



2012 MASTER PLAN UPDATE:

PROPOSED POLICY REVISIONS REFLECTING INPUT FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ROUNDTABLE

In 2010, the Park District Board of Directors directed staff to focus this Master Plan Update process on issues of high priority. This method of update is appropriate since the current 1997 plan contains a core of policy and process statements crafted with extensive input and effort by long-time supporters of the Park District establishing a strong foundation of policy language that could be easily built upon. To determine the priority issues, staff met with the Board of Directors in workshop settings, presented potential update issues to the PAC for review, critique and additional input, surveyed the Board, PAC and staff through a written survey document and surveyed the community at large through a telephone survey and an on-line survey through the Park District website.

After receiving input from the Board, PAC, staff and the public the following are the high priority issues that were identified to be addressed in the 2012 Master Plan Update:

- Providing a variety of “Trails for all”
- Leading the movement for Healthy Parks Healthy People
- Affirming the role and identity of the Regional Parks
- Balancing funding priorities, meeting expectations and sound fiscal practices
- Supporting the shift to Green communities
- Developing productive partnerships
- Responding to changes in demographics
- Creating conservation and management standards for cultural and historic resources

Staff's original proposed revisions and additions to the policy language in the Master Plan have been presented to and commented on by the Board of Directors, Park Advisory Committee and the Environmental Roundtable. Taking all of this input into account, staff has revised the proposed policy language and the revised proposed policies are attached.

These policy revisions are presented here with an interest in receiving final comments prior to the planned Community meetings that will occur from mid-September to early October of this year.

Summary of Proposed Master Plan Policy Changes 8/2/12

Existing Policy

Proposed Policy

Issue(s)

The **Mission statement** defines the essential role of the District:

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| <p>The East Bay Regional Park District will achieve its vision in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a diversified system of regional parklands, trails, and parkland-related services that will offer outstanding opportunities for creative use of outdoor time. • Acquire and preserve significant biologic, geologic, scenic, and historic resources within Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. • Manage, maintain, and restore the parklands so that they retain their important scenic, natural, and cultural values. • Interpret the parklands by focusing educational programs on the visitor’s relationship to nature, natural processes, ecology, the value of natural conditions, and the history of the parklands. • Support the development and retention of well trained, dedicated, and productive employees. • Improve access to and use of the parks by members of groups that have been under represented, such as disabled, economically disadvantaged, and elderly visitors. • Balance environmental concerns and outdoor recreational opportunities within regional parklands. • Provide recreational development that fosters appropriate use of parklands while preserving their remoteness and intrinsic value. • Create quality programs that recognize the cultural diversity represented in the region. • Participate in partnerships with public agencies, nonprofit organizations, volunteers, and the | <p>The East Bay Regional Park District preserves a rich heritage of natural and cultural resources and provides safe open space, parks, trails, safe and healthful recreation and environmental education. An environmental ethic guides the District in all of its activities.</p> | <p>Issue: Role of the Park District</p> |
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| private sector to achieve mutual goals. | |
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The **Vision statement** sets the direction, values and objectives of the District:

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| <p>The East Bay Regional Parks will preserve a priceless heritage of natural and cultural resources, open space, parks, and trails for the future and will set aside park areas for enjoyment and healthful recreation for generations to come. An environmental ethic guides us in all that we do.</p> | <p>The District envisions an extraordinary and well-managed system of open space parkland at the heart of the East Bay, which will forever provide the opportunity for a growing and diverse community to experience nature nearby.</p> <p>To achieve this Vision the District will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a diversified system of regional parklands, trails, and parkland-related services that will offer outstanding opportunities for creative use of outdoor time. • Acquire and preserve significant biologic, geologic, scenic, and historic resources within Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. • Manage, maintain, and restore the parklands so that they retain their important scenic, natural, and cultural values. • Interpret the parklands by focusing educational programs on the visitor’s relationship to nature, natural processes, ecology, the value of natural conditions, and the history of the parklands. • Support the development and retention of well trained, dedicated, and productive employees. • Improve access to and use of the parks by members of groups that have been under-represented, such as disabled, economically disadvantaged, and elderly visitors. • Balance environmental |
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Issues: Leading the movement for Healthy Parks/Healthy People. Responding to changing demographics. Developing productive partnerships. Support shift to Green communities.

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| | <p>concerns and outdoor recreational opportunities within regional parklands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide recreational development that fosters appropriate use of parklands while preserving their remoteness and intrinsic value. • Create quality programs that recognize the cultural diversity represented in the region. • Participate in partnerships with public agencies, nonprofit organizations, volunteers, and the private sector to achieve mutual goals • Provide leadership to help guide land use decisions of East Bay governments that relate to the District. • Ensure open and inclusive public processes. • Pursue all appropriate activities to ensure the fiscal health of the District |
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Issues: Support shift to Green communities. Role and identity of the District. Sound fiscal practices.

