lead Responsibility</th>
<th>Supporting Policies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PR3.A Sustainability Guidelines for Parks and Recreation Facilities</td>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>PR3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR3.B Maintenance Guidelines</td>
<td>Parks and Public Facilities</td>
<td>PR3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR3.C Urban Creek Restoration</td>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>PR3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR3.D Water Conservation Program</td>
<td>Public Works</td>
<td>PR3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR3.E Green Building Design Guidelines</td>
<td>Planning and Building Services</td>
<td>PR3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR3.F Parks Maintenance Plan</td>
<td>Parks and Public Facilities</td>
<td>PR3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR3.G Recreation Facilities Maintenance Plan</td>
<td>Parks and Public Facilities</td>
<td>PR3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR3.H Inter-Departmental Coordination</td>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>PR3.1, PR3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR3.I Partnerships and Sponsorships</td>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>PR3.1, PR3.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Goal PR4: Promote Stewardship of the Natural Environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Lead Responsibility</th>
<th>Supporting Policies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PR4.A Urban Greening Initiative</td>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>PR4.1, PR4.2, PR4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR4.C Bay Trail and Shoreline Access Ordinance</td>
<td>Planning and Building Services</td>
<td>PR4.1, PR4.2, PR4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR4.D Public Awareness and Information Program</td>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>PR4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR4.E Conservator Guidelines</td>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>PR4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR4.F Citywide Signage Guidelines</td>
<td>Planning and Building Services</td>
<td>PR4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR4.G Interpretive Trails Guidelines</td>
<td>Planning and Building Services</td>
<td>PR4.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Goal PR5: A Range of Quality Recreation Programs and Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Lead Responsibility</th>
<th>Supporting Policies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PR5.A Citywide Recreation Program</td>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>PR5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR5.B Festivals and Events Funding</td>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>PR5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR5.C Outreach Program</td>
<td>Library Services</td>
<td>PR5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR5.D After-School Programs</td>
<td>Library Services</td>
<td>PR5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR5.E Preschool and Childcare Program</td>
<td>Library Services</td>
<td>PR5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR5.F Richmond Shuttle Service Feasibility Study</td>
<td>Public Works</td>
<td>PR5.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Regulatory Framework

The City of Richmond utilizes a number of key organizing bodies and planning tools in their endeavor to deliver parks and recreation services to the community.

Organizations
Within the City of Richmond, parks and recreation services are provided by two agencies: the Recreation Department and the Parks and Landscaping Division. In addition to these City departments, the Recreation and Parks Commission guides management and development of parks and delivery of recreation programs.

Parks and Landscaping Division
Park planning, construction, maintenance and resource management is provided by the Parks and Landscaping Division. In addition, the Division also has underlying ownership of some regional parks such as Alvarado Regional Park. The City also owns 510 acres of open space clustered mostly in the El Sobrante Valley, Point Richmond and Point Molate which afford valuable links to regional trails and lands of the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD). Another Parks and Landscaping Division responsibility involves managing the urban forest which is made up of approximately 40,000 trees located in public areas. The Division strives to meet park development goals through the five-year citywide Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as well as other financing mechanisms (http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/parks).

Recreation Department
The Recreation Department provides programs, classes and facility rental to residents. The Department offers programs to residents of all ages including adults, youth and teens, seniors and people with disabilities. The Department also schedules group sports and other activities in parks, senior centers, swim centers and the City auditorium (http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/recreation).

Recreation and Parks Commission
The Recreation and Parks Commission provides policy guidance to City staff (Recreation Department and the Parks and Landscaping Division) on park development, recreation programs, standards and improvements. A Parks Committee of the Commission plays an active role in advising the Parks and Landscaping Superintendent on policies and priorities for park planning and projects (http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.asp?NID=423).

Urban Forest Advisory Committee
The Urban Forest Advisory Committee advises and assists the Parks and Landscaping Superintendent to promote care and expansion of the City’s 40,000-tree urban forest (http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.asp?NID=1392).

Hilltop Advisory Committee
The Hilltop Advisory Committee advises and assists the Parks and Landscaping Superintendent on projects within the Hilltop Landscape Maintenance District (http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.aspx).

East Bay Regional Park District
The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) manages most of Richmond’s regional parks. EBRPD endeavors to provide open space, wildlife habitat and green buffers in the urban corridor of Contra Costa and Alameda Counties while offering a range of passive recreational opportunities to people in East Bay communities (http://www.ebparks.org/). The East Bay Regional Park District manages Eastshore State Park in Richmond under an operating agreement with the California State Parks.

