

Proposed General Plan Update Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions



Parks, Trails, Open Space, and Recreation Amenities/Programs

High Quality Facilities and Programs

San Jose desires to provide high quality parks and recreation facilities and programs that meet the needs of its residents. This General Plan seeks to build upon successes of the past and pave the way for future achievements in the provision of parks and recreation amenities. San Jose recognizes that great cities should have great parks, that the City should have standards for the provision of minimum parkland acreages, and that parks should be carefully designed and located to address local community demographics, needs, and interests.

Goal PR-1 Provide park lands, trails, open space, recreation amenities, and programs, nationally recognized for their excellence, which enhance the livability of the urban and suburban environments; preserve significant natural, historic, scenic and other open space resources; and meet the parks and recreation services needs of community residents, workers, and visitors.

PR-1 Policies:

- Policy PR-1.1 Provide 3.5 acres/1,000 population of neighborhood/community serving parkland through a combination of 1.5 acres of public park and 2.0 acres of recreational school grounds open to the public per 1,000 San Jose residents. (*Greenprint* Target #4, Updated SJ2020GP Policy)
- Policy PR-1.2 Provide 7.5 acres/1,000 population of citywide/regional park and open space lands through a combination of facilities provided by the City of San Jose and other public land agencies. (*Greenprint* Target #5, Updated SJ2020GP Policy)
- Policy PR-1.3 Provide 500 square feet/1,000 population of community center space. (*Greenprint* Target #6, Updated SJ2020GP Policy)
- Policy PR-1.4 Provide access to high-quality recreation programs/services through a three-tiered multi-service hub, satellite, and neighborhood community center concept. (*Greenprint* Target #32)
- Policy PR-1.5 ~~Align the~~ City's recreation capital investment should implement ~~with~~ the Greenprint, the Community Sports Field Study, the Green Vision, the Aquatics Master Plan, the Community Center Reuse Strategy, the Urban Environmental Accords and other policies adopted by the City Council. (*Greenprint* Target #1)

- Policy PR-1.6 Where appropriate and feasible, develop parks and recreational facilities that are flexible and can adapt to the changing needs of the surrounding community.
- Policy PR-1.7 ~~Within Villages and Downtown, d~~Design vibrant urban public spaces and parklands that function as community gathering and local focal points, providing opportunities for activities such as community events, festivals and/or farmers markets as well as opportunities for passive and, where possible, active recreation.
- Policy PR-1.8 Enhance existing parks and recreation facilities in built-out areas through new amenities and other improvements to ensure that residents' needs are being met.
- Policy PR-1.9 As Village and Corridor areas redevelop, they should incorporate urban open space and parkland recreation areas through a combination of high-quality, publicly accessible outdoor spaces provided as part of new development projects; privately, or in limited instances publicly, owned and maintained pocket parks; neighborhood parks where possible; as well as through access to trails and other park and recreation amenities.
- Policy PR-1.10 Given the limited land resources available in San Jose, the City should focus on land banking for future park development and only build the new parks when development and maintenance funding is identified. (*Greenprint* Target #16)
In the interim between acquisition and improvement, utilize and maintain lands for public open space as appropriate.
- Policy PR-1.11 Develop an integrated parks system that connects new and existing large parks together through a network of interconnected trails and/or bike lanes/routes.

PR-1 Actions:

- Action PR-1.12 Regularly update and utilize San Jose's PDO/PIO to implement quality facilities.
- Action PR-1.13 Maintain and periodically update a strategic plan (the *Greenprint*) establishing criteria and standards for the provision of parks and recreation services.
(*Greenprint* Target #2, Updated SJ2020GP Policy)
- Action PR-1.14 Periodically survey park and recreational facility users and surrounding communities and use the information gained from said surveys to implement improvements to existing and to plan for future parks and recreational facilities.
- Action PR-1.15 Develop community sports parks to serve the existing and future residents, workers, and visitors in San Jose.
- Action PR-1.16 Identify and pursue additional opportunities for new large park locations in San Jose (including but not limited to the County Fairgrounds, Coyote Valley, Pleasant Hills Golf Course, Rancho San Vicente, Water Pollution Control Plant

buffer lands, ~~the Lester property~~, and the former Singleton Landfill site), and pursue development of these opportunities, where feasible.

