

# City of Davis Open Space Program Community Involvement Process Spring 2016



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Spring 2016

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# I. Introduction

## Objectives and Approach

The City of Davis' Open Space Program was formally established in 1990 to protect and restore open space in the Davis Planning Area. A variety of tools and approaches have been used to protect and manage habitats, agricultural lands and riparian corridors since that time. In total, over 5,000 acres of land have been set aside in permanent protection. With the passage of Measure "O" in year 2000, the residents of the City of Davis have been providing a reliable source of funds for the Open Space Program to expand land protection and management. The measure is set to be reconsidered in 2030. The City's Open Space and Habitat Commission (the "Commission"), with the support of the Davis City Council, felt that 2015, mid-way through the Measure O time period, was a perfect opportunity to both inform and get widespread feedback from Davis residents and others who were interested in how the Open Space Program was working, and what needed to be improved. The Commission wanted the City to provide public accountability and transparency about the effective use of Measure O funds. In addition, the Commission wanted to solicit ideas and concerns, and identify new priorities and recommendations for the Open Space Program as the City looks into the future to refine the program.

The City hired UC Davis Extension's Collaboration Center to work with City staff and the Commission to gather feedback from Davis residents and others, and translate that information into useful policy and management recommendations to help guide the program into the future. The primary objective was to provide an open and transparent venue for all community members to learn about, discuss, evaluate and suggest improvements to the City's Open Space Program. This report summarizes that feedback.

The approach for soliciting feedback relied on three separate, but inter-related, outreach methods: (1) a community survey, (2) focus groups, and (3) a major community workshop. Each of these is briefly discussed below.

**Community Survey.** A broad-based community survey, administered online and in paper form, was created to capture the widest range and diversity of opinions on open space matters. The online survey was available for over three months. To spread the word about the survey and engage the community, the City and the Commission:

- Published news about the survey and links to the survey on the City's website and other websites available to the City, such as Facebook and Nextdoor Davis;

- Contacted the local paper to publish stories about the outreach effort and links to the survey;
- Emailed the survey to a wide variety of local organizations engaged in the preservation and management of agriculture and habitat lands;
- Emailed the survey to residents registered on the City's website to receive information about open space issues;
- Distributed paper surveys at City Hall, the Yolo County Library, and at the Davis Farmers Market.

This effort resulted in 400 responses, which is a very solid response rate for a community of approximately 65,000 residents.

***Focus Groups.*** A highly focused dialogue was conducted with two selected focus groups to get feedback on very specific issues and questions that had come up over the years, and address complex and nuanced issues that a broad survey or a traditional community workshop would not have time or detail to address. These two meetings in late January were attended by 16 individuals who have considerable familiarity and a strong interest in the City's Open Space Program. These meetings were facilitated and recorded. They helped the City staff and consultant team identify key issues, clarify and define concerns, and guide design and preparation for the major community workshop event in March.

***Community Workshop.*** On March 9<sup>th</sup>, a major community workshop was held to give residents significant time to provide input on a range of critical open space topics. The workshop, which was also facilitated and recorded, provided opportunities for residents to offer input on flip charts, written statements and maps. Maps, written materials, and information (including the notes from the focus groups and the preliminary survey results) were made available to the approximately 40 people who attended the workshop. There were large group presentations and discussions and small group table-top discussions to elicit feedback on relevant topics and questions about open space. Input was captured on recorded flip charts and summarized in this report and also captured in map and graphic form.

Most of this input is considered valuable and contributes to the summary comments and conclusions at the end of this report. All of the direct input (in "raw" form) is also contained in the report appendix. The information contained in this report is intended to

be used by the Commission, City staff, and those residents and citizens interested in open space protection to help shape policy and implementation decisions about future open space acquisition, management, maintenance, access, budgeting, partnerships, and other aspects of the program. Because of the volume of comments, and the long lists of ideas and suggestions, it can be challenging to select key themes and critical priorities. The Summary and Conclusions section of the report takes a first step in this direction, but it is incumbent on City staff and the Commission to grapple with all of these relevant opinions and ideas as the City collectively looks toward the future.



West Davis Pond native landscape area.

## Background on the Open Space Program

The City's Open Space Program implements long-standing Davis General Plan goals and policies to preserve farmland and habitat areas surrounding the city. The goals of the program are: (1) securing long-term protection of open space lands around Davis, (2) providing and improving management and monitoring of City-owned open spaces, (3) promoting and supporting the enjoyment of public open space lands, (4) engaging citizens in planning and caring for open space, and (5) nurturing productive partnerships with other organizations.

There are four primary policy “tools” that the City uses to accomplish these goals.

***Tool #1: Agricultural Mitigation Requirement.*** In 1995, the City approved the Right to Farm and Farmland Preservation Ordinance (City of Davis Municipal Code 40A). The objectives of the ordinance are to: (1) protect and encourage continued agricultural land use and operations within the Davis Planning Area; (2) reduce the occurrence of conflicts between agricultural and urban land uses; and (3) reduce the loss of agricultural resources by limiting the circumstances under which agricultural operations may be deemed a nuisance. To help achieve these objectives, developers must permanently protect at least two acres of agricultural land somewhere within the Davis Planning Area to “mitigate” for every acre of agricultural land they convert to urban uses. Permanently protecting the land means either buying it outright or buying a conservation easement on the land. Developers must first preserve the land directly adjacent to their project. If this adjacent land is not enough to satisfy the 2:1 agricultural land mitigation requirement, then the developer must look elsewhere within the Davis Planning Area. Developers can partially satisfy this requirement by paying an in-lieu fee. Incentives, or location-based “credits,” are provided to the developer to protect land in areas targeted for permanent protection by the City, such as land within a ¼ mile of the city limits and land within “priority acquisition areas” as determined by the City Council.

***Tool #2: The Agricultural Buffer Requirement.*** Also as part of the above ordinance, developers must provide an agricultural buffer (i.e., an agricultural transition area, greenbelt or habitat area) that is at least 150 feet wide between their project and adjacent agricultural uses. This tool is designed to reduce potential conflicts between urban and rural land uses.

***Tool #3: Multiple Funding Sources.*** The Measure O open space parcel tax is one of three funding sources the City uses to acquire open space and conservation easements. The City also uses agriculture mitigation in-lieu fees and development impact fees to finance open space acquisitions. These funds are often used as

matching funds for grants to acquire land and easements with willing sellers at fair market value. These funding sources have leveraged millions of dollars of matching state and federal funds to protect open space in the Davis Planning Area.

***Tool # 4: Measure R/J Vote (City of Davis Municipal Code 41).*** Measure J (the Citizens' Right to Vote on Future Use of Open Space and Agricultural Lands Ordinance) was first passed by Davis voters in 2000. Measure R was passed in 2010 to extend the voting requirements until December 31, 2020. Measure J/R requires an affirmative citizen vote for General Plan Amendments that re-designate land from agricultural or open space land to urban uses. There have been two such votes in the City, and in each case, the development proposal was turned down by the voters.

### **How much land has been protected?**

Since 1994, over 5,200 acres of land have been permanently protected in the Davis Planning Area. Those acres include land adjacent to the city limits, land separating the City from neighboring cities, and land providing particular agricultural, biological/natural and/or scenic benefits.

Before the passage of Measure O in 2000, the City did not have a reliable funding source to acquire land and conservation easements. The City's innovative acquisition program was funded primarily through sporadic grant funding and agricultural mitigation in-lieu fees paid by development projects. Despite the unreliability of these funds, the City was able to protect more than 2,400 acres of sensitive habitat and prime agricultural lands in perpetuity around Davis. The City was also able to acquire 220 acres of open land in fee title, much of which is accessible along riparian corridors today.

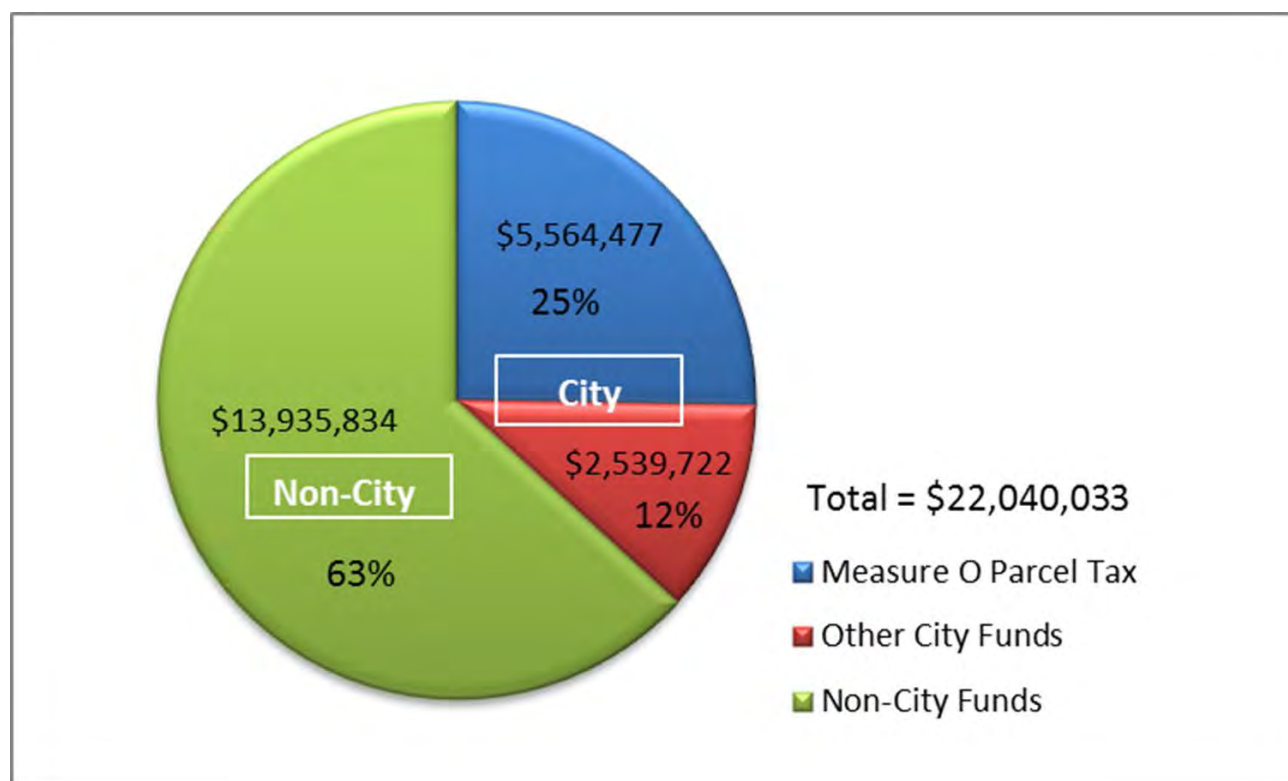
In 2000, Measure O, or the "Open Space Protection Special Tax Fund," was approved by 70% of Davis voters. Measure O is a parcel tax to fund open space acquisition and maintenance. The tax rate is \$24 per year for a typical market-rate single-family home, with other rates depending on land use type. The parcel tax currently generates approximately \$650,000 annually. Since passage of Measure O as a stable and predictable funding source, the City has been able to permanently protect an additional 2,833 acres of farmland and habitat areas within the Davis Planning Area. Most of these acres remain privately owned. The City, either by itself or in partnership with the Yolo Land Trust, owns the conservation easements recorded on these lands. The conservation easements prevent the acres from ever being developed.

All of the 2,833 acres of open space protected since 2000 are located within the Davis Planning Area within key priority acquisition areas, as approved by the City Council in

2002 in the Open Space Acquisition and Management Plan. The priority acquisition areas include urban fringe properties, community separators, agricultural land, scenic resources, and biological/natural resources.

### What have Measure O parcel taxes been spent on over the last 15 years?

**Open Space Acquisitions.** By itself, the Measure O parcel tax is not enough money to purchase significant tracts of land under fee title ownership or easement. Its greatest value is its leveraging potential. Because it is a stable and reliable revenue source, Measure O has given the City of Davis an enviable advantage in the stiff competition for state and federal land acquisition grants. For every \$1 the City has spent on purchasing land and easements, it has leveraged about \$1.70 in grant funds. Since Measure O passed, the City has secured \$22 million worth of conservation easements using only about \$8.1 million in City funds (\$5.6 million in Measure O parcel tax dollars and \$2.5 million in other City funds), as shown in the chart below.



**Open Space Maintenance.** Measure O also helps to maintain and manage 220 acres of open space lands that are directly owned by the City. About 184 of these acres are publicly accessible, including the Wildhorse agricultural buffer, the Putah Creek Parkway, and South Fork Preserve. The total cost to provide this work is shared between the City's General Fund and the Measure O Fund. Since 2000, about \$2.2

million of this cost has been paid for by the Measure O Fund.

## **The Open Space and Habitat Commission**

The Open Space and Habitat Commission (the “Commission”) worked with City staff to organize and conduct this comprehensive community input process at the midpoint of the Measure O funding period. This concentrated effort is just part of the Commission’s and City’s long-standing roles to engage interested citizens. The Commission has conducted monthly public meetings for twenty years (since 1996), and it continues to meet regularly and seek public input at all of their meetings. City staff is available at any time for additional comment, feedback and volunteer assistance. The Commission was established in 1996 to do the following: (1) advise the City Council and staff on all open space issues, programs, and projects; (2) monitor and facilitate the implementation of the City’s open space objectives and identify solutions to implementation problems; (3) serve as a focal point for the community and City government for open space projects and issues; (4) identify implementation opportunities; (5) generate public support through education and promotion; (6) monitor implementation for consistency with the Open Space Element; (7) facilitate volunteer activities and cooperative ventures; and (8) monitor problems and identify solutions.

This public involvement process and the results documented in this report are one piece of the Commission’s responsibilities.

## **Report Organization**

Following this introductory chapter, the information in this report is organized into three simple sections:

- (1) Community Input, which provides direct or summarized information from the large community workshop, the two smaller focus groups, and the community survey.
- (2) Summary and Conclusions, which identifies themes, common elements, and key policy questions and improvement suggestions that were brought up in multiple venues and with different perspectives.
- (3) Appendix, which provides much of the “raw” materials used at the public events like agendas, notes, and written materials used at the workshops. In addition, all of the detailed comments and suggestions in the community survey are located in the Appendix.

## II. Community Input

### Community Workshop

#### Approach and Method

On March 9, 2016, approximately 40 residents engaged with City staff, members of the Commission, and the UC Davis Collaboration Center consulting team to discuss all aspects of the City's Open Space Program. The agenda for the meeting is shown in the appendix. The meeting began with a brief presentation by Marc Hoshovsky, a member of the Commission, who talked about the City's Open Space Program and its history, accomplishments, and challenges. Jeff Loux of the UCD consulting team then presented the preliminary results of the Community Survey (which at the time had about 300 participants) that had been available for a couple months prior to the workshop. The survey was concluded in early April 2016 with over 400 participants, and the results are contained in this report. Greg Bourne, also of the UCD consulting team, described briefly the results of two focus groups held in late January 2016. The focus groups were made up of citizens who had worked on open space issues for many years and had a strong interest in the City's Open Space Program. The results from the Focus Groups are also included in this report, and were available at the meeting.



Following the presentations, participants in the workshop were asked to join one of five tables located around the room; each with a facilitator and recorder team, and each with a particular topical specialty: (1) Overall Open Space Program; (2) Open Space Acquisition Priorities; (3) Budget, Management and Maintenance; (4) Public Access; and (5) Ecological Restoration. Participants were encouraged to provide input on a series of focused questions and open-ended improvement suggestions at each table. The input was captured on flip charts and in some cases directly onto maps. After about 30 minutes, participants were invited to shift to a different topical table and provide input in “round two.” After another 30 minutes, participants moved to a third table/topic and provided input.

Following these three break out discussions, all of the residents got back together to compare notes, provide any final feedback and ask questions. All of the results of the workshop, including a compilation of the mapped results are provided on the following pages in this report. All three “rounds” for each topic area table are summarized together since they addressed the same basic questions. The notes are not precisely consistent because the facilitator and recorder team varied for each table, the number of participants and key questions varied, and the amount of information collected varied, but the consultant team has tried to integrate each table.



# Community Workshop Results

## 1. Overall Open Space Program Table Results

This table was designed to solicit feedback about the City's Open Space Program and open space issues in general. Overall, each group had many positive things to say about the Measure O fund and how it supports open space objectives. Most of the discussions focused on the improvements that the City's overall open space program could strive to make. Some of the major discussion areas were:

- Improve public communication, engagement and information sharing - leverage the website and further improve it to "market" the City's open space amenities and options and leverage social media to promote ideas, news, important information, and collect public feedback, etc.
  - Promote open space more - have tours/meetings in open space locations or leverage website/social media to highlight the open space areas.
  - Improve connectors to remote open space habitat - try to add additional bike or hiking trails or add new open space areas to expand connections to remote open space areas.
  - Add specific habitat management plans for agricultural buffers and open space areas.
  - Engage the community to look for volunteers/groups to help maintain the open space areas.
- 

## 2. Open Space Acquisition Priorities Table Results

This table was designed to solicit feedback about the type and location of open space the City should try to purchase/protect in the future. As such, this table focused on two key questions: (1) What type of lands should be the highest priority and why; and (2) What specific places, projects and strategies should the City focus on in the future. Input was collected on flip charts, but also on working maps of the Davis Planning Area. The map and legend shown at the end of this section combine the mapped ideas from the open space acquisition priorities table, the ecological restoration table, and the public access table. Community comments were combined where participants identified similar locations or resources. Some of the major discussion areas were:

## **General Comments**

- Does the City have an overall acquisition strategy?
- How aggressive has City staff been in looking at areas near the urban fringe and at creative alternative financing tools?
- Urban limit line: what would this do to property values? Is Measure R/J really an urban limit line or not? An urban limit line is stronger than Measure R/J and a more comprehensive solution and should be looked at.
- Measure R is doing well. It helps us to determine where to grow and not to grow.
- City Council a few years back passed a policy directed away from buying the urban fringe. This gave the impression to land owners and developers that the City was supporting edge growth.
- Restoration areas are a possibility for more public access.
- Public access on conservation easements is limited, and this is a problem.
- We need a strong City policy to protect the urban fringe.
- The City should leverage developer's money to buy other areas.

## **What types of land should be the highest priority for acquisition/protection?**

There were individuals who supported each of the open space acquisition priorities allowed under Measure O and the Open Space Program. However, the most "votes" or comments were in favor of closer in urban fringe lands where public access might be a possibility, riparian corridors where habitat could be protected and/or restored, and large tracts of agricultural lands to protect scenic vistas, farming opportunities, and particularly where multiple benefits might be gained such as habitat, community separation, flood management, and farm land protection. Suggestions for priorities included:

- Urban fringe lands -- close in so we can access it (multiple people agreeing).
- Public access -- any feasible bike trail, look at the Davis to Woodland connection (multiple people agreeing).
- Riparian corridors -- especially close to town (multiple people agreeing).

- Prime agricultural lands – take advantage of scenic landscapes and use as community separators (multiple people agreeing).
- Habitat connectivity along sloughs is critical.
- Connectivity -- north of town, use as community separator.
- Pollinator habitat -- areas without pesticides, hedge rows, gems within City limits.
- Overlap -- urban fringe and public access.
- Agricultural land that incorporates riparian corridors.
- Orchards -- important for Swainson's Hawks and habitat conservation.
- Rare habitat areas such as Swainson's hawk habitat and vernal pools.
- Preserve vistas from the City to the coastal mountains.
- Measure O should not be directed to funding around City boundaries. The land is too expensive and we may wish to grow someday there.

