

Parks and Recreation Committee Comment: Gateway Area Plan

City staff presented to the Parks and Recreation Committee at the Committee's regularly scheduled February 15th and March 9th meetings. Feedback provided to staff has been summarized below. Where relevant, committee comment has been noted next to existing policy, should the committee choose to craft additional language to recommend to the City Council.

General Comments

- Conversation focused primarily on Open Space/Parks section, more than on Arts and Culture section.
- Bike safety should be considered as roads get busier especially on roads that are not as busy now (e.g. L Street)
- How to mitigate offset for active recreation amenities outside of area (consider bocce/basketball/pickleball, etc.)? How can plan address/note the potential issue of citywide impacts to recreational resources? Parks and Recreation Master Plan does this, so how can the Plan also speak to this issue.
- Can we ensure POPS are safe and maintained through some sort of mechanism/agreement outside of financial motivation
- Actively encourage neighboring property owners to partner to develop Open Space over multiple sites through this Master Planning process
- Support for existing bike lanes
- Emphasize active recreation in the policy (skate park, tot lot, bocce)
- Include stronger language establishing art and green space on bike and pedestrian connections and create linear parks where possible on those connections
- Include stronger language to create public acquisition programs with the intent of securing publicly accessible open space within the Gateway boundary

Suggestions for language modifications

- Add new policy to encourage universally designed park spaces, requiring recreational space to go "above and beyond" ADA for greater accessibility
- Add public acquisition program and intent to acquire land in Gateway Area as an implementation program
- Add program that specifically identifies funding within Gateway Area, to be re-invested specifically within the Gateway
- Differentiate definition of Open Space in Table 8 to make clear the differentiation between passive and active Open Space in the Gateway Area
- Cross reference MP-2 from P+R Master Plan or update it

Existing Open Space Policy	Relevant Committee Comment	Committee recommended modification?
----------------------------	----------------------------	-------------------------------------

<p>Table 8: Open Space Categories and Characteristics. “Privately-owned, Publicly Accessible Open Space.”</p> <p>Small plazas, landscaped areas and public art installations. Small-scale, open space available for civic purposes and commercial, intended as intimate spaces for seating or dining. Can also be used to create a formal space in front of a prominent building entrance.</p>	<p>Committee interest in more explicit inclusion of active open space activities such as bocce, pickleball, etc.?</p>	
<p>GA-6a. Open Space Concept. Provide for an integrated network for publicly accessible open space, including a new park site, consistent with the concept shown in Figure 7 and Table 8.</p>	<p>Committee interest in cross referencing Parks and Rec Master Plan MP-2?</p>	
<p>GA-6b. Diversity of Open Space Types.</p> <p>Provide for a range of open space types, including urban plazas, pocket parks, linear parks adjacent to creeks, natural open spaces.</p>	<p>Committee interest in more explicit inclusion of active open space activities such as bocce, pickleball, etc.?</p>	
<p>GA-6c. Range of Activities. Accommodate within open spaces a range of activities for all ages and abilities including sitting, walking, gathering, gardening, play and contemplation.</p>	<p>Committee interest in more explicit inclusion of active open space activities such as bocce, pickleball, etc.?</p>	
<p>GA-6d. Design Quality. Ensure that accessible open spaces are visually inviting, safe and interesting.</p>		
<p>GA-6e. Privately-owned Publicly Accessible Open Spaces. Establish a series of privately-owned publicly accessible open spaces in the central area shown in Figure X. Ensure that these spaces are:</p>		

<p>a. Linked together by safe and convenient bike/pedestrian facilities;</p> <p>b. Visible, accessible, and activated by ground floor uses including retail stores and restaurants; and</p> <p>c. Coordinated so that a variety of spaces are provided (courtyards, tot lot, a sculpture garden).</p>		
<p>GA-6a. Linear Park with Daylighted Creek. Establish a linear park with recreational amenities adjacent to daylighted and restored segments of the Jolly Giant Creek.</p>		
<p>GA-6b. Bike/ped Connections. Establish new off-street bike/ped connections to connect open spaces and activity centers in the Gateway area. Enhance connections between the Plan Area and parks and open space destinations near to the Plan Area, such as Arcata Plaza, Shay Park, and Arcata Marsh.</p>		
<p>GA-6c. Public Plaza in Southwest Industrial Area. Establish a new public plaza in the Barrel District that provides formal public space within the Barrel District that is more than just a green area but that is also entirely distinctive from the existing Arcata Plaza.</p>		
<p>GA-6d. Enhanced Rail-Trail. Could include new recreational amenities within and adjacent to the rail-trail.</p>		
<p>GA-6e. Vacant/Underutilized Land Development. Allow for the development of existing vacant and underutilized properties with low natural resource value as a strategy to permanently protect high resource value</p>		

