

The City of San José Greenprint Update

This Greenprint Update establishes new priorities, creates new connections and solicits new partnerships to create a more livable city for ourselves and future generations.

It is a new document which provides long term goals but also allows the City to focus on the projects that are likely achievable in the next 11 years.

I am pleased to present the *Greenprint Update*, a mid-course adjustment to the original *Greenprint* approved by the City Council in 2000. This document is a framework to focus the efforts of the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services staff toward the achievement of common goals, developed in conjunction with our community, partners and key stakeholders.

The 2000 *Greenprint* was an ambitious plan; it mirrored the economic situation at the time. In 2000 the economy was very healthy, the City successfully passed a general obligation bond measure to renovate and construct parks and recreation facilities (Measure P), and it seemed as though things would stay that way. While we have completed over 200 projects since the *Greenprint* was adopted, the wish list of projects proposed in the document set unreasonably high expectations which, given the current financial climate, are not achievable. As the City enters another year of fiscal challenges and service reductions, the focus of our efforts must be on sound fiscal management and a commitment to infrastructure and financial sustainability.

Another change you will see in this *Greenprint Update* is the use of Planning Areas instead of Council Districts. This shift will improve the alignment with the General Plan, the City's comprehensive planning document. Council District boundaries will change in a few years; however, it is anticipated that Planning Areas will stay the same, thereby providing more consistency for the *Greenprint* moving forward.

Overall this document is broad enough to respond to changing circumstances, needs and expectations of those who live, work and play in San José, yet specific enough to provide clear direction to staff, partner agencies, and developers on our priorities and standards. It also supports and aligns with other citywide planning efforts such as the General Plan and the Green Vision.

I would like to thank the dedicated people who were part of the *Greenprint* Sub-Committee; they contributed numerous hours of their time to give staff feedback on the process and the document. I would also like to thank community members who participated in the community meetings as well as in the telephone survey. This outreach process helped shape the *Greenprint* into a policy document and a Capital Action Plan to guide the Department and enable us to focus on our Vision as a "National leader of Parks and Recreation in cultivating healthy communities through quality programs and dynamic public spaces."

Please join me in implementing this plan.

Albert Balagso
Director
Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services