#### **What specific places and locations are appropriate for acquisition/protection?**

- Putah Creek connection -- fill in the gaps.
  - o For bike trails
  - o Use natural boundary sloughs north and south of the City as an acquisition area
- Public access along Channel A.
- North side of North Davis ditch between F Street and Highway 113.
- The City owned fee title land north of the City – sell it, place an easement on it, and get a farmer in there to manage it and use the funds for acquisition.
- Road 98 – connecting Davis to Woodland; seek agricultural easements and protect vistas of mountains.
- F Street ditch -- benefits for urban and agricultural land runoff.
  - o Along sloughs = multiple benefits
  - o Also connected to pollinator benefits
- Other green belts such as the West Davis Ponds.
  - o Restoration + public access -- areas that people can readily access.

- o Public access within the City that isn't captured within the survey.
- Los Rios Property -- secure a conservation easement

### What acquisition strategies and opportunities are high-priority?

- Government programs are fine, but we need to look to the private sector to further leverage funding.
- HCP + NCCP -- parcels that are too expensive, partnership can leverage more funding and great opportunities.
- \$15 million -- can we leverage this by buying bonds? This would allow us to buy bigger parcels, more land or more expensive land today.
- Zoning to promote the purchase of riparian areas next to agricultural land; this does not require money.
- Partnership between the City and the County NCCP to leverage larger land areas. It is a waste of public funds to buy lands that have real estate speculative value. We also need to allow room for growth.
- Pay more along riparian corridors next to conservation easements.

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### 3. Budget, Management, and Maintenance Table Results

This table was designed to solicit feedback about the Measure O budgeting process, and what Measure O parcel tax revenue has been spent on over the last 15 years, including costs associated with the management and maintenance of the City's open space areas. Some of the major discussion areas were:

- **Initiate Best Practices.** City should look at "best practices" for open space maintenance costs as a percent of revenue to determine if the 33% ratio (i.e., the City's stabilized maintenance costs/open space parcel tax ratio) is reasonable. Some workshop participants thought the City's 33% ratio seemed high, but didn't know how that ratio compared to other cities/public agencies.
- **Provide Better Accounting Transparency.** City should be more transparent about grant funds received for open space and where those grant funds show up in the City's accounting system. For example, in the past, some open space grants flowed through the Measure O Fund (i.e., Fund 135 in the City's Budget), but others did not. City should clarify why this happens.

- ***Provide Better Management of City Lands for Habitat.*** City should manage the Wildhorse Agricultural Buffer and other open space areas in a way that provides better habitat for burrowing owls and other wildlife. City should enlist resident volunteers to help with this effort.
  - ***Develop Management/Maintenance Plans for the City's Open Space Areas.*** City should develop management/maintenance plans for the City's open space areas so that residents and City staff better understand what is being done to maintain these open space areas and why certain work is being done or not done. City should enlist resident volunteers to help with this effort.
- 

#### **4. Public Access Table Results**

This table was designed to solicit feedback about the state of public accessibility on the City's open space areas and on open space in general, and how that public accessibility can be improved in the future. Some of the major discussion points were:

- The City should ask which farm owners would be willing to allow access on the fringe of property for walking/running to stay off the road from the bikers and cars.
- The City should buy a linear strip along key properties that would allow that same access mentioned above.
- The City should ask which farmers might like to have people out to talk about their business and lands.
- The City should have an easy-to-use website with updated detailed information about where the open space is, how to access the space properly, and what the boundaries are.
- Once you arrive at the open space, there should be signage that maps out the space, self-guided tour signs for the plants and wildlife identification (and people want to know they aren't trespassing).
- There should be a mobile app to be user-friendly to provide same information listed above with possible GPS features.
- Locked gates were an issue, "we want access to what lands we have as public access."

- Improve connectivity; we want to ride/walk/jog all the way around start by making connections that make sense.
  - Articles in the Davis paper, to help encourage new people to explore open space.
  - Make it possible to run/walk/bike all the way around the City.
  - Locked gates, better access points, disclose what the access points are.
  - City should engage with community groups (West Davis pond), bike group, etc.
  - Work with volunteer groups to help protect open space (West Davis Pond).
  - Signage: self-guided tour/map out the area we can use.
  - Add restrooms/water along Putah creek.
  - Better connectivity around the City.
  - Build partnerships with the community to help care for the open space.
  - Provide levee access.
  - Move the railroad tracks and use that to connect Woodland and Davis for pedestrians.
  - Buy farm property and just get the piece you need for access (reformat the parcel so the land owner is only selling a linear piece); won't cost as much as full fee title and will provide access.
  - More open space that model West Davis Pond, let people see the wildlife from a protected distance.
  - Some open space may not be safe for women.
  - Provide more information on open space to the public.
  - Improve the trails along the levee and consider paving.
-

## 5. Ecological Restoration Table Results

This table was designed to solicit feedback about which open space lands the community would like to see restored/rehabilitated into better habitat for plant and animal species. As such, two main themes were discussed at this table: (1) restoration type and (2) potential locations. Participants were given three dots which they could place on any of the restoration types. The following summarizes the scores and the discussion that ensued:

- ***Riparian forest (11 votes)***: The restoration type receiving the most votes from participants at the restoration table was riparian forest. Participants placed a high value not only on the ecological characteristics of riparian forest but also, due to its linear nature, to the role they can play in linking other natural sites together. Some members of the group urged that riparian zones should serve as the backbone of wider natural areas that contain multiple ecosystem types. Riparian areas included not only Putah Creek, but also Willow Slough, Willow Slough Bypass, and other sloughs in the Davis Planning Area (DPA).
- ***Burrowing owl (10 votes)***: There was a large degree of support for spending future open space funds on preservation and restoration of burrowing owl populations. This was the single highest vote getter for expenditure of open space funds on a single species. Some potential sites for habitat enhancement include Mace Ranch Innovation Center, South Fork Preserve, and Wild Horse Ag Buffer.
- ***Valley oak woodland (9 votes)***: Of the roughly 13,000 acres of valley oak woodland that are estimated to have occurred historically in the DPA, today zero acres remain. Therefore, there was a high level of support for finding sites to do large valley oak woodland restoration. This goes beyond the scattered planting of trees among other vegetation across sites and is focused on larger blocks of exclusive woodland. There could also be a source of revenue in woodlands as timber land.
- ***Native pollinators (5 votes)***: Native pollinators were seen as not just important in their own right but also by the economic role they play for agriculture in the DPA. They were also the ecological type identified as being best suited for habitat enhancement within the City of Davis boundary.

Other restoration categories were offered but received a smaller number of votes. These categories included: broader riparian corridors (3 votes); salmon spawning

habitat (2 votes); perennial grassland (2 votes); wetlands (1 vote); valley elderberry longhorn beetle (1 vote); Swainson's hawk (1 vote); vernal pools (0 votes); and rare plants (0 votes).

Some specific locations that the community mentioned as good candidates for restoration included:

- **Covell Ditch** along the north side of Covell Boulevard west of Highway 113 should be enhanced. This potential animal movement corridor is the upper end of Channel A, plus potentially a link to West Pond and Stonegate Basin. Covell Ditch should be widened and planted to best enhance use by wildlife.
- **Stonegate Basin** is a flood detention area in West Davis. While it is currently a weedy open area, enhancements could be made to increase its habitat value. Ideally, it would be connected to both West Pond and Covell Ditch. These connections would need to be made under Lake Boulevard and Covell Boulevard, respectively, and would thus be expensive improvements.
- **The unnamed slough upstream of Covell Ditch** between West Davis and Putah Creek/Dry Slough could serve as a useful wildlife linkage if enhanced.
- **The parcel(s) between South Fork Preserve and Grasslands Regional Park** should be purchased and valley oak woodland restored to the site. This would link two existing publicly owned open space areas and would provide for the full ecological transition from riparian forest to upland grassland ecosystems.
- **Urban fringe areas** should be considered for restoration activity.
- **The undeveloped site on the northeast edge of North Star Pond** (next to F Street) should be planted to support native pollinators and other wildlife.
- **The South Fork Preserve** should have more native plantings and walkways should be installed.
- **Willow Slough Bypass** should be connected to the City. This would include biking/walking trails enabling residents to get there without driving.

Workshop attendees also had a number of questions and additional ideas and suggestions related to the restoration topic:

- Can the Department of Public Works be used to do restoration work in the City of Davis boundary?
  - Can the City partner with Yolo County to do restoration work on County land?
  - There are potential VELB restoration opportunities at Channel A and Putah Creek.
  - Enhancements could be done at Wildhorse Ag Buffer.
  - There needs to be attention on hydrology for riparian forest restoration.
  - Invasive species such as Arundo and Tamarisk should be removed from riparian areas.
  - Perhaps the City's Open Space Program could include a program for lawn removal and replacement with native species.
  - Instead of site-specific projects, could ongoing programs be implemented that could help with education?
  - More money should be spent to enhance habitat within the urban areas of Davis.
  - A focus should be on restoration without the use of chemicals.
  - Rare plants should not be installed near urban areas.
  - Wetlands should not be a priority – there are already quite a few acres of wetland in the vicinity.
  - Natural areas should be linked to allow wildlife movement.
-

## **Final Session: All Participants' Concluding Remarks**

In the final facilitated session, participants' comments and questions were recorded as follows:

- It would be great to hold a workshop in Yolo County regarding open space and growth policies and issues outside the City as well.
- We appreciate the diverse audience who was present tonight, but we are missing even more diverse populations, people of color, low-income communities and others. We need a concentrated outreach effort.
- We should consider looking at “best practices” in other places that do a good job protecting open space like Marin County doing public – private partnerships, or Boulder, Colorado and their acquisition program, or Sonoma County Open Space District.
- City of Davis needs a transparent website like Sonoma County.
- We need to establish as a priority connecting riparian corridor “fragments” along Putah Creek and Willow Slough.
- We need enough City staff to get all the open space work completed.
- We need to tap into volunteer energy and community passion. For example, people will mobilize around protecting burrowing owl habitat; these type of efforts can greatly extend City staff capacity.
- When we put Measure O back on the ballot, it is heartening to see the energy, dedication and passion that we have in this room and in the City for open space protection.



| Map Legend |  |
|------------|--|
| A          | Isolated, small parcels within the city for restoration and/or public access.  |
| B          | Multi-benefit riparian corridors: habitat, public access, farmland, infrastructure.  |
| C          | Critical habitat and open space connector opportunity.   |
| D          | Continue to acquire large tracts of farmland near bypass and Los Rios lands.   |
| E          | City owned parcels in fee title – opportunity to sell land back to a farmer with a conservation easement and use funds for other open space. |
| F          | Critical parcels to retain as open space – forms east and north edge of city.  |
| G          | High priority area for large farm parcels as open space, although development potential too because of sewerage connection.                  |
| H          | Continue to protect key vistas from city and roads of Vaca Hills and Siena.  |
| I          | Need to complete acquisitions on South Fork Putah Creek for habitat and public access.   |
| J          | Road 98 Corridor is a strategic corridor for farmland protection.  |
| K          | Complete bikeway and path along old rail corridor linking Davis and Woodland.  |

# Focus Group Results

## Open Space Focus Groups

On January 27th and 28th, 2016, the City convened two groups of stakeholders who have long familiarity and interest in the City's Open Space Program to discuss successes, issues, concerns and ideas for future program refinement. The focus groups were intended to supplement the March 9<sup>th</sup> community workshop (and the survey), and to allow in-depth and focused conversation on a small set of key topics. The focus groups were also instrumental in helping the consultant and staff team design and develop the larger community workshop. The stakeholders represented many viewpoints about open space from farming to habitat restoration to urban growth issues. Each meeting began with introductions, followed by an overview of the agenda, ground rules, background on the project and objectives for the focus group.

The following is a summary of the main themes from those focus groups. The meeting agenda, participants and full notes are in the Appendix.

## Summary of Main Themes

***The first topic of discussion was to identify what works well with the City's Open Space Program today.***

- The Measure O \$24 parcel tax leverages considerable other funding like federal and state grants; up to \$20 million of outside funds in 15 years.
- The predominance of easements make the dollars go further (as opposed to direct fee acquisition).
- For the Yolo Land Trust (YLT), Measure O has been critical as a funding source.
- Measure O is why YLT gets serious consideration in highly competitive grants; stable funding.
- Fee title acquisitions along the Putah Creek are great, and having the City as a partner is helpful.
- Impressed that we are keeping the cost of land management relatively low.
- Excellent staff from the City and volunteer Commission has kept the program on track.
- Measure O has been effective in protecting agricultural land from development.
- Commend the group for handling input from the community well, but could move toward more public meetings, updates, more input from community.
- The priority map from the campaign is still pretty good.

***The second major topic of discussion was to identify concerns and issues associated with the Open Space Program, and how to address those concerns. The concerns are organized into five themes.***

**1. What was included in the campaign for Measure O vs. what has been accomplished?**

- The map on the campaign materials shows priority open space acquisition lands up against the City limits; monies spent for the past 15 years have been for conservation easements averaging two miles from the city limits.
- There is no public access in the lands purchased.
- No policy is in place for restoration projects.
- The City Council has recently committed up to one-third of parcel tax monies (for 50 years) for the HCP/NCCP that could be land far removed from Davis and inaccessible to the public.
- The proposed restoration grant program of \$150,000 should be increased, flexible and open to non-501(c) 3 group proposals with monies run through the City much as the arts program has done.
- Priority in the last 15 years should be placed on accessible land (near?) Davis or in sight of the City limits to correct the over-reliance on conservation easements far from the City limits.
- Only \$4 million has been spent in past 15 years.
- Acquisition thus far has been great as community separators, but nothing significant has been purchased along riparian areas.

**2. What about program transparency?**

- Insufficient public transparency in the process of distributing Measure O funds.
- Lack of transparency about funds and prioritization; needs to be posted on the website and show what has been acquired; Sonoma County has done this and is a good role model.
- Need to define “open space;” is it public access, or land that we don’t want to see developed, or what?
- Need to have genuine engagement with land owners.
- We understand that for active real estate transactions, negotiation is a closed process; but the process for acquiring land should be transparent and shouldn’t just rely on just the Open Space Coordinator.
- How has open space Commission communicated with various conservation groups?

### 3. What should be the priorities for future purchases/easement?

- Nearby farmers and land owners are waiting for more money to be willing sellers, but the City can't pay more than fair market value for that land.
- More public access on acquisitions, like trails and bike paths (e.g., Putah Creek, Yolo Bypass).
- We need to be aware of where the City might want to grow; we don't want to buy easements that hems in potential growth when needed in the future.
- Explore the prioritization system used by Sonoma County for use in Davis.
- Need to be careful about prioritizing a piece of land which has not been through an initial "willing seller" determination.
- Future development around Davis is likely north of town so this should be the focus of acquisitions.
- Need to identify lands within the City which could be the subject of restoration.
- The program has been deficient in protecting natural habitat, greenbelts and land closer to the City.
- Conservation easements offer better leverage of funds.
- How do we go from a passive approach to actively identifying priorities for habitats and greenbelts?
- A barrier to acquiring land closer to the City is that it's prime development property and perceived to be higher than fair market value.
- We should identify parcels and rank properties of interest, identifying what we want to target.
- Should identify land that brings the highest value to the community regardless of cost.
- The County changed its ag mitigation policy recently; the City is trying to put land into easements between the Road 27-29 corridors; the County Ag mitigation program and City's efforts should be aligned; let's protect lands that are under threat of urbanization.
- Need to focus on linking corridors.

### 4. How can we improve public access?

- Prime habitat and working farms/easements should not have public access.
- Public access should be restricted to fee title properties.
- People should be able to "see across" public land; being able to get inside it all is overrated since prime habitat and agricultural land should not be disturbed, at least during certain times of year.
- A critical aspect of Measure O is providing nature experiences near Davis.
- Need to be looking at open land around Davis for non-motorized access (e.g., bike access to the Yolo Bypass).

- Enhancing public engagement by opening access on planting days seems like a potential opportunity.

#### 5. What issues are associated with acquiring and managing land?

- How does Measure O relate to Measure R and J?
- When in the City it is easy to point to land and say, “that should be open space,” but need to have genuine engagement with the land owners; need to engage neighbors and understand their interests.
- Need a strategic plan focusing on acquiring fee title land for public access.
- Experience demonstrates that it’s challenging to find long-term funding to maintain City-owned properties; finding a way to pay for proper maintenance and management is critical.
- Need more creative/proactive approaches to land acquisition.
- How to maintain property is a concern, whether it’s City-owned or easement; once established, how well does a property owner maintain that property? Long-term maintenance is a problem either way.
- The RCD looks at how we can bring funding to a project so that there isn’t a cost to the land owner.
- One of the things RCD does is maintain farmland; some land owners are up for it, some are too busy; always looking for steady streams of funding to maintain farm edge habitat.
- Volunteer groups can do a lot of habitat work; natural resources tend to have the least cost as far as maintenance. The map definitely emphasizes riparian/water resources.
- Using land as investment, like Mace 391, might open up opportunities for other areas.
- There might be an opportunity where the City can purchase land then lease out a portion for farming, portion for public, portion for habitat; negotiating a lease where farmer takes care of trees.
- USDA will pay for establishing riparian corridors.
- There are new farmland conservancy programs being put in place; the good news is there’s more funding coming up for conservation.
- Easements on land near sewer extensions will help keep it from development.
- When a City gets involved in farming easements, it fails; need to let farmers farm the land.
- Easements stay in property ownership; the issue is property tax lost to the County.
- Working with Yolo County Bikeway Plan might be a way to integrate open space planning and leverage funding.

***The third major topic of conversation was to explore and obtain ideas for enhancing public awareness and engagement.***

- The City needs to decide what they are going to promise or commit to prior to the meeting – others felt this could not occur until after the meeting.
- Should get the word out to neighborhood groups and cities around Davis.
- Send letters to property owners in the region.
- Contact Farm Bureau Members, NGOs in towns, Tree Davis, etc.
- Making negative comments about the Measure O will not push it forward and may threaten the likelihood of continuing the program in the future.
- When being critical of the program need to applaud successes at the same time; celebrate Measure O and then suggest how it can be done better.
- After the workshop should be more and stronger outreach to the community.
- Create a link with local community groups.
- Showcase program success and benefit to the community.
- Marketing efforts: mailers, partnerships, community awareness.
- Take advantage of UCD; figure out ways for internship opportunities to help us achieve goals.
- Engage students in the Davis School District to appreciate this ethos that is part of their community and connect with it.
- Need to make connections with the issues of specific groups (e.g., bikeways with the biking community groups) and develop some synergy.
- Bring in agriculture's role in addressing climate issues; we should keep climate change on the table and see what can be brought into the discussion.

## Open Space Survey: Methodology

The UCD consultant team, in collaboration with the City and the Commission, created a 19 question survey in order to better understand Davis residents' perception and feeling toward the City's Open Space Program. The survey consisted of five sections: (1) general information, (2) program objectives and acquisition priorities, (3) funding, (4) public use and access, and (5) conclusion. Participants were presented with multiple-choice questions, open-ended questions, and were asked to rank various priorities. The information collected was collated and converted into a summary.

**Online Survey.** The online survey was hosted on Survey Monkey and a link was made available on the City's website and distributed via email and social media outlets. Mechanisms were put in place to ensure participants only answered the survey once.

**Paper Survey.** A physical survey was created with identical questions as the online version. The paper survey was available at the City's offices and at the Yolo County Library in Davis. It was also distributed at the Davis Farmer's Market. The completed paper surveys were inputted manually into the online survey system.

