

# 10. OPEN SPACE

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## CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>194</b>
<b>GOALS, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS</b> .....	<b>195</b>
GOAL OS 1.....	195
GOAL OS 2.....	196
GOAL OS 3.....	196
GOAL OS 4.....	197
GOAL OS 5.....	198
GOAL OS 6.....	199

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Open Space element is to guide the comprehensive and long-range preservation and conservation of open space land. Open space land is defined as “any parcel or area of land or water that is essentially unimproved and devoted to open-space use” (Office of Planning and Research, 2003). The element includes:

- Active open space for recreation and park
- Passive open space for the management of natural resources
- Passive open space for the management of safety

Active open space for recreation and parks in Clearlake includes three neighborhood parks: Austin Park, Highland Park, and Redbud Park. These total approximately 36 acres, which equates to 2.36 acres per 1,000 people, sufficiently higher than the one-acre per 1,000 people standard. An additional 5.8 acres of playgrounds, sporting fields, and recreational space is provided by Pomo Elementary and Burns Valley Elementary schools. The active open space for recreation and parks is vital to a healthy environment and aesthetically welcoming community, an important objective that has been identified by the Clearlake community and City staff.

Passive open space for the management of natural resources includes scenic places, agricultural lands, and wilderness. Scenic places in the City are identified as city parks, vistas from the parks, State Route 53 and Lakeshore Drive scenic driveways, view corridors from Lakeshore Drive, “glimpses” of the lake, Clear Lake, Borax Lake, and Anderson Marsh Historic State Park. The active agricultural lands consist of 466 acres, clusters on the northeast of Clearlake. Wilderness areas in Clearlake are predominantly located outside the city boundary to the east, which consists of hills, vegetation, and wildlife habitats.

Passive open space for safety management includes forested lands for fire safety, open space for drainage control, water retention, seismic hazards and flooding, and access trails for firefighting. Trails can serve as a buffer for open space, wetlands, and wildlife habitat, with the potential to preserve clean water and aquifers, and enable environmental education opportunities.

The Open Space element contains six goals based on community needs and aspirations from community input. Each goal is accommodated by objectives, policies, and programs based on state mandates, local mandates, and planning practices. These goals, objectives, policies, and programs provide guidelines for future development regarding open spaces.

## **GOALS, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS**

### **GOAL OS 1**

Parks and recreational facilities that meet a wide variety of public needs.

#### **Objective OS 1.1**

Provide adequate park facilities for all ages and needs.

##### Policy OS 1.1.1

To assure that parks and recreational facilities are adequate, the City shall maintain park availability in accordance with the National Park and Recreational Standards.

##### Program OS 1.1.1.1

Establish mini parks or city parks to equally distribute parks throughout the City. Locate parks at Oak Avenue between 23<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Country Club Drive between 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Old Highway 53 between Lilac Avenue and Fillmore Avenue, 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Eureka Ave and Phillips Avenue, and Duncan Avenue between Johnson Avenue and Jefferson Avenue. Utilize the existing school recreation open space facilities.

##### Program OS 1.1.1.2

Require that large developments of 20 units or more provide park space as part of the development agreement.

#### **Objective OS 1.2**

Maintain parks and recreational facilities to attract users.

##### Policy OS 1.2.1

The City shall collaborate with non-profit groups, local companies and other organizations to care for and maintain the City's neighborhood parks and facilities.

##### Program OS 1.2.1.1

Establish agreements with non-profit groups, local companies and other organizations to take responsibility for the operation and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities.

Policy OS 1.2.2

Monitor park and recreational facility maintenance through collective effort.

Program OS 1.2.2.1

Develop volunteer programs for park maintenance to engage neighborhood participation.

## **GOAL OS 2**

Connected City parks and open spaces.

### **Objective OS 2.1**

Establish non-motorized paths to parks and open spaces.

Policy OS 2.1.1

Improve connectivity through walkways, bikeways, and scenic routes.

Program OS 2.1.1.1

Provide an additional bicycle and pedestrian path along Lakeshore Drive to interconnect Highland, Redbud, and Austin parks.

Program OS 2.1.1.2

Establish a city-wide network of bike and pedestrian paths.

