



5 Recreation, Arts, and Culture Element

Millbrae is dedicated to promoting an active and healthy community that supports an excellent quality of life. The City places a high value on parks and recreation, and is committed to the protection and growth of its urban tree canopy. The City is also home to significant historical and cultural resources that enrich the lives of residents and visitors. This Element addresses the support for and enhancement of recreation, arts, and culture in Millbrae.

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5.1 Parks and Recreation

The City provides high-quality parks, open space, and recreation activities that help residents lead healthier, happier lives. Millbrae's public parks provide space for leisure and recreation, including barbecue pits, a fitness court, a skate park, basketball courts, a sand volleyball court, tennis courts, pedestrian trails, and a horseshoe pit, among other amenities. The City also offers a wide variety of recreational programs for children, teens, adults, and seniors that encompass early childhood development, academic enrichment, arts and crafts, summer programming, as well as sports and fitness. Policies in this section provide for the continued enhancement of parks and recreation facilities to meet the needs of existing and future residents, and ensure the City meets its General Plan standard of three acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents.

The City Council adopted a Parks and Facilities Inventory, Analysis and Recommendations Report in February 2022. The purpose of this report is to provide an inventory, analysis and set of recommendations for current City-owned parkland and open space. This includes park and open space facility size, condition, necessary and suggested repairs or upgrades, and associated costs. The report reviews only City-owned parks and open space facilities and does not include school facilities (which are dealt with under separate agency agreements) or unimproved open spaces (which are considered wildlands). According to the analysis, the city currently has 47.1 acres of developed parkland and open space, 7.3 acres of undeveloped parkland, and 26.4 acres of undeveloped open space. Residents also enjoy the recreational opportunities provided by the 93-acre County-owned Junipero Serra Park, of which 15 acres are located within the City's limits, and by several significant privately-owned recreational facilities in the City, including the 103-acre Green Hills Country Club golf course. The City currently has 2.1 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents, which is below the City's General Plan standard of 3.0 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents.

RAC-1 *Provide high-quality, well-maintained, diversified, and accessible parks, open space, and recreational opportunities for all Millbrae residents.*

RAC-1.1 **Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan**

The City shall develop and implement a parks, recreation, and open space master plan, consistent with the Parks and Facilities Inventory, Analysis and Recommendations Report. This will provide clear guidance and recommendations on how to meet the demands for future recreational, programming, environmental, and maintenance needs, as well as establish priorities for future park, recreation and open space renovations and facility improvements. The plan shall also evaluate demand for dog exercise and aquatic facilities and provide recommendations. [MPSP]

RAC-1.2 **Park Acquisition Plan**

The City shall develop and implement a Park Acquisition Plan to provide a plan to acquire and/or improve existing undeveloped parkland in the City to maintain the General Plan standard of three acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents. [MPSP]

RAC-1.3 **Diversified Recreational Activities**

The City shall continue to encourage the provision of recreational activities for people, as well as their dogs, of all ability levels, consistent with the changing Millbrae demographics. [SO/JP/PSR]

RAC-1.4 **New and Expanded Recreation Facilities**

The City shall pursue opportunities through public and private means for developing new, modern recreational facilities and/or expanding and enhancing existing recreation facilities. [FB/IGC/JP]

RAC-1.5 Community Partnerships

The City shall continue to coordinate with local school districts in the joint use of school recreational facilities, as well as pursue partnerships with other agencies, community groups, and organizations. [IGC/JP]

RAC-1.6 Impact Fees and Park Dedication Requirements for Residential Development Projects

The City shall continue to require new residential development to pay the City's Development Impact Fee for Park Acquisition and Facilities and Recreation Services. The purpose of the Park Acquisition and Facilities Fee is to acquire new parkland and to fund park facilities required to serve new development in the City to maintain the General Plan standard of three acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents. The Recreation Services fee is to fund new development's share of planned new recreation facilities or improvements to existing recreation facilities. The City shall also continue to require all residential subdivisions dedicate land, pay a fee in lieu thereof, or both, at the option of the city, for park or recreational purposes according to the most recent adopted standards and impact fees. [RDR]

