

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

*Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature.
It will never fail you.*

- Frank Lloyd Wright

People want and need pleasant outdoor places. Fresh air, green vistas, and being close to nature is good for our public health and well-being while providing a refreshing break from the urban experience. These outdoor spaces can take a number of different forms. Redwood City is fortunate to have green forested hills to the west and the San Francisco Bay shoreline to the east, providing expanses of open space, with a variety of parks in between. At the same time, there are potential opportunities to create new open spaces and restore some areas to a natural state.

The challenge we face in the next 15 years is the need to balance preserving open space while accommodating future development. At the same time, Redwood City needs to acquire and develop new park areas that can serve a variety of functions ranging from organized sports and children's play areas to outdoor gathering places. The Parks and Open Space Element describe the approaches we can take to achieve these goals.

PURPOSE OF ELEMENT

The purpose of the Parks and Open Space Element is to assure that there will be sufficient parkland to meet future needs and to guide the long term preservation of open space land. The Element is divided into two sections. The first section discusses parkland, including parkland used for active recreation, such as parks, plazas, and

community gardens. The second section discusses open space which is unimproved land that preserves natural resources, habitat, and wetlands.

Since Redwood City is nearly built out, the City will require policies and actions to assure that there is sufficient park and open space land available to meet future needs. In addition, higher density in-fill development will cause a greater need for parks and open space. This need is reflected in one of the Guiding Principles which states:

- ❖ *Plan for sustainability within our finite resources, including but not limited to open space, water, energy and air quality.*

Parks

Parks are an essential part of the built environment. Unlike open space, they are created for the purpose of providing green respite, active recreation space or locations for social gathering in developed areas. Redwood City's parks can be classified into four categories:

- 1) Active Parkland
- 2) Social Spaces
- 3) Community Gardens
- 4) Trail-Oriented Recreation

Active Parkland

Active parkland is defined as land owned either by Redwood City or another public agency that is located within Redwood City's jurisdictional boundaries and has active recreational value. Most of what constitutes active parkland is managed and maintained by the

Redwood City Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Department.

Active parkland varies in size, type and use. The PRCS Department uses a system developed by the National Recreation and Parks Association to classify its parkland into the following categories:

- **Mini Parks** are small single-purpose park areas usually one acre or less in size that are used by small children and adults.
- **Neighborhood Parks** are usually ~~two~~ **one** to five acres in size serving an area of approximately one-half mile radius. These parks are for non-organized activities. Amenities usually include a playground area with equipment and a restroom.
- **Community Parks** are designed for more organized activity, and may include a community center, off-street parking, sports fields and restrooms. The optimum size for a community park is ~~10~~ **5** to 20 acres, serving an area of one to two miles in radius.
- **Special Use Parks** are recreation areas for specialized uses. Examples include the Dog Park and other uses that do not fit into another category.
- **Redwood City Schools** includes the turf and recreation areas on school sites.
- **Landscaped or Open Space Areas** are made up of ~~roadway medians~~, lagoons, major utility rights-of-way, and general open space. These areas are not included in the City's calculation of **active** parkland acreage.

The first four of the above categories are considered as active parkland and are described in the matrix shown in Figure OS-1. The matrix includes the name of each park, its location, size, and amenities. Map OS-1 shows the location of these parks within Redwood City.

In 2005, Redwood City had a total of 225.31 acres of **active** parkland. Based on Redwood City's 2000 Census population of 75,402, the ratio

of active park area to population is approximately three acres per 1,000 residents. A survey of twelve Peninsula cities indicated that the average ratio of park area to population for these cities is 3.1 acres per 1,000 residents. State guidelines for park acreage as specified under the Quimby Act are 3 to 5 acres per 1,000 residents. The Redwood City PRCS has recommended a standard of three acres of active parkland per 1,000 residents. This standard will ultimately have to be reviewed and approved by the City Council.

The PRCS has also looked at how parkland is distributed and found that there is a higher percentage of Redwood City's parkland in Redwood Shores. Redwood Shores has 27% of Redwood City's active parkland area but 14% of Redwood City's population, giving Redwood Shores a ratio of 5.7 acres of active parkland per 1,000 residents. This leaves the remainder of Redwood City with a ratio of 2.5 acres of active parkland per 1,000 residents.

The PRCS Strategic Plan, 2004 recognizes that Redwood City is below the average acreage of parkland for Peninsula cities, and that more acreage will be needed, particularly playing fields for organized sports. The Plan's strategies call for identifying locations for new parks and the funding sources necessary for creating new parks. The challenge facing Redwood City is the need to provide sufficient active parkland to meet increased population and to ~~equitably site this parkland~~ make it accessible. This demand is expected to increase as Redwood City grows.