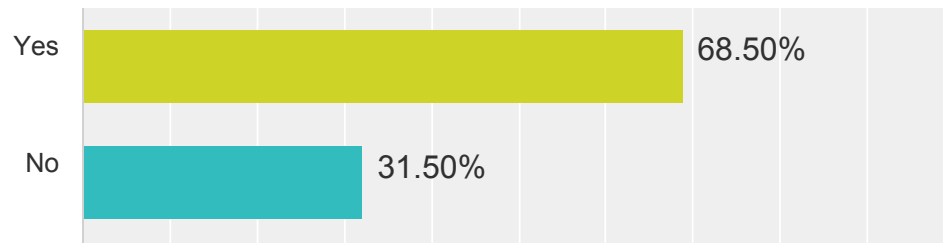
**Results.** Over 400 people took the survey; this is a fairly solid sample size and indicates the high level of community interest in open space. The questions and answers are summarized on the pages that follow. For those questions that had lists of open ended answers (such as provide examples of access opportunities, or in what ways can this process be improved), the long list of answers is shown in the report appendix. For each question, we state the question and options just as it appeared in the survey and then show the results graphically and by percentage.



## Survey Results

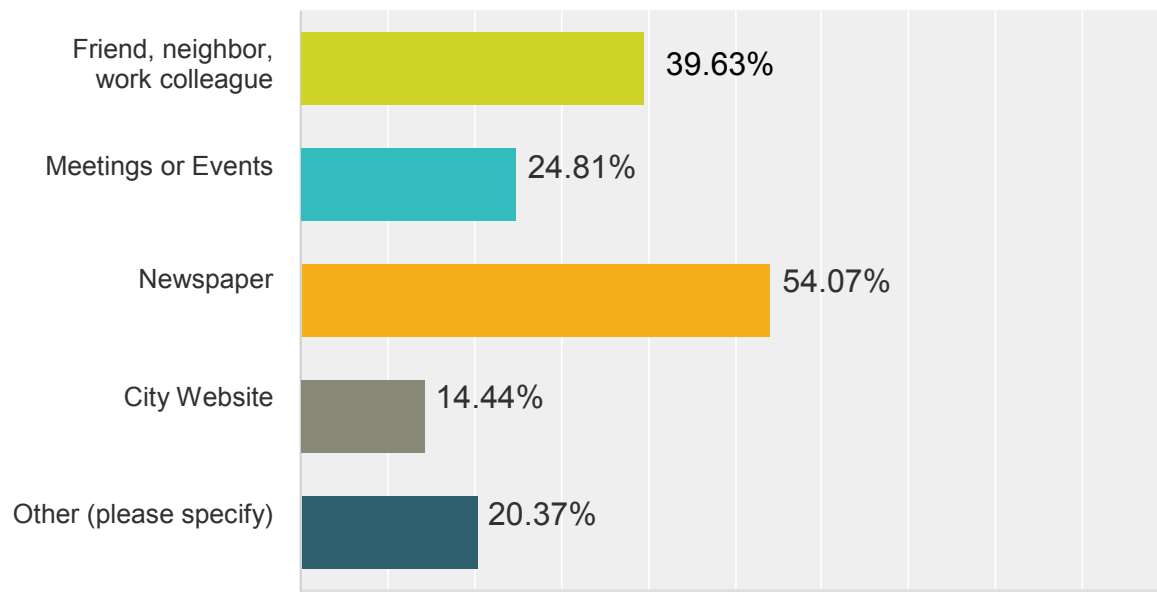
### Q1 Have you heard of the City's Open Space Program?

Answered: 400 Skipped: 0



### Q2 If so, how? (Check any that apply)

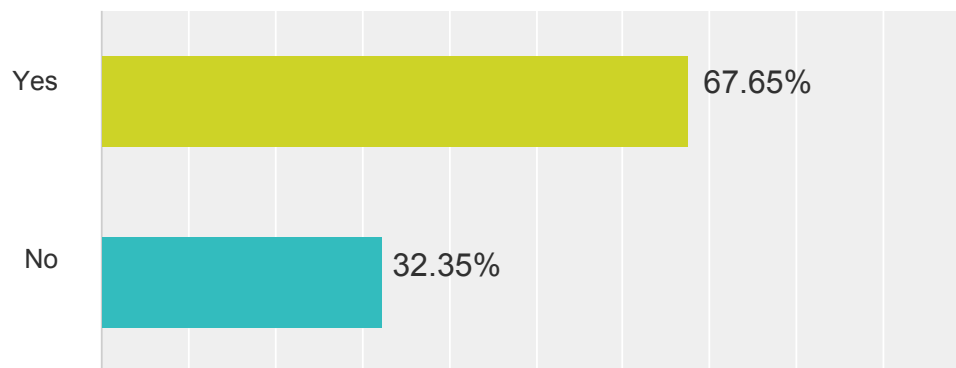
Answered: 270 Skipped: 130



\* For specific answers, please see Survey Details in the Appendices.

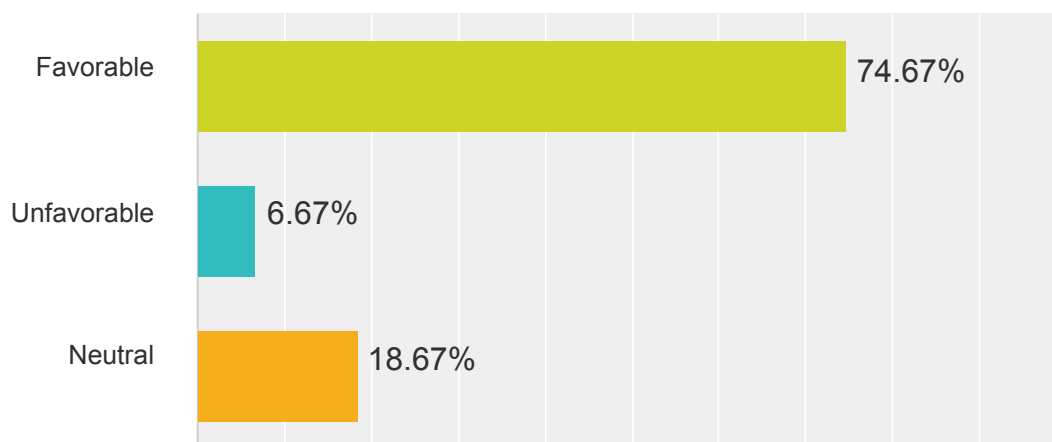
**Q3 Are you aware of Measure “O”, the \$24 per year tax on each parcel in Davis that is used to partially fund the Open Space Program?**

Answered: 374 Skipped: 26



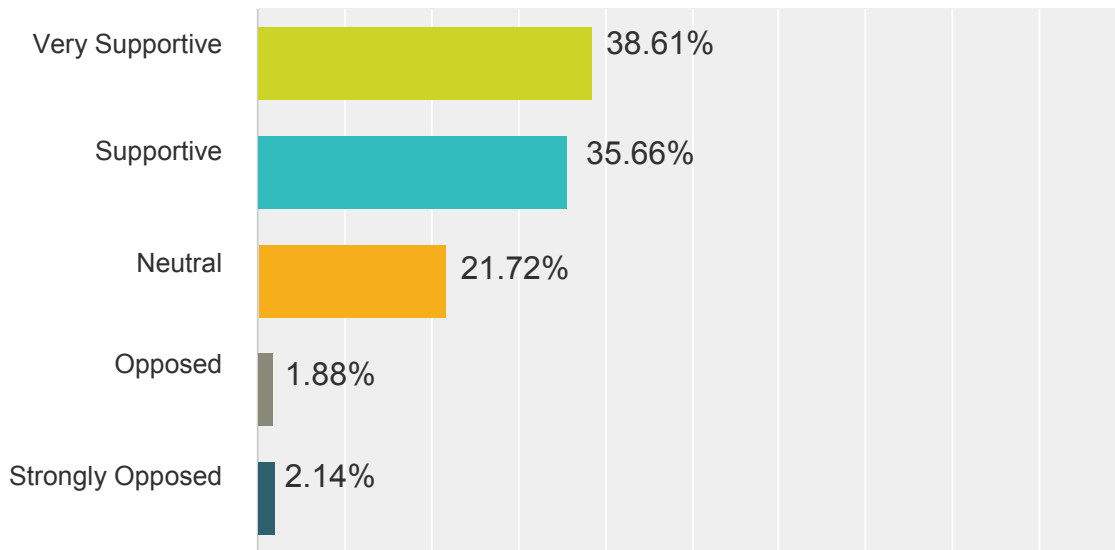
**Q4 In general, what do you think about the parcel tax?**

Answered: 375 Skipped: 25



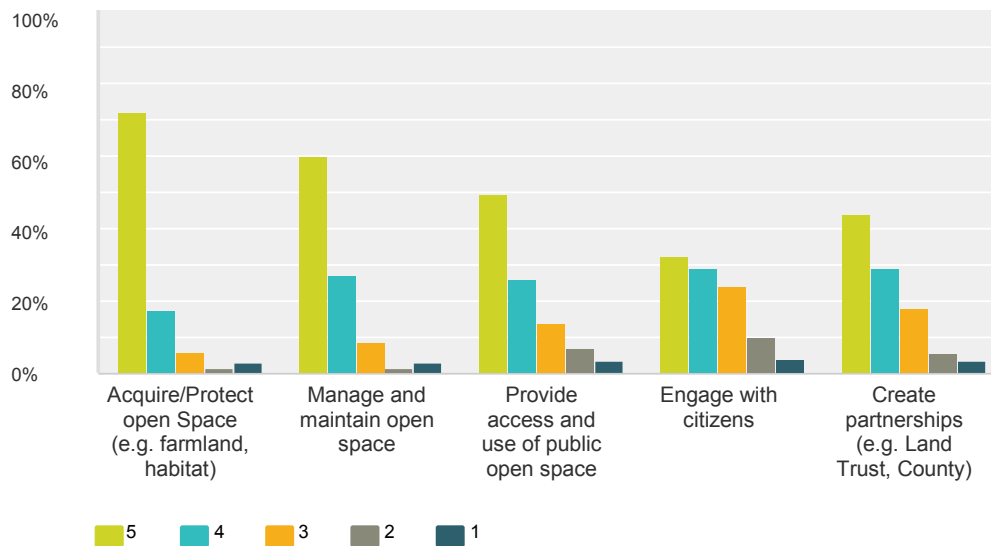
**Q5 How would you describe your overall impression of the Open Space Program? (Please select one)**

Answered: 373 Skipped: 27



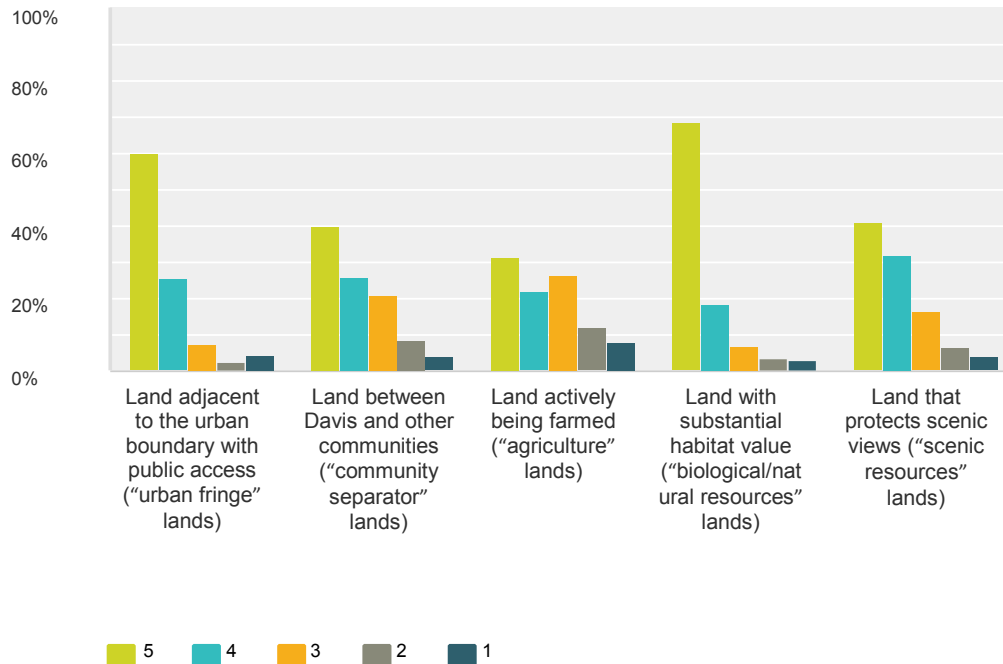
**Q6 The objectives of the City's Open Space Program are noted below. Please indicate the level of importance you place on each one by selecting the number that applies. 5 is very important, 1 is not important.**

Answered: 353 Skipped: 47



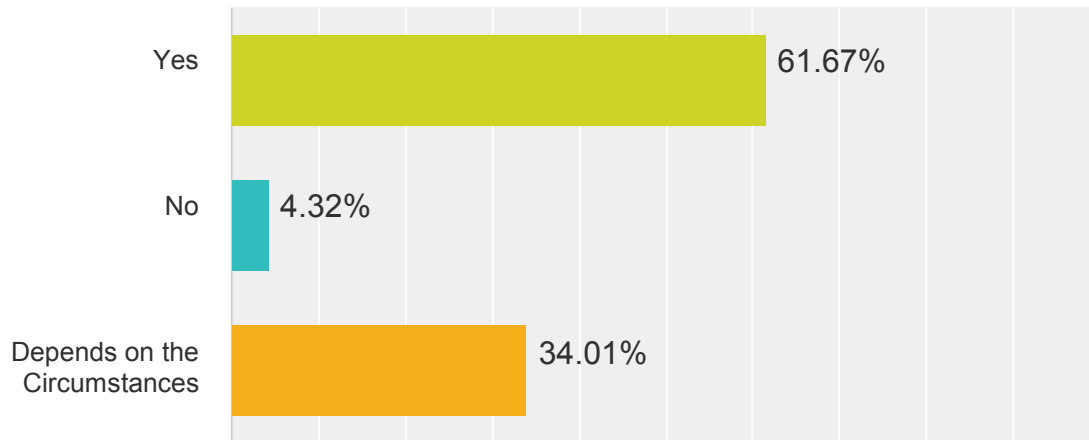
**Q7 The City currently focuses its efforts on acquiring and managing land in five broad categories. Please indicate the level of importance you place on each type of land acquisition by selecting the number that applies. 5 is very important, 1 is not important.**

Answered: 351 Skipped: 49



**Q8 Since 1990 the City has permanently protected nearly 6,000 acres around the City of Davis, most of it farmland under conservation easements, using many tools including Measure “O” money. Do you generally agree with this approach?**

Answered: 347 Skipped: 53

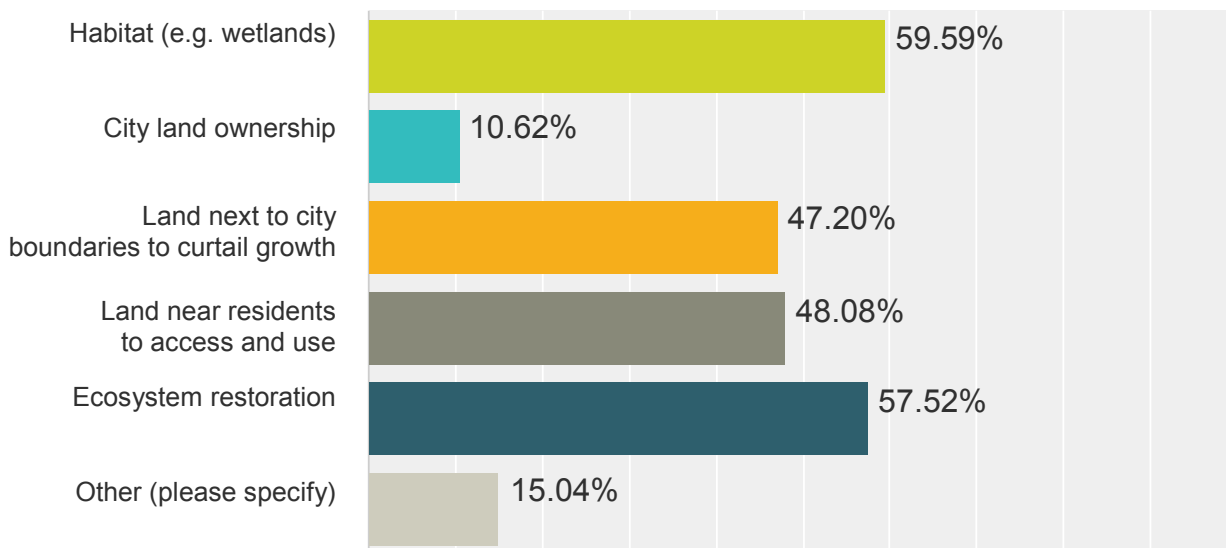


\* For specific answers, please see Survey Details in the Appendices.

**Q9 What other acquisition strategies would you recommend as a higher priority? (Check any or all that apply)**

Answered: 339 Skipped: 61

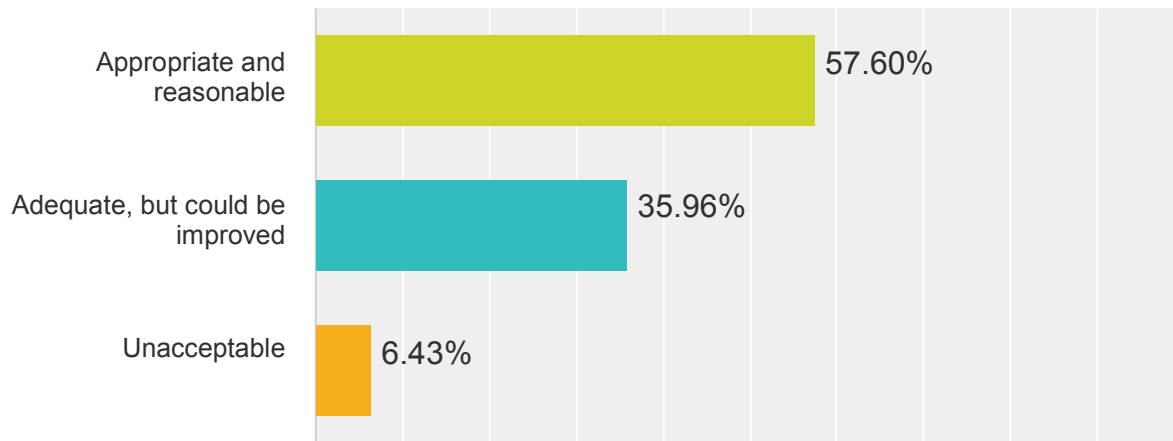
**More emphasis on...**



\* For specific answers, please see Survey Details in the Appendices.

