



TOWN OF LOS GATOS
GENERAL PLAN UPDATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REPORT

MEETING DATE: 3/05/2020
ITEM: 2

DATE: February 28, 2020
TO: General Plan Update Advisory Committee
FROM: Joel Paulson, Community Development Director
SUBJECT: Review and Discussion of the Initial Draft of the Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Element.

BACKGROUND:

The Los Gatos General Plan update process has so far included:

- Task A: Initiation;
- Task B: Background Report;
- Task C: Issues, Opportunities, and Constraints Report;
- Task D: General Plan Vision and Guiding Principles; and
- Task E: Land Use Alternatives Report.

Based on the Background Report, visioning, and alternatives planning in previous tasks, the GPAC will now begin Task F, which is the process of reviewing the Goals, Policies, and Implementation Programs of the General Plan Elements.

In addition to the vision and guiding principles, the General Plan is made up of a collection of elements, or topic categories. State law requires the General Plan to address nine elements: land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise, safety, environmental justice, and air quality. A jurisdiction may organize its general plan in any format, including consolidated elements, so long as all the relevant statutory issues are addressed. The Town's existing General Plan contains the following elements:

- Land Use Element;
- Community Design Element;
- Housing Element (not part of this update);
- Transportation Element;
- Vasona Light Rail Element;
- Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Element;

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BACKGROUND (continued):

- Environment and Sustainability Element;
- Noise Element;
- Safety Element; and
- Human Services Element.

This update will integrate the environmental justice and air quality topic categories into the existing elements. This update will also include some consolidation and renaming of elements, and redistribution of goals, policies, and implementation programs between the elements.

DISCUSSION:

As discussed at previous GPAC meetings, the Town Council has indicated that the current General Plan is serving the community well, and this update provides the opportunity to refine the General Plan, address emerging trends and recent State laws, and consider new issues.

The staff report for each GPAC meeting will include one or more of the Elements for review. The initial draft of each element provided to the GPAC has been reviewed and updated to be consistent with State law, and to match the new formatting for the 2040 General Plan. A Reviewers' Guide (Attachment 1) provides an explanation of the formatting and notations.

The purpose of this GPAC meeting is to review the initial draft of the Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Element (Attachment 2) and make recommendations for any additions, deletions, or revisions. In some cases, there may not be many changes needed.

The Parks Commission has reviewed the Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Element and has provided comments and suggestions for the GPAC to consider in their review (Attachment 3).

NEXT STEPS:

The Preferred Land Use Alternative will be reviewed by Town Council on March 17, 2020. The next element scheduled for review by the GPAC is the Human Services Element.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Public comments received by 11:00 a.m., Friday, February 28, 2020, are included as Attachment 4.

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SUBJECT: Initial Draft of the Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Element
February 28, 2020

Attachments:

1. Reviewers' Guide
2. Initial Draft of Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Element
3. Comments from the Parks Commission
4. Public Comments received before 11:00 a.m., Friday, February 28, 2020

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