Action PR-1.17 Pursue expansion of existing large parks facilities such as Kelley Park, Guadalupe River ParkGuadalupe River Park & Gardens, Shady Oaks Park, and others, where feasible.

Healthy City

San Jose's parks and recreation amenities play important roles in helping to transform San Jose into a healthier city through by providing residents access to nearby park facilities, trails, recreation programs, and community gardens.

Goal PR-2 Build healthy communities through people, parks, and programs by providing accessible recreation opportunities that are responsive to the community's health and wellness needs.

PR-2 Policies:

Policy PR-2.1 Encourage healthy food choices, exercise, and the production of locally grown agriculture for personal use by providing community garden facilities.

Policy PR-2.2 Provide quality recreation and neighborhood services that increase frequency of exercise, foster physical activity, and encourage healthy living. (*Greenprint Strategy p. 21*)

Policy PR-2.3 Design and construct new parks and amenities in a manner that promotes their safe utilization and which allows access to each type of recreation experience for people of all abilities to the maximum extent possible. (*Greenprint Target #29, SJ2020GP Policy*)

Policy PR-2.4 To ensure that residents of the new project and existing residents in the area benefit from new amenities, spend Park Dedication Ordinance (PDO) and Park Impact Ordinance (PIO) fees for neighborhood serving elements (such as playgrounds/tot-lots, basketball courts, etc.) within a 3/4 mile radius of the project site that generates the funds. (*Greenprint Target #7*)

Policy PR-2.5 Spend, as appropriate, PDO/PIO fees for community serving elements (such as soccer fields, dog parks, sport fields, community gardens, community centers, etc.) within a 3-mile radius of the residential development that generates the PDO/PIO funds. (*Greenprint Target #8*)

Policy PR-2.6 All new residential developments over 200 units in size should be located within 1/3 of a mile walking distance of an existing or new park, trail, open space or recreational school grounds open to the public after normal school hours or should include one or more of these elements in the project design. (*Greenprint Target #10*)

PR-2 Actions:

- Action PR-2.7 Locate, orient, and design parks and recreation facilities using the principles that promote safety, security, and policing, in part through use of the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design concept when applicable. (*Greenprint* Target #17)
- Action PR-2.8 Partner with the County and non-profits to promote community gardens in low income areas as an opportunity to grow affordable and healthy food.
- Action PR-2.9 Develop partnerships with non-profits and the school districts to connect school children with community gardens, providing children with educational opportunities and access to healthy foods.
- Action PR-2.10 Promote San Jose’s parks and recreation system as one piece of the “healthy city” concept that encourages healthy bodies and minds for San Jose’s residents and visitors.

Equity

One of San Jose’s greatest strengths is its diversity, and San Jose embraces and celebrates its diverse blend of cultures. San Jose strives to achieve social, cultural, and economic equity, in part, by providing all residents access to its parks and recreation amenities.

- Goal PR-3** Create a balanced park system that provides all residents access to parks, open space, community centers, dog parks, skate parks, aquatics facilities, sports fields, community gardens, and other amenities.

PR-3 Policies:

- Policy PR-3.1 Provide equitable access to parks, open space, community centers, dog parks, skate parks, aquatics facilities, sports fields, community gardens, and other amenities to the greatest extent feasible in order to provide a high quality of life for our residents.
- Policy PR-3.2 Provide access to an existing or future neighborhood park, a community park, recreational school grounds, a regional park, open space lands, and/or a major City trail within a ~~one-half kilometer~~ (1/3 mile) radius walking distance of all San Jose residents by either acquiring lands within 1/3 mile or providing safe connections to existing recreation facilities outside of the 1/3 mile radius walking distance consistent with the United Nation’s Urban Environmental Accords, as adopted by the City, for recreation open space. (*Greenprint* Target #9, Updated SJ2020GP Policy)

Policy PR-3.3 Apply resources to meet parks, recreation, and open space needs in underserved areas of the city, ~~paying particular attention to~~ prioritizing lower income and higher density areas, which may have a greater need for these amenities.