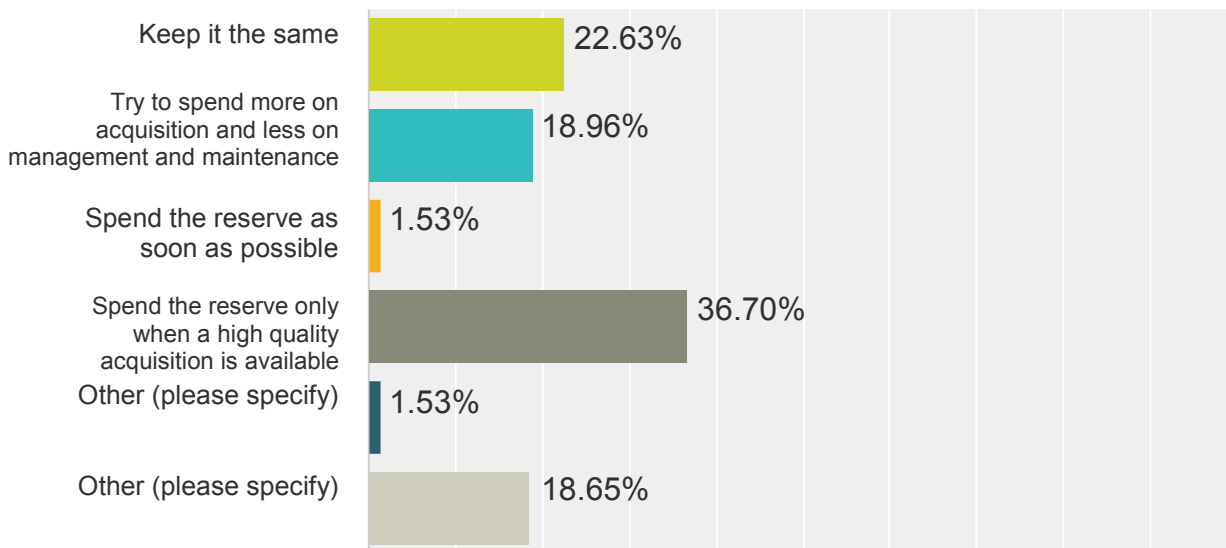
**Q10 Do you think the fund allocation is: (Please check one)**

Answered: 342 Skipped: 58



**Q11 If it were feasible what changes would you suggest in the allocation of funds? (Please check one)**

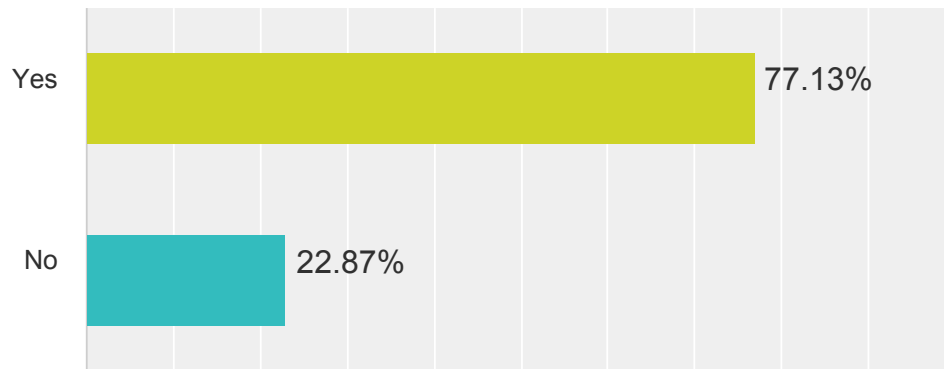
Answered: 327 Skipped: 73



\*For specific answers, please see Survey Details in the Appendices.

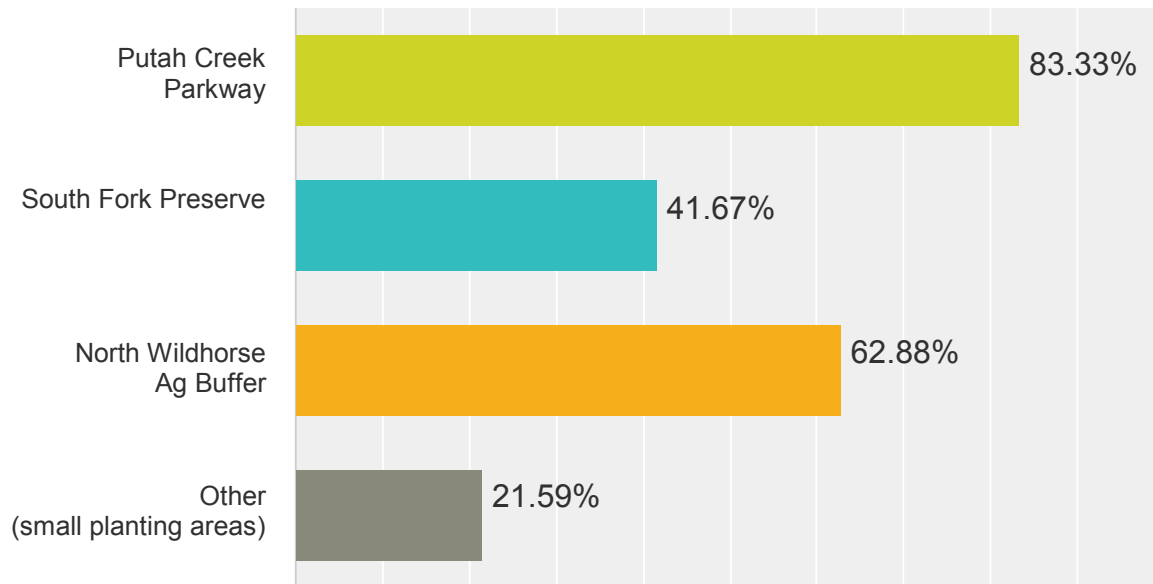
### Q12 Do you go to any of these areas?

Answered: 341 Skipped: 59



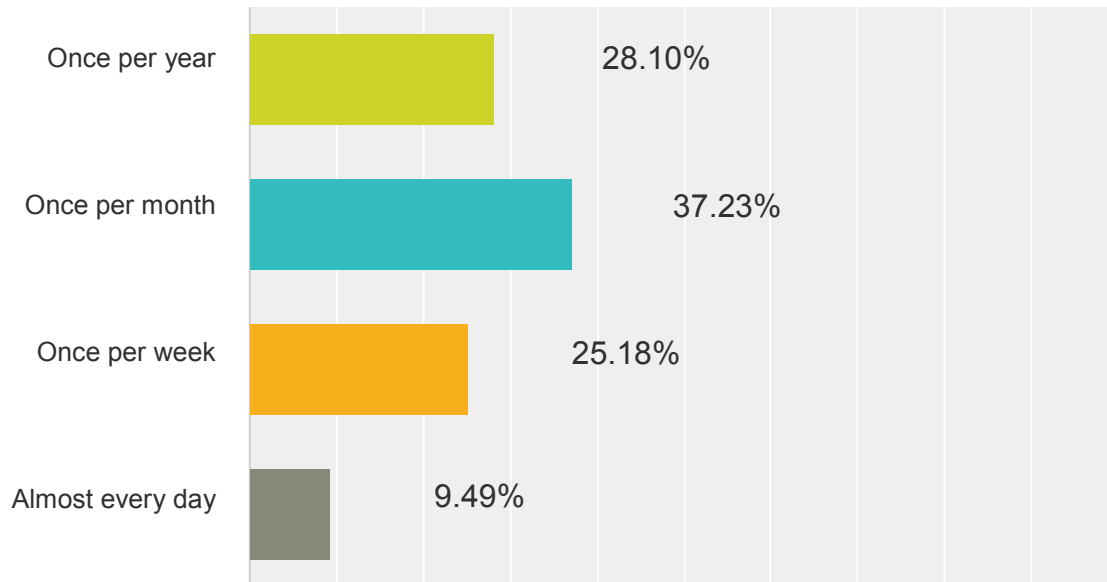
### Q13 If so which areas? (Please check any that apply)

Answered: 264 Skipped: 136



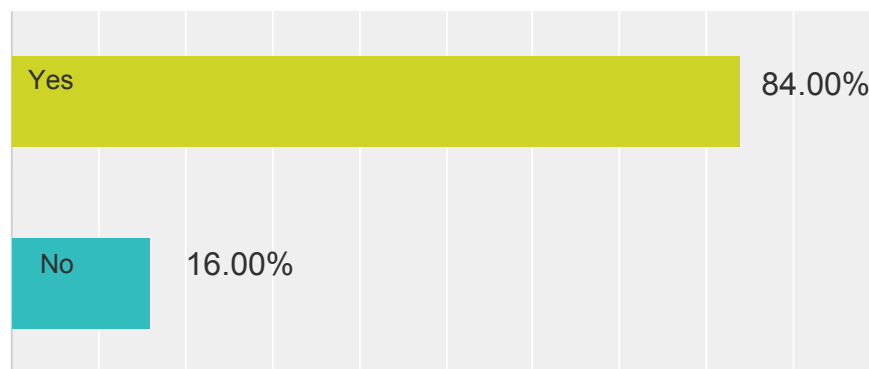
### Q14 On average, how often do you use these areas?

Answered: 274 Skipped: 126



### Q15 Would you like to see more of these edge of the city areas accessible for walking and other uses?

Answered: 325 Skipped: 75



\*For specific answers, please see Survey Details in the Appendices.

## Q16 How can the City be more effective in reaching out to the community and communicating the Open Space Program?

Answered: 175 Skipped: 225

### Visual Summary of Responses

For a full list of responses, please see Survey Details in the Appendices.

Nextdoor Hear Social Media Forums Measure  
Transparency Farmer's Market City Council  
Signage Newsletter Enterprise  
Accountability Public Citizens  
Open Space Letting Program Plan  
Community Students Maps Hold Events  
Newspaper Explain Signs Tours Email Bill

### Summary of Responses

For a full list of responses, please see Survey Details in the Appendices.

- Presence at farmers market and/or community gathering spots
- More robust online presence and outreach via social media such as Nextdoor and Facebook.
- Increase and improve signage.
- More frequent articles in the Enterprise.
- More educational resources about open space, how it is acquired, where and how to use the space.
- Public access to maps.
- Increase transparency and accountability.
- Open forums and events.
- More frequent City Council updates
- More community focused outreach, including current and incoming students.
- Open Space specific email communications.
- More programs to engage the community.
- More information for citizens.
- Opportunities for community and stakeholder input

## Q17 What additional suggestions of any type do you have to improve the Open Space Program?

Answered: 151   Skipped: 249

### Visual Summary of Responses

*For a full list of responses, please see Survey Details in the Appendices.*

Volunteers Signs Wild Horse Fight Funding  
Acquisition Green Habitat Proactive  
Access Open Space Cats  
Community Gardens Davis Local Farmers  
Land Trees Public Buffer Program Explain  
Money Led Burrowing Owl Signage Growth

### Summary of Responses

*For a full list of responses, please see Survey Details in the Appendices.*

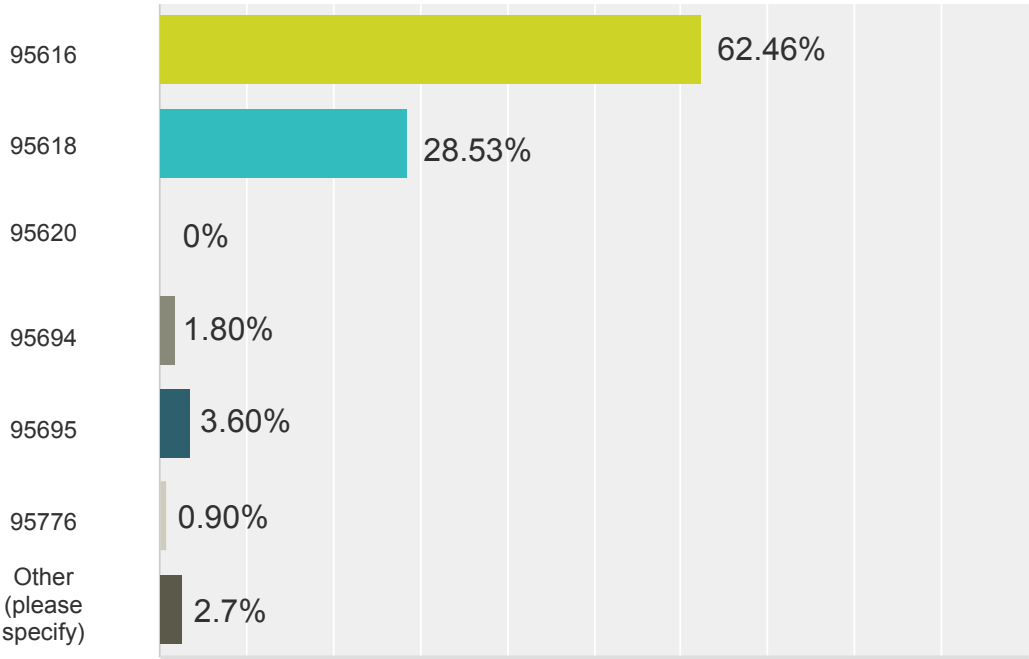
- Better manage, identify, strategize land acquisitions
- Need more public access to open spaces.
- Concern about increased public access.
- Concerns about urban sprawl and expansion
- Natural habitat preservation, protection of species such as the Burrowing Owl
- More paths like Wild Horse
- Maintenance of Wild Horse
- Embrace and partner with local farmers
- Transparency and creativity with how money is spent
- Be proactive
- Open up opportunities for volunteers
- Areas for community gardens
- More events surrounding open space (celebratory, educational, etc.)

**Q18 If you would like to receive updated on the David Open Space Project, please include your email below. (Optional)**

Answered: 136   Skipped: 264

**Q19 In what ZIP code is your home located?**

Answered: 333   Skipped: 67



\* For specific answers, please see Survey Details in the Appendices.

# III. Summary and Conclusions

## Summary of Community Input

It is difficult to summarize the large amount of input and information generated through this process. What the consultant team has tried to do in this section is reflect as accurately as possible, what the community said, and do so in a way that follows the logic and structure of how the Open Space Program is organized, advised and managed. It will be up to City staff, the Commission, and citizens to absorb this input, forge policy recommendations, and recommend program changes or improvements to the Open Space Program that will guide its management into the future. The summary includes responses from the Community Workshop, two Focus Groups, and the Community Survey.

### Overall Impressions of the City's Open Space Program

It is clear from the feedback received that the vast majority of commenters strongly support the concept of protecting habitat and farmland in and around the Davis Planning Area, and generally support the program, City staff, the Commission and its broad objectives. This was borne out in the survey, focus groups and workshop. Similarly, there is strong support for Measure O and for continuing it into the future.

A number of comments and survey responses emphasized what was ***working well*** with the program:

- Measure O parcel tax leverages considerable other funding like federal and state grants.
- The predominant use of conservation easements allows the funds to go much further.
- Partnerships are critical like the Yolo Land Trust, Yolo County and the State Department of Conservation.
- Fee title acquisitions along riparian corridors like Putah Creek are extremely valuable and offer restoration, access and open space benefits.
- Land management costs and staff costs are generally kept low (with an exception during the recent economic downturn).
- Excellent staff from the City and volunteer Commission has kept the program on track.
- Measure O has been effective in protecting agricultural land from development.
- Based on the survey alone, almost 75% of the community is favorable toward Measure O. 70% of the community is generally favorable toward the program and a similar 70% are well aware of the program. About 60% of the community believes Measure O funds are being spent wisely, with others suggesting various ways to improve or refine.

Conversely, there were several general themes around **program improvement** that came up in the small and large workshops and through the survey:

- The program has not been well publicized in the past and elements like budgeting, grants and priorities have not been transparent. A variety of outreach methods were suggested to address this ranging from social media to improved web site presence to working with neighbor groups and volunteers, and even engaging students in the Davis school system.
- Similarly, public information about established open spaces, especially those with public access, can be improved. This include information on what open space lands are accessible, and improved information once you arrive such as signage, interpretive information, material about the program, etc.
- The program has emphasized conservation easements on farmlands for logical reasons, but the portfolio needs to be “re-balanced” to emphasize habitat protection (especially riparian corridors), closer-in parcels and public access to the degree it is feasible (e.g., cost, willing sellers, available parcels).
- To accomplish this, there may be a need for a more strategic and innovative approaches to future acquisition involving ideas like “dividing up” parcels (e.g., a narrow sliver for public access owned in fee title and the rest in easement), or identifying parcels that have multiple benefits like ground water recharge, habitat and open space (which could suggest creative funding source mixes).
- Complimentary to the above comment, many participants believed that a focused and strategic approach to identifying high priority acquisition opportunities is warranted. The Open Space Acquisition and Management Plan could provide a logical vehicle for accomplishing this, last updated some years ago.
- There may also be a need to seek new funding partners and sources like private foundations, developers, water-related public agencies, habitat conservancies, etc.
- Many respondents in the workshop, survey and focus groups believed that the program could better engage private land owners and the farm community, and that could lead to possible accessible lands or ecological restoration associated with agriculture.
- 84% of survey respondents believed that we need more walking trails in open space areas.
- A number of participants in the survey, workshop and focus groups suggested the need for more explicit and publicly available land (and water) management plans for some of the open space areas already in fee title or easement.
- Ecological restoration guidelines need to be finalized; more funding directed to this set of activities, and there needs to be flexibility in what types of organizations that are eligible for funding.

- A number of respondents suggested looking at other open space districts and agencies (in particular Sonoma County Open Space District) for best practices around management and maintenance costs, acquisition priority setting, and public information and transparency.

## **Open Space Acquisition Priorities**

Open space acquisition is a complex topic, and the lengthy lists provided in the notes may be difficult to interpret. There is certainly strong support for each of the various types of open space allowed under Measure O (e.g., farmland, habitat, public access). However, open space areas closer-in to the City; habitat lands, especially along riparian corridors and those which could connect protected parcels; and lands where some form of public access is possible were mentioned most frequently. That is not to take away from those who supported the need for continuing to acquire conservation easements on large tracts of prime farmland (especially to the north of the City), where there may be willing sellers, and where the land costs are lower and more acreage can be acquired. At the risk of over-generalizing, it appears that the community wants to continue the historic practice of using funds judiciously to purchase large swaths of agricultural lands under conservation easements, while balancing the portfolio with more open space closer to the City, and more emphasis on riparian corridors, specific habitat improvements, public access, and a more strategic approach. Specific agricultural land opportunities included lands along the Willow Slough complex to the north, along Putah Creek to the south, adding to the community separator from Woodland and Dixon, and “filling in gaps” where lands are already preserved such as along Putah Creek.

In particular, many participants in the workshop, focus groups and survey suggested that connecting segments of riparian corridors should be very high priority, offering habitat, possible access and scenic benefit. A number of specific suggestions are shown below. Specific habitat types that came up multiple times included riparian forests, burrowing owl, and valley oak woodlands.

A number of place-specific acquisition opportunities were highlighted by the community such as:

- North Fork of Putah Creek – need channel continuity, restoration and access.
- South Fork of Putah Creek – public access is key.
- Agricultural lands in easements along key corridors like Road 98
- Agricultural easements and riparian protection for Los Rios lands to complete a key linkage in the corridor south of the City
- Riparian lands and wetlands along all of the sloughs and creeks such as Willow Slough and Willow Slough Bypass.
- Farmland now owned by the City in fee title north of the City limits should be sold back to a farming interest with a conservation easement to free up funds

## **Open Space Restoration Priorities**

Participants believed that there should be more funding and program emphasis on ecological restoration to provide wildlife habitat, and where appropriate, limited public access. Specific habitat types that received considerable attention were: riparian forests, burrowing owl habitat, valley oak woodlands, and native pollinator habitat. Participants believed that creative partnerships (e.g., private donors, Yolo Habitat Conservancy, Yolo County, developers) could augment this effort, as well as taking better advantage of volunteers. In particular, although there are disagreements about the County's NCCP (Natural Communities Conservation Plan), it would provide a viable partner for combining the benefits of open space and habitat, and improving ecological restoration opportunities.

A number of specific restoration sites were noted. Many of these represent those "close in" sites that were discussed under open space acquisition priorities. Other areas represent lands with high ecological value and corridors that link such opportunities.

- Covell Ditch along the north side of Covell Boulevard
- Channel A through the City
- Stonegate Storm Water Retention Basin
- South Fork Preserve and Grasslands Park
- South Davis Putah Creek Parkway south end
- Undeveloped site near Northstar Pond
- South Fork Putah Creek Preserve
- Putah Creek Floodplain
- Wildhorse Urban/Agricultural Transition Area/Buffer
- Willow Slough Bypass

## **Public Access**

Public access is also a complex topic since most conservation easements on private farmland do not allow for public access because of concerns for liability, vandalism, trespass, harm to crops and equipment, etc. Public access has typically been limited to the City's fee title lands or the occasional partnership arrangements. Participants suggested creative approaches for certain farm parcels like access only on fringe areas, or divided acquisitions where a small piece of land (e.g., in fee title) might allow access. Participants also recommended that linear features like levees, drainage channels, and riparian corridors could be more accessible (e.g., eliminating locked gates, negotiating for access, connecting to established trail segments), even within a larger farm parcel that was off limits.