open space and provide high-quality open space amenities for residents.		
GA-6f. Wetland Areas. Maintain a no net loss standard but allow for passive recreational uses within and around wetland area in southwestern Gateway Area. Provide for bicycle and pedestrian connections to this area from other Plan Area locations. Enhance and restore wetland functions where feasible. Use mitigation and restoration together to consolidate scattered low-quality wetlands into larger higher quality wetland complexes.		
GA-6g. Jolly Giant Creek. Require the restoration and enhancement of the Jolly Giant Creek north of 11th Street. Encourage the daylighting of creek segments south of 11th Street as part of new development projects.		
GA-6h. Incentivize Privately-Owned Open Spaces as a Community Amenity. Utilize the community benefit program to incentivize the creation of new privately-owned, publicly-accessible open spaces in the Plan Area.	Committee interest in ensuring POPS are safe and maintained through some sort of mechanism/agreement outside of financial motivation	
Open Space- New Policy Proposal:		
See Committee comments>	Committee interest in a new Proposed Policy for Universally Designed Recreational Amenities. <Encourage/require set percentage of>	

	universally designed park amenities and recreational space, to maximize usability and accessibility of open space for all user types and greater ADA accessibility	
--	--	--

Existing Open Space Implementation Measures	Relevant Committee Comment	Committee recommended modification?
Imp-GA-6.1. Parkland Dedications and Fees. Require residential development projects to dedicate land and/or pay fees for publicly-accessible open space within the Plan Area consistent with the Quimby Act, Land Use Code Section 9.86.030 (Park Land Dedication and Fees).	Committee interest in exploring a mechanism to tie a portion of these fees to improvements in Gateway Area	
Imp-GA-6.2. Open Space Concept Diagram Revisions. As open space is provided, revise the conceptual open space diagram shown in Figure 7 to accurately reflect built conditions and ensure that subsequent open space provided is consistent with the Plan vision.		
Open Space- New Implementation Proposal:		
See committee comments>	Committee interest in creating public acquisition program with the intent of securing publicly accessible recreational/Open Space within the	

	Gateway Area boundary.	
--	------------------------	--

Existing Arts and Culture Policy	Relevant Committee Comment	Committee recommended modification?
GA-5a. Arts and Entertainment Uses. Encourage arts and entertainment uses to enhance the vitality of the Gateway District and promote the arts in Arcata and the broader region. Incentivize the creation of arts and entertainments uses by making them principally-permitted (by-right).		
GA-5b. Incentivize the Arts as Community Amenities. Through the Gateway Area community benefit program, allow increased development intensity and simplified development processes for projects that provide amenities that supports the arts, such as murals on building exteriors, art installations in public-facing locations, and outdoor pedestals for sculptures.		
GA-5c. Incentivize Artist Housing as a Community Amenity. Through the Gateway		

<p>Area community benefit program, allow increased development intensity and simplified development processes for projects that provide various forms of artist housing, including live/work units and deed restricted low-income housing units dedicated to artists and/or with amenities to attract artists.</p>		
<p>GA-5d. Outdoor Spaces. Encourage larger-scale development to provide public outdoor spaces that can incorporate informal artistic and cultural activities open to the public and integrated with or connected to public space.</p>		
<p>GA-5e. Temporary Events. Support formal and informal temporary artistic and cultural events.</p>		
<p>GA-5f. Adaptive Reuse for the Arts. Support the adaptive reuse of existing buildings for artistic purposes.</p>		
<p>GA-5g. Public Art. Through the Gateway Area community benefit program, encourage new development to incorporate public art that both is creative and reflects the Creamery District identity and history, and speaks to the goals and intent of the Arcata Strategic Arts Plan (Arts Plan). Specifically encourage development of public art that uplifts and support BIPOC artists and narratives as described in the Arts Plan.</p>		