

Proposed General Plan Update Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions



Riparian Corridors

The streams and adjacent riparian lands within the City of San José are a vital natural resource supporting a diversity of habitats as well as providing open space resources and contributing to economic vitality.

Item 3.a – October 26, 2009 Task Force Meeting

Riparian Corridors

Goal R-1 Preserve, protect, and restore the City’s riparian resources in an environmentally responsible manner to protect them for habitat value and recreational purposes. (Updated SJ2020 GP)

Riparian Policies

- Policy R-1.1 Ensure that new public and private development adjacent to riparian corridors in San José are consistent with the provisions of the City’s Riparian Corridor Policy Study and the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP). (Updated SJ2020 GP)
- Policy R-1.2 Require that new development be set back from the outside edge of riparian habitat (or top of bank, whichever is greater) a distance sufficient to buffer the impacts of adjacent human activities and provide avenues for wildlife dispersal. (Updated SJ2020 GP)
- Policy R-1.3 Design new development to protect adjacent riparian corridors from encroachment of lighting, exotic landscaping, noise and toxic substances into the riparian zone. (Updated SJ2020 GP)
- Policy R-1.4 When disturbances to riparian corridors cannot be avoided, ensure that appropriate measures are implemented to restore, and/or mitigate damage. (Updated SJ2020 GP)
- Policy R-1.7 Encourage the restoration of riparian habitat through native plant restoration and removal of non-native/invasive plants along riparian corridors and adjacent areas. (Updated SJ2020 GP)

Riparian Actions

Action R-1.8 Develop a City Council Policy based on the City’s Riparian Corridor Policy Study to successfully implement the riparian goals and policies of the General Plan.

- Action R-1.9 Partner with public, private, and non-profit agencies on public outreach and education on the importance of protecting our riparian corridor resources.
- Action R-1.10 Develop and require the use of a criteria checklist from the Riparian Corridor Policy Study to evaluate new developments that propose to use riparian setback exceptions.