

# Local Government Engagement Strategy Pilot Program Update

Park Advisory Committee  
February 24, 2025

# Introduction

The Local Government Engagement Strategy Pilot Program (Local Government Pilot Program) was approved by the Board of Directors through **Resolution No. 2024-05-088.**

Primary objectives include to **strengthen regional partnerships** and **address shared priorities.**

***Examples of Short-term Success:*** Providing letters of support for projects, highlighting Park District programs and events in local government newsletters, and expanding opportunities locally for the Ambassador Program to highlight the Park District.

2024 meetings were held with:

- East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD)
- City of Pittsburg
- City of Concord
- City of Brentwood
- City of Richmond
- Town of Moraga
- City of Clayton
- City of Lafayette
- City of Newark
- City of Walnut Creek
- Contra Costa County District Supervisor Andersen

# Introduction

To date, the Local Government Engagement Strategy Pilot Program (Local Government Pilot Program) has engaged with **11 agencies, averaging two meetings per month.**

Key themes include **partnership** on regional infrastructure projects, addressing **environmental resiliency**, and expanding **equitable park access**.

These insights will directly inform work on the **District Plan** and future initiatives.

Themes discussed in 2024 meetings:

- Community Engagement 
- Trail Safety, Expansion, and Connectivity 
- Equitable Park Access and Transportation 
- Educational and Recreational Programming 
- Wildfire Management and Emergency Preparedness 
- Acquisitions and Stewardship 
- Funding Partnerships 
- Environmental Resiliency and Extreme Weather Response 
- Park Infrastructure and Growth 

# Local Government Pilot Program – District Plan Comments

## Community Engagement



- Participate in local community celebrations and events.
- Include park programming in newsletters, websites, and local communication channels.
- Collaborate with watershed councils and city planning departments to ensure parks meet the needs of growing populations.

## Trail Safety, Expansion, and Connectivity



- Establish separate lanes or implement scheduling systems for different trail user groups, like the Briones Pilot Program.
- Address concerns about e-bike usage and other competing trail uses.
- Explore innovative funding and development solutions to ensure safe trail experiences while considering environmental impacts.

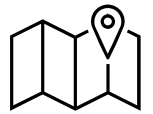
# Local Government Pilot Program – District Plan Comments

## Equitable Park Access and Transportation



- Expand access to parks through improved public transportation options.
- Increase trail connections between urban areas and regional parks.
- Prioritize projects that serve aging, disabled, or under-resourced populations.

## Educational and Recreational Programming



- Offer programs focused on watershed protection, climate change, and youth education.
- Increase recreational programming targeted at senior citizens and other underserved groups.
- Promote these programs through community partnerships, local communication channels, and events.

# Local Government Pilot Program – District Plan Comments

## Wildfire Management and Emergency Preparedness



- Implement vegetation management practices and monitor utility maintenance to prevent fire risks.
- Develop clear evacuation routes, including pathways through East Bay parks for public and first responder access during emergencies.

## Acquisitions and Stewardship



- Identify potential acquisitions for new parks, wildlife corridors, and additional trails.
- Engage local communities in stewardship efforts to care for newly acquired parklands.
- Partner with developers and land acquisition organizations to preserve open space and enhance park access.

# Local Government Pilot Program – District Plan Comments

## Funding Partnerships



- Pursue funding through federal, state, and local grants, as well as tax revenues and bonding.
- Partner with local governments and organizations to secure additional funding and support park access projects.
- Address funding gaps to ensure equitable park development and maintenance across all communities.

## Environmental Resiliency and Extreme Weather Response



- Develop climate impact plans to address sea-level rise, extreme weather, and drought.
- Explore methods to reduce emissions and electrify equipment used in park maintenance and operations.
- Identify strategies to maintain park access and safety during extreme weather events and emergencies.

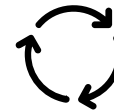
# Local Government Pilot Program – District Plan Comments

## Park Infrastructure and Growth



- Prioritize the repair and replacement of aging park infrastructure (e.g., park facilities, swimming areas).
- Expand park access to underserved communities, especially as urban development increases.
- Invest in infrastructure improvements to enhance the overall park experience.

## Additional Topics for Consideration



- Address illegal dumping in park areas through increased enforcement and community awareness.
- Create job opportunities related to park management, sustainability, and conservation efforts.
- Foster innovation in park design and management, incorporating new technologies and practices.
- Develop strategies to provide support for the unhoused population within park spaces.



# Next Steps

- Continue engagement with local government agencies in 2025 with additional focus on highlighting Park District's active projects, programs, and Measure WW Local Grant Program investments in each meeting
- Integrate feedback into the District Plan and support robust community engagement in partnership with local governments
  - *Highlight: Local governments have been sharing numerous suggestions on where the Park District can host community meetings for District Plan engagement*
- Provide a comprehensive final report to the Board of Directors on the future of local government work within the Government and Legislative Affairs portfolio