Survey respondents indicated that over 77% of those surveyed go to the some of the established open space areas; with over 83% using Putah Creek Parkway and almost 63% using the north Wildhorse Agricultural buffer area. Many of them (10%) almost every day, and others (25%) once per week. This suggests the importance of strong management and maintenance of these areas, possibly considering additional convenience facilities, and continued publicity about these areas, and information available once one goes to the open space.

Participants suggested numerous facility improvements in the areas where public access already exists such as better signage, restrooms and water availability, safe trails, and environmental education. Better information was also a theme such as a mobile app to the open space areas, news articles, and better web-based outreach, working with neighborhood organizations and volunteers and additional community meetings. Finally, participants suggested expanding partnerships to broaden access (e.g. water agencies, wildlife conservancies, community groups, and private donors). Some specific locations where access was suggested included:

- Completing the “round the City” bike and walking loop using open space areas.
- Completing the Putah Creek Parkway trail.
- Developing the Davis to Woodland trail/bikeway along a rail line and/or farm land.
- Public access along some of the lands along Willow Slough.
- Connect the South Fork Preserve to the Yolo Bypass (leverage State flood improvements).

## **Management, Maintenance, and Budgeting**

Participants were generally satisfied with City staff’s overall management of the program; although communication and outreach have not been very effective in past years. Most people were supportive of this current effort to reach out and gather substantial public input.

In terms of administrative work, participants believed that the City should be more transparent about grant funds received for open space and where those grant funds show up in the City’s accounting system. In addition, some residents felt that the City’s expenditures on administration and management/maintenance remains too high, and suggested looking at other communities as a comparison of best practices.

On the land management side, some participants believed the City should manage the various fee title lands (e.g. Wildhorse Agricultural Buffer) to provide better habitat for species like burrowing owls and other wildlife and could enlist volunteers to help with this effort. Participants also wanted to see the City develop management plans for each of the City’s open space areas so that residents and City staff better understand what is being done to maintain areas and protect wildlife.

## Outreach and Awareness

Much of the input on outreach and awareness has been captured in other topical areas, but there were many suggestions for improvement in program transparency, community interaction and communication and information about the program, funding issues and specific places, such as:

- Improved web site with timely updates on budgets, grants, projects, and opportunities for volunteer efforts, and related matters.
- Need better definitions of open space and better information on public access opportunities.
- Need more engagement with land owners (especially those closer to the City who have not been interested in selling) and farmers with easements or potential easements about access options and restoration potentials.
- More clarity on acquisition strategy and priorities (an updated plan would help). Many suggested that the original priority acquisition map is still a good starting place.
- Closer coordination with urban growth issues both in the City and County.
- More news articles, workshops, events, clean-up day, docent led walks, Farmer's Market, school news, social media, bike and running events, and other opportunities for outreach.
- Take time to work with associations, volunteer organizations, clubs, etc., who could be advocates.
- Use venues such as the City utility bill, Davis Enterprise, social media and web site to share current information.
- Keep the momentum going from this outreach project. Hold periodic community workshops and meetings about specific issues.



## IV. Appendices



# Community Workshop

## Agenda Community Workshop: City of Davis Open Space Program

March 9, 2016: 6:30-9:00 pm  
Davis Senior Center

**OVERALL WORKSHOP OBJECTIVE:** To provide an open and transparent venue for all community members to learn about, discuss, evaluate and suggest improvements to the City's Open Space Program.

### 1. INTRODUCTION (6:30-6:45 pm)

- Meeting Objectives, Agenda Review, Workshop Procedures (UC Davis Collaboration Center)
- Introductions of Elected Officials, Open Space Commissioners, Workshop Sub-Committee, and Staff

### 2. PRESENTATIONS ON THE OPEN SPACE PROGRAM (6:45-7:10 pm)

- Overview of the Open Space Program (Marc Hoshovsky, Davis Open Space Commission)
- Summary of the results of the Survey and the Open Space Program Focus Groups (UC Davis Collaboration Center)

### 3. INTERACTIVE SESSIONS – WORLD CAFÉ (7:10-8:30pm) (Community)

There will be three “rounds” for community members to engage in discussions/interactions at any of the content tables – each approximately 20-30 minutes. The following tables will be available:

- o **General Open Space Dialogue** (1 table): this station will include discussion of the original Measure O language and intent, discussion about general goals and approaches for the program, and discussion of the various “tools” that help protect open space including Measure R/J and the agricultural buffer and mitigation requirements.

- o ***Open Space Lands and Acquisition Priorities*** (3 tables): these stations describe existing open space land, and then focus on future acquisition options and priorities, and criteria for land and conservation easement purchase including “next to City lands” and public access opportunities.
- o ***Open Space Program Management, Maintenance and Budget*** (1 table): this station focuses on the way Measure O funds are leveraged and spent, how the program is administered and the land management aspects of the program including public access and restoration opportunities.
- o ***Public Access Opportunities*** (1 table): this station focuses on the existing and potential future opportunities for public access in open space areas, and discusses the pros and cons of access close to the city, connecting bikeways, in farm areas, riparian habitat areas, etc.
- o ***Open Space Restoration*** (1 table): this station focuses on the emerging guidelines for restoration projects in the open space lands and potential for improvements and additions in the future.

#### 4. **COMMUNITY DIALOGUE & WRAP-UP (8:30-9:00 pm)** (Community and UC Davis Collaboration Center)

- o Additional questions and discussion with full community group
- o Workshop review and conclusions
- o Next steps

# Focus Groups

## City of Davis Open Space Outreach Initiative

### Focus Groups – January 27 & 28

Greg Bourne, Facilitator

#### Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 Introductions
- 7:05 Review Agenda and Ground Rules
- 7:10 Project Overview: Exploring Ways to Improve the Open Space Program
  - Survey
  - Focus groups
  - Student project
  - Outreach activities
  - Community workshop
- 7:15 Focus Group Meeting Objectives
  - Gain insights on major issues
  - Gather ideas on how to address the major issues
  - Obtain input on approaches to engage the public in meaningful ways
- 7:20 What is Working Well with the Open Space Program?
- 7:35 Major Issues and Ideas for Moving Forward
- 8:30 Ideas for Enhancing Public Awareness and Engagement
- 8:50 Next Steps
- 9:00 Adjourn

# City of Davis Open Space Focus Group

## Combined Notes

January 27 and 28, 2016

### **Attendees for the January 27 meeting:**

1. Jean Jackman – Co-Coordinator of Measure O, columnist in Davis Enterprise
2. Jeff Main – Farmer, West of Woodland
3. Andrew Fulks – UC Davis Arboretum
4. Cork McIsaac – Has easement with City of Davis; President of farm management firm
5. Michelle Clark – Yolo Land Trust
6. Steve Greco – UC Davis Professor Landscape Architecture and Ecology Design
7. Stephen McCord – Water Quality Consultant
8. Fraser Shilling – Former Planning Commissioner
9. John Brenan – Real Estate / Farm Manager

### **Attendees for the January 28 meeting:**

1. Jonathan Bayless – Interested in open space due to parks background
2. Ed Whisler – Grew up in Davis; Prop 70 Committee; North Davis Ponds Co-founder
3. Heather Nichols – Working with UCD on Putah Creek Parkway, and with Putah Creek Council on North Davis Riparian Greenbelt Project
4. Greg Schmidt – Cattleman; holds easements
5. Eric Vink – DPC, early advisor to land trust; interested in the land acquisition component
6. Pam Nieberg – Sierra Club and part of leadership team for original Measure O campaign
7. Matt Williams – Finance and Budget Commission; candidate this June for City council.

### **Introduction**

Ground Rules = 1) Share Time 2) Be respectful of other's points of view and 3) Focus on forward thinking

Were expecting someone from the City of Davis to come

Want some retrospective thinking, "what we learned," but don't want to focus that much on the past

### **Overview**

Greg gives summary of project and where it is now  
Public Meeting is in March

### **What is Working Well with the Open Space Program?**

#### **Themes:**

- Wants to go back and look at what was voted for on the ballot
- \$24 per parcel tax is a minor tax in Davis and people hardly notice
- Easements make the \$ dollars go further, instead of direct acquisition.

- Easements require a willing seller close to the city, but not very smart long-term planning when it comes time for the population to grow.

### **Notes:**

6/9 of focus group voted for the Open Space Measure back in 2000

For Yolo Land Trust (YLT), Measure O has been critical for their funding source; rely on public funds for easements on active ag. land; use Measure O to match federal and state funds/grants; just do agricultural easements. It is in YLT's mission to do habitat easements, but have not now.

Cost share with Yolo Land Trust?

Land owner can put up 25%, don't have CWCB funds in any of YLT projects; Measure O is why YLT gets looked at in highly competitive grants. It is stable funding.

We all want farmland preserved; wants to go back and look at what was voted for on the ballot; there were 700 volunteers in this effort

Fee Title Acquisitions along the Putah Creek (dark green on the map) are really helpful and have the City has a partner is good. Want to know what specifically was Measure O has funded on the map?

\$24 per parcel tax, he is a new resident and didn't vote it. From the property owner moving in, never heard anyone complain. In Davis, everyone pays for the big school tax and this is minor tax. He works in these issues and that is not the case in other places. Sonoma and Marin have a .5% sales tax, b/c land is expensive in that area.

Owns cattle ranch; can testify to other open space efforts being done in Mendocino, but was not able to pass a ballot.

Sonoma and Marin is .5% sales tax and gets a bunch of money and can do a lot with their funds.

Impressed by how money has been spent – need a breakdown of costs. Pretty impressed that we are keeping price low with land management.

Attorneys and Real Estate fees can be expensive

Easements make the \$ dollars go further, instead of direct acquisition.

When a city tries to get involved in farming easements, it fails; don't do it. Work with the farmers. Easements require a willing seller close to the city, but not very smart long-term planning when it comes time for the population to grow. Don't want little spaces here and there.

Does money go to the city? Easements stay in property ownership. Issue = property tax lost to the county.

## Major Issues and Ideas for Moving Forward

### Themes:

- No public transparency in the process of distributing Measure O funds
- Nearby farmers and land-owners are waiting for more money in order to be willing sellers. City can't pay more than market value for that land.
- Lack of transparency about funds and prioritization; needs to be posted on the website and show what has been bought. Sonoma County has done this and is a good role model.
- Want to see more attempts for public access on acquisitions, like trails and bike paths.
- How does this tie into Measure J?
- The discussion is where is the city going to grow, and don't want to buy easements there
- Prime habitat and working farms/easements should not have public access. If you do a fee title, then maybe public access is ok
- Need to define "open space." Is it public access or land that you don't see development?
- When in the city or not living on the land, easy to point to a map and say, "that should be open space," but need to have genuine engagement with the land-owners.
- Real Estate Deal. Most of the time the negotiation is closed process. But shouldn't have just one person (Open Space Coordinator) behind the process either.
- Thinks the City actually did a good job with what the open space map looks like now, even though they did not communicate well. Ex. bikeway path from Davis to the Yolo Bypass.
- Measure O can't be used for NCCP – State Management Authorization permit.

### Notes:

No public transparency until they did this Forum. Open Space Commission needs accounting; no public access on many properties; only 4 million has been spent in past 16 years. Measure has not accomplished what people thought it would. Six points on her attachment point to what was advertised; the program has not fulfilled that.

Priority map on the back table walls points to the areas around the city that not been acted upon. Farmers in those areas are waiting for more money. Can't pay more than market value for that land.

Philosophical differences are challenging

Legal language and growth pressure authorizes taking the parcel tax. Back in 2000 there is a finding that there is growth pressure surrounding the city; in order to counter that growth pressure, then comes the tax. Lack of transparency about funds and prioritization; needs to be posted on the website and show what has been bought. Sonoma County has done this. He was on the commission a few years ago. Expenditures have not been clear. Need a transparent process with engagement too. Open Space Commission tried to do that, but it got shot down by Open Space Coordinator. NCCP is complicated.

Measure O can't be used for NCCP – State Management Authorization permit. Google: A natural community conservation plan (NCCP) is the State counterpart to the federal habitat conservation plan (HCP). It provides a means of complying with the Natural Community Conservation Plan Act (NCCP Act) and securing take authorization at the State level.

Main priority has been the wildlife corridors along Putah Creek; prioritization that is on map currently is still valid. Thinks of open space has two things: farming and buffer zone nature area. Want to see more attempts for public access like trails and bike paths. Putah Creek to Yolo Bypass is one example of a possible path. Priority map is still pretty good.

We need a more transparent process. We need to think about where we are building and having enough reserve. How does this tie into Measure J and the Cannery? The discussion is where is the city going to grow, and don't want to buy easements there. Really want to have a discussion of public access, because in some places that might me homeless encampments.

Owns easement, preference is no public access. It is a working farm. Agriculturalists, don't like public access, because it is an operating farm. If it is not in an educated setting, then takes away from the purpose (esp. if spraying pesticide or something). Public access needs to be controlled. If you do a fee title, then maybe public access is ok. Easements can be any length of time. Some can be in perpetuity.

Emphasize that public access should be done for fee titles.

A lot of conversation easements, what is year length? Answer from others: In perpetuity.

What is being described with easements and length change does not pertain to the City of Davis. If you amend a conservation easement then have to go to court order from the State Attorney's office.

Language in the staff report says there is not development pressure around the City of Davis. Is there a more holistic picture of tools? Land is not going to get developed. How do Measure J, R, and O work together? <Greg: They should put that into the March Workshop.

Sonoma County Open Space District used a tool to lay out a prioritization. Start with Sonoma County and map it out. Habitat, Historic Ag, regular Ag., categorize acquisitions.

In Sacramento Watershed project used mercury spatial tool to map out the priorities. What are the priorities? Put it down on maps.

When in the city, easy to point and say, "That should be open space," but need to have genuine engagement with the land owners. Need to engage who the neighbors are.

Really critical is the discussion. Open Space Coordinator did not discuss when he was on the Commission. There is no process for Measure O right now, just benevolent staff person making decisions.

We have the "willing seller" language. Can't say this is a priority without the willing seller's agreement. In past, have people who are against it and then move away. Keep that in mind, community vision.

Hard to do a real estate deal in a public forum. Every single project goes to city council. Appraisal takes time and years for real estate.

Real Estate Deal. Sonoma County is the model. Most of the time the negotiation is closed process. But shouldn't have just one person behind the process either.

Future development will all be on the north part of town.

Never talked about land inside the city; land next to cemetery would have been good. We should have talked about that.

Between now and the workshop do a GIS analysis. We could do a modeling and priority maps.

Not sure if this is what we want at the workshop because then run into the problem that Cork runs into of people who are not land-owners pointing at the land.

What is the set-up for public access?

People should be able to "see across" public land. Being able to get inside it all is overrated. Prime habitat and ag. land should not be disturbed. Steve's dept. can help design that stuff.

What makes the Bay Area precious is the perseveration of land and easy access to it; we need little space here and there instead of having to drive a long ways to get to it.

We are a city in a field. We need access to nature. Need bike access to the preserves. Look at open land and how can exist them in a non-motor vehicle way. Motorized access and non-motorized access can make a huge difference in litter and what comes on the trail.

Bikeway Yolo County Plan, might be another way to integrate Open Space Plan; leverage funding.

This is an opportunity to create a park we don't have; some % of Measure O funds should go to public access space for some specific purpose.

Sonoma did that same thing that looked at "who was getting the money".

Wishes that the focus group was involving the city; our comments go nowhere.

Thinks the City actually did a good job with what the open space map looks like now. I think what the City did not communicate, but they did a pretty good job.

Need to get a strategic plan for focusing on acquiring fee titles for public access.

Doesn't live in Davis – Yolo Farm Bureau. Can put some of the money into infill vs. buying land out there? Land values are insane right now.

There is a bikeway path from Davis to the Yolo Bypass that open space land has helped with.

Would like to see the final language of the resolution to leverage other funds and what it can be used for.

NCCP Permits State Endangered Act. Intended to mitigate for that. There is not agreement with effectiveness. Can Measure O be applied for this NCCP permits and funds?

Is there a process to access funds for habitat? Want little NGO groups to access these funds.

Yes, it will be addressed in the upcoming March forum.

### **Ideas for Enhancing Public Awareness and Engagement**

In 2000, brought together 50 – 60 people together. Municipality needs to decide what they are going to promise or commit to at the meeting. There are lots of ways that the city has messed up before.

No one expects everything to be done, but do expect explanations of why what was done.

Got to get the word out to neighborhood groups and cities, send letters to property owners in the region. Farm Bureau Members. NGOs in towns, Tree Davis. Remind them that they are paying for it on their parcel tax. He manages the North Davis ditch project.

Negative comments about the Measure O will not push it forth. Don't attack it too much because then would make it hard to pass again.

When being critical of the work that is being done, success needs to be applauded. Celebrate Measure O and how can it be done better.

At forum, need to talk about 25 acre Davis community farm and mitigation. How are we moving the soccer fields?

### **Concluding Thoughts**

We will do a meeting summary and won't attribute the comments. Will give the City some insight on how to host a public forum with people's interests.

## Remaining Details from the Community Survey

### QUESTION 2: Have you heard of the City's Open Space Program; if so, how?

- I pay taxes. Including Measure O parcel taxes.
- forwarded emails
- northdavis.nextdoor.com
- I voted yes for measure O in 2000 election.
- Through the campaign that created it
- I was a city councilmember
- Led the Council that wrote it.
- Yolo Land Trust
- Solano Land Trust
- Board of Supervisors
- Yolo Land Trust
- Social media
- Davis Vanguard
- Yolo Land Trust
- Funded Conservation Easements
- Vanguard
- Davis was involved in easements with Solano Land Trust
- work
- Through Yolo Land Trust
- Signage, I think
- City e-mail
- Land Trust
- I am a Beekeeper open space is important to Bees
- Mace Discussion
- farmers market
- Work
- Mace 391 Controversy
- campaign for measure O
- UC Davis
- UC Davis
- Class at UC Davis
- I know Mitch Sears
- Land Agent for the City of Davis
- Worked on developing the ordinance passed in 2000. Co-chaired the citizen's campaign.

- was on the OSHC for a bit
- UC Davis Studio 30 class
- Professor
- City staff
- listserv for graduate students connected to the ecology graduate program at UC Davis
- Worked for Yolo County
- Through volunteering with Friends of the Arboretum
- Neighbor Next Door
- Worked at city
- Internet
- yes
- Tax bill
- personal interest in open space and protection of habitat
- Former OS&H Commissioner
- News
- Involved in initial campaign
- city employees
- Public debt when the community voted on Measure O
- We supported Measure O, the Open Space parcel tax
- local blogs,

**QUESTION 9: What other acquisition strategies would you recommend as a higher priority?**

- Developing habitat for community use.
- None
- Commitment from university leaders on viewshed
- Use the money for city recreation activities. More open space around the city is not needed. Continue county slow growth ordinances. This is a waste of 600000 - put it to good use, serve our children
- Buying land adjacent to other open space to create wildlife corridors and substantial areas of habitat
- No public access, keep land in farming only
- Beginning Farmer Program
- more accessible areas with trails, especially for children
- Strategies to ensure that developers and their consultants deliver credible and sound EIRs and other assessments of environmental impact caused by

developments.

