

2. Goals and Objectives

2.1 Introduction

Goals and objectives are a guide for decision making regarding improvements to parks, trails, and open space. The goals and objectives are presented in the following six categories: parks and park facilities, trails and paths, open space, signage and information, maintenance and operations, and implementation. The implementation of all goals and objectives is subject to the City's funding capabilities.

2.2 Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Parks and Park Facilities

Provide a variety of natural, recreational, and cultural experiences that enhance health and enjoyment for a diverse community.

Objective: Promote health and well-being by implementing improvements that encourage physical activity, exposure to nature, and positive social interaction.

- Add outdoor recreation amenities in keeping with trends and levels of service, (e.g., pickleball courts, fitness trails/fitness stations, multi-age play structures, non-traditional sport and recreational amenities).
- Provide opportunities for expanded access to facilities, (e.g., lighted outdoor venues, all weather fields).
- Identify opportunities to enhance public restroom offerings.
- Identify opportunities to improve park use experience with upgraded amenities, such as shade structures.
- Provide opportunities for individuals with varying abilities.
- Improve parks for universal accessibility.
- Add special park features (e.g., gazebos, bandstands, overlooks, picnic facilities, etc.) that positively enhance a park and/or the surrounding neighborhoods.
- Plant appropriate trees in the suitable locations to increase the City's tree canopy and to provide shade in parks.

Goal 2: Trails and Paths

Foster a system-wide, sustainable trail network, with a variety of settings, that enables connections across the City.

Objective: Improve public access and public use along the waterfront

- Improve paths of travel to shoreline for safety and ADA accessibility.
 - Complete connections between waterfront parks and public access areas.
 - Invest in public use areas along waterfront to include benches and picnic tables.
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- The shoreline Carquinez Strait Scenic Loop Trail alignment should be completed between the Benicia-Martinez Bridge and the Benicia State Recreation Area.
- Designate shoreline trail segments, such as between E Street and F Street, as Bay Trail.
- Public access should be provided along the eastern industrial waterfront area north of the Benicia-Martinez Bridge to Lake Herman Road.

Objective: Evaluate current trails/paths and identify options for additional outdoor exploration

- Improve quality of current trails and/or paths.
- Identify opportunities to extend or create new trails and paths.

Goal 3: Open Space

Preserve open space areas in the City of Benicia to protect and enhance natural resources; provide protective barriers against natural hazards; provide for passive recreation activities; maintain and improve public access; and protect visual quality.

- Preserve and maintain Lake Herman Regional Park in its natural condition while providing for increased passive recreational opportunities.
- Maintain fire breaks in parks adjacent to residences, and in the open space areas, as appropriate.
- Preserve mature existing trees and any significant stand of smaller trees during the improvement of parks, trails, and open space.

Goal 4: Signage and Information

Increase awareness of the available recreational opportunities in the City of Benicia and their associated facilities.

Objective: Improve the signage system in parks, trails, and open space

- Improve wayfinding throughout all parks.
- Identify and mark key trail intersections with directional signage.
- Implement a comprehensive interpretive signage program for Lake Herman Regional Park incorporating the biological, physical, and historical resource of the area.
- Update current park signage for consistency regarding rules and regulations.
- Implement a shoreline Carquinez Strait Scenic Loop Trail signage program.

Objective: Maximize public awareness of parks, trails, and open space to boost the use of recreation opportunities through branding, marketing, and public engagement.

- Utilize social media and digital platforms to disseminate information about parks, trails, and open space amenities.
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Goal 5: Maintenance and Operations

Manage outdoor assets for the good of all Benicia residents, thereby providing the highest quality of services, operations, and maintenance possible.

Objective: Provide clean, safe, and memorable environments supported by maintenance standards and driven by policies that balance use, intended purpose, and long-term care.

- Provide adequate lighting in parks where nighttime use is permitted.
- Maintain visibility from surrounding streets at all parks through landscape maintenance techniques (e.g., trimming hedges and shrubs).
- Avoid sensitive habitat areas during improvement projects.
- Keep park facilities, grounds, and trails properly maintained.
- Focus on preventative maintenance to help minimize future capital replacement spending.
- Merge maintenance contracts and enhance contractor quality.
- Ensure emergency vehicle access is maintained (e.g., access to open space).

Objective: Incorporate water conservation techniques.

- Utilize drip irrigation and other water efficient irrigation methods.
- Remove turf and install drought tolerant native plants species, where appropriate.

Objective: Maintain appropriate staff levels and equipment for adequate park maintenance.

- Ensure there is an appropriate allocation of staff and resources to meet the increased demands of parks and recreation system growth.

Objective: Cultivate a new generation of stewards who are devoted to ensuring an extraordinary parks, trails, and open space network.

- Provide meaningful recurring and drop-in volunteer opportunities for a variety of abilities – fostering connections between neighbors, generations, and parks and recreation.

Objective: Establish and continue cooperative and coordinated relationships with public agencies and applicable public interest groups.

- Coordinate with the City Fire Department regarding maintenance of fire breaks and open space access for emergency vehicles.
 - Coordinate with the City Planning Department to preserve City open space and maintain common buffer areas as set forth in the Benicia General Plan.
 - Cooperate with the California Department of Fish and Game regarding maintaining and enhancing wildlife species diversity in the Lake Herman Regional Park.
 - Coordinate with Benicia Unified School District regarding joint use of facilities.
 - Coordinate with Benicia Public Works Department regarding planned road improvements to provide for bicycle routes and lanes.
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- Coordinate with the San Francisco Bay Trail, Bay Area Ridge Trail, Great California Delta Trail, and other trail organizations regarding trail development, improvement, and maintenance.
- Coordinate with regulatory agencies regarding public access to the City's waterfront.

Objective: Establish stable funding sources for capital improvements and maintenance.

- Establish a citywide Parks, Landscape & Lighting Assessment District.
- Pursue other funding sources such as state and foundation grants.

Goal 6: Implementation

Use expenditures efficiently and establish funding priorities for improvement to existing parks, trails, and open space based on their cost and benefit to the public.

Objective: Improve existing parks, trails, and open space to optimize the use and value for all, by continually engaging and thoughtfully responding to the diverse needs of the community.

Objective: Monitor, evaluate, and prioritize needs to efficiently invest in park upgrades and facility improvements.

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