The need to provide sufficient active parkland is particularly crucial in areas where new infill development is expected to occur, since much of this development will be made up of higher-density multiple-family residences. The Strategic Plan identifies the challenge as maintaining the existing standards while adding sufficient active parkland to meet the growth in population.

In order to maintain its active parkland ratio, Redwood City expects to pursue various means. This includes consideration of charging impact fees, gifts and bequests, and other techniques to finance acquisition and development of new parks. In addition to in-lieu fees and land dedication from developers, the PRCS Department has proposed a series of other funding sources such as funds from various bonds and grants. These include Community Development and Grant Funds, Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Bond Act of 2000, the State Parks and Healthy Communities Grants, and the Urban Park Act of 2001.

The ability of Redwood City to acquire sufficient land to develop new parks will be a challenge. Emphasis will need to be put on the quality of parkland as well as quantity. Determining quality parkland can be subjective, but certain factors such as the location of a park, surrounding land uses, and ease of access are important considerations. The sidebar **Potential Open Space Resources** describes potential opportunities for developing new active parkland within Redwood City.

GOAL FOR ACTIVE PARKLANDS

OS-1: Maintain and enhance existing active parklands within Redwood City while acquiring and developing additional land for new parks to assure there is sufficient acreage available to meet future population growth and the needs of a diverse population.

Policies:

OS-P1.1: Redwood City shall maintain a minimum standard of three acres of active parkland per 1,000 residents.

OS-P1.2: Developers of new residential projects shall be required to mitigate park impacts by paying an in-lieu fee and/or land dedication to acquire and develop new active parkland.

OS-P1.3: As new parks are planned and developed, efforts shall be made to provide an equitable distribution of active parkland throughout Redwood City.

OS-P1.4: The city shall work to establish partnerships with owners of large-scale private open spaces, particularly outdoor playing fields to allow for access and use of their facilities by the public.

OS-P1.5: All park improvements and new park development shall include outreach programs to the surrounding neighborhood to obtain sufficient input on desired park amenities and features.

Actions:

OS-A1.1: The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department shall identify areas within Redwood City that can be developed for new active parkland including public rights-of-way, land adjacent to creeks, and bayfront lands.

OS-A1.2: Developers of new residential projects shall be required to pay an in-lieu fee, dedicate land, and/or a combination of the two to acquire and develop active parkland.

OS-A1.3: The City will provide incentives and work with developers to create new active parkland in conjunction with their projects such as land dedication, use of adjacent street space, and the use of rooftops as open space areas.

OS-A1.4: The City will work to establish agreements with the Redwood City School District, the Sequoia High School District, and Canada College to make their playing fields available for public use

OS-A1.5: Safe, direct and convenient pedestrian access shall be provided in and around existing and new parks, including sidewalks of sufficient width and visible pedestrian crosswalks, incorporating appropriate traffic-calming measures where necessary.

OS-A1.6: Redwood City shall actively seek alternative funding sources such as state bonds and grants to help finance parkland acquisition and development.

Social Spaces

Social spaces are outdoor public places like plazas, squares, paseos, and courtyards that are part of the **public realm**. Unlike active parkland, social spaces are also usually smaller in size than most active parks. Throughout history, cities and towns have had some type of social space like a town square, marketplace or piazza where people could meet and socialize. They were also places where civic events and local celebrations took place.

Recognizing their importance and the need for social spaces, the Redwood City Council adopted a social spaces policy on September 10, 2001 which states:

It is the policy of the City of Redwood City that in the design of public and private projects, high priority be given to creating comfortable, enjoyable and aesthetically pleasing public spaces.

Examples of social spaces in Redwood City are Courthouse Square and City Center Plaza. Both of the above are included in the active parkland calculation and can be classified as social spaces. Developing attractive, pleasant social spaces is in keeping with another one of the Guiding Principles:

❖ *Design for active pedestrian and bicycle-friendly streets and public spaces.*

Depending on their size and location, social spaces can serve different functions. They can be “outdoor rooms” where people can sit, relax, and socialize. They can also be places for activities like outdoor concerts and farmers markets. They can be used for special events and community celebrations like the Fourth of July and Cinco de Mayo.