California State Parks
The California Department of Parks and Recreation manages more than 270 park units which contain a diverse collection of natural, cultural and recreational resources within California. California State Parks contains the largest and most diverse natural and cultural heritage holdings of any state agency in the nation. State park units include: underwater preserves, reserves and parks; redwood, rhododendron and wildlife reserves; state beaches, recreation areas, wilderness areas and reservoirs; state historic parks, historic homes and Spanish-era adobe buildings including museums, visitor centers, cultural reserves and preserves; and lighthouses, ghost towns, water-slides, conference centers and off-highway vehicle parks. The Department manages the Eastshore State Park in Richmond (http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=21491). The California State Parks are the joint landowners of the Eastshore State Park with the East Bay Regional Park District and have a property management agreement with the East Bay Regional Park District.
National Park Service
The National Park Service maintains more than 400 national parks across the country including recreational, cultural and natural sites. The National Park Service oversees daily operations and long-range planning for the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park (http://www.nps.gov/).

Plans and Ordinances

Parkland Dedication Ordinance
The Parkland Dedication Ordinance is particularly significant in ensuring that the allocation of parks and open spaces remains balanced with new development. The Quimby Act, passed in 1975, gave the City express consent to pass the ordinance requiring that developers set aside land, donate conservation easements or pay fees for park improvements.

San Pablo Peninsula Open Space Study (2005)
The Open Space Study provides an assessment of park and open space lands on the San Pablo Peninsula. It also includes recommendations related to land use, trails and recreational facilities.

El Sobrante Valley Parks Study (2001)
Created in collaboration with Contra Costa County, the Parks Study analyzes the park and open space needs for the area and identifies 12 recommendations based on input received from El Sobrante Valley residents (www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/cd/current/sd8533_el-sobrante/4.14-Recreation.pdf).

East Bay Regional Park District Master Plan (2007)
The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) Master Plan sets policies and guidelines for resource conservation, management, interpretation, public access and recreation of regional parks within the East Bay including those in Richmond (www.ebparks.org/files/RPM_Plan97.pdf).

San Francisco Bay Trail Plan
The San Francisco Bay Trail Plan identifies existing and proposed segments of the Bay Trail including areas in Richmond. This Plan provides visions, goals and policies for the development of the planned 500-mile hiking and biking trail encircling San Francisco and San Pablo Bays (baytrail.abag.ca.gov/).

Marina Bay Neighborhood Landscape Management Plan (2008)
This Management Plan provides a detailed inventory of landscape and parks resources as well as priorities for future upgrades and improvements for the Marina Bay area.

Developed by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the Guidelines represent an intra-agency effort to coordinate shoreline access signage in the Bay Area (http://www.bcdc.ca.gov/pdf/planning/SSSG.pdf).

City of Richmond Gateway Project (2001)
The Gateway Project creates an identity and branding for the City through the use of signage, site amenities and landscaping that is consistent and intuitive.

City of Richmond Urban Forest Management/ Master Plan Reforestation Supplement (1997)
This Master Plan lists tree selections for several areas of the City as well as planning guidelines and related information.

Hilltop Master Landscape Plan (1984)
Developed for the core commercial area of the Hilltop Landscape Maintenance District, this Plan presents landscaping guidelines for public spaces including the Hilltop Lake Park.

Recreation Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Richmond Unified School District (1977)
The Recreation Agreement allows joint use of City and School District facilities while maintaining underlying responsibility for maintenance of properties. This agreement is automatically renewed on an annual basis.

City of Richmond Recreation and Parks Facilities Inventory (1972)
The inventory covers a majority of core area parks and facilities which still remain important components of City’s parks system.
Bay Trail Plan
The plan for the Bay Trail proposes development of a regional hiking and bicycling trail around the perimeter of San Francisco and San Pablo Bays. The Plan was prepared by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) pursuant to Senate Bill 100, which mandated that the Bay Trail provide connections to existing park and recreation facilities, create links to existing and proposed transportation facilities, and be planned in such a way as to avoid adverse effects on environmentally sensitive areas.

City of Richmond Municipal Code
Chapter 10.08 of the City of Richmond Municipal Code empowers the Parks and Landscaping Superintendent to decide on and direct all selections, trimming, pruning, care, plantings and removals of trees and other vegetation in the public realm.
Notes


Cover Artwork

1. Left: Photograph by Hector Rojas

2. Right: “Dreaming in the Park” by Lauren Ari, Richmond Resident
This page is intentionally left blank.