PR-3 Actions:

Action PR-3.4 Provide the amenities identified in the Balanced Ideal Planning Area Model in the *Greenprint*, which include amenities such as community centers, parkland, sport fields, dog parks and community gardens. (*Greenprint* Strategy, p. 66)

Action PR-3.5 Develop programs, activities, events, and facilities that appeal to a broad audience, including but not limited to youth, young adults, and seniors and those of varying ethnicities, backgrounds, and abilities.

Community Identity

This General Plan establishes a vision for San Jose's future, and it details how San Jose may enhance its image in the Bay Area, the state, and the country. The City's parks and recreation facilities play a key role in creating a community identity and providing solid, lasting, and recognizable images for San Jose. As such, the City should capitalize on existing amenities, create new ones, and promote San Jose's parks and recreation assets as a means to enhance San Jose's identity. Part of San Jose's identity should be defined by a significant, grand park that acts as a focal point for the City.

Goal PR- 4 Improve San Jose's overall image and individual communities' images and livability by providing excellent recreation facilities, dynamic public spaces, and quality parks and recreation programs that gain national recognition.

PR 4 Policies:

Policy PR-4.1 Collaborate with the community in the design, programming, and operation of parks and recreation facilities to ensure that these facilities meet their needs. (*Greenprint* Target #34)

Policy PR-4.2 In the design of parks, consider providing features, facilities, and services that promote tourism and make San José an attractive location for economic development as well as serve the needs of San José residents. (*Greenprint* Target #29, SJ2020GP Policy)

Policy PR-4.3 Promote San Jose's unique, regional parks and recreation facilities as regional attractions/destinations by incorporating facilities, programs, and events with regional draws and marketing these to a regional audience.

Policy PR-4.4 Reinforce the cultural character of new and existing neighborhoods by reflecting local materials, design forms, and landscape character in the development of neighborhood serving parks.

PR-4 Actions:

Action PR-4.5 Increase special events that bring neighborhoods together, such as street festivals, resource fairs, holiday parades, movies, theatrical plays, and concerts in local parks, on temporarily closed streets, and/or in plazas. (*Greenprint Strategy*, p. 21)

Action PR-4.6 Where feasible and appropriate, strategically incorporate public art into parks, trails, and recreation facilities, with preference given to public art that reflects the culture and identity of the surrounding community, local history, or the ecology of the area.

Goal PR-5 Develop and promote a series of grand parks to act as a focal points for the City, its residents, and its visitors.

PR-5 Actions:

Action PR-5.1 Develop the Guadalupe River Park & Gardens & Gardens as one of the City's grand parks, as part of an integrated park system. Update the Guadalupe River Park & Gardens & Gardens Master Plan to achieve this goal.

Action PR-5.2 Promote a series of parks as the City's grand parks that hosts events, attracts visitors, and strengthens San Jose's overall identity.

Action PR-5.3 Adhere to and update, as necessary, the *Guadalupe River & Park Urban Design Guidelines* to address how development adjacent to the Guadalupe River Park & Gardens will support and/or enhance the park.

Action PR-5.4 Incorporate features, facilities, and special events in Guadalupe River Park & Gardens that attract a wide variety of users from throughout San Jose and the region and establishes it as San Jose's grand public park.

Action PR-5.5 Connect the Guadalupe River Park & Gardens to other assets in the city via a network of trails and bike paths to encourage connectivity and community and to maximize the parks use and accessibility.

Environmental Stewardship

San Jose is a national leader in environmentally sustainable practices, both in its own actions and in promoting sustainable practices in the private, non-profit, and personal arenas. Accordingly, San Jose's parks and recreation amenities embrace environmental sustainability as a guiding principle.

Goal PR-6 Provide environmentally sustainable programs, facilities, and infrastructure assets, accompanied by a network of trails and pathways throughout the City to provide an alternate means of transportation.

