The City of Novato recently launched a community planning process for the Hill Recreation Area and Margaret Todd Senior Center.

The plan will help us to improve existing field conditions, enhance the use of the fields and facilities, increase parking options, and provide programs and services to meet the needs of our residents.

There will be three community workshops to create a shared community vision for this highly-utilized area. The first workshop was held on May 20 and May 30, where participants prioritized amenities they would like to see included in the plan:

• **1st Place Votes**: Tournament bocce followed by children’s playground, walking/bike paths, and soccer and Little League baseball fields.
• **2nd Place Votes**: Restrooms followed by Tournament bocce, children’s playground and group barbecue area.
• **3rd Place Votes**: Children’s playground followed by outdoor fitness.
• **4th Place Votes**: Children’s playground followed by public art.

Participants then sketched out plans to arrange those amenities. Common themes included:

• Locate the bocce ball courts adjacent to the Margaret Todd Senior Center
• Expand the quantity of parking
• Use the adjacent school property for shared parking
• Provide more accessible parking near the Margaret Todd Senior Center
• Add a restroom
• Provide multiuse fields for soccer and lacrosse
• Provide children’s play area
• Provide picnic areas
• Provide walking paths
• Provide access to the creek; include areas for walking, biking, picnic, parking
• Consider a community garden

Workshop #2 to review initial design concepts and options will be held this summer. In the meantime, if you haven’t been able to attend but are interested in giving us your thoughts, please go to novato.org/opennovato and click on this topic.

For more information: novato.org/hillmasterplan, or contact us at hillmasterplan@novato.org or 415.899.8991.
Sunday, July 26
11am–3pm
Sherman Avenue & Civic Green
Join us for “Sundays on Sherman,” a day of no-cost, family fun! All ages are invited to come play on Sherman Avenue and on the Civic Green. We’ll block off the street and have a great time with both structured and unstructured activities such as sports, instructor-led exercise activities, rock climbing, active participation games, or just doing artwork or playing on the grass. Bring your bike, roller blades, balls, Frisbees, and other toys and simply PLAY! “Sundays on Sherman” is a project of the City of Novato’s Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department to provide fun events to keep Novatans active and healthy.

City’s Summer/Fall Activity Guide recently hit Novato mailboxes delivering 84 pages of special events, and City’s Summer/Fall of camps, classes, teens, and adults. PRCS offers camps for kids, with both structured and unstructured activities such as music, drama, arts, cooking, and more.

By now, Novato residents have received their long-awaited Activity Guides offering a wide variety of programs and services for all age groups provided by our Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Department. Returning again this summer, is our Camp-Ton-of-Fun, an all-day, all-summer program offering specialty camps, events & trips, swimming at Hamilton Community Pool for Grades 1st–6th (incoming) from June 15 through August 14. For our "tweets," PRCS offers camps for nearly every interest, including video game design, digital filmmaking, Minecraft, as well as performing arts offerings including High School Musical and Grease Musical Camps. Not to be missed is our Camps Club, Tween/Teen Communication and Dining Essentials, and Job Interview Skills classes. Our Aquatics and Gymnastics Programs offer camps and classes to meet the needs of all ages and levels. Adults can continue to enjoy belly dancing, Jazzercise, yoga, boot camp, and several exercise classes at the Margaret Todd Senior Center, and an exciting new FREE lecture series at City Hall, “After Work,” which features monthly lectures and an opportunity to socialize from 5:30–7:30pm.

In partnership with service providers including the Novato Independent Elders Program and the Novato Senior Citizen’s Club, PRCS is able to offer extensive senior programs, events, and workshops. Every Wednesday at Margaret Todd Senior Center, seasonal produce is available to seniors at below-wholesale prices at the Senior Produce Market, and there are health insurance and legal counseling workshops offered throughout the year.

For our Spanish-speaking seniors, we offer a monthly lunch and presentation on topics important to an aging population and we also offer multicultural services including Spanish-to-English translation, citizenship workshops, and English as a Second Language classes.