RAC-1.7 Park Facility Inspection and Maintenance

The City shall continue regular inspection and maintenance of park facilities to prolong the life of equipment, ensure safety and accessibility, and enhance the enjoyment of park users. When problems and deficiencies are identified, the City shall ensure that park and recreation facility maintenance is performed in a timely manner. [SO]

RAC-1.8 New Park Facility Design

When designing new or renovations to existing park and recreation facilities or open space facilities, the City shall ensure the designs consider sustainable features, safety, stormwater facilities, lighting, ADA access, water sources, and that the City considers long-term maintenance needs, including needs for future staff and equipment. Open spaces and parks should incorporate sustainability measures, such as including native plant species, drought tolerant plants that require minimal irrigation, permeable paving, solar-powered lighting, and other similar features. [SO/RDR]

RAC-1.9 Community Involvement

The City shall continue to encourage community organizations and private citizens to be involved in the planning, programming, maintenance, and enhancement of public parks and open spaces to supplement the City's ongoing park maintenance program. [PI]

RAC-1.10 Spur Trail Property Improvements

The City shall complete and enhance the function of the Spur Trail Property as an open space and recreational amenity by improving additional landscaping, trails, benches, ADA access, lighting, stormwater management facilities, water fountains, access for emergency response and maintenance, safety, and related features. [SO]

RAC-1.11 Recreation User Feedback

The City shall encourage feedback from recreation program participants, facility users, and the general community through ongoing surveys that the City summarizes annually to improve service, programs, and activities. [SO]

5.2 Historic Resources

There are two places in Millbrae that are currently designated as historic. They are the site of the 1769 Portolá Expedition Camp (California Historical Landmark No. 27) and the Southern Pacific Railway Depot at 21 E. Millbrae Avenue (National Register of Historic Places No. 78000770). In addition, the Millbrae Historical Society has identified ten historically significant sites and 11 points of interest in the city and has marked the historically significant sites with plaques. The goal and policies in this section strive to help preserve and protect Millbrae's historic sites and structures.

RAC-2 *Identify and preserve historic districts and structures to help define Millbrae's identity and character, enhance the built environment, and contribute to economic development.*

RAC-2.1 **Historic Resource Inventory**

The City shall prepare and maintain an inventory of sites and structures of historical significance and evaluate the establishment of Historic Resource Districts. [PSR]

RAC-2.2 **New Development near Historic Structures**

The City shall encourage new development to complement the character of nearby historic structures. [RDR]

RAC-2.3 **Historical and Archaeological Resource Preservation**

The City shall strive to prevent destruction of significant historical and archaeological resources through review as part of the CEQA process. [RDR]

RAC-2.4 **Historic Structure Preservation**

The City shall strive to provision of incentives (such as the State Historical Building Code) for the preservation, restoration, and adaptive reuse of qualifying historic structures that are threatened with demolition or degradation. [RDR]

RAC-2.5 **Adaptive Reuse**

The City shall maintain flexible land use standards to allow the adaptive reuse of historic buildings to preserve their original design and character, consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. [RDR]

RAC-2.6 **Historic Resource Protection**

The City shall apply the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings where required to adequately protect and preserve historic resources. [RDR]

5.3 Urban Forest

Millbrae is known as a community that values its urban forest, which includes street trees, trees in parks, trees in open space areas, and trees on private property. Since 1994, the Arbor Day Foundation has recognized Millbrae as a Tree City USA community. Tree-lined streets are an important component of the City's visual character, particularly in the lower portion of the City near downtown. Street trees establish a rhythm and rich visual appeal along the

street, which enhance the desirability of the neighborhood. Extensive tree canopies also reduce the urban heat island effect and make sidewalks more pleasant places to walk.

The most recent comprehensive data on the status of Millbrae's urban forest is from the City's Tree Inventory and Management Report, which was prepared in 1992. The goal and policies in this section strive to protect and enhance Millbrae's urban forest.