### **Objective OS 2.2**

Connect parks and open spaces with public transit.

Policy OS 2.2.1

Pursue options and funding sources for the development of transit routes between City parks and open spaces.

Program OS 2.2.1.1

Work with transit agencies to revise routes to purposely link parks.

## **GOAL OS 3**

A community with widely used parks and open spaces.

### **Objective OS 3.1**

Generate frequent use of public open spaces.

Policy OS 3.1.1

The City shall utilize Redbud park, Highland park, and Austin park to promote and provide festivals and cultural events.

Program OS 3.1.1.1

Hold community-wide events such as festivals and cultural events at city parks.

## **Objective OS 3.2**

Achieve a high level of accessibility for parks and recreational areas.

Policy OS 3.2.1

Every residence shall be within a one-mile radius of at least one city park.

Program OS 3.2.1.1

Provide residents with public transportation access to open spaces.

Policy OS 3.2.2

Cooperate with other agencies to provide joint park, recreation, and open space facilities when possible.

Program OS 3.2.2.1

Implement joint events with other jurisdictions in local parks and recreational facilities.

## **GOAL OS 4**

Protected and preserved passive open space.

### **Objective OS 4.1**

Establish protected open spaces.

Policy OS 4.1.1

Increase protection for environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, flood plains, steep slopes, wildlife habitat areas, and unique geological formations.

Program OS 4.1.1.1

Demarcate wildlife habitat areas as protected open spaces.

Program OS 4.1.1.2

Provide educational outreach for the preservation and protection of open space to residents and visitors.

### **Objective OS 4.2**

Expand and maintain open space for the local community and tourists.

Policy OS 4.2.1

Maximize the amount of protected lake shoreline through purchase, easement, and zoning.

#### Program OS 4.2.1.1

Establish design guidelines and design review that limit the impact of development on scenic vistas and viewsheds.

#### Policy OS 4.2.2

Continue to support and recognize the heritage values of traditional outdoor recreational activities such as fishing and hiking.

#### Program OS 4.2.2.1

Support preservation plans for Clear Lake and Anderson Marsh State Historical Park.

#### Program OS 4.2.2.2

Build awareness of and appreciation for the importance of the City's historical heritage through public events, newspapers, and cultural magazines.

## GOAL OS 5

Protected and enhanced vistas for the well-being of residents.

### Objective OS 5.1

Identify and protect scenic views from roadsides, parks, preserves, and other areas frequented by the public.

#### Policy OS 5.1.1

Protect scenic vistas from obstruction by development.

#### Program OS 5.1.1.1

Conduct an assessment to identify scenic views and viewsheds.

#### Program OS 5.1.1.2

Minimize development from obstructing scenic vistas by creating development standards for areas which provide visual access to scenic views and viewsheds.

#### Program OS 5.1.1.3

Establish mitigation measures for new development which may have a significant impact on aesthetic quality of the City by obstructing access to visual resources.

### Objective OS 5.2

Integrate appreciation of nature with recreational programs.

#### Policy OS 5.2.1

Promote benefits of outdoor activities in K1 through K12 curriculums.

Program OS 5.2.1.1

Create activity centers at areas that are designated as open space by integrating public events and public health goals.

## **GOAL OS 6**

A city that preserves and celebrates its environmental resources.

### **Objective OS 6.1**

Protect native species that are sensitive to human activities and invasive species.

Policy OS 6.1.1

The City shall adopt the culture of preservation and protection of native species.

Program OS 6.1.1.1

Partner with land trusts to secure open space lands to assist in protecting native species and managing wildlife habitat.

### **Objective OS 6.2**

Preserve and maintain forested areas, fields, stream corridors, wetlands, and other open spaces that are within and surround the City.

Policy OS 6.2.1

Integrate open space planning into the City's planning review process.

Program OS 6.2.1.1

Establish and preserve buffers between developed areas and forested areas, fields, stream corridors, wetlands, and other open spaces.

Program OS 6.2.1.2

Use conservation design, unit clustering and infill, and non-traditional housing development pattern in order to prevent new housing from encroaching on preserved and open space areas, including forested land, fields, habitat corridors, and wetlands.