

Plan Santa Barbara Policy Options related to Parks and Recreation Programs and Objectives

Plan Santa Barbara Policy Options Under Consideration related to Parks and Recreation Programs and Objectives	Questions/Recommendations for the Commission to Consider	Reference Page in Report
Land Use/Growth Management		
<p>Goal: Achieve a balance in the amount, location and type of growth through in-fill development and re-development that will function within the context of available resources including water, energy, food, housing, and transportation. Neighborhoods will provide access to daily necessities, limited commercial activity, transit, community services, and open spaces for gathering and recreation.</p>	Support the goal as presented.	11
<p>Policy Option LU2. Community Benefit Non-Residential Land uses. New non-residential and Mixed-use allocation categories shall meet one or more of the following Community Benefit Land use definitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Existing Community Priority development project: “present or projected need directly related to public health, safety or general welfare”; or b. Existing Economic Development project: “enhance the standard of living for City and South Coast residents and will strengthen the local and regional economy”; or c. “Green” economic project or provides “green” collar jobs; or d. Small and/or local business in the community that is maintained, redeveloped or expanded; o e. Youth development programs, child care facilities, or culture and arts facilities; or f. In-fill development of an existing vacant site with one or more of the uses above. 	<p>Support the policy option as presented with the following recommendation:</p> <p>Expand section (e) to include commercial recreation programs.</p>	11
Community Character		
<p>Goal: Protect and enhance the existing community character and opportunities for social connection through the protection, preservation and enhancement of historic, architectural, archaeological, and cultural resources; appropriately sized and scaled buildings; a walkable town; abundant urban forest and landscaping; easy access to open space; the maintenance of public scenic views; and the preservation and enhancement of existing neighborhoods.</p>	Support the goal as presented.	15

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Mixed-Use Development		
<p>Policy Option CC1. Development Standards. Develop new mixed-use standards that address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Smaller unit sizes to reduce the size, bulk and scale of projects b. Variable setbacks c. Common usable open space d. Neighborhood compatibility especially if located next to or near residential neighborhoods e. Parking location, layout and number of spaces f. Design guidelines 	<p>Support the policy option as presented, with the following recommendation:</p> <p>Clarify section (c) to stipulate the need for common usable open space to support outdoor activities (recreation)</p>	15
Open Space, Parks and Recreation		
<p>Policy Option CC17. Park, Recreation and Open Space Funding. Require a contribution towards public parks, recreational facilities and/or usable open space with all larger projects on site, off site, or through in lieu fees to offset the impact of increased density/intensity of use.</p>	<p>Support the policy option as presented with the recommendation that “larger projects” be defined.</p>	18
<p>Policy Option CC18. Park and Open Space Acquisition and Maintenance Funding. Develop mechanisms (e.g., Quimby Act fees, conservation easements) for funding and maintaining public parks, recreational facilities and/or usable open space in the urban core as more residential and mixed-use projects develop.</p>	<p>Support the policy option as presented. Recommend that the policy options needs to be a growth management and land use policy rather than parks and open space policy.</p>	18
<p>Policy Option CC19. Common Open Space Standards in Commercial Zones. Reassess on-site common open space needs and standards for housing in commercial zones and residential zones.</p>	<p>Support the policy option as presented.</p>	19
<p>Policy Option CC20. Community Gardens on City Land. Establish a program for use of City-owned vacant properties for community gardens throughout the City.</p>	<p>Support the policy, however, rephrase to make more general. Community gardens do not have to be limited to City-owned land. Revision recommendation: “Establish a program for use of vacant properties for community gardens throughout the city.”</p>	19