- restoration of city park grass fields (green belts) back to natural habitat with trail access
- The City must learn how to manage these areas for the long-term. Invasive species must be treated and removed. Wildlife must be monitored quantitatively. Objective, defensible standards must be used for success criteria.
- Protecting biological resources through habitat acquisition and habitat management
- Less emphasis on city land ownership: the more land the city purchases, the more land maintenance fees the city incurs. Conservation easements seem to be better stewardship of funds.
- Less emphasis on proximity to city boundaries
- Preserve Ag land next to city
- continued focus on preserving working farmland in area
- None
- City Boundaries and Community Separators
- Land that fills in protected corridors or adjacent to already protected land
- I think the current emphasis is fine
- Need close places to walk and see natural habitat. Would love to see valley oak woodland
- Wildlife corridors
- Beekeeping to improve ecosystem
- North Davis Ponds
- public access
- Less emphasis on extreme management, e.g. mowing and pruning, more on hand weed control by volunteers and replanting with natives and appropriate native plants that encourage wildlife. Much less emphasis on herbicides and local employees rather than out of town contractors.
- mini projects such as education signage
- retain and increase emphasis on protecting active farmland
- Right to Farm clauses
- More lands adjacent to other protected lands. Less fragmented.
- More emphasis on preserving Ag lands, purchase easements, not fee title
- less money to management and more to purchase
- multi use trails
- Access to land for beginning farmers
- Recreation open space. Biking, walking, and jogging.
- Protect greenbelts and parks from construction
- follow the plan provided by the citizens that led to Measure O

- Planned strategically to maximize benefits for 10-50-100 years
- In particular I wish the city would not allow so much development in one area. Cannery, Ok. But then Grande too? I think the city should have obtained this open space and protected it.
- Acquisition of land to separate cities, but land is not necessarily immediately adjacent to Davis city boundaries. Also, would like more info on where Davis's "sphere of influence", as defined by LAFCO, is.
- City should get out of the open space business!
- Acquire more nesting ground for the tricolored blackbird!
- Small farm protection
- If I am happy with agriculture! I can't put anything else as a "higher priority"
- land to use as a year-round off-leash dog park
- In order to curtail outward growth inward growth with zoning must be allowed
- I do not support measure O funds being used in the yolo county habitat conservation plan (HCP)
- City land ownership for what purpose? Choice 2; I support smart high density growth, not low density growth (re: choice 3)
- land to separate Davis from other cities
- More emphasis on land next to city boundaries
- Even more farmland!

**QUESTION 11: If it were feasible what changes would you suggest in the allocation of funds?**

- More to purchase and develop land next to city for public access.
- Take care of what we have, well.
- Lower reserve to 20% keeping acquisition and management same proportion
- more timely transparency regarding which bordering lands to Davis are being considered for inclusion and an equal allocation thereof
- This city has a lot of open space - and we've curtailed growth for too long. We must accept that UC Davis is growing and if we continue to curtail growth, we will only hurt our student resident.  
We have parks and recreation - but they are nominal. The city gym facilities are inadequate and the city pool facilities are mediocre, at best.  
I strongly support allocation of these funds for a 50 meter pool in Davis.
- Improve habitat value of greenways within Davis through more naturalistic landscape design
- Eliminate Measure "O"
- More on management and maintenance

- Spend the reserve on 'wilding' more of our existing high water need landscapes. I.e. convert more green turf lands to Mediterranean systems.
- Spend as much as possible on land acquisition now - the current development boom is about to take over again now that the building industry has somewhat recovered from the recession. What's developed is developed and what's built is built and that land is forever lost - in other words: protect the lands that are available as soon as possible in order to conserve these lands so that they cannot be developed. Help stop this wonderful town and with it decades of smart growth planning from being turned into another suburban sprawl Vacaville or Fairfield. The Cannery project was more than enough in allowing land adjacent to the Davis City boundaries from being expanded and a large plot of land being developed into a new neighborhood.
- 15% for maintenance, admin, and mgmt. is hardly sufficient. We all know that a tiny portion of that 15% is actually spent on "maintenance", and that "maintenance" has no actual ecological definition. Properties acquired for habitat must be surveyed initially to create baseline datasets, and then resurveyed on a regular basis to determine if objectives are being met. If objectives are not being met, adaptive management must change. Invasive species must be removed. Conditions for wildlife must be maintained. All of this is part of "maintenance", since "maintenance" can't be performed without objective standards and monitoring. The top reason habitat preservation and restoration projects fail is a lack of, or underfunded, maintenance programs. I do not believe the City is currently serious about actually managing/maintaining open spaces according to basic ecological standards.
- More on management and maintenance
- Acquire land, but also manage land for the intent for which it was acquired. For example, Burrowing Owl habitat needs to be maintained to support Burrowing Owls.
- Buy land as soon as possible because the land values are going higher quickly
- Continue to use easements whenever possible
- Stop borrowing money from other sources to support purchases. Only Measure 'O' money should be used for purchases. If you don't have enough money in the fund you have no business making the purchase.
- Spend some more of the money that will help with habitat restoration and wetland restoration.
- 1. Maintenance 2. Parks, greenbelts inside the urban limit that can be seen as green corridor connections and for which the city has less money for upkeep. 3. active space
- Restore grasslands to valley oak woodland with public access.

- I'm not informed enough to say
- Protect more farmland. No farms, no food.
- I don't know enough about the issue to comment.
- Quality stewardship of land requires that adequate funds be set aside for management, maintenance, etc. It's totally appropriate to spend 15% on these things.
- More management and maintenance
- Spend more funds on opening the gates to the public reserves, in other words, allow more public access to areas that allow public access. The Putah Creek Reserve is closed most of the time.
- Engage the community in what the Australians promote as "bush regeneration", watershed restoration, slough formation, planting for wildlife and stop pesticides, herbicides and outside contractors.
- Allocate some funding for habitat restoration and/or improvement on properties already acquired or protected.
- Decrease admin costs, decrease reserve
- Lands pursued in areas voters prioritized. Lands accessible to people. Not all of Measure O money is being spent. Why? Land will only get more expensive. Community projects. Linkage bike routes to Yolo Basin or other nature areas. Buy up land, put in route link then sell to farming.
- Acquired lands that are not actively farmed need adequate management and maintenance to insure they have open space value to the City.
- Consider options for building a reserve, endowment, or other ongoing revenue stream to be able to continue maintenance of lands acquired under Measure O once Measure O expires.
- Do not acquire more land for these purposes. Many young professionals who currently rent in Davis would appreciate more home development at the lower end of the market. The City's steadfast opposition to more residential properties forces those of us out of Davis.
- Use the reserve to acquire lands next to current holdings.
- Purchase easements, not the land, you don't have to pay for maintenance and you will be able to leverage your money much better.
- Maintenance budget should be increased. I realize increasing the amount spent on maintenance may increase the amount spent on admin and mgmt., but it wouldn't have to. Davis has many wonderful community greenspaces but at times they're inaccessible, unknown, or not very well maintained.
- More on management/maintenance, esp. to help the declining burrowing owl population. Huge crisis for the species!

- Spend more on acquisition and on management and maintenance and far less on staff salaries.
- Spend more on restoration, maintenance, and acquisition/easements of lands accessible to Davisites; less on administration; and less on easements of lands distant from the city and not accessible to Davisites.
- Minimize personnel costs. Stop empire building and buy land on city boundary.
- Do not like the move of Open Space funds to county habitat preservation and the too-high administrative costs. With move of money to JPA, nothing left for purchasing open space. County efforts don't necessarily benefit Davis residents in any direct way, as promised by Measure O, and our tax dollars should have direct benefit to residents. JPA will protect habitat, but this could be anywhere in the county, as I understand it.
- spend more on management to improve ecosystem services - vegetation planting, etc.
- not enough information above to weigh in
- More on maintaining and increased use by the citizens who paid for it.
- Allocate funds to open space accessible to off leash dogs.
- more on maintenance and management
- Honestly, I don't know enough about these things to comment.
- Be honest about the 'program'
- Please make open space available for public access for example -running/hiking trails
- Increase the reserve
- Follow the plan that was provided by citizens... that led to Measure O being placed on the ballot
- Spend on making land accessible to the community
- spend more on management and maintenance
- I need more info to answer this question.
- Focus more funds on acquiring and managing open space near the city boundary that Davis residents can access and enjoy.
- Spend some on management for public use.
- Spend the reserve only if it is necessary for protection of the land/habitat and/or to keep an open space boundary around the city (including emergency use for either).
- Spend on the reserve as soon as possible and move the administration over to the City's budget
- Get out of the land ownership business.
- increase docent program volunteering to reduce management and increase acquisition percentages
- Make sure maintenance is sufficient.

**QUESTION 15:      Would you like to see more of these edge of the city areas accessible for walking and other uses?**

- I would like to see a "Central Park" - "William Land Park" developed for Davis as well as the above areas. Too much city and not enough nature is detrimental.
- West Davis, north of Covell or around West Pond.
- South Davis along Montgomery avenue
- All edges
- Only if it is cost effective and appropriately prioritized among other city needs (i.e. not redundant with the location (or near location) of city-maintained recreation areas) and as equally apportioned as possible around the city.
- West Davis
- All areas of the city should have immediate access to open space.
- They are too far from the city's edge to use very often
- More connections to other habitat and recreation trails such as continuous access from the city to Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, Lake Berryessa, Willow Slough, Davis Wetlands
- More established trails at the South Fork Preserve allowing for access to the water's edge and longer hikes along the creek.
- East Davis
- The cool bike underpass at East Covell near Monarch leads to nowhere. That would be a perfect area to purchase land and turn it into a nature trail so that the expensive (and great) bike underpass would finally receive a purpose for somebody to use it and be able to use the land adjacent to the city boundaries for walking/biking etc.
- Would love to see expanded trails along Putah creek going west and restoration of green belt grass fields back to native habitat.
- On the edge of the Cannery
- Not sure - but I'd hope they could connect to existing areas.
- Of course I would, but that obviously increases management and maintenance expenses, and I still believe - even though I love using city-edge areas - that using measure O funds for acquisition is a better strategy than using it for increasing city-edge areas. What would be a more cost-effective way of increasing city-edge open space is first acquiring an agricultural "moat" 0-2 miles from the existing city limits; requiring developers of new city-edge developments to donate an open-space buffer to the city; and after those "moat" acquisitions are complete, a greater percentage of funds could be directed towards management and maintenance of city-edge open space, as fewer funds would then be needed for acquisition (this is

more of a 50-year time scale).

- I do not recommend greater accessibility because that would necessitate further construction and trail building, which themselves fragment and otherwise modify habitat.
- Wildhorse
- North and west Davis areas
- West Davis
- West Davis
- Basically, wherever feasible, work to protect habitat and open space that circles the perimeter of the City. Enhance natural environments like where farmland edges residential.
- More in West Davis (West Russell and West Covell) and North Davis (North Anderson)
- Mace Ranch Curve
- Anywhere along the creek.
- If possible, more access along the south fork of Putah Creek
- I think it's called Covell Ditch along the city's northern boundary. Spans F Street to Sycamore. Depending on the season, I go 1-3 times per week.
- Extended path running along Covell Drainage Channel east to Pole Line Rd., perhaps following Channel A.
- wherever it makes sense from a public safety and property perspective
- There is an area on the east side of town that has a pathway next to farmland. You can get to it at the east end of Cowell. This looks like a great area to expand for walking.
- Close to neighborhoods - within walkable distance from homes building off of green belts.
- South of Montgomery Ave.
- East Davis; would like more wood chip or gravel (non-asphalt) paths in general
- I use the West Davis Pond and would like it maintained. Great for bird and waterfowl watching.
- Anywhere they seem appropriate.
- Low income areas, and paths between housing and schools if possible.
- PROVIDED it is compatible with agriculture and habitat. Protecting agriculture and habitat is the priority not public access.
- wherever it is feasible
- immediately adjacent areas
- What we have is fine
- no place in mind

- West Davis, Southeast Davis
- Easier connectivity
- More access to the bike path between the freeway and the railroad tracks between Mace Bl. and Poleline.
- Wherever possible.
- South Fork Preserve
- More land on Putah Creek; connect the South Fork Preserve to the Yolo Bypass via bike trail on levee; and connect the south Fork Preserve to the UCD Riparian Reserve via the levee too. Connect the Yolo grasslands park to Putah Creek (buy the land between them) to make an upland reserve with a valley oak forest.
- Connect North Davis to Davis ditch. Path along F Street next to Julie Partanksy Wildlife Area. Habitat restoration of the 2.75 acre area next to wildlife area.
- Possibly. It depends on the area.
- North and east of Davis
- Primarily in those places that enhance connectivity between existing public access areas - for example, a pathway along Channel A from Wildhorse Ag Buffer to F Street/Northern Greenbelt. Not so much in favor of public access that interferes with farming or habitat areas.
- South and west of town.
- south of el Macero and South East Davis, both sides of hwy 113
- By the Target shopping area on the east side of town.
- would love better dog off leash options
- West Davis
- Putah Creek. Seems these areas are closed off and not accessible, last I checked
- I would like to see consideration of permanent or temporary space for community gardening on the west side of the City. This could be accomplished with very small land areas, and maximize educational benefit too residents about conservation and ag heritage in our area.
- Connecting trail between Wildhorse Ag Buffer and Cannery development/ North Davis
- Enhance the Wildhorse area by creating hills. It is mostly flat. With hills the trail can be made longer or have multiple routes. Maybe good for mountain bike riding.
- Land along Pole Line road is a good candidate for increased buffers or other management; the bike trail is a great option but it is very loud and very windy at times, and the trail can't successfully be used for biking or walking.
- North Davis, near the levee/alfalfa/fields, and Wildhorse, near the farmlands. More running paths would be great
- Anywhere feasible. Access and familiarity with recreation open spaces have limited

our family's use/enjoyment.

- Measure O money should not be spent on things the city would normally be funding. O was to preserve ag land and habitat aside from what the city would normally fund.
- Around all drainage ponds including North Davis (restore surrounding area and open up), the pond in West Davis that is fenced off and available only to surrounding homeowners who sneak into it, spend more money improving the North Davis Channel, improve water quality and habitat of all, provide access, improve greenbelts, AND develop corridor to bike/walk to Woodland, i.e., connectivity w/o cars.
- The current opportunities appear to be in north and south Davis. How about central and west? How about something that allows us to walk or ride on a path where we can see the coast range--e.g. north of Covell, past the hospital? Or south of Covell after Stonegate?
- A trail network surrounding the city would be the best with trail sections that are off-leash.
- West Davis
- I'd like to see the slough and ditch waterway networks all around Davis connected to each other with an accessible riparian corridor. This would include the ditch recently planted north of Northstar Park to where it goes along F St, over to Wildhorse, back to where it connects to the slough in ag land to the west of Davis north of Putah creek.
- Not as important where but more what. I am planning on moving away from Davis in large part because of the lack of accessible trails. I appreciate the preservation of usable ag land, but struggle to balance this with a personal need for walking trails that are not heavily manicured and maintained.
- North of the city limits
- It would be nice to have a pedestrian path or bikeway over the old Putah Creek channel connecting Hamel Ln to the bike path on the north side of the creek bed (if feasible). Maybe somewhere near the junction of Drew Circle with the bike path.
- Access seems adequate to me, but I'm not opposed to increasing access to any place in particular
- North Davis
- South Davis since I live there. I would like multi use off road dirt trails that could be shared with walkers. Along the creek if possible.
- Yes if accessible to dogs.
- I'm open to any locations. Wanted to use this space to say I'm not clear on the specific locations of Putah Creek Parkway and South Fork Preserve (mentioned in #13 above). Went to creek path near UCD Raptor Center (gravel parking, trail

along creek) which was very nice. Am assuming this is one of options mentioned below. The North Wildhorse Ag Buffer I use weekly for a long run with my dog. This is a wonderful spot.

- south Davis, east Davis, north Davis
- West Davis
- Anywhere! I LOVE the Wildhorse ag buffer. I can't run on concrete, so it provides me with one of the few 'trail running' opportunities close to town and with gravel so I can run after a rain storm. I rely on it to get me out and keep me in shape!
- West Davis
- More Putah creek access.
- While the footpaths and bike trails are wonderful, I am concerned that making all areas easily accessible for uses not defined here (such as sporting and activity fields, etc.) will negatively impact the wildlife and peacefulness of those spaces.
- Running/hiking paths through Shriners property that connect wild horse ag path to the dump or to Harper Jr. High area In general more dirt/ gravel paths Paths through Covell village property that connects nugget fields/wild horse ag buffer and the cannery and the drainage ditch path north of north star that runs from f street to Covell
- North Davis including "ditch"
- Behind cannery project.
- South side of the creek
- Anywhere, just give us some off leash dog space.
- East Davis around Mace Curve
- Old East Davis
- Follow the plan provided by the citizens that led to Measure O
- West Davis
- Connections by the cannery, along the canal would be nice.
- I'd like there to be certain hours of the week when it is permissible to walk dogs off leash along the drainage on the north side of town off of F Street.
- Yes and no. Not everything needs to be developed and beautiful but more than anything, we folks who do use the parks, walk, run, bike, don't want to see so much development and regulation (the leash law in these undeveloped paths is ridiculous! the folks using the spaces at the edge of town care very much about the spaces)
- The west side of town would be nice.
- I would like more willing area like the fenced off creek area in the South.
- West Davis.
- I'm concerned that humans plus their dogs have reduced the habitat viability in the Wildhorse Ag Buffer. I would prioritize habitat value over human access in that area

and any other area that was intended for habitat or mixed use.

- unsure
- Don't know, would have to look at a map.
- For some reason, I was not aware that the buffers are useable...even though I am a long-term Davis resident (since 1970). But I like the idea of making wild lands accessible and I would like to check out what we already have but don't know how to find out about them. Perhaps this is where Google comes in, but I think it might be good to publicize these areas more--or perhaps I have been to them but didn't know they had a name...??
- Access along the tree-lined area along farm buffers, north of Davis.
- Unsure, but a focus on connections with other existing resources (e.g. UC Davis, Fazio Wetlands, and Bike Loop etc.) would be most desirable.
- West side of Davis
- Putah Creek
- South Davis
- West Davis near Stonegate and Across from Sutter Hospital.
- East Davis
- West Davis, since that's near me
- Just two examples: South Fork Preserve has a locked gate. Why? Who locks it? The route around the City-owned Davis Wetlands east of the Wastewater Treatment Plant is off limits nearly every day during the hunting season, when no hunting is allowed there. Why? These are rich habitats for birds and other wildlife, and beautiful destinations for human visitors. For some reason, they are closed much of the time. Why?
- Anywhere - but especially include information for public about ability to access and use these spaces! Didn't know we had them!
- connecting to Arboretum

**QUESTION 16: How can the City be more effective in reaching out to the community and communicating the Open Space Program?**

Show these lands on all city maps. Describe access in recreation maps.

- Some of these areas are nearby but for busy people like me it would help to know where to find a map of access points quickly.
- Regular reporting (at least quarterly) via newspaper or community meeting or city council. 2. Education material for community about how money is spent 3. Dialog about spaces to preserve.
- Better signage to make it clear where the areas are.
- Signage, Workshops, Newspaper, Engage UC Davis students.

- They could erect small signs in areas where the Open Space Program dollars are being used. I use many of these places on a regular basis but did not know they were part of the program until taking this survey.
- Work with dog owners. Identify more locations where off-leash dog walking is legal at certain times of the day or year. Work with Yolo Basin Foundation to identify a "bird of the week" or month. Publish it in the Enterprise and where/when good times to bird watch.
- Invite students at welcome week.
- JUST DO IT!
- More robust online presence.
- Perhaps by letting us know exactly where land has been preserved (via website?)
- Send a mailing with the city water bill. Nice and easy.
- Engage in education programs on the importance of habitat preservation.
- Publicize maps of the protected areas and publicize the public access opportunities.
- Newspaper.
- Explain exactly where the money is being spent.
- An increase in transparency, accountability and honesty would be nice.
- Have a representative at the farmers market. Email updates to residents.
- Include information in our water bill bi-annually to raise awareness about the program and solicit resident feedback.
- Davis Enterprise.
- More active lobbying where we can see you. At the Farmer's Market for example.
- Outreach to schools to take field trips to these areas, provide learning materials for guided tours that the schools can easily use.
- Signage at trail heads, NextDoor,
- I consider myself a well-informed individual of Davis matters yet this program was largely new to me. So that shows to me that the current outreach by the City is not effective. Do more and do it more effectively - especially: Post information often and regularly on nextdoor.com - a neighborhood networking tool that many Davis residents are using regularly. And there are other methods, too.
- Outreach through the city schools would be a great - educating the kids on the fliers that they would be bringing home, teaching them about the importance of getting involved in these kinds of projects - letting them know that as a resident of Davis they have a voice in this.
- In general the City is needs to have more modern communication methods--website and web based marketing done well. Press releases and the Enterprise are not enough.
- I didn't know the Wildhorse corridor was part of the program. Is there a sign at the gate?
- I'm not sure that's even a big deal. The local community clearly supports the OSP already, so I'd say the system is working at least to some extent. However, developing objective standards for habitat, etc. and involving technical experts to confirm these objectives are being met would bolster the reputation of the program.