To be effective, the design of social spaces must consider exposure to sun and shade, placement of surrounding buildings, surrounding land uses, and adequate maintenance. Social spaces should be safe, pleasant and attractive so that people feel comfortable and safe. Since social spaces are used by pedestrians, they must be integrated with a sufficient pedestrian infrastructure of sidewalks and walkways.

Some of Redwood City’s social spaces are concentrated in the Downtown Core Area. Map OS-2 shows where these spaces are located within Downtown. New infill development provides opportunities to create new social spaces.

Land Use Element policies specify that **Neighborhood Commercial Centers** are to be retained, but recognizes that future redevelopment in these centers may occur. Any redevelopment in a Neighborhood Commercial Center provides an opportunity to incorporate social spaces which could enhance the Center’s viability and be an asset to the surrounding neighborhood.

Social spaces can also be incorporated into **Transit-Oriented Development plans** described in the **Circulation and Land Use Elements**. Smaller-scale social spaces could also be integrated with bus stops.

The **Infrastructure Element** describes proposals to develop a regional wireless internet network that would include Redwood City. The network would include access points or “hot spots” where anyone with a laptop computer or personal digital assistant (i.e. palm pilot) can access the internet. Some of these hot spots could be located in existing social spaces.

GOAL FOR SOCIAL SPACES

OS-2: Maintain and enhance Redwood City’s existing social spaces while encouraging the development of new social spaces in keeping with Redwood City’s adopted policy.

Policies

OS-P2.1: Depending on their size and location, social spaces shall be designed to accommodate different types of functions.

OS-P2.2: Wherever possible, social spaces shall be integrated with transit stops, such as local bus stops and major transit hubs including the CalTrain Station, and the future ferry terminal.

OS-P2.3: Where appropriate, consider the creation of new social spaces in conjunction with redevelopment and infill development.

Action

OS-A2.1: Wireless internet access points (i.e. “hot spots”) shall be located at existing social spaces in Redwood City’s downtown area. Selected future social spaces shall be considered as outdoor internet access points.

Community Gardens

Community gardens are a specialized type of park space used for a specific activity such as growing produce. Community gardens can be located on public or quasi-public land (e.g. Hetch Hetchy right of way, church or institutional properties) or leased private land. They are usually maintained by a volunteer group made up of local residents, non-profit organizations, or schools. These volunteer groups share tools, labor, and other resources to plant, irrigate, and maintain these gardens.

Community gardens provide opportunities for residents to grow fresh produce. This is particularly beneficial to low-income residents who do not always have opportunities or resources to obtain fresh fruits and vegetables. Community gardens also provide a social function for residents to work together and get to know each other, creating and strengthening a sense of community in their neighborhood.

Redwood City has a community garden located at the Fair Oaks Community Center. There are plans to develop additional community gardens in Red Morton Park and on a portion of the Hetch Hetchy right of way. Additional opportunities for community gardens should be made available throughout Redwood City, utilizing portions of existing parks and school sites, and other public and quasi-public lands, such as the Hetch Hetchy right-of-way.

GOAL FOR COMMUNITY GARDENS

OS-3: Redwood City shall take an active role to provide sufficient land for the developing community gardens.

Policy:

OS-P3.1: Redwood City will cooperate with organizations and neighborhood groups interested in creating new community gardens.

Action:

OS-A3.1: Redwood City should attempt to inventory potential locations for community gardens throughout Redwood City on public, quasi-public, and private lands.

Water-Oriented Recreation

Water-based open spaces are made up of streams, creeks, estuaries, lagoons, and San Francisco Bay. These water-based open spaces serve as recreation facilities, ship channels, and for preserving ecosystems. As indicated in the **Land Use Element**, approximately 45% of Redwood City's land area is made up of water or is subject to tidal action.

In many instances, certain types of recreation may be compatible with restoration efforts and wildlife preservation. For example, some Bayfront lands can be used as park areas for certain low-impact recreation activities and act as buffer areas between developed urbanized areas and wildlife refuges and ecological preserves where human encroachment must be restricted.

Water-oriented recreation facilities include marinas. Presently, there are several marinas in Redwood City, most of which are concentrated along Redwood Creek. Some of these marinas were constructed in conjunction with new residential and office developments. Marina construction, along with other development located along San Francisco Bay must have the approval of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC).

Redwood Shores Lagoon was originally part of a channel that was dredged in the 1930s for a harbor facility that was never completed. The channel was incorporated into the design of Redwood Shores to serve as both a visual amenity and to provide water-based recreation, including some non motorized boating. The lagoon is landlocked and does not provide boating access to San Francisco Bay.