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Urban Forest		
Policy Option CC21. Urban Tree Protection and Enhancement. Incorporate policies for the protection and enhancement of the City’s Urban Forest in the Conservation Element.	Support the policy option as presented.	19
Policy Option CC22. Urban Tree and Landscape Assessment District. Form an assessment district to maintain and improve our urban trees and landscaped spaces to save energy, water, incorporate habitat, and provide shade to foster a healthy, vibrant and livable community.	Recommend that an urban tree and landscape assessment district be applicable citywide so that resources can be allocated efficiently and effectively.	19
Policy Option CC23. Tree Removal Enforcement. Create a mechanism to address enforcement and mitigation when specimen trees are removed from a site.	Support the policy option with the recommendation that the word “specimen” be replaced with “protected” to be consistent with the City’s municipal code.	19
Policy Option CC24. Set-Back Landscaping. Establish landscape provisions between the sidewalk and the building in commercial zones, consistent with the Pedestrian Master Plan.	Support the policy option as presented.	19
Policy Option CC25. Fruit Orchard. Encourage the use of fruit trees in landscaping.	Support the policy option as presented with the recommendation that fruit trees not be planted as Street Trees. Recommendation for language: Encourage the use of fruit trees in landscaping outside of the public right-of-way.	19
Energy and Climate Change		
<p>Policy Option EC7. Urban Heat Island Effect. Reduce urban heat island effect by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Amending the Zoning Ordinance to establish standards that minimize impermeable surfaces and building areas; b. Increasing vegetation, especially suitable tree species. (SDCity) (See Community Character, Water Resources and Air Quality policies.) <p><i>(Impervious surfacing absorbs and traps heat from the sun and buildings can block cooling breezes thereby raising surface temperature and increasing ground-level ozone (smog), which can be a health hazard. Trees, on the other hand, provide cooling shade and sequester carbon from the atmosphere.)</i></p>	Support the policy option as presented. Note that not all trees provide cooling shade and carbon sequestering.	27

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Resources		
Goal: Protect and wisely use natural resources and public infrastructure to sustain their quantity and quality, and meet present and future service and environmental needs.	Support the goal as presented.	29
Policy Option R1. Highway 101 Setback. Avoid siting additional residential and other sensitive land uses (schools, day care centers, playgrounds, and medical facilities) within 500 feet of Highway 101. <i>(California Air Resources Board land-use guideline for transportation facilities with 100,000 or more vehicles/day.)</i>	Policy option as presented may be infeasible given existing land uses and the need to balance limited land availability and community needs.	29
Policy Option R6. Multi-Use Plan for Coast. Develop updated multi-use land use and monitoring guidelines for beaches and other coastal areas to provide for both recreational uses and protection of coastal habitats and wildlife/plant species.	Support the policy option as presented.	30
Policy Option R7. Multi-Species Habitat Planning. Develop plans and land use/design guidelines for multi-species habitat areas and wildlife corridors within the City, including for chaparral and oak woodlands, and riparian areas.	Support the policy option as presented.	30
Creeks and Watersheds		
Policy Option R8. Creek Setbacks. Establish stronger creek setback and restoration standards and requirements for new development and redevelopment along all creeks, and guidelines for restoration and increase of pervious surfaces within creekside buffers.	Support the policy option as presented, see Creeks Advisory Committee comments.	31
Policy Option R9. Creekside Development Guidelines. Establish design guidelines for development and redevelopment near creeks, such as measures to orient development toward creeks, better incorporate creeks as part of landscape and open space design, encourage creekside pedestrian paths where appropriate to increase connectivity, and establish better public presence of creek locations with pocket parks and signage.	Support the policy option as presented, see Creeks Advisory Committee comments.	31
Policy Option R10. Master Drainage Plan. In coordination with Watershed planning, develop a comprehensive drainage plan that identifies the existing system, policies and development standards to better address drainage and water quality issues, areas appropriate for drainage retention/detention, future capital improvements, and funding plan to finance the projects.	Support the policy option as presented, see Creeks Advisory Committee comments.	31
Policy Option R11. Wash-Down Policies. Strengthen policies to limit the practice of hosing down driveways, to reduce pollutants carried through urban run-off and conserve water, per State Water Resources Control Board regulatory guidelines for storm water management.	Support the policy option as presented, see Creeks Advisory Committee comments.	31

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Food Resources		
Policy Option R12. Community Gardens. Provide infrastructure to support local community gardens, and food sharing locations. With neighborhood support, develop edible gardens in existing parks. Carve out public gardening spaces within the urban fabric to be maintained by the community. Design for green roofs and urban rooftop gardens Downtown. Design and provide for public spaces for markets and neighborhood foodsheds and food sharing.	Generally support the policy option, however, recommend that any edible gardens on parkland be part of a community garden program.	32
Open Space, Landform and Scenic Resources		
Policy Option R17. View Corridors. Establish protected public scenic view corridors.	Generally support the policy option, however, need to define public view corridors.	33

Additional Policy Options for the Parks and Recreation Commission to consider:

1. Designation of community social spaces within neighborhoods
2. Focus/prioritization of neighborhoods that need services
3. Establish walking paths in parks