

EL CERRITO PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES MASTER PLAN  
DRAFT GOALS, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS

**REFERENCED PLAN KEY**

CAP: Climate Action Plan, 2013  
GP: General Plan, 1999  
    CD: Community Design Element  
    CF: Recreation Facilities Element  
    PR: Public Facilities and Services Element  
    LU: Land Use Element  
    TI: Transportation and Circulation Element  
SP: Specific Plan, 2015  
UGP: Urban Greening Plan, 2014

**COMMUNITY PRIORITY KEY**

CP: Community Priority

**GOAL A: ENHANCE EL CERRITO'S PARK NETWORK**

Policy A1. Support park enhancements, where feasible, to meet community demands in recreation and maximize park use (UGP, Objective 4)

- Action A1.1. Identify funding for Parks to ensure investment in projects that make parks more multipurpose and meet multiple community benefits (UGP, 4.3)
  - Acquire right-of-way or private parcels, where possible, to expand park network
  - Incorporate currently underutilized spaces that could provide a broader diversity of uses (UGP, 4.3)
- Action A1.2. Develop and implement the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Open Space In-Lieu program (UGP, 5.3)
  - Develop green, multi-purpose open spaces, such as pocket parks and plazas, that create active social gathering spaces and streetscape amenities to increase walkability and connectivity
- Action A1.3. Support park expansion and improvement in high density neighborhoods
  - Provide additional tot-lots, playgrounds, active recreation, urban agriculture and community gathering opportunities in higher density neighborhoods (UGP, 6.2)

Policy A2. Rehabilitate existing parks to meet operational and safety standards (GP, PR1.1) (SP, Goal D), maximize their use (UGP, Objective 4) to meet community demand, and support community identity **(CP)**

- Action A2.1. Ensure park amenities are accessible to all users (GP, PR1.13)
  - Update or replace play areas for ADA compliance and to create unique park identities
  - Correct identified site deficiencies from the *2009 ADA Transition Plan*
- Action A2.2. Improve park amenities to maximize community use and to create attractive recreation areas with a 'sense of place' (GP, CD1) **(CP)**
  - Improve group picnic areas for opportunities to gather and create revenue generation through rentals
  - Improve playfields to meet high demand and unmet needs in recreation
  - Improve outdoor sport courts – basketball, tennis courts, pickleball amenities, and futsal amenities

## EL CERRITO PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

- Support the provision of park amenities including seating areas, bicycle parking, water fountains, play areas, etc.
- Action A2.3. Implement clear park signage
  - Provide signage for park rules and regulations
  - Provide interpretive signage for cultural and environmental resources within the City's park system
  - Provide entry and wayfinding signage
- Action A2.4. Ensure that the City's parks network supports a safe community (GP, LU4)
  - Activate parks through multipurpose programming and activities to promote public safety (GP, LU4.1)
  - Encourage planning, design, lighting, and landscaping features that promote crime prevention (GP, LU4.2)

Policy A3. Continue regular inspection and maintenance of park facilities to prolong life of equipment, ensure facility safety and accessibility, and enhance the enjoyment of park users (GP, PR1.2) **(CP)**

- Action A3.1. Improve maintenance of existing parks to meet high demand and usage **(CP)**
  - Identify funding for parks to ensure continued maintenance (UGP, 4.3) - upgrade the level of routine and annual maintenance including trash/litter pick-up, landscaping and urban forest management
  - Continue to identify trash generation hot spots per the Municipal Regional Stormwater process (UGP, 4.4)
  - Continue to encourage community organizations and private citizens to help maintain public parks and open space (GP, PR1.6)
    - Continue to support and publicize the City's Adopt-a-Park program to encourage residents, community organizations and businesses to become involved in improving City parks and landscaped public areas
    - Develop and coordinate the Trail Maintenance Volunteer Program proposed in the *Urban Greening Plan*
    - Expand the Green Teams program per the *Urban Greening Plan*
    - Continue to co-sponsor nonprofits and community organizations per the *Urban Greening Plan*
    - Explore "Adoption" programs to encourage community members to take responsibilities for public open space per the *Urban Greening Plan*
- Action A3.2. Ensure that maintenance practices are environmentally and fiscally sustainable
  - Update irrigation system/network for water efficiency
  - Use Water Smart irrigation systems, practices and technologies (CAP, M-2.3)
  - Utilize sustainable landscape maintenance practices to conserve natural resources and reduce costs
    - Implement the proposed Sustainable Landscape Maintenance Policies from the *Urban Greening Plan*

