

**Helen Chapman**  
**1556 Hester Av**  
**San Jose CA 95126**

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Andrew Crabtree, Senior Planner, Envision 2040, San Jose PBCE  
200 E. Santa Clara St  
San Jose CA 95113  
Andrew.Crabtree@sanjoseca.gov

Dear Mr. Crabtree and Members of the General Plan Task Force,

As a former Chair of the San Jose Parks Commission, member of the Green print Committee and long time advocate for Parks and Open Spaces in my community I wish to share my vision and concerns as the General Plan now enters its second phase and starts to look at policies, goals and implementation strategies for Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces.

You as General Plan task force members hold the critical role of making recommendations to create vibrant livable communities within our City and especially within the hub and village planned areas. This planning effort should consider that the Green print, The Parks department tool for planning parks and open recreational spaces, is only forecasting its planning until 2020 while the taskforce is planning to 2040. The need for parks, public gathering areas, trails, and places where the community and employees can decompress and go outside to connect with the environment is critical to a healthy city. It is vital to keep parks and open space planning in pace with new development as to not continue to exacerbate already park deficient neighborhoods.

Please consider that what make us a great city is our diversity, so thus our recreation needs should be reflective of our great diversity. Safety is also a key aspect of our parks but should not hamper creative design. If we plan our public spaces to allow for the utmost public activity, then the eyes watching our parks will help to keep them safe.

I ask that you consider goals and policies now that embrace the Goal of 3.5 acres of parkland for every 1000 people, and challenge the existing system to allow for creative visioning and development of public green spaces along side newly planned project areas. Too often we are successful at preparing the formula for great projects but miss out on the needed ingredients for a successful and appealing development. It is that appeal that will distinguish ourselves from other cities and help us compete for a future workforce.

Sincerely,

Helen Chapman

Cc: Envision 2040 General Plan Task Force