PR-6 Policies:

- Policy PR-6.1 Partner with the community to promote environmental stewardship. (*Greenprint* Goal)
- Policy PR-6.2 Continue to develop trails, parks and recreation facilities in an environmentally sensitive and sustainable manner, ensuring conformance with appropriate biological and riparian policies. (*Greenprint* Target #18)
- Policy PR-6.3 Encourage public land agencies to accept dedications of open space lands of regional significance, including watersheds, wildlife habitats, wetlands, historic sites and scenic lands. (*Greenprint* Target #26, Updated SJ2020GP Policy)
- Policy PR-6.4 Consistent with the Green Vision, complete the City’s trail network and where feasible develop interconnected trails with bike lanes to facilitate bicycle commuting and recreational uses. (*Greenprint* Target #11)
- Policy PR-6.5 Design and maintain park and recreation facilities to minimize water, energy and chemical (e.g. pesticides and fertilizer) use. Incorporate native and/or drought-resistant vegetation and ground cover where appropriate.
- Policy PR-6.6 Encourage sustainable connections (such as pedestrian/bike trails, bike lanes and routes, transit, etc.) between community elements like schools, parks, recreation centers, libraries and other public nodes. (*Greenprint* Target #12)
- Policy PR-6.7 In design and construction, consider the role of parks, trails, and open space in preserving or enhancing existing ecosystems/wildlife habitat or restoring where appropriate.
- Policy PR-6.8 Encourage development of public and private recreational uses in rural and hillside areas that is low intensity and sensitive to geologic hazards, water resources, natural habitats, and visual impacts. (SJ2020GP Policy, revised)

PR-6 Actions:

- Action PR-6.9 Obtain applicable LEED Certification (or its equivalent) for new and existing parks and recreation facilities, as dictated by applicable City policies.

Interconnected Parks System

Interconnection of homes, workplaces, stores, restaurants, and recreational amenities is critical to a high quality of life for San Jose’s residents. The City is committed to improving its parks and recreation amenities, particularly its trail and bike network, as a means to interconnect the various aspects of residents’ and visitors’ lives.

Goal PR-7 Provide an integrated system of parks connected by a citywide network of trails and pathways that provide opportunities for walking and biking for both recreation and transportation, thus fostering a healthy community.

PR-7 Policies:

- Policy PR-7.1 Encourage non-vehicular transportation to and from parks, trails, and open spaces by developing trail and other pleasant walking and bicycle connections to existing and planned urban and suburban parks facilities.
- Policy PR-7.2 Condition land development and/or purchase property along designated Trails and Pathways Corridors in order to provide sufficient trail right-of-way and to ensure that new development adjacent to the corridors does not compromise safe trail access nor detract from the scenic and aesthetic qualities of the corridor. (SJ2020GP Policy)
- Policy PR-7.3 Whenever possible, construct parks and recreation facilities, especially those that are youth serving, where they are accessible to public transit. (Greenprint Strategy, p. 20)
- Policy PR-7.4 Design bridges and other public improvements within designated Trails and Pathways Corridors to provide safe and secure routes for trails, including grade separation of roadways and trails whenever feasible. (SJ2020GP Policy)
- Policy PR-7.5 Meet the parks needs and expand recreational opportunities for residents in dense, urban areas partially by focusing on improving connections (particularly trail, bicycle, and pedestrian networks) to large parks and recreation facilities.
- Policy PR-7.6 Integrate and connect trail and pathway networks with a larger network of county wide and regional trails such as the Bay Area Ridge Trail to allow for a broad base of opportunities and linkage with the greater Bay Area.

PR-7 Actions:

- Action PR-7.7 At parks, trails, and recreational facilities, provide appropriate media to educate the public on options for reaching various recreational destinations using non-vehicular transportation and explain the environmental and health benefits of using these alternative means.
- Action PR-7.8 **Evaluate** Consider abandoned railroad rights-of-ways for acquisition and development as trails where the right-of-way aligns with the City's Trail System. (Greenprint Target #14, Updated SJ2020GP Policy)
- Action PR-7.9 Work with the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the utilities, including PG& E, to explore opportunities to develop trails and/or other recreational amenities along their rights-of-way.

Fiscal Sustainability

Ensuring that parks and recreation amenities can be developed, maintained, and administered on an on-going basis is critical for their long-term success. To facilitate fiscally sustainable parks and recreation facilities, the City should consider a variety of creative financing and partnership options.

Goal PR-8 Provide financially sustainable recreation programs, facilities, and infrastructure assets.