La comunidad de Novato celebra la apertura de varias nuevas actividades deportivas, como el escalamiento de rocas y rutinas de ejercicio, oportunidades para hacer arte—santas, música en vivo, y el gozar de juegos en el césped. Traiga su bicicleta, balones, roller blades, Frisbees, u otros juguetes para el disfrute de grandes y pequeños.

Domingo 26 de Julio
11am–3pm
Sherman Avenue y el Civic Green
La comunidad de Novato de todas las edades está invitada a disfrutar de Sundays on Sherman, con actividades totalmente gratis. La calle Sherman estará cerrada al tráfico, as permitiendo actividades deportivas como el escalamiento de rocas y rutinas de ejercicio, oportunidades para hacer artesanías, música en vivo, y el gozar de juegos en el césped. Traiga su bicicleta, balones, roller blades, Frisbees, u otros juguetes para el disfrute de grandes y pequeños.

Sundays on Sherman es un proyecto del Departamento de Parques, Recreación, y Servicios Comunitarios de la Ciudad de Novato. El propósito es proveer eventos para la diversión que apoyen el bienestar público y la salud. El evento coincidirá con la celebración nacional durante el mes de Julio, “Los Parques Enaltecen la Vida”. Con este evento Novato celebra la apertura de nuestros parques, espacios abiertos, senderos, y facilidades de recreación al bienestar de nuestra comunidad. Whole Foods va a proveer bocadillos y el Distrito Escolar ofrece ensalada en la preparación de comidas saludables. El Departamento de Recreación, Novato Gymnastics, y Marin YMCA también se han suscrito a proveer actividades, y recientemente Sukha Yoga anunció que va a servir de anfitrión de una clase de yoga para principiantes de todas las edades. La comunidad puede acudir al evento en bicicleta, caminando, corriendo, o usando skateboards; y participar en la rifa “Get Active”, con la oportunidad de ganar premios incluyendo un “tune-up” de bicicleta. Bicycle Brüstop va a proveer la cortesía de custodia gratis para su bicicleta.

Usted también puede contribuir a la creación de un mural comunitario en compañía de artistas de MarinMOCA, nuestro museo localizado en el Novato Arts Center en Hamilton Field. Siga este desarrollo en Instagram o vea fotografías del mural.

Para mantenerse al tanto del horario del evento y las actividades gratuitas, vea a: www.novato.org/sundaysonsherman

Si desea apoyar este evento como voluntario, o para más información, envíe mensaje a kgauntlett@novato.org o llame al 415-899-8290.

Damos expresivas gracias a nuestros patrocinadores de oro, Sutter Health y Kiosk, y a nuestro patrocinador de bronce, Bradley Real Estate.

Para mantenerse al tanto del horario del evento y las actividades gratuitas, vea a: www.novato.org/sundaysonsherman

Instagram y Twitter: @NovatoFun y siga #SundaysOnSherman
The City is in the process of updating its General Plan to guide future development and policies through 2035. The General Plan provides guidance to decision makers as they consider policies that affect the City’s growth and development, including transportation, land use, infrastructure, parks, housing and neighborhoods, recreation and community facilities, Downtown, the environment, public health and safety, and flooding.

Here are some of the topics we’ve been looking at:

- Downtown, the environment, public health and safety, and flooding.
- Parks, housing and neighborhoods, recreation and community facilities, growth and development, including transportation, land use, infrastructure.
- Present findings and recommendations to decision makers as they consider policies that affect the City’s development and policies through 2035. The General Plan provides guidance to decision makers as they consider policies that affect the City’s development and policies through 2035.