- Use social media (NextDoor, Facebook) to communicate.
  - Feature articles in the Enterprise. Easily accessible info on the website. Work with the County to transition property tax bills to a digital format (they're still using \*paper\*?! really?!) and in each and every bill that is delivered digitally, LINK each of the parcel taxes to a nice-looking web page that provides information about the benefits and value of each of those parcel taxes. Don't waste your time and money on direct mailers or community meetings - they simply don't reach enough people, and most people are too busy to participate.
  - In general, I think the City should do more to target apartment residents, which constitute ~ 55% of Davis residents (<http://cityofdavis.org/about-davis/population-and-housing>). I am unsure of the best way to do so. Perhaps announcements to children at local schools, radio advertisements, signs at local chain and major grocery stores. The idea is to target people beyond those that show up to the Farmer's Market, which is undoubtedly a pre-selected audience.
  - Social media is helpful, including NextDoor.
  - I'm a first year PhD student and (though it is ultimately my responsibility) it would be great to have more outreach for incoming students of all levels.
  - Newspaper, mailings.
- 
- Opinion pieces in the Enterprise Speak to community groups and schools.
  - NextDoor neighbor website.
  - Postings in those areas.
  - Directed emails - not just lumped in with other city news. Advertisement in the paper. Ask UC Davis to post in their weekly emails. Send through neighborhood websites and ask them to share. Do you have a Facebook page for those who use Facebook?
  - Not sure.
  - Advertise the map currently on the City web site. Ensure consistency between the web site and other outreach materials -- e.g. the survey says there is access at the Putah Creek Parkway and the web site says the Putah Creek Riparian Reserve. Are they the same thing? Provide directions and/or suggestions similar to Yolo Hiker for the areas with public access. Create brochures and staff tables at the Farmer's Market. Create a "Friends of the City of Davis Open Space" group or coordinate more closely with Rotary or other non-profits to help maintain and patrol areas with open space access. Ensure the South Fork Putah Creek Reserve gates are open on a regular basis so people know it is open for use.
  - Farmers Market table.
  - use the NextDoor online communities to broadcast
  - More open meetings and more publicity about program and public forums e.g. a city bulletin board at central location like COOP, whole foods, farmers market --community gathering spots
  - Presentation of Potential open space for acquisition
  - More effective communication (email subscription) for city residents
  - Table at the Farmer's Market, host more information sessions and post info on City website.

- Provide a vision that leads to an increase in the funding for the program.
  - This survey is a good tool to begin with, but more community workshops are needed, as well as an active media campaign.
  - Regular, clear, published multiple places accounting.
  - Educating citizens on the importance of agriculture.
  - Create a beginning farmer program on city owned land.
  - Provide information to residents about where the open space is and how best to access and use it.
  - Have a table at community events.
  - Simple signage around the trails would be a good start. FYI this survey was way too geared to people that are super familiar with the open space program. I can't possibly have an opinion about how money is spent!
  - Signs around town.
  - Partner with land trust.
  - Davis Enterprise.
  - Reach out and communicate. This is the first such communication I have received.
  - Need an improved social media campaign!
  - Send information with monthly utility bills to increase awareness.
  - Maybe a weekly or monthly column in the Davis Enterprise about open space walks around Davis.
  - The City should provide a detailed accounting of how Measure O funds have been spent.
  - I think the City does a good job letting people know about the Open Space Program, but could send out mailers, or do more community outreach.
  - Emails like this one. Lawn signs or the street banners.
  - Signage that indicates "this area funded by Measure O".
  - The city has done a good job. Occasional articles in the enterprise highlighting an area, like the creek area on mace on the creek.
  - By getting public involved with restoration trail access - they would care more if we could walk there. Get grants for school kids to help plant pollination gardens etc.
  - Signage in the spaces that have benefited from this program - I run in the Wildhorse ag buffer almost every day and had never heard of the Open Space Program, even though I'm a direct recipient of its benefits!
- Signs with maps along the bike loop that point out all of the amazing spaces Davis has! A second Davis bike loop to lead people there!
- Publicizing at the farmer's market.
  - Market with maps of trails and green spaces around town; mark trails, greenways, walking paths that are part of the program.
  - Distribute maps.
  - Put up some signs, update the Wiki, Facebook.
  - I'm not sure. Use all types of Social Media. Send info via the schools.
  - Access maps and more communication.

- More PR, more meetings, more transparency.
- Email.
- Hold to general plan in city areas.
- Putting info in the City Service Bill Create a newsletter.
- More Frequent Public workshops like the one planned in March.
- The best way is to solicit volunteering. The West Davis Ponds volunteer group and the North Davis Ponds volunteer group are good examples of how synergies can exist when citizens work together.
- Include a description of the spaces on paper and online maps; add small signs at or near the spaces.
- Newspaper articles, email list serves, community groups.
- Fund community groups for restoration and management with a little money for tools and gloves and a meeting space.
- Perhaps additional, informational articles/e-announcements; holding some regular public walks (i.e. beginner bird- walks or plant walks by volunteers) at these places and then having a news story written about that event.
- I would like to hear more about how acquisitions and on-going restoration and maintenance of sites have had a positive effect for native species and ecosystems. Partnership with university researchers interested in monitoring the sites may help with this.
- Collaborate more with the Yolo Conservation Plan.
- Transparency of what we voted for and website with future plans such as Sonoma does with spatial prioritization tool.
- Involve the community in stewardship activities and docent walks.
- Have more open space workshops. Encourage more people to attend the Open Space and Habitat Commission meetings.
- The publicly accessible areas are all poorly marked and identified. The City needs a standardized, consistent, and thorough signage program for the open space (and all parks for that matter). Each public access point should have a sign or signs clearly identifying the open space, the purpose of the open space, and what the appropriate activities in that open space area are.
- Social media; banners over the road like are used to announce the Turkey Trot, etc.; direct mailings
- Invest the community in determining and implementing the uses of specific and clearly delineated pieces and parcels within the whole.
- Seek more stakeholder input.
- Interpretive signage, public programs.
- Can't think of more--you have a commission, present to City Council, put out press releases, update the website...
- Hold events in these area throughout the year on various days of the week and at various times of the day.
- Advertising at the farmers markets.
- Signage.

- I am a volunteer on the Putah Creek Parkway. This area has multiple users and still many of my friends and neighbors don't know it is there. We need to educate more of the public about how unique the Davis conservation activities are.
- Enterprise, and notes going home through the school.
- Show the community the successes that you have had.
- Open forums.  
Put feature articles in The Enterprise.
- I'm not sure what's currently being done, but fliers or posters around town, at the market, on campus; listservs, newspaper ads, classes at the university.
- Acquire and preserve more open land. The community will automatically learn about it.
- Using University classes to hold workshops for public- University and city partnership.
- The website and other materials may be sufficient already, but I have not seen them. I suppose including links to resources in city newsletters, city website front page, news sources might help draw more attention to what is out there.
- Have a workshop on Measure O and how funds are used.
- You're off to a good start with the March workshop, just a little late. Keep them going. Develop a program for citizens to apply for restoration funding of existing city-owned land.
- Report on progress. Fully account for how funds are spent.
- Seeking community input, newspaper articles; all the usual ways. I am fairly well informed, but knew nothing about how Measure O monies were being used until people like Jean Jackman brought this to the public's attention. Getting input and education the public should be a regular function of the Open Space Commission.
- Educating the community about the specific ecological values of protecting the open space.
- Inform the public.
- Develop interactive maps for residents to use (online, as an app) and put up physical wayfinding maps for people to view when traversing the city on foot or by bike.
- Better signage throughout the city with all of the public trails and greenways.
- Creating access is key.
- Booths and information at the Davis Farmer's Market. Greater interaction with the University population.
- Permanent signage in places frequented by residents. The new signage on the north ditch is excellent, for example.
- Well, the link to this survey, for one, isn't exactly easy to find. Add a button to the website. Leverage social media, including Facebook and Instagram. Instagram would be most effective IMO b/c you could post visually some of the open space areas.
- Occasional article in the paper and on the city website showing where they are and how we can use them.
- Use the Davis Enterprise. Some people do read it and it is free to use.
- Signage on open space sites. More public programs and tours at open space sites.

- Focus on open space that can be used by the public- walking, biking.
- Keep us updated with newspaper info, mark the land as protected by measure O unless it is farmland that might be invasive.
- March meeting a good idea. I think perception is that not enough money has been spent to preserve open space, especially near city borders.
- Add educational programs that make use of those spaces.
- Posters on telephone poles, windows and message boards in popular areas.
- Signage at the open space.
- Send flyers in city services billing envelopes, post notices in public buildings and on the City of Davis website.
- Provide more accurate information about how funds are spent and who determines that.
- Thank you so much for doing this survey I have long wondered why the open space tax didn't buy land that was accessible for passive recreation Thanks!!!
- Better publicize.
- Listen to the recommendation made by citizens.
- Public discussions.
- I like the communications via NextDoor.
- You make no effort at accountability. I won't vote to renew.
- Info & feedback booth at farmers market with info on city issues.
- Meet with citizens on the sites for a discussion. Advocate for Measure O values and for the atmosphere that produced those values. Follow the guidelines of Measure O. Don't be disingenuous.
- Encourage the Davis Enterprise to report more on the natural environment and land acquisition; less on sports.
- News articles in the Enterprise and occasional pamphlets by mail with maps, and accessibility information.
- Follow the plan provided by the citizens that led to Measure O.
- Maps, designated parking areas.
- Yearly update on how funds were spent, use of social media, the new City Website is better.
- Provide a formal summary of comments received at the public meeting. All residents to send in written comments.
- Use next-door Davis site, their own Facebook updates, and a newsletter in the mail (I think you are doing some of these things already though!).
- Clear communication of areas available to public and perhaps hold events there. Also communicate what is acquired and why (use/value to community).
- Emphasize that the primary value and purpose of the open space, be it ag or habitat, is for the continued use of that space for growing food or stewardship of ecosystems - not for human access or recreation.
- More maps available at local stores of green way areas.

- Have a website devoted to it --and I would guess you already do.
- The "NextDoor" outreach through Stacy Winton seems to be good.
- More articles on specific amenities in the Enterprise; more outreach on NextDoor.
- Tabling at Farmer's Market and other events (many may just take open space for granted). I only really knew about the agricultural buffer and a few places like North and West Davis ponds (are they part of this program?)
- Email, Davis Enterprise, open discussions.
- I would love to see a volunteer docents who organize a wider appreciation such as monthly rotating open space location for watercolor groups, birding groups, photography, wildlife counts..... with shows/results of count held in the city building. We need our children to help with cleaning open spaces and educate them on the amazing wildlife we have here in Davis.
- Large signage around all sites where public dollars have been spent. Private lands can be duly noted to prevent trespassing. Also, at the existing public sites, large informational cases could be built describing the program including a place for a regularly updated map and public input.
- Quarterly placement on city council agenda for updates, once a year report not enough.
- Regular updates in The Enterprise and on the City's website.
- Annual flyer in utility bills about the program.
- There must be a balance between the objectives of Measure "O" and effective growth. We cannot forego our identity (i.e., unique neighborhoods) and we need to assess how everything fits together.
- Advertise the open space available to visit and use.
- HOA newsletters in addition to newspaper, social media, online newspaper editions.
- Highlight use of open space areas in paper.
- Use the Davis Enterprise newspaper as an encouragement to take the survey. Word of mouth to take the survey; ask people to announce the survey at all of the different meetings that we have in Davis, such as: Audubon Club, Sierra Club, arboretum members, master gardeners, Bike Club, walking clubs.
- Farmers market.
- Signage at the land acquisition site stating measure O funds are used here.
- Mailers, emails, newspaper articles.
- Newspapers, Daviswiki, direct mail.
- Good question. The City web site is not easy to navigate, and out of date in many cases. The Davis Enterprise is a smaller and smaller source of information. Perhaps meetings at some of the private properties now protected by the easements we're paying for would be interesting...
- Do we have a current "Vision Plan?" for the city? If we could come up with thematic priorities as a community, maybe we could reduce some of the knee jerk NIMBY squabbles that come up. If we can agree to thematic goals, the city can better explain how specific projects are supporting those goals.
- Signage at areas already acquired. Many residents haven't a clue Measure O exists. In general, I feel the City needs to be much more proactive in educating residents about City activities/programs.

- See prior notes. Website info, flyers, letting the outdoor oriented stores and gyms know to disseminate the info.
- Total impact information has been sparse since Measure O, seems like I only hear about specific plots.
- Public workshops Farmers Market presence.
- 
- QUESTION 17: What additional suggestions of any type do you have to improve the Open Space Program?
- 
- See #15.
- Jean Jackman has some good ideas.
- I use and enjoy all of them - please add more!
- Increase the tax. The current amount does not provide adequate funding.
- It is not needed. Keep the current open spaces, but do not spend more money to try to re-purpose farm land. Residents can make use of Putah creek near UC Davis on the south side of town. We need to spend each dollar we get carefully - and with a vision to the future. Another small piece of "open space" right at the edge of town only serves a few people who border those areas. Please consider a recreational facility of high quality.
- Engage a cadre of volunteers willing to get involved in education.
- More hiking and biking trails through open space.
- Maintain open space, with partners only. Citizens on these properties open access will ruin the property.
- Eliminate it.
- We need city staff in charge of the program who are knowledgeable about ecosystem restoration in the context of farmlands, with some public interaction thrown in. That has been sorely lacking.
- My most pressing concern is stopping the kind of sprawl we see in Woodland along Poleline that is spreading toward Davis, and on 1-80. More and more farmland is being put up for sale. I am concerned about keeping as much farmland being farmed, or at least as open space, as possible.
- More citizen feedback!
- Improved signage at the areas.
- It astounds me that it is not a high priority to pull back on some of your big turf grass areas and re-wild them to more natural spaces. It's okay to tip the balance from green and soft to harder and wilder!
- I would like to see portions of our greenbelts made available for community gardens and for more edible plants to be managed there so it does not attract wildlife.
- We would love more wild spaces even within city parks, they can be very valuable in making nature accessible to children. Please add/improve trails and accessibility to some of the fenced-off areas.
- Less grass, more "natural" areas that are not as manicured. For example, the nature path near north Davis pond.

- All I can say - protect as much as possible in land, emphasize land protection. It does not have to be converted into a nature park for a lot of money - many areas around Davis are beautiful nature areas just by themselves even if left alone and used by people through taking walks and biking. So I guess bikable/walkable paths should be available but that should do it.
- Limit development around the boundaries - focus on densification of the urban core to improve growth.
- With all the agriculture, I think the most important thing we can do with our public open spaces is bringing them back to native habitat as much as possible for a healthy ecosystem and a beautiful natural space for residents to enjoy.
- More dirt running trails would be great!
- Work with technical experts (of which there are hundreds in the area) to improve maintenance, monitoring, and management. Plant actual native species (trees, shrubs, grasses, flowers) instead of continuing to plant highly invasive, nonnative plants (which currently happens, for example, in the planting of nonnative trees all over the City). Quit paying lip-service to "habitat restoration" if there's no budget to maintain the properties. Apply current Best Management Practices to grasslands and other habitat areas. Require quantitative monitoring to ensure objective ecological standards are being met, and if they are not being met, fix the problem(s). Actually protect wildlife species in and around the City, such as the burrowing owls in south Davis (currently a failure). Actually do the proper environmental permitting for new projects, and pressure CDFW and other agencies to do their job and not continue to rubber-stamp (or not even read) documents and applications.
- Set aside some areas for different uses so citizens of Davis have a place to walk and ride their bikes, but also set aside areas for our valued wildlife (Swainson's Hawk, Burrowing Owls, etc.) that are threatened by ongoing development.
- Keep doing what you are doing! This is a wonderful program!!!
- Consider habitat acquisition in the context of large scales. Buying a large patch that is isolated from other preserved areas is different from getting one contiguous with an already preserved area, which are both different from investing in more smaller patches (which themselves could be isolated or close together). I do not propose a solution to this dilemma, but merely highlight that these issues should be considered.
- None at this time.
- None.
- Offer areas for volunteers to assist.
- I have been so very sad to see the burrowing owl project dwindle and die; they are almost gone from Wildhorse. I believe citizens would give their time to this, if volunteer opportunities were created and directed.
- No real suggestions, but would like Measure O used as advertised when brought before the voters in 2000 when it was called "the moat tax" to purchase open space directly touching the current city limits.

- None at moment.
- Develop performance measures and priorities. Show progress towards acquisitions and/or public access improvements on an annual basis.
- Main thing is to get a buffer around the City.
- Keep accessibility of the general population foremost stop private interest and agendas make areas attractive to public.
- Easily accessible maps of areas around Davis showing parks, walking paths, and designated areas where farmland and habitat needs to be left alone. Another of Davis' conservation easements.
- Explain why habitat restoration is important. E.g. how do we get more real burrowing owl habitat?
- Most potential partnering organizations are interested in making such partnerships work for them, and have a list of requirements. The City should keep an active list of those requirements to better manage land acquisition to better. For example, UC Davis has many requirements that it does not actively disclose, such as an interest in partnerships that aid innovative entrepreneurship, so an open-space facility that supports such would be of value to UC Davis. One of the largest features that would support UC Davis tech transfers in ecology would be leasing of networked facilities, such as a networked agricultural development center with embedded sensors to monitor new crops and crop treatments as well as test out new sensors and sensor networks. The same networking features are also of interest for ecological restoration projects (to monitor success and justify increased funding, making it easier to secure grant funding) and recreational open spaces (to monitor personal usage and ecological health to demonstrate new park theories and create a tech-transfer opportunity for those theories). This functionally allows the City to own or manage.
- A property through a non-profit agency and increase funding revenue from such properties while still conserving open spaces.
- I tend to support the concept of more easements on farmland; then maintenance is provided by the landowner and the land stays as open space and in production.
- A vote to change this tax to include saving ag land and wildlife habitat.
- Acquire more wildlife habitat where dogs are not allowed, or people are not allowed because they always want to let their dog off leash.
- Get more.
- You need to partner more with UCD to help reign in their uncontrolled growth. The growth at UCD is overburdening the infrastructure of Davis and is lowering the quality of life in the community.
- Need more funding.
- The "logical" place to develop is first in-fill and then the city borders. How that edge is approached seems key.
- Preserve views.
- Maybe this is too specific, but shade trees along the Covell Ditch would expand that hours of the day that it's comfortable in the summer.
- Do not take the citizenry for granted. You need better leadership at the top -- too many fuzzy thinkers dominate the bureaucracy of this city.