## GOAL B: ENHANCE EL CERRITO'S RECREATION FACILITIES

Policy B1. Support new or expanded recreation facilities to meet community demands in recreation services (GP, CF1.5) (GP CF1.6) **(CP)**

- Action B1.1. Investigate the acquisition of property to build a facility to accommodate multi-generational and recreational programming
- Action B1.2. Renovate and expand existing recreation facilities to support unmet needs in recreation **(CP)**

## EL CERRITO PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

Policy B2. Rehabilitate existing recreation facilities to meet operational and safety standards (GP, PR1.1) (SP, Goal D), maximize their use (UGP, Objective 4) to meet community demand, and support community identity (GP, CF1) **(CP)**

- Action B2.1. Improve recreation facilities to maximize community use and create an attractive ‘sense of place’ (GP, CD1) **(CP)**
  - Encourage higher-quality design through well-crafted and maintained buildings (GP, CD1.3)
  - Renovate and upgrade existing facilities to allow for an increase in programmable uses
  - Retrofit existing recreation facilities to reduce energy and water consumption (CAP, M-2.1)
  - Improve restroom accessibility – address current key system
  - Provide alternative/additional locations for City and recreation storage
- Action B2.2. Ensure existing recreation facilities are accessible to all users (GP, PR1.13)
  - Correct identified deficiencies from the the *2009 ADA Transition Plan* and the update to the 2004 Structural Facilities Management Plan, the *2018 Structural Facilities Management Plan*
- Action B2.3. Ensure the safety of existing community facilities, including seismic retrofits and necessary upgrades (GP, CF1.1)
  - Correct identified deficiencies from the update to the 2004 Structural Facilities Management Plan, the *2018 Structural Facilities Management Plan*

Policy B3. Provide regular maintenance of community facilities to ensure their continued usability and prevent deferred maintenance, which add to long-term costs (GP, CF1.2) **(CP)**

- Action B3.1. Upgrade the level of routine and annual maintenance
- Action B3.2. Ensure that money is set aside for major repairs, renovations, and replacement of public facilities (GP, CF1.7)

Policy B4. Create additional recreation facility access through reliable and viable partnerships

- Action B4.1. Continue to coordinate with the WCCUSD school district and other agencies in providing adequate recreational facilities (GP, PR1.7)
  - Partner with the WCCUSD and private schools to maximize benefits provided by their schoolyards (UGP, Objective 10) and facilities
    - Implement the proposed Green Schoolyard Design Guidelines from the Urban Greening Plan to encourage school-design and programming to better integrate facilities into neighborhoods (UGP, 10.2)
- Action B4.2. Continue to coordinate with adjacent cities and other agencies to provide adequate recreational facilities for El Cerrito residents (GP, PR1.8)
- Action B4.3. Continue to explore the possibility of using semi-public and private facilities for additional indoor recreational space (GP, PR1.9)
  - Investigate potential to develop outdoor recreation opportunities, such as hiking and biking trails, along PG&E property easements
- Action B4.4 Seek opportunities for joint use of community facilities and shared maintenance operation agreements with other service providers, including the WCCUSD and Contra Costa County (GP, CF1.8)

### GOAL C: SUPPORT RECREATION PROGRAMS

Policy C1. Maintain and expand existing recreation programs to meet needs of City residents (GP, PR1.16)