**General Plan Update Timeline**

- **APRIL 2013**
  - City kicks-off process

- **SEPT 2013–JUNE 2015**
  - City studies Focus Areas (North Redwood Blvd, North, North Redwood Blvd, & Northwest Quad neighborhood)

- **MARCH 2014–JUNE 2015**
  - City develops White Papers (reports on topics including Bel Marin Keys, Urban Growth Boundary, Jr. Accessory Dwelling Units, Water, Hillside Protection, Complete Streets, Climate Change & Sea Level Rise, Healthy Eating/Active Living)

- **JAN–AUG 2015**
  - City evaluates existing Downtown Specific plan and studies Downtown parking

- **SEPT 2015**
  - Draft General Plan for public review

- **OCT–NOV 2015**
  - Public workshops to gather feedback

- **SEPT 2015–MAR 2016**
  - Prep draft Environmental Impact Report

- **MAR–DEC 2016**
  - Public workshops & hearings with commission, then to Council for adoption consideration

**PLANNING FOR THE NEXT 20 YEARS IN NOVATO**

**GET INVOLVED**

- Learn about the General Plan update process & topics, and how it affects you: novato.org/generalplan
- Weigh-in at Open Novato, an online City forum, from the convenience of your computer or smart device at novato.org/opennovato
- Attend a meeting:
  - Planning Commission
  - City Council
  - Community workshops
- Stay informed: sign-up for updates on this planning process by visiting novato.org, click on “e-notifications” at the top of the page, and select “General Plan Update.”
NEW FISCAL YEAR, NEW BUDGET

In June, the City proposed a fiscally responsible budget that responds to our community’s top priorities to the City Council for the 2015–2016 fiscal year.

The City’s budget:

Safeguards Our Quality of Life—maintains the current level of City services to our community, which Novatans have to come to expect and which contribute to our high quality of life.

Protects Our Public Safety—as a result of locally-controlled funding, our Police Department has been able to maintain rapid 9-1-1 emergency response times and provide proactive response to crime via our Novato Response Team (NRT)—which focuses on prevention, intervention, and enforcement to address gangs, crime, and quality of life issues.

Invests In Our Local Economy—a key City priority is to support our local businesses and attract new businesses, bring higher-paying jobs to our community, and to keep our dollars local to ensure long-term financial stability for Novato. This includes leading the North Bay Life Sciences Alliance effort to attract regional investment and jobs to Novato and invest in our Downtown to bring more commerce and community events to our city center.

Maintains our City Streets, Sidewalks, and Parks—we are investing $1 million annually for the repair and maintenance of Novato’s infrastructure that keeps drivers and pedestrians safe (see Capital Improvement Plan Highlights, right), makes our community clean and green, and offers recreational opportunities for a healthy Novato. This includes new street crossings and sidewalk improvements, improved median landscaping, and a plan for the Hill Recreation Area.

BENEFITS OF LOCALLY-CONTROLLED FUNDING

As promised, voter-approved Measure F continues to help preserve and protect City services, with approximately $6 million to be invested in the 2015–16 fiscal year.

1. Deficit backfill—to protect existing service levels to the community and prevent budget reductions, locally-controlled funding will help backfill the General Fund at approximately $2.4 million.

2. Supporting the Local Economy—economic development programs to help support local businesses and strengthen our economy.

3. Maintain local services—to retain our quality of life—including public safety services, city streets, roads and parks and to support our local economy, including jobs by attracting and retaining local businesses.

4. Capital improvements—approximately $3 million will be dedicated to youth and senior recreation facilities, safe pathways to schools, and needed technology upgrades to keep the City running efficiently.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

The 2015–16 Capital Improvement Budget proposes to invest approximately $6.9 million for the following community projects:

- Completion of the Hill Recreation Area master plan which will include field, facility and parking improvements
- Site selection and construction of a synthetic turf sports field
- $1 million for maintenance of City-owned buildings, facilities, and infrastructure
- Street and sidewalk pavement rehabilitation and new pedestrian & crosswalk upgrades
- Addition of bike lanes to Olive Avenue
- Complete resurfacing of the De Long and Ignacio interchanges
- Construction of the Nave pathway near the Hamilton Gymnasium and other safer routes to schools projects citywide

APPLY FOR A CITY BOARD, COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE

Committees, commissions, and boards play a significant role in helping City staff and City Council make important decisions that affect the lives of Novato residents. The City of Novato values broad participation in these advisory bodies and highly encourages Novatans to apply. Committee positions are open to City of Novato residents.

The City has approximately 12 advisory bodies made up of active and engaged Novato residents who provide valuable input and energy to the local government process.

- Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Design Review Commission
- Economic Development Advisory Commission
- Housing & Building Codes Appeals Board
- Measure F Oversight Citizen Finance Advisory Commission
- Multicultural Advisory Commission
- Novato Community Television Board of Directors

HAVE A VOICE IN CITY GOVERNMENT

ANNUAL CITY PAVEMENT PROGRAM BEGINS

To help keep Novato safe and accessible for all, the City annually prioritizes streets and sidewalks in need of repair and kicks off its pavement rehabilitation program during the summer months.

The first phase of work, which includes replacement of damaged concrete curbs, gutters, and sidewalks, replacement of street trees, and the addition of 40 ADA-compliant access ramps at crosswalks citywide, began in late May.

The next phase—pavement of City streets—is anticipated to start in mid-July and be completed by the end of August. All residents are notified of when work will begin and what to expect during the project. “No parking” signs are also placed at least 72 hours prior to the start date. As this phase of work gets closer, the City will post a schedule of when to expect work on your street.

At right is a list of streets that will be repaired. For more information or questions, please contact the City’s Public Works Department at pwwNovato.org or 415.899.8246.

STREET NAME BEGINNING POINT ENDING POINT
Cresta Verde Drive Blanca Drive Blanca Drive
Laura Vista Drive 42625 Laura Vista 42625 Laura Vista
San Marin Drive 925 W St/O San Ramon Way Novato Boulevard
San Felipe Way San Marcos Court San Ramon N
San Felipe Court San Felipe Way San Felipe Way
San Marcos Court San Felipe Way San Felipe Way
San Ramon Way San Carlos Way San Carlos Way
San Luis Way San Carlos Way San Carlos Way
San Luis Way Romero Court San Carlos Way
San Marin Drive Sereno Way Simms Lane
Tampella Avenue Center Blvd Novato Blvd
Tesoro Road Antelope Ave Antelope Ave
Till Street Bahia Drive Bahia Drive
B Street Blanca Drive Blanca Drive
Laguna Vista Drive #2204 Laguna Vista Drive #2204 Laguna Vista
Cerro Crest Drive Bahia Drive Bahia Drive
Streets/Traf/fic Maintenance $5,251,184 $3,500,256
Community Development $14,614,967 $3,500,256
Other $449,356 $3,024,793
Economic Development $2,551,184 $3,024,793
Parks & Recreation $2,500,436 $1.3%
Administration $5,946,743 16.7%
Property Tax $13,825,140 40.0%
Sales Tax $7,086,752 21.8%
Hotel (SOI) Tax $1,938,250 4.3%
Other Taxes $507,650 2.9%
Licenses & Permits $1,010,900 2.9%
Intergovernmental Services $2,402,980 6.4%
Service Charges $1,938,250 6.4%
Other $42,500 0.3%
State Other $1,938,250 6.4%
Total $34,538,364 100.0%
DEAR NEIGHBOR,

A big thank-you to for completing the survey to let us know your top priorities for Novato! Your feedback is instrumental in helping us provide the services that are important to you and to continue being a City that Works.

If you haven’t had an opportunity to fill out the survey, please go to: novato.org/aCitythatWorks.

JUNIOR ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

Ever considered adding a second dwelling unit (or “granny unit”) to your home but were put off by the permit costs (about $31,000 including utility connection fees)? A Junior Accessory Dwelling Unit may be just right for you! Last December, the City Council approved new zoning regulations allowing Junior Accessory Dwelling Units (JADUs), which involve repurposing an existing bedroom in a single-family home by adding a wet-bar type of kitchen (small sink with hot plate or convection cooking unit) and an exterior entrance. JADUs can be up to 500 square feet in size, can have a private or shared bathroom, and they can be rented for income or provided to a caregiver or family member. The City, Novato Fire District, Marin Sanitary, and North Marin Water Districts have all waived fees, so the permit fees (excluding building permit fee) have been reduced from about $31,000 to $414 and no additional parking is required.

For more information about Junior Accessory Dwelling Units, call the Planning Division at 415-899-8989.