GOAL FOR WATER-ORIENTED RECREATION

Goal OS-4: Redwood City shall work with appropriate agencies including the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) to provide water-based recreation opportunities on the Bayfront and San Francisco Bay while maintaining and enhancing the environmental integrity of San Francisco Bay and the Bayfront lands.

Policy

OS-P4.1: New development along the Bayfront shall be designed to incorporate water-oriented amenities including public access for hiking, fishing, swimming, boating and other water-oriented recreation.

Actions:

OS-A4.1: New development and recreation shall be designed so that environmental damage to bayfront lands and Bay ecology is minimized.

OS-A4.2: Redwood Shores Lagoon shall be maintained and protected from inappropriate uses and encroachment from adjacent properties located along the edge of the lagoon.

Trail-Oriented Recreation

Walking and bicycling are a form of outdoor recreation and allows for enjoying outdoor open space lands. Pedestrian and bicycle transportation are addressed in the **Circulation Element**, but

providing safe and convenient non-motorized access that connect parks and open space areas are a complementary component discussed in the Open Space Element. This access can reduce car use and the need for parking areas in park and open space lands.

Two region-wide trails are currently under development in the San Francisco Bay Area, the **Bay Trail** and the **Bay Area Ridge Trail**. The Bay Trail is an ongoing project to develop a continuous 400-mile pedestrian and bicycle corridor that will eventually encircle San Francisco Bay. Most of the trail will follow the Bay's shoreline and include tributary and spur trail routes to connect with local bicycle and pedestrian routes. Within Redwood City, the Bay Trail is located east of the 101 Freeway, and portions proposed within Redwood City have yet to be completed.

The Bay Area Ridge Trail will follow the ridgelines that encircle the Bay Area for much of its length. When completed it will be approximately 500 miles long and will be available to hikers, bicyclists and equestrians. The Ridge Trail does not pass through Redwood City, but runs most of length of the Peninsula along the ridgelines to the west.

Efforts should be made to provide bikeway and pedestrian access to both of these regional trails. In addition, within Redwood City, bikeways and pedestrian linkages should be provided to connect with existing and proposed parklands and open space lands.

GOAL FOR TRAIL-ORIENTED RECREATION

Goal OS-5: Provide safe, direct and convenient access for pedestrians, bicyclists and the disabled to Redwood City's local parks and open space lands.

Policy:

OS-P5.1: Safe and direct non-motorized public access shall be made available to all of Redwood City's parklands, social spaces, and other open spaces with public access (e.g. Edgewood Park and Bayfront open space lands) for pedestrians, bicyclists, and the disabled.

~~**OS-P4.2: Existing and future bikeways as described in the Circulation Element shall be routed to provide safe and direct access to Redwood City's Neighborhood and Community Parks.**~~

Action

OS-A5.1: Existing and future bikeways as described in the Circulation Element shall be routed to provide safe and direct access to Redwood City's Neighborhood and Community Parks.

OS-A5.2: Pedestrian, bicycle and disabled access shall be routed to provide connections with regional trails including the Bay and Ridge Trails.

OS-A5.3 The City shall work and cooperate with other Bay Area Cities towards completion of the Bay Trail.

OS-A5.4: The City shall actively seek regional, state, and federal funding for trail development.

(sidebar)

Potential Open Space Resources

Redwood City is nearly built out, yet there will be a need to develop additional active parkland to meet expected population growth. At the same time, opportunities to develop new open spaces and active park land will be limited because of costs and the availability of land. Because of the need and

scarcity, any new parkland should be strategically located so that there is a park within easy access for most everyone in Redwood City.

The following describes some possible approaches.

Private Recreation Areas

Redwood City should consider asking for use of privately developed recreation areas in future development agreements, as was done in Pacific Shores. Redwood City should partner with the owners of large private outdoor recreation facilities to allow for public use of these facilities.

Hetch Hetchy Right of Way

Two Hetch Hetchy water pipelines pass through Redwood City on rights-of-way owned by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). The routing of these pipelines is described in the **Infrastructure Element**.

Portions of the Hetch Hetchy right-of-way are **currently** used for **active** parkland, including parts of Red Morton, Fleishman, Garrett and Linden Parks. **Other** portions of the right-of-way **have been** leased for private use such as parking lots, driveways, and front and rear yards of individual residences. **There are some open segments that could be used for active parkland or other open space uses.**

If Hetch Hetchy lands are used for parkland, a number of issues must be considered. Concerns about liability must be considered since these lands are owned by the City of San Francisco. Also permanent structures within five feet of the underground pipelines are not allowed. Since much of the right-of-way passes behind residential backyards, there may

be objections from adjacent residents who may be opposed to having a public park behind their properties.