Resource Management (RM)

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| | <p>RM1: The District will maintain an active inventory of its resources and monitor their health and viability. When access to park areas by the public is negatively impacting these resources the District may institute periodic closures of trails or staging areas to allow these resources and their environs to rest and recover.</p> |
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Issues: Management standards for resources. Leading the movement for Healthy Parks/Healthy People

Natural Resource Management (NRM)

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| <p>(NRM3) The District will evaluate eucalyptus, pine and cypress plantations, and shrubland or woodland areas occurring along the wildland/urban interface on a case-by-case basis for thinning, removal, and/or conversion to a less fire-prone condition. The District will construct</p> | <p>NRM6: The District will evaluate eucalyptus, pine and cypress plantations shrubland or woodland areas occurring along the wildland/urban interface on a case-by-case basis for thinning, removal and/or conversion to a less fire-prone condition,</p> |
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| <p>and maintain fuel breaks, as necessary, to manage hazardous fuels and contain wildfires. The District will minimize the widespread encroachment of monotypic stands of coyote brush, poison oak, and broom on park land.</p> | <p>following the methods laid out in the Fuels Management Plan. The District will minimize the widespread encroachment of monotypic stands of coyote brush, poison oak and broom on parkland.</p> |
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Issue: Management standards for resources.

Cultural Resource Management (CRM)

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| | <p>CRM1: The District will manage, conserve and when practical restore parkland cultural and historic resources and sites, to preserve the heritage of the people who occupied this land before the District was established.</p> |
| | <p>CRM2: The District may acquire cultural and historic resource sites when they are within lands that meet parkland acquisition criteria and will maintain an active archive of its institutional history and the history of its parklands and trails.</p> |
| | <p>CRM4: The District will determine the level of public access to cultural and historic resources using procedures and practices adopted by the Board of Directors. The District will employ generally accepted best management practices to minimize the impact of public use and access on these resources, and to appropriately interpret the significance of these resources on a regional scale.</p> |
| | <p>CRM5: The District will include Native American and other culturally associated peoples in discussions regarding the preservation and land use planning of sites and landscapes significant to their culture.</p> |

Issues: Management standards for resources. Developing productive partnerships

Issue: Conservation and management of cultural and historic resources

Issue: Developing productive partnerships

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| | <p>CRM6: The District will try to accommodate requests by historic groups, Native Americans and other culturally affiliated groups to help maintain and use cultural sites and to play an active role in their preservation and interpretation.</p> |
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Issue: Developing productive partnerships

Public Access (PA)

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| | <p>PA1: The District will use the concepts of the Healthy Parks / Healthy People movement to focus its outreach and education efforts. To achieve the goals of the Healthy Parks / Healthy People movement the District will partner with other park, recreation and community organizations as well as local health providers and businesses, to provide opportunities for families and individuals to experience both traditional and non-traditional types of outdoor activities while reconnecting to the outdoors.</p> |
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Issue: Leading the movement for Healthy Parks/Healthy People. Responding to changing demographics.

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| | <p>PA2: The District will provide information about the parks, trails and its programs in a variety of venues, languages and types of media with the understanding that the future of the system will need to serve a more ethnically diverse set of residents that are more likely to be seniors or youth.</p> |
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Issue: Leading the movement for Healthy Parks/Healthy People. Responding to changing demographics.

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| | <p>PA3: The District will regularly use both formal and informal survey methods to assess the interests of its constituents. This information will be used to guide the development of outreach and educational programs, facilities and activities found in the parks.</p> |
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Issue: Responding to changing demographics.

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| | <p>PA5: The District will cooperate with regional planning efforts to create more walkable communities and coordinate park access opportunities with local trails and bike paths developed by other agencies to promote green transportation access to the Regional Parks and Trails.</p> |
| | <p>PA6: The District will comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and use the current edition of the California State Parks Accessibility Guidelines as its standard for making the improvements necessary to create accessible circulation, programs and facilities throughout the Park District.</p> |
| | <p>PA7: The District will evaluate and monitor the compliance level of access routes from public transit stops into the parks and encourage local agencies to make the improvements necessary to provide compliant accessibility to the parks.</p> |

Issues: Leading the movement for Healthy Parks/Healthy People. Responding to changing demographics. Developing productive partnerships. Support shift to Green communities.

Issue: Responding to changing demographics.