- As an example, Cache Creek Restoration area is closed most weekends, but I'd use it often if open more days/times. Don't always need docent. Honor system w/ donation box.
- Keep in touch with Davis Enterprise and school groups.
- Keep fighting the good fight.
- The program should be cancelled and the parcel tax rescinded.
- Determine whether there are areas that can be used as community gardens, including for the benefit of non-profit organizations and the school district.
- More partnership with private landowners adjacent to the City to develop opportunities to leverage funds and synergy to protect more farmland.
- More dog-friendly (off leash).
- Have a campaign where it aligns with the core of being a Davisite. We have lived here since 1989, and for better or worse Davis has always wanted to maintain a clear separate entity and not become an Elk Grove. The community still maintains that same outlook and needs to buy in to this program in order to maintain that core value of Davis being a unique stand-alone town.
- Do as much as possible to protect undeveloped land. Consider wildlife habitat a priority.
- Avoid the growth control focus. Support lands people can access and enjoy and have some intrinsic value and connection to the city. Fight for maintenance and upkeep uses.
- More oak restoration and shaded areas for walking.
- I totally support the goal of preserving open land around the city, but it would be great to see some effort towards alleviating the effect this has on housing prices in the city, which are increasingly unaffordable.
- Thank you!! Davis Open Spaces are awesome!
- None.
- Keep up the good work!
- Conservation lands and conservation easements must be held by a qualified Land Trust and not the City or other government agency.
- Use more of the money for its intended purposes, less on peripherals.
- Focus curtailing city growth.
- Walking paths like Wildhorse are great for residents & good for wildlife.
- Acquire more land in fee-title along Putah Creek.
- The program has been far too reactive in its approach to identifying acquisition opportunities. We need to be proactive in seeking out acquisition opportunities, and volunteers can be very useful extenders of Staff and the OSHC in being proactive in that respect. Further, the \$150,000 limit and 401(c)3 requirement for rehabilitation opportunities need to be explained better. Neither of them appear to be based in logic.
- Strategic fee title acquisitions for new parks at the periphery of the city in and near habitat areas for local nature exploration. More public access to riparian zones such as Willow Slough and Dry Slough.

- You must start managing for wildlife, boxes for bluebirds, shrub cover for birds, cat control (animal control need the money- license cats and keep them indoors).
- Use scientific knowledge to help Yolo County's rarest species through habitat protection and enhancement.
- Transparency for accounting. Open space commission totally informed on accounting. At the public forum, simplify the report. Everyone should have a copy of what was sent to voters. And a one page listing/map of the amount of land bought, monies leveraged and all those good things. People don't have time to sort through the many pages. Put the important figures out there. But we can't evaluate how we have done unless we look at what we thought we were voted for back then which most of us have a hard time remembering though we knew it at the time.
- Consider actively partnering with local farmers to be good neighbors and to support the local agricultural community.
- Try to encourage less staff costs wrapped in the Measure O funds.
- Better integration with the overall parks system, and better communication of the concept of the City having a spectrum of parks/open spaces to meet a range of community needs, from intense public use (think Central Park) to preserving community identity (think urban separator easements). Create a simple high-medium-low ranking for each open space area in multiple categories such as providing public access, preserving agriculture, restoring habitat, etc. to help people easily understand what the purpose of a particular area is.
- Bathroom facilities, water fountains near parking lots. Links to bike trails such as Davis Bike Loop.
- Clarify and adopt multi-use programs in conjunction with qualified private stakeholders.
- Keep transparency about acquisitions as much as feasible given disclosure laws on transactions.
- Public art installations, public information and activities.
- Have information and advertising near other open space areas so that those who enjoy them and interact with them can learn about ways to help in creating and protecting more of them.
- I would like to see celebratory events led by volunteers for things like salmon spawning, Pipevine Swallowtail hatching. It isn't just the ducks!
- With all the suggestion of building, we need to try to restore/create/keep a large percentage of green space.
- Embrace the local farmers, get them and the Farm Bureau to partner with you on this program, tell the story, your project budgets do not really include money for publicity and public education.
- None.
- Space for dogs to run such as the field south of the school on Mace in east Davis. If the field was kept mowed it would be a good place for dogs to run. Currently it is thick with weeds and an occasional coyote.
- My first priority is to prevent any further development projects such as those pervasive in Woodland and places like Vacaville from taking place in Davis.
- Such a great program, seriously lacking in other communities. This helps greatly in making Davis what it is today.

- Spend the money on acquisition and maintenance of ag land and habitat near and surrounding the city of Davis, as was originally promised.
- Reduce the spending on administration and spend more on restoration, maintenance, and accessibility infrastructure (paths, greenbelts, and signage). Take a cue from the University's Arboretum improvements.
- Buy land on city border for citizens to access.
- Please use this money to benefit citizens' access (both physical and visual) to rural settings. While I am glad there are now easements between Davis and Dixon, this isn't land that anyone sees or can use. How about the area north of Covell or along Pedrick Road?
- Make the most you can access to these spaces by the public.
- Make sure that trails connect with signed access points. Have some trails that are off-leash.
- Draw on expertise from UC Davis to create an interdisciplinary think tank for open space management. I think you would find that graduate students have a wealth of locally-applicable knowledge and a stake in the management of this community.
- Keep a firm grip on the amount of staff time charged to the fund. If staff time eats up too much, public support for the program will wane.
- I would like to see the program concentrate on areas that can be used by the citizens for dog walking hiking bird watching hunting etc. This is where I feel that we can improve the program to get Citizens more onboard if they see a direct benefit.
- I wish Davis would buy that plot south of Grande in North Davis, rather than more infill. It is already full of wildlife. What about a small strip with a community garden area (there isn't one in North Davis), and the rest a restoration planting with oaks? I understand the infill priorities, but we've got the enormous cannery already going in right now.
- Multi use trails - maybe through some of the ag land being leased. Parking areas and trash cans too.
- Please we need open space where dogs can hike and run.
- Maintenance of habitat areas is critical to ensure their quality.
- Make sure to communicate the benefits to people (physical/mental health benefits of having/experiencing open space, benefits of open space in regards to reduction in pollution, overcrowded housing, property values.
- Link to existing walking and biking path. Ensure it's all open to the public.
- Tell us how to get to this open space and how we can use it.
- Be more open in Enterprise and neighborhood sites about what has been acquired and how money has been spent.
- Keep up the good works. It's one of the things that makes Davis special and a great town to live in.
- Spend more, acquire more.
- Keep it up. Allow access to everyone (bikes, joggers, etc.).
- There have been proposals to cut the two permanent open space maintenance positions and replace with part-time labor. I consider this abhorrent. We need skilled individuals who have

experience in and an understanding of how to maintain open space land -- and who are committed to the well-being of these spaces and our community. Turning the positions into a bunch of contracted out part time jobs undermines the quality of work and results in damage to fragile lands. Additionally, it devalues people by taking away good jobs with living wages and replacing those with positions that do not pay a living wage and do not provide important benefits.

- Be more upfront.
- Maintain and repair the wild horse ag buffer pass. Some of the gravel has washed away in the past 16 years and black asphalt dangerously peaks through creating tripping hazards. Most notably between the bridge Rockwell and Caravaggio.
- Save funds for closer in projects instead of far out lands like Putah Creek down Mace by old Campbell's Soup Research Station.
- Sponsor educational events at some of the areas.
- Purchase or obtain easements that we can walk on. Convince Jean Jackman that your management of this program is acceptable.
- More paths/buffers like wild horse path. My favorite city resource.
- Off leash dog space. Access to levees for off leash dog walks.
- At some of these locations, place signs showing that the area is protected by the OSP.
- Follow the guidelines. Don't turn it into a P.R. extravaganza. Be honest and proactive.
- Spend less on administrative and management actives, more on acquisition.
- More advertising. I have lived here a long time and am pretty ignorant about this program. Also allot some money for school field trips.
- Follow the plan provided by the citizens that led to Measure O.
- Open up the wetlands that already exist within the city boundary (e.g. West Davis pond) and put in a boardwalk path so people can get closer to the wildlife rather than fencing it off. Cats get in already, and it's a floodway so trash builds up so it's not as though it is pristine habitat. We don't fence off national wetlands and people access them on designated boardwalks. We should do the same in town to make the wetland more relevant to people.
- People don't value places they cannot use. Figure out how to allow and properly manage access whenever possible.
- When a resident suggests an idea that is not feasible, explain why.
- Listen to the residents more than the developers. Don't favor those who have money to throw at the problem.
- Have walking trails for public use allowing dogs on leash.
- More events around open space to make it know to people. More maintenance of it and public involvement.
- I would like to see more natural areas and less play fields. Some planting of shrubs and access to seasonal creeks would make the open areas more interesting.
- Make certain that public use of open space has few restrictions on use. For example, I know this isn't a great analogy, but when Playfields Park opened, I was upset to learn that the fields weren't

available to use when NOT being used by teams or groups who had reserved them. Totally against that. Don't want to see something similar happen elsewhere (if applicable).

- I'd like to see some acquisition of open space north of city boundaries. There is a good bird rookery just west of the Landfill, and a slough between Woodland and Davis.
- Repair the bike paths. Install grey water irrigation. Do not convert ag land that are outside the city limits to play fields.
- None at this time except that Administration and management are always red flags to me as far as sucking up money that can be used directly for acquiring making open spaces accessible I think of management as being 80% desk work and 20% hands on work of maintain and sprucing up the open spaces. These percentages should be reversed.
- I would like to see areas that are actual returned to "WILDLAND" everything we have is very planned and we need areas that are restored to wild.
- Regular OpEd to Enterprise and other media to celebrate the "victories" when land is protected. Interview some of the family farmers who are secure on their land with ag easements funded by Measure O... they have powerful stories to tell.
- Have map on city website showing the areas Measure O have funded with our tax dollars. Tell citizens who is deciding future acquisitions, is it a staff person? Outside agency?
- Additional steps to retain burrowing owl population.
- Make a flagship open space park that is almost like a regional park. This brings a visible value to citizens of the overall program and its benefits. The flagship park should have interpretive signs, ample bike and car access to the park, and trails in it.
- Thanks!
- Public meetings are much appreciated.
- I'm glad you are having the March meeting. Send this email out every week so that it reaches everyone in different neighborhoods. The more often people see it, the better.
- More information on what is going on.
- Preserve open space adjacent to the city of Davis. Do not get into the false economy of buying cheap land far from Davis that is NOT under threat of development and urbanization.
- Better management of existing lands.
- I think this approach of continuously asking for public feedback is perfect. Keep it up!
- Acquiring land that won't be maintained is pointless.
- Acquisitions should focus on city edge.
- Open the books. List the locations of those 2800 acres that have easements, the cost of operating the Program, employees, etc. Basically, where the money has already been spent, and how it should be spent the next 15 years.
- Publish infographics about costs to maintain, and the value that the open space is providing to the City (i.e., value of carbon sequestration, adjacent property values, etc.). Open space is fantastic, but not all open space is equally valuable (socially or ecologically), and a dollar value, though sometimes crude, can be helpful in prioritizing city investments.

- Stop purchasing land adjacent to the city. That is where development should happen. Focus on providing a boundary between Davis and other cities.
- Acquire more adjacent parcels.
- If looking for examples, East Bay Parks is amazing and I believe maintenance and marketing are generally low key, yet public uses their spaces like crazy and supports them.
- Smile.

- **Open Space workshop: Marc Hoshovsky recommendations, March 10, 2016**

- ❖ **Acquire public access and/or management control**, develop site management plans

- Putah Creek – North Fork - Complete channel continuity along Putah Creek Parkway between downtown and Mace Blvd, by acquiring public access easement or fee-title at:
  - West end (old Hamel property), south of I-80 bike tunnel
  - Middle gap, east of Drummond Lane
  - East end from Eucalyptus Street to Mace Blvd. The north side of the channel is fenced off at both ends, with gates saying “Private Property”? If it is still private, acquire public access. If it is public, remove fence and make it publicly accessible.
  - Channel A between F Street and Poleline Road, north of the Cannery
- Putah Creek –South Fork
  - Provide legal public access to Putah Creek on the west side of Mace Blvd bridge
  - Create a safe public access trail to the Creek from the road at Stevenson’s Bridge
  - Provide legal public access along South Fork Putah Creek levees between Old Davis Road and Yolo Bypass
- Davis – Yolo Bypass Bike Trail
  - Provide public access (and paved bike trail) along drainage channel that extends directly east from East Chiles Road (near El Cemonte Ave), south of the CDF lands and the soccer fields, to the Yolo Bypass. Use this to make a safe commuter bike route from Davis to the Yolo Causeway, allowing bicyclists to avoid the high-speed frontage roads along I-80
- Willow Slough Bypass Trail
  - Provide legal public access along Willow Slough Bypass between Willow Slough (natural channel) and Yolo Bypass, connecting to both City Wetlands and I-80 bicycle path. Once secured, develop site management plan and revegetate area with native species to both stabilize and protect levees and provide valuable habitat. Plant shade trees along public access for summertime cooling. It could be an amazing public access resource for Davis.

- ❖ **Restore or enhance habitat**

- City lands - Restore the following city-owned lands with site-appropriate native plants. And develop long-term habitat management plans, which involve local volunteer groups.

- Stonegate Basin - This is a vacant flood control basin on the NW side of town, near Covell Blvd and Lake Blvd. It's not clear who owns the land (APN - 036 430 46). Assuming it is public land, open the locked gates outside of flood season and remove the "private property" sign to allow public access. As part of this restoration project, include the zone parallel to Covell (at the north) that still has a sign saying "Insectary Hedgerow – Established and Maintained by the City of Davis in cooperation with Yolo RCD". This can easily be another great example of flood, recreation, and habitat like West Area Pond.
- The Arroyo arroyo. This is my artificial name for the drainage channel south of Arroyo Ave and north of 1<sup>st</sup> Street industrial district. The fence is unnecessary and it should be removed.
- South Davis Putah Creek Parkway West End– South Davis between I-80 and Drummond Lane.
- Wildhorse Urban Ag Transition Area
- County Park land - Collaborate with County to develop collaborative site management plans, restore native vegetation, and manage public access at Grasslands Park and Old USAF Transmitter site
- UCD lands - Collaborate with UCD to:
  - Develop, or publicize, site management plans for UCD Natural Reserve lands and Russell Ranch
  - Restore native vegetation and improve public access on UCD Natural Reserve lands, particularly:
    - along old North Fork Channel, near Hydraulic Lab
    - downstream of the Raptor Center, on the south side of Putah Creek
- Putah Creek Floodplain - Restore natural hydrological and floodplain function of Putah Creek channel, particularly between Stevenson's Bridge and Old Davis Road. The area south of the airport was dredged and the floodplain needs to be restored

❖ **Plan Land Management** (in addition to other sites above)

- Develop long-term habitat management plans on city-owned lands, which involve local volunteer groups, for the following areas:
  - West Area Pond – check to see if existing plan needs updating
  - South Fork Preserve
  - Wildhorse Urban Ag Transition Area
  - Northstar Pond
  - North Davis Ditch

- North F Street riparian corridor (between Covell and Anderson)
- Old North Fork Putah Creek Parkway, from I-80 to Mace Blvd
- Sutter Hospital flood basin/wetland – this is located between the city water storage tank and Hwy 113, north of Sutter Davis hospital
- Evergreen Pond – this is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Covell Blvd and Hwy 113.
- Toad Hollow/Core Area Pond - Located by the frontage road and Poleline Road freeway overcrossing. It probably should be evaluated to see what type of habitat improvement is needed, if any.
- Mace Ranch Passive Recreation Area
- Clarify City long-term management goals for the following areas. If for open-space, then develop long-term management plans.
  - City holdings around and south of Municipal Golf Course
  - Lowest Putah Creek Davis City Fee title lands – These are lands north of I-80 and East of the City's South Fork Preserve
  - Howatt/Clayton properties
- Provide simplified descriptions of easement terms for each of the city-owned easements – identify which rights were purchased and what constraints exist on properties
  - Coordinate with land trusts and Audubon for scheduled public access events where allowed
- Collaborate with NGOs to develop collaborative site management plans on easement properties
  - Giant Garter Snake Easement north of City Wetlands
  - Swainson's Hawk easement north of landfill
  - Merritt Ranch easements, north of Willow Slough

#### ❖ **Improve regional bicycle connectivity**

- Provide an all-weather bike trail along the north levee road between Camp Putah (City Picnic Grounds) and Old-Davis Road
- Develop a safe bicycle connector along Old Davis Road, between I-80 and Putah Creek
- See recommendations above about Davis-Yolo Bypass Bike Trail and Willow Slough Bypass trail

- ❖ **Develop community farm sites** on the following undeveloped lands, in collaboration with landowners. These can be temporary agreements until landowner chooses to develop property further
  - Sutter Hospital north side – develop temporary community farm agreement until hospital expands
  - Harper JHS – land on south side of developed school property, between school and houses
  - CDF Nursery – develop temporary community farm agreement with CDF for their undeveloped lands
  - DMG-Mori's frontage lots – This is land in front of the DMG-Mori facility along the frontage Road near the Pelz Bike overcrossing. Seems like a potential partnership with the company to have a small community farm or garden, even extending to the area underneath the bike overcrossing.

Comments from UC Davis Emeritus Professor Mark Francis following the workshop:

I am visiting Davis for a few weeks from Norway where I am now retired. Several people suggested I forward information on our Davis Greenway Plan (1989) for the Davis Open Space Study currently underway. You are probably familiar with this plan as it is now embedded in the Davis General Plan, Open Space Element and Platinum Bicycle Plan approved by several City Councils.

A summary of what has been accomplished and still remains is below. Perhaps most helpful for your current Measure O study is the attached "Missing Links" plan I prepared in 2007. Some have been accomplished since then (such as the Mace Ranch/Wildhorse Covell Grad Separation), but others important ones remain (most notably the Putah Creek/old Hamel property kink from the I80 under crossing to the Putah Creek Parkway and the link from Northstar and Wildhorse connecting into the North Davis Ponds Park allowing for a Northern expansion of the Davis Bike Loop from 12 to 15 miles). I think these deserve consideration for high priority allocation of future Measure O Funds. I have discussed these links in the past with Mitch Sear and Bob Wolcott and was told that the City is working on making them happen. I am copying Lucas Griffith, UCD Campus Planner, for consideration for their current LRDP process. I would be happy to provide more information if you think this may be helpful. I wish you success with your project.

## **2016 Update on the Davis Greenway Plan**

The Davis Greenway

(see <http://lda.ucdavis.edu/people/websites/francis/designwork/greenway.html>) calls for an interconnected open space system in Davis linking all neighborhoods, parks, schools and natural areas with a seamless system of paths and open spaces. I often characterize it as a bicycle wheel overlaid over the city with the spokes as greenbelt paths and green streets and a rim that allows people to bike and walk around the City without crossing any streets or highways. It was adopted as part of the Davis General Plan in the early 1990s and has been slowly but faithfully implemented by the City. I would say it is about 75% complete today but much still remains to be done. What has been accomplished thus far:

- New parks, greenbelts, drainage canals and natural areas completed (as new developments as Mace Ranch, Wildhorse, West Village, etc. have been built out)
- Bike and pedestrian link under I80 from Arboretum to South Davis/Putah Creek
- The Davis Bike Loop completed ([https://localwiki.org/davis/Davis\\_Bike\\_Loop](https://localwiki.org/davis/Davis_Bike_Loop))

What still needs to be done: Complete major and minor missing links including from Northstar to Wildhorse, along H Street from the Davis Train Station to the Cannery Project, along Putah Creek in South Davis, etc. (see map below)

- Build critical grade separations (see map below)
- Complete missing UCD links including from West end of Arboretum into/along Putah Creek and West Village (as part of current LRDP)
- Complete Connector greenways to Woodland, Winters, etc. (including a Rail to Trails bikeway running from the Davis Train Station to Woodland along the F Street Railroad)

Tracks). Our original Davis Greenway Plan is on the City of Davis website at <http://cityofdavis.org/home/showdocument?id=2732>

I should point out that the Greenway has been a major source of economic development for the City and has made many several new developments possible (such as UCD's West Village and the Nishi property).

## The Davis Greenway



2007

Existing Greenway

● Missing Grade Separations

2007

Missing Links

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