Because of the linear nature of the Hetch Hetchy lands, some of the more continuous open segments of Hetch Hetchy right-of-way could be developed as a linear park trail for bicyclists and pedestrians. This is also addressed in the **Circulation Element**. **The addition of a new pipeline in one of the Hetch Hetchy rights-of-way may provide an opportunity to require the SFPUC to create additional new park area within their right-of-way.**

Rooftops

Building rooftops are one unrealized source of active parkland. Given that portions of Redwood City have a shortage of nearby **open space**, rooftops could provide an **open space** area for a building's occupants. Rooftops have the benefit of providing a view and some degree of privacy.

Not all rooftops on existing buildings may be suitable for **open space** use due to structural and safety factors. However, new building projects could be designed to incorporate rooftop **open space** into their structural system which could include plants and trees. In some instances, rooftop **open space** can be designed to incorporate **green roof** features which are described in the **Conservation Element**.

Public Streets

Since streets make up a major portion of Redwood City's developed land area, portions of some streets could be a potential active parkland resource (since they will likely be developed, particularly for social spaces and mini-parks). Portions of existing adjacent streets could be converted to

active parkland area in conjunction with new infill projects, while providing an attractive amenity to the surrounding neighborhood.

Open Space

Open space land is defined in State statute as any parcel or area of land or water that is essentially unimproved and devoted to open space use. During Redwood City's early years of growth, as with most other cities, open space was the undeveloped land that was available for urban expansion. This perception of open space continued well into the mid-twentieth century as Redwood City expanded outward onto surrounding rural land. Today, much of the remaining undeveloped land and water in and around Redwood City is considered open space.

There are different types of open space that serve different functions. In the case of Redwood City, open space functions primarily for the preservation of natural resources. Open spaces used for the managed production of resources such as agricultural lands, forest and timber land, and mineral extraction no longer exist within or adjacent to Redwood City. Open space for health and safety is described in the **Safety Element**.

Open spaces for preserving natural resources include watershed lands, scenic areas, forests, grasslands, creeks, streams, sloughs, wetlands, and San Francisco Bay, along with plant, fish and wildlife habitat. These open spaces can vary in size from several hundred to over 1,000 acres, and are located throughout the Peninsula. These open space lands are owned and maintained by different public agencies, including the Federal and State governments, San Mateo County, the City of San Francisco, the Mid-peninsula Regional Open Space District, and the Peninsula Open Space Trust.

Some of these open spaces may provide public access and permit certain activities like hiking, fishing, boating and nature study. There may also be amenities like restrooms, picnic tables and hiking trails. Other open space lands may have restrictions on public access to prevent disturbances to the natural ecology.

Two of these types of open space areas are located in and contiguous to Redwood City. They are the Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve and the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve

Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve is approximately 462 acres in size and is owned and maintained by San Mateo County. It is located on the south side of Edgewood Road and east of Interstate 280 with car access from Edgewood Road. Almost half the preserve area is in Redwood City with the remainder in the County.

Most of the area within Edgewood Park is made up of grassland and woodlands, and has some of the last remaining native vegetation on the Peninsula. It is also a wildlife habitat. A series of springs and small streams in the park make up part of the Cordilleras Creek watershed. Most public access in the park is restricted to a network of hiking trails. There is a small area for parking and a picnic area with tables and restrooms with car access from Edgewood Road.

Don Edwards San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge

The Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge was created in 1974. The refuge covers both sides of San Francisco Bay's southern portion and has the distinction of being the first "urban" National Wildlife Refuge in the United States. The refuge includes 23,000 acres made up of open bay, salt ponds and marshes, mud flats, and vernal pools. Bayfront lands within Redwood City that are part of the National Wildlife Refuge include Bird, Bair and Greco Islands.

In 1997, the Peninsula Open Space Trust acquired 1,626 acres of Bair Island in Redwood City. The land was transferred into public ownership to become part of the National Wildlife Refuge. This acquisition, combined with the outer portion of Bair Island that was part of the Refuge, made the entire 3,200 acres of Bair Island permanent open space.

The U.S. Department of the Interior, in conjunction with the State of California, has started a wetland restoration program for approximately 16,500 acres of Bayfront land. This program will involve breaching the dikes and levees surrounding some of the old salt evaporation ponds to allow for natural tidal flows that will eventually restore much of the area to its natural state.