RAC-3 *Maintain, restore, and increase the existing trees and enhance the urban tree canopy into the future.*

RAC-3.1 *Grow the Urban Forest*

The City shall update the City's Tree Inventory and Management Report and adopt an associated implementation plan to support opportunities to grow the urban forest by planting new trees, managing and caring for publicly-owned trees, and working to retain healthy trees. [JP/IGC]

RAC-3.2 *Reduce Urban Forest Loss*

The City shall support the identification and removal of aging or diseased trees near the end of their lifespan to prevent potential hazards and should support succession plantings to reduce net loss to the urban forest. [PSR/IGC/PI]

RAC-3.3 *New Funding Sources*

The City shall explore new and innovative funding sources for tree planting and maintenance. [FB]

RAC-3.4 *Tree City USA Designation*

The City shall strive to maintain its status as a Tree City USA community by continuing to meet the program's requirements. [SO]

RAC-3.5 *City Tree Regulations*

The City shall update the Tree Protection and Urban Forestry Program Ordinance to include provisions for the protection of trees on private property. [PSR, SO]

RAC-3.6 *Street Trees*

The City shall require new street trees as part of new development or other discretionary applications. (Source: New Policy) [RDR]

5.4 Cultural Resources

Cultural resources are places, features, or objects of importance to Native Americans. Cultural sites, structures, infrastructure, objects, and resources are reminders of the City's unique heritage and its place in the development of the Peninsula and state. This section is designed to cultivate cultural resource management programs that identify and protect these resources, consistent with the State and Federal preservation programs.

RAC-4 *Identify and preserve sites and structures of cultural significance to strengthen City identity, encourage appreciation for history and culture, and contribute to economic vitality.*

RAC-4.1 **Native American Cultural Resource Protection**

The City shall require the preservation and protection of Native American cultural resources, sacred sites, places, features, and objects, including historic or prehistoric ruins, burial grounds, cemeteries, and ceremonial sites, and shall ensure appropriate treatment of Native American and other human remains discovered during a project. [RDR]

RAC-4.2 **Tribal Consultation**

The City shall continue to comply with applicable regulations and requirements by consulting with local California Native American tribes on potential disturbance, recovery, and preservation of tribal cultural resources. [RDR]

RAC-4.3 **Cultural Sites Inventory**

The City shall comply with State requirements to identify and maintain an inventory of sites and structures of cultural and architectural significance. [PSR]

5.5 Arts, Music, and Culture

Arts, music, and culture are central to community character and influence the way people experience a city and remember it. Arts, music, and culture also enhance the quality of life of the residents and can influence economic development and community health and safety. The policies in this section are designed to expand artistic, musical, and cultural programming in Downtown Millbrae to support businesses, draw visitors, and invoke civic pride.

RAC-5 *Support and enhance the availability and diversity of arts, music, and cultural amenities.*

RAC-5.1 **Support Festivals and Events**

The City shall continue to support and attract festivals and events that benefit local businesses and strengthen the City image. [SO, JP]

RAC-5.2 **Performing Arts Facility**

The City shall consider opportunities and feasibility of building a performing arts facility as a central location for cultural and social events and activities. [FB, PSR]

RAC-5.3 **Private Recreation and Entertainment**

The City shall support complementary efforts to provide well-rounded and balanced cultural and recreational facilities by attracting private-sector recreation and entertainment to help meet the needs of Millbrae residents and attract visitors. [JP]

RAC-5.4 **Cultural and Ethnic Programs**

The City shall continue to encourage cultural and ethnic programs and activities of local interest, including partnering with other organizations as appropriate. [IGC/JP]

RAC-5.5 **La Serna Park Performances**

The City shall support small performances at the La Serena Park gazebo. [P]