## EL CERRITO PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

- Action C1.1. Continue to support programming in high demand by the El Cerrito community **(CP)**
  - Support before and after-school care services for youth
  - Support youth and adult enrichment programming
  - Continue to host community events such as El Cerrito's 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration
    - Consider community events and activities along the Greenway to provide recreational, environmental stewardship and community development opportunities (UGP, 3.3)
  - Support, and expand where possible, aquatic programming
- Action C1.2. Expand existing recreation programming to address unmet needs for the El Cerrito community **(CP)**
  - Provide additional programming for teens
  - Provide additional programming for active aging – adults and seniors
    - Insert adult fitness stations where possible
    - Extend hours of operation to include daytime programming for adults, particularly at the El Cerrito Community Center
    - Support access to sport courts, playfields, and organized sports for adults
  - Provide additional environmental education programming
    - Develop wilderness classroom and other outdoor education programs that incorporate natural elements into schoolyards, parks, and open space (UGP, 10.1) per the *Urban Greening Plan*

### GOAL D: IMPROVE PATHWAYS AND TRAILS

Policy D1. Strengthen the Ohlone Greenway through public projects and private developments that increase connectivity, create community gathering spaces, and improve community health and safety (UGP, Objective 3) **(CP)**

- Action E1.1. Implement the Ohlone Greenway Master Plan (UGP, Objective 3)
  - Develop activity nodes that address community recreation priorities and community recreation needs, particularly proposed play areas, gathering areas, sport courts, and non-vehicular connectivity
  - Incentivize community events and activities along the Greenway
- Action E1.2. Implement the Ohlone Greenway Crossing Improvements proposed in the *Active Transportation Plan*

Policy D2. Continue to invest in bicycle, pedestrian, trail, and pathway improvements to reduce reliance on automobiles, provide active recreation opportunities (UGP, Objective 1), and contribute to a fully connected and accessible transportation network (GP, CD2.4, CD2.8, T1.4) **(CP)**

- Action D2.1. Maintain, support, and repair where necessary, pedestrian facilities for an attractive, accessible and functional pedestrian network **(CP)**
  - Repair park pathway paving
  - Encourage signage for pedestrian, wayfinding connections
    - Implement the *El Cerrito Trails Signage Plan*
    - Implement the Citywide Wayfinding Project per the *Active Transportation Plan*
    - Implement the Pedestrian Improvement Projects of the *Active Transportation Plan* – Park Trails Connectors, Hillside Pathways and Stairs, Public Trails (Existing Impassable Trails), and Cerrito Creek Trail/BART to Bay Trail Projects

## EL CERRITO PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

- Action D2.2. Develop a Master Plan for Trails to specify design criteria and standards that strengthen environmental benefits, identify trail improvement projects, specify type(s) of usage and identify where new trails are needed (UGP, 1.3)
  - Repair and enhance un-paved trails
  - Support multi-use trails
  - Support the Blue to Green trail network per the *Urban Greening Master Plan*
- Action D2.3. Continue to identify funding for Creeks & Trails projects to ensure continued maintenance of existing trails and construction of trail connectors, paths, and stairs (UGP, 1.7)

### GOAL E: IMPROVE NATURAL AREAS

#### Policy E1. Develop projects that enrich the City's natural areas **(CP)**

- Action E1.1. Strengthen and, where needed, restore natural areas in existing open spaces to restore natural function, wildlife habitat, biodiversity, and ecological resilience
  - Reconcile potential conflict between recreational uses and environmental protection/mitigation
  - Develop and implement park signage for environmental resources
- Action E2.2. Develop a Hillside Natural Area Management Plan to enhance and improve the City's largest open space per the *Urban Greening Master Plan*
  - Improve trail connections between natural areas, schools and other community assets using best practice trail building techniques **(CP)**
  - Integrate the recently-purchased Madera property and investigate opportunities to acquire privately-owned, in-holdings. Explore opportunities for access, recreation and/or conservation easements on adjacent properties
  - Celebrate and preserve creek corridors, diverse plant and animal communities, forests, and grasslands
  - Create more welcoming park gateways and trailheads per the *El Cerrito Trail Signage Plan*
  - Enhance opportunities for active recreation by constructing bicycle trails, parks and other amenities **(CP)**