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) was created in 1965 in response to environmental threats to the Bay, particularly the continuing filling of the Bay to create land for new development (between 1850 and 1965, the size of the Bay had been reduced from 787 square miles to 548 square miles). In 1969 state legislation made the BCDC a permanent agency. The BCDC balances protecting and enhancing San Francisco Bay and its shoreline with economic development, particularly development adjacent to the Bay as well as maritime commerce as it pertains to ship channels and port development.

In addition to protecting the Bay from haphazard development, the BCDC has also been involved in efforts to restore wetlands and providing public access to the Bay's shoreline.

Creeks, Streams, and Riparian Lands

The creeks and streams that flow through Redwood City provide limited opportunities for new open space. Most of these watercourses are located in easements that run through private property for most of

their length and are confined to narrow concrete channels or in underground box culverts, making them inaccessible to the general public. However, portions of the creeks that flow through Redwood City are still in a relatively natural state, as described in the **Conservation Element**.

Creeks, Streams, and Riparian Lands

The creeks and streams that flow through Redwood City provide limited opportunities for new open space. Most of these watercourses are located in easements that run through private property for most of their length and are confined to narrow concrete channels or in underground box culverts, making them inaccessible to the general public. However, portions of the creeks that flow through Redwood City are still in a relatively natural state, as described in the **Conservation Element**.

The Zoning Ordinance specifies a buffer area along both sides of the creek where building and new construction is restricted. The purpose of the buffer area is to protect the creeks and attendant riparian habitat and wildlife, absorb runoff and reduce the likelihood of flooding and erosion.

The **Conservation Element** also describes how portions of the creeks and streams that are presently channeled or placed underground could be restored to a more natural state through **daylighting**. This could be done in conjunction with redevelopment and infill projects where a channeled or culverted creek passes through the project site.

Daylighting and subsequent restoration of a section of creek can provide a valuable open space amenity.

Redwood Creek

Since Redwood City's early days, Redwood Creek has served as the major access route to the Bay for water borne freight. The outer

portion of Redwood Creek functions today as an estuary for large ocean-going cargo ships accessing the Port of Redwood City. Pleasure boats also use Redwood Creek, and several marinas are located next to the creek's main channel.

The portion of Redwood Creek extending from where it emerges from the underground culvert near Main and Bradford Streets northeasterly to San Francisco Bay could provide a potential linear park. The segment of Redwood Creek between Bradford Street and the 101 Freeway would provide a valuable open space amenity in an area where public open space is presently scarce. Incorporating pedestrian and bicycle paths into the linear park as described in the **Circulation Element** would provide an important pedestrian/bicycle link between Downtown and the Bayfront Area (including a connection to the Bay Trail).

GOAL FOR OPEN SPACE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OS-6: Redwood City shall support efforts to preserve, maintain and enhance existing open space lands within Redwood City, including the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge, the Edgewood Park Nature Preserve and future open space lands within and immediately adjacent to Redwood City by working closely with the appropriate agencies.

Policies:

OS P-6.1: Support efforts to acquire, maintain and restore the biodiversity of open space lands including wildlife, plant species and animal habitat.

OS-P6.2: Public access to Bayfront open space lands shall be limited to bicycle and pedestrian access, but with provision for disabled access.

OS-P6.3: Allow for limited public access to Bayfront open space lands for recreation activities while protecting and restoring the Bayfront's natural ecosystem.

OS-P6.4: Restore and maintain Redwood City's remaining creeks, streams, and sloughs that are in a natural state to enhance and maintain riparian and wetland plant and wildlife, and where feasible, incorporate public access.

Actions:

OS-A6.1: Redwood City shall cooperate with state and federal agencies, the San Mateo County Parks Department, the Mid-Peninsula Open Space District and the City and County of San Francisco in the acquisition, preservation and restoration of existing and future open space lands.

OS-A6.2: Develop and enhance open space lands along existing creeks and streams in Redwood City so that they are protected from runoff, erosion and pollution while preserving riparian plant, animal and fish habitat.

OS-A6.3: Redwood City shall work with the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) to integrate public recreation and access opportunities with restoring and preserving Bayfront lands.

OS-A6.4: Where creeks and streams pass through properties to be developed or redeveloped, the City shall work with developers to daylight and restore the segment of creek on the properties to be developed or redeveloped whenever feasible.

OS-A5.5: The City shall enforce protection of reasonable setback areas along existing creeks and streams from encroachment by buildings, pavement and other inappropriate uses to minimize unfiltered stormwater runoff.