

**GOAL: ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

*Purpose: To support the sustainable vision by incorporating sustainable features into land use and transportation decisions and practices.*

**URBAN FORESTRY**

**POLICY 1:** Accelerate the planting of large canopy trees to increase tree coverage in Sunnyvale because trees add to the scenic beauty and walkability of the community, provide environmental benefits such as air quality improvements, wildlife habitat, and reduction of heat islands, and enhance the health, safety and welfare of residents.

*Action 1:* Prepare and implement an Urban Forestry Plan for city properties and street right-of-ways. The Plan should promote planting and maintaining large canopy trees where space allows, planting a diversity of tree species, and discouraging high maintenance and other inappropriate trees.

*Action 2:* Establish uniform and continuous tree planting on major arterial and collector streets and pedestrian paths. Set an annual goal for street tree planting.

*Action 3:* Monitor the success of the City’s urban forestry program by periodically measuring the percentage of tree canopy coverage in the community.

*Action 4:* Alternative solutions for sidewalk/curb repairs and alignment should be considered in lieu of street tree removal. When a tree must be removed, provide suitable replacement tree(s).

*Action 5:* To improve walkability and better separate pedestrian and vehicular traffic, promote the provision of planter strips and/or tree wells between sidewalks and traffic/parking lanes for private developments and street improvement projects. [Gerri: I relocated and expanded the planter strip and tree well action here.]

*Action 6:* Evaluate increasing the level of required tree planting and canopy coverage for new developments and site renovation projects. Balance the competing interest to increase the tree canopy over hardscape and parking lot areas while preserving solar access for photo-voltaic systems.

**POLICY 2:** Recognize the value of heritage and protected trees to the legacy, character and livability of the community by expanding the designation and protection of large signature and native trees on private property and city parks.

- Action 1:* Maintain and regularly review and update regulations and practices for the planting, protection, removal, replacement and long-term management of large trees on private property and city-owned golf courses and parks. Strictly enforce unauthorized removal and irreversible damage and pruning of large protected trees.
- Action 2:* Expand community education on the value of trees and the benefits of tree planting and preservation.
- Action 3:* Maintain and publicize a data base of designated heritage trees. Require public noticing for proposed removal of heritage trees.
- Action 4:* Fully evaluate options such as tree relocation, site redesign or special construction provisions to avoid removing and irreparably damaging healthy heritage and protected trees.

**GREEN BUILDINGS**

**POLICY 3:** Enhance the public health and welfare by promoting the environmental and economic health of the city through sustainable practices for the design, construction, maintenance, operation and deconstruction of buildings and other site features.

- Action 1:* Maintain and regularly review and update green building standards for new construction, additions and remodels of buildings including additional incentives where feasible.
- Action 2:* Encourage green features such as passive solar design, natural ventilation and building orientation and apply flexibility when conducting development review.
- Action 3:* Explore financial incentives such as reduced permit fees to encourage green building practices like conservation.

**GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

**POLICY 4:** Reduce greenhouse gas emissions that effect climate and the environment though land use and transportation planning and development.

**POLICY 5:** Actively maintain and implement a greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan such as a Climate Action Plan that outlines impacts, policies and reduction measures related to public and private land use and transportation.

**STREAMSIDE DEVELOPMENT/RUNOFF**

**POLICY 6:** Recognize that streamside development can affect the health, safety and general welfare of the city and mitigate negative effects by avoiding impacts when reviewing projects located in proximity to streams.

*Action 1:* Address sea level rise when reviewing new development near creeks and consider the projected mid-century flood levels as projected by BCDC.

**POLICY 7:** Engage in regional efforts such as with Santa Clara Valley Water District to enhance and protect land use near streams and to respond to sea level rise and climate change.

*Action 1:* Maintain and regularly review and update a streamside development review and permitting process.

*Action 2:* Apply development standards provided by SCVWD.

*Action 3:* Streamside development review shall be conducted as part of a building permit plan check process, design review, miscellaneous plan permit, and/or the discretionary review process.

*Action 4:* Minimize effects of development on the natural streambeds.

*Action 5:* When opportunities exist, remove existing structures adjacent to streams that impact the streambed.

**ALTERNATIVE/RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS**

**POLICY 8:** Provide Sunnyvale residents and businesses with opportunities to utilize private, renewable energy facilities.

*Action 1:* Maintain and regularly review and update uniform and comprehensive standards for the development, siting and installation of solar energy, wind and other renewable energy and energy conservation systems on private property that address public health, safety, community welfare and the aesthetic quality of the city.

*Action 2:* Consider deviations from development standards such as setbacks, design guidelines or heights to encourage innovative energy efficient building design.