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Recreational Facilities and Areas (RFA)

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| <p>(RFA2) The District will expand its comprehensive trail system by providing more hiking and equestrian narrow trails and more multiple-use paved and unpaved trails. A primary objective will be to provide inter-connecting trails and to link the regional parks through, a District-wide system of trails.</p> | <p>RFA2: The District will provide a diverse system of trails to accommodate a variety of recreational users including hikers and joggers, dog owners, bicyclists and equestrians. Both wide and narrow trails will be designed and individually designated to accommodate either single- or multiple uses, as appropriate, based on location, recreational intensity, environmental and safety considerations.</p> |
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Issues: Providing “Trails for All”. Responding to changing demographics.

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| <p>(RFA3) The District will continue to add narrow trails throughout the system of regional parklands.</p> | <p>RFA3: The District will continue to add both designated and shared use narrow trails for hikers, equestrians and bike riders throughout the system of regional parklands.</p> |
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Issues: Providing "Trails for All". Responding to changing demographics.

Balanced Parkland Distribution (BPD)

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| <p>(BPD) The District will continue to acquire, develop and operate areas and facilities and to provide programs and services with the primary goal of achieving a long-term balance throughout the park system. The District will continue to allocate resources based on the populations projected for the West Metropolitan, South Metropolitan and Diablo sectors. Eastern Alameda County will be added to the South Metropolitan sector. To make the most efficient use of public funds, the District will evaluate and seek to support and enhance the parks, programs, and services of other agencies.</p> | <p>BPD1: The District will continue to acquire, develop and operate areas and facilities and to provide programs and services with the primary goal of achieving a long-term balance throughout the park system. The District will continue to allocate resources based on the populations projected for the West Metropolitan, South Metropolitan and Diablo sectors. To make the most efficient use of public funds, the District will evaluate and seek to support and enhance the parks, programs and services of other agencies.</p> |
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Key Elements of the Planning Process (KEP)

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| <p>(KEP3) The District will identify important natural resources in the parks and develop measures for protecting them. Based on its evaluation, the District will make recommendations and take appropriate action. The District will consider the needs of potential park users along with resource information and recreational policies in determining future recreational facilities.</p> | <p>KEP3: The District will identify the important resources in parklands and develop recommendations for protecting them. The park planning process will consider the needs of potential park users along with resource protection recommendations to avoid impact to identified resources or if necessary, to mitigate for this impact.</p> |
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Issue: Management standards for resources.

Acquisition (ACQ)

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| <p>(ACQ1) The District will acquire property in accordance with the Master Plan 1997, giving careful consideration to operating and program needs, the District's financial position, timing factors that affect the</p> | <p>ACQ1: The District will acquire property in accordance with the Master Plan, giving careful consideration to operating and program needs, the District's financial position, timing factors</p> |
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| <p>sale of the property, and opportunities provided under Measure AA and any subsequent funding measures.</p> | <p>that affect the sale of the property and opportunities provided under Measure WW and any subsequent funding measures.</p> |
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Planning for Regional Parks and Trails (PRPT)

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| <p>(PRPT1) The District will classify existing and potential parklands in the Master Plan. At the time that the District prepares a Land Use Plan for a park, it will review the classification of the park and reclassify the park, if appropriate.</p> | <p>PRPT1: The District will classify existing and potential parklands in the Master Plan. All District parks are categorized into one of the following five classifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Regional Park b. Regional Preserve c. Regional Recreation Area d. Regional Shoreline e. Regional Trail <p>At the time that the District prepares a Land Use Plan for a park, it will review the classification of the park and reclassify the park, if appropriate.</p> |
| <p>(PRPT25) The District will prepare a three-year Capital Improvement Budget as a part of its annual budget, listing construction projects to be built over a three-year period. The Capital Improvement budget will be based upon available funds. The district will fully consider approved park plans in preparing the Capital Improvement Budget.</p> | <p>PRPT25: The District will prepare a five-year Capital Improvement Plan as a part of its annual budget, listing construction projects to be built over a five-year period. The Capital Improvement Plan will be based upon available funds. The District will fully consider approved park plans in preparing the Capital Improvement Plan.</p> |

Issue: Sound fiscal practices.

Human Resources (HR)

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| <p>(HR2) The District will maintain a staff of highly motivated and skilled public employees to manage, supervise, coordinate, and work on the District's activities, including maintenance, operation, safety, education, administration, resource management, acquisition, development, and program services.</p> | <p>HR2: The District will maintain a staff of highly motivated and trained workforce to manage, supervise, coordinate, and work on the District's activities, including park operations, maintenance, public safety, environmental education, recreation, resource</p> |
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| <p>In addition to employees, these services will be supported through the use of volunteers, interns, contractors, concessionaires, or others.</p> | <p>management, land acquisition, development, program services, and administration.</p> |
| <p>(HR3) The District will preserve and expand project opportunities for interns.</p> | <p>HR3: The District will preserve and expand project opportunities for interns that are both academic and operational in emphasis.</p> |

Issues: Responding to changing demographics. Developing productive partnerships.

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