

Proposed General Plan Update Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions



Trail Network

The Trail Network Goals & Policies of the General Plan lead to an interconnected and well-distributed network of trail systems to support recreation and commuting. The 100-mile Trail Network, linked to a 400-mile on-street bikeway system (*refer to “Circulation” section of General Plan and adopted San Jose Bike Plan*) combine to form a 500-mile BikeWeb within San Jose which contributes to a multi-modal transportation system.

The Trail Network Goals and Policies:

- Support active transportation by developing alignments that link housing, commercial and retail uses.
- Support recreation by linking park sites and connecting to regional trail systems.
- Support environmental protection by permitting stakeholders to access, enjoy and protect open spaces and natural resources.

Other sections of this Plan, including Circulation and Parks, Trails, Open Space, and Recreation Amenities/Programs sections of this Plan, also have significant information related to trails and to promoting bicycle use for transportation and recreational purposes in San Jose.

Goal TN-1	Become a national model for trail development and trail use by residents and visitors.
Policy TN-1.1	Develop the nation’s largest urban network of trails and remain a national leader in terms of scale and quality of those trails.
Policy TN-1.2	Support use of innovative design practices, materials, and construction techniques to improve the development, operation, and safety of trails.
Policy TN-1.3	Minimize environmental disturbance in the design, construction and management of trails. (San Jose 2020 General Plan)
Policy TN-1.4	Provide gateway elements, interpretive signage, public art, and other amenities along trails to promote use and enhance the user experience.
Policy TN-1.5	Provide services and information to expand knowledge about, encourage use of, and promote the Trail Network as a

transportation and recreation facility for all segments of San Jose's diverse community and visitors.

- Action TN-1.6 Support development of bike rental kiosks by private sector businesses to support and promote bicycle usage of trails.
- Goal TN-2: Develop a safe and accessible Trail Network to serve as a primary means of active transportation and recreation within a multi-modal transportation system.**
- Policy TN-2.1 Support off-street travel by interconnecting individual trail systems to each other and to regional trail systems.
- Policy TN-2.2 Add necessary infrastructure to facilitate travel within a developed urban area to support trail usage.
- Policy TN-2.3 Develop facilities in a prioritized manner, as indicated by the City's adopted bicycle and trail plans and policies.
- Policy TN-2.4 Maximize hours that trails are open for public use, consistent with safety and other goals. Manage trail closures and special events to minimize limitations to trail accessibility.
- Policy TN-2.5 Integrate and connect trail and pathway networks with a larger network of countywide and regional trails such as the Bay Area Ridge, San Francisco Bay, and Juan Bautista De Anza Trails to allow for a broad base of opportunities and linkage with the greater Bay Area. (previously presented with Parks Policies as PR-7.6)
- Policy TN-2.6 Encourage developers to install and maintain trails when new development occurs adjacent to a designated trail location. (San Jose 2020 General Plan)
- Policy TN-2.7 Coordinate trails and bikeways, and consider policies from the Circulation section and the Parks, Trails, Open Space, and Recreation Amenities/Programs section of this Plan to create a complete BikeWeb to serve the needs of San Jose's diverse community.
- Action TN-2.8 Consider abandoned railroad rights-of-ways for acquisition and development as trails where the right-of-way aligns with the City's Trail System. (San Jose 2020 General Plan, revised & previously presented with Parks Policies as Action PR-7.8)

- Action TN-2.9 Work with the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the utilities, including PG& E, to explore opportunities to develop trails, joint-use facilities, and/or other recreational amenities along their rights-of-way. (previously presented with Parks Policies as Action PR-7.9)
- Action TN-2.10 Work with local school districts to identify trails as Safe Routes to School.
- Measure TN-2.11 Develop a trail network that extends a minimum of 100 miles.
- Measure TN-2.12 Provide all residents with access to trails within 3 miles of their homes.
- Goal TN-3: Design an accessible, safe, and well-functioning trail network that attracts diverse users of varying abilities.**
- Policy TN-3.1 Design new and retrofit existing trails to provide a variety of trails that meet the needs of users of different abilities, such as commuters, families with children, or persons with disabilities.
- Policy TN-3.2 Design trails to comply with applicable local, State, and Federal master plans, design guidelines, environmental mitigation, laws, permits, or accepted standards, including Community Policing Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principals, that promote accessibility, safety, and enjoyment of trails.
- Policy TN-3.3 Design bridges, under-crossings, and other public improvements within the designated Trail Network, including grade separation of roadways and trails whenever feasible, to provide safe and secure routes for trails and to minimize at-grade intersections with roadways. (San Jose 2020 General Plan, revised & previously presented with Parks Policies as PR-7.4)
- Policy TN-3.4 Design trail system alignments within sensitive riparian and other natural areas to minimize impacts and enhance the environment.
- Policy TN-3.5 Design new and retrofit existing public and private developments to provide significant visibility of and access to existing and planned trails to promote safety and trail use.
- Action TN-3.6 Develop and adopt City of San Jose Trail Design Guidelines that function as a national model for trail development guidance.