5.6 Implementation Programs

| Programs | Implements Which Policy(ies) | Responsible | | 2022 - 2024 | 2025 - 2030 | 2031 - 2040 | Annual | Biennial | Ongoing |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------|----------|---------|
| | | Supporting Department(s) | | | | | | | |
| A Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan The City shall prepare and update every five years a Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan to provide clear guidance and recommendations on how to meet the demands for future recreational, programming, environmental, and maintenance needs, as well as establish priorities for future park, recreation and open space renovations and facility improvements. The plan shall also evaluate demand for dog exercise and aquatic facilities and provide recommendations. The City will use this plan as a basis for establishing park funding sources and preparing the City's Capital Improvement Program. | RAC-1.1 RAC-1.2 RAC-1.3 | Recreation Public Works | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | ■ |
| B Recreation Program Responsiveness Based upon a periodic review of recreation user needs, the City shall expand and diversify recreation program offerings to address new, unmet, and inclusive recreation needs to allow for individuals of all ability levels and backgrounds to participate. | RAC-1.1 RAC-1.3 | Recreation | | | | | | | ■ |
| C City/Schools Joint Use Agreement The City shall continue to implement a joint use agreement with the Millbrae Elementary School District for the shared use of their recreational facilities. | RAC-1.5 | Recreation | | | | | | | ■ |

| Programs | Implements Which Policy(ies) | Responsible Supporting Department(s) | 2022 - 2024 | 2025 - 2030 | 2031 - 2040 | Annual | Biennial | Ongoing |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------|----------|---------|
| D Park Development Impact Fees and Dedication Requirements The City shall review and update the park development impact fees and dedication requirements for new development, consistent with state law. | RAC-1.6 | Recreation Community Development | | ■ | ■ | | | ■ |
| E Pedestrian Improvements The City shall install, or require private development projects to install, the following improvements where appropriate to pedestrian walkways: benches, lighting, new landscaping, trash/recycling cans, and other street furnishings. | RAC-1.7 RAC-1.9 | Public Works Recreation | ■ | | | | | ■ |
| F Park and Playfield Inspections The City shall perform and document monthly inspections of park amenities and infrastructure and inspect playfields during weekly maintenance. | RAC-1.7 | Public Works | | | | | | ■ |
| G Park Acquisition Plan The City shall develop and implement a Park Acquisition Plan to provide a plan to acquire and/or improve existing undeveloped parkland in the City to maintain the General Plan standard of three acres of improved parkland per 1,000 residents. | RAC-1.10 | Recreation | | ■ | | | | |
| H Recreation User Surveys The City shall regularly survey recreation program participants, facility users, and the community to get feedback on the City's recreational facilities and programs. The City will summarize the results of the survey and make them publicly available. | RAC-1.11 | Recreation | | | | | | ■ |
| I Historical Property Inventory The City shall prepare an inventory of sites and structures of historical and archaeological significance consistent with the criteria outlined by the California Register of Historical Resources. | RAC-2.1 | Community Development | ■ | | | | | |

| Programs | Implements Which Policy(ies) | Responsible Supporting Department(s) | 2022 - 2024 | 2025 - 2030 | 2031 - 2040 | Annual | Biennial | Ongoing |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------|----------|---------|
| | | | 2022 - 2024 | 2025 - 2030 | 2031 - 2040 | | | |
| J Protection of Historic Resources The City shall review and amend, as necessary, City regulatory procedures and codes to ensure adequate recognition and protection of historic resources, including but not limited to objective standards for historic structures and adjacent development. | RAC-2.2 RAC-2.4 RAC-2.5 RAC-2.6 | Community Development | ■ | | | | | ■ |
| K Tree Management Plan The City shall prepare and maintain a Street Tree Management Plan that includes an inventory of existing trees on public property (data on age, location, species, and condition of the City's street trees), outlines a maintenance strategy, plans for the succession and growth of the urban canopy, and identifies funding strategies. | RAC-3.1 RAC-3.2 RAC-3.3 | Community Development Public Works | | ■ | | | | |
| L City's Tree Inventory and Management Report The City shall update the Tree Inventory and Management Report. | RAC-3.1 | Public Works | ■ | | | | | |
| N Updated Tree Protection and Urban Forestry Ordinance The City shall update the Tree Protection and Urban Forestry Ordinance to include provisions for the protection of trees on private property. | RAC-3.5 | Public Works | | ■ | | | | |