PR-8 Policies:

- Policy PR-8.1 Partner with the community and businesses to promote volunteerism in the care and programming of parks and recreation facilities. (*Greenprint Goal*)
- Policy PR-8.2 Encourage privately owned and maintained and publicly accessible recreation spaces that encourage community interaction; compliment the private property uses; and, when adjacent to existing and planned parks, recreation facilities, or open spaces, connect them to these facilities. (*Greenprint Action, p. 37*) This policy is particularly important in dense, urban areas.
- Policy PR-8.3 ~~When funding permits,~~ Give priority to the purchase and land banking of properties as they become available for future park and recreation facility developments. (*Greenprint Target #16*)
- Policy PR-8.4 Consider open space land dedications when public ownership will preserve the natural and scenic beauty, protect natural and man-made landmarks, or provide a land supply to meet future recreation needs. (*Updated SJ2020GP Policy*)
- Policy PR-8.5 Whenever new developments includes more than 50 residential units and is adjacent to a designated Trails and Pathways corridor, encourage the developer to build a trail when it is a part of a continuous system. (*Greenprint Target #13, Updated SJ2020GP Policy*)
- Policy PR-8.6 Develop or renovate facilities using a financially sustainable approach to maximize revenue generation (from amenities such as softball fields), where possible. (*Greenprint Target #19*)
- Policy PR-8.7 Continue to actively collaborate with school districts, utilities, and other public agencies to provide for appropriate recreation uses of their respective properties and rights-of-ways. Consideration should be given to cooperative efforts between these entities and the City to develop parks, pedestrian and bicycle trails, sports fields and recreation facilities. (*Greenprint Target #22, Updated SJ2020GP Policy*)
- Policy PR-8.8 Collaborate with the public land agencies and other appropriate jurisdictions to direct the expenditure of their funds to provide parks and other open space lands

and recreation resources within, or in close proximity to, the urban population.
(*Greenprint* Target #23, Updated SJ2020GP Policy)

Policy PR-8.9 Work cooperatively with local school districts in identifying and evaluating surplus school sites for potential parkland acquisition. (*Greenprint* Target #24, Updated SJ2020GP Policy)

Policy PR-8.10 Encourage the development of private/commercial recreation facilities that are open to the public to help meet existing and future demands (i.e. plazas, swimming pools, fitness centers and gardens). (*Greenprint* Target #32)

PR-8 Actions:

Action PR-8.11 Use **Align** the City's capital investment within its Five Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Budget to enhance recreational opportunities as they are defined in the City's General Plan Goals & Policies, the *Greenprint*, and other applicable plans/policies adopted by the City Council. (*Greenprint* Target #1)

Action PR-8.12 Explore recreation augmentation and funding to offset reliance on the General Fund. (*Greenprint* Target #21)

Action PR-8.13 Consider use of general obligation bonds to further the development of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for the City.

Action PR-8.14 To offset reliance on the General Fund, create a financially sustainable approach for recreational services and facilities, maximize the use of programs and facilities, and ensure affordable access to programs and services by setting parks and recreation user fees and pricing strategies in accordance with City Council-approved cost recovery percentage goals and the guiding principles found in the Pricing and Revenue City Council Policy. (*Greenprint* Target #20)

Action PR-8.15 Explore means for volunteer and donated enhancement of public parks and recreation facilities (such as maintenance from neighborhood/community groups, businesses, etc.) as a means to help further maintenance and operations objectives where feasible.

Action PR-8.16 Explore creative funding options for the design, development, and maintenance of recreation facilities and programs, including grants, special assessment districts and partnerships with public, private, and non-profit organizations.

Action PR-8.17 Maintain and periodically update the School Site Reuse Plan as a tool to evaluate the acquisition of surplus school properties for parks, recreation, and open space purposes while allowing school districts to recover some investments in those properties. (*Greenprint* Target #25, Updated SJ2020GP Policy)

- Action PR-8.18 Implement fee changes for recreation programs and facilities in order to generate additional revenues that could fully fund the program for the City. (*Greenprint* Action, p. 33)
- Action PR-8.19 Pursue joint use projects with schools and colleges, Santa Clara Valley Water District, other public agencies, and private foundations. (*Greenprint* Action, p.36) Whenever feasible, obtain permanent joint-use agreements when partnering with other organizations or agencies in providing parks or recreation facilities in order to ensure the amenities' availability in perpetuity.
- Action PR-8.20 Develop a Parks & Community Foundation as a means for residents and business partners to support parks and recreation programs and projects. (*Greenprint* Action, p. 36)