## STAFF REPORT

TO: City	y Council
	nna Silva, Parks and Community Services Department Director ch Sears, Open Space Planner
SUBJECT: Ope Plan	en Space and Habitat Commission Assessment of the Davis Greenway n

#### **Recommendation**

Adopt the attached resolution reaffirming the use of the Davis Greenway Plan as a tool to help guide future open space and land use decisions.

#### **Fiscal Impact**

No fiscal impact is anticipated to result from this action.

#### **Background, Council Goals and Analysis**

As part of its 2007-08 goals, the City Council adopted the following:

#### **Conserve Natural Resources and Protect the Environment**

• Develop focused implementation on policies and action for the Davis Greenway Concept, including locally based sustainability farms at the city's edge.

In response to the Council goal and the related joint Council/Commission meeting discussion in March 2007, the Open Space and Habitat Commission adopted the following goal for 2007:

• Review Greenbelt/Greenway plan.

The Commission formed a working group that assembled a background report (Attachment 2), and recommendations that were unanimously adopted by the Commission in November 2007. The recommendations came in the form of findings that have been incorporated into the attached resolution and include:

#### That the City:

(1) Further actions to establish an interconnected, coordinated system of open space in and around the City of Davis would have many benefits to Davis residents and the surrounding environment;

- (2) Establishment of an interconnected, coordinated system of open space and greenways in and around the City of Davis is a priority and recognized as a framework guiding future City planning decisions, revisions to the General Plan, and decisions regarding acquisition of land and easements for open space purposes;
- (3) The original Davis Greenway Plan map and an updated map showing presently protected open space and priority protection lands in the Davis area should be digitized and made available as a GIS layer on the City of Davis website; and
- (4) Staff from the relevant City Departments should meet on not less than an annual basis to discuss coordinated management of City open space lands in order to best achieve the City 's objectives as recognized and established in prior City documents.

In general the recommendations recognize the Greenway Plan as an important document that helped form the foundation of the City's current General Plan open space goals and objectives. It also helped inform early efforts to identify open space priorities and assisted in shaping land use decisions with a focus on creating connections and corridors linking City open space areas.

The current recommendations of the OSHC fairly represent the way staff uses the Greenway Plan as one of many tools to analyze open space and land use proposals. Staff believes a reaffirmation of the use of the Greenway Plan to help guide future decisions is appropriate and therefore supports the OSHC 's recommendation.

#### **Attachments**

- Resolution Greenway Plan
- OSHC Background Report Greenway Plan Assessment

## **RESOLUTION NO. 07-XXX , SERIES 2007**

## RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE USE OF THE DAVIS GREENWAY PLAN BY THE CITY OF DAVIS AS A TOOL TO GUIDE FUTURE OPEN SPACE AND LAND USE DECISIONS

WHEREAS, the citizens of Davis have demonstrated a longstanding interest and commitment to the preservation of open space in and around the City of Davis; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1990's, the Center for Design Research in the Department of Environmental Design at UC Davis prepared a plan titled "The Davis Greenway, A Conceptual Plan for Open Space and Wildlife Habitat for the City of Davis, California;" and

WHEREAS, the City of Davis 1993 General Plan built upon the conceptual proposal of the plan prepared by the UC Davis group and designated the Open Space Element of the 1993 General Plan as the 'Greenway Plan;" and

WHEREAS, the land use classifications for the Open Space Element of the 1993 General Plan includes land classified as agricultural reserve, agricultural open space, environmentally sensitive habitat areas, the Davis Greenbelt, connector greenways, neighborhood greenbelts, greenstreets, city and neighborhood parks, and community infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the 2001 General Plan update places a strong emphasis on protecting open space and provides for an urban agricultural transition area and use of connecting corridors to provide a network of parks, open space, greenbelts and bike paths throughout the City; and

WHEREAS, Davis voters adopted Measure O in November 2000 which established a parcel tax to raise funds for open space acquisition and management over a 30-year period; and

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2002, the City of Davis adopted the Davis Open Space Acquisition and Management Plan which establishes goals regarding acquisition and management of open space lands, addresses development of an open space budget, and discusses the relationship between the City's open space program and the Yolo County and Solano County general plans; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the City of Davis identified open space acquisition priority areas, many of which overlap with areas identified in the Davis Greenway Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Davis and other entities have acquired numerous parcels of property and easements to preserve open space in and around the City; and

WHEREAS, despite the extensive efforts of the City of Davis and other entities, a complete, interconnected and coordinated system of open space as envisioned in current and prior City planning documents has not yet been established; and

WHEREAS, as part of their annual goals for 2007/08, the City Council requested that the Open Space and Habitat Commission conduct a review and assessment of the proposal for a Davis Greenway Plan and related City actions; and

WHEREAS, per City Council direction, the Open Space and Habitat Commission conducted a review and assessment of the Davis Greenway Plan and related City actions and unanimously recommended that the City Council adopt the following four findings:

- (1) Further actions to establish an interconnected, coordinated system of open space in and around the City of Davis would have many benefits to Davis residents and the surrounding environment;
- (2) Establishment of an interconnected, coordinated system of open space and greenways in and around the City of Davis is a priority and recognized as a framework guiding future City planning decisions, revisions to the General Plan, and decisions regarding acquisition of land and easements for open space purposes;
- (3) The original Davis Greenway Plan map and an updated map showing presently protected open space and priority protection lands in the Davis area should be digitized and made available as a GIS layer on the City of Davis website; and
- (4) Staff from the relevant City Departments should meet on not less than an annual basis to discuss coordinated management of City open space lands in order to best achieve the City's objectives as recognized and established in prior City documents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Davis City Council accepts and adopts the findings of the Open Space and Habitat Commission regarding the Davis Greenway Plan.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Davis City Council on this eighteenth day of December, 2007 by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Sue Greenwald Mayor

ATTEST:

Margaret Roberts, MMC City Clerk

# City of Davis Open Space and Habitat Commission

## STATUS REPORT AND ASSESSMENT OF DAVIS GREENWAY PLAN AND RELATED ACTIONS

# I. INTRODUCTION

The initial Davis Greenway Plan was developed as a collaborative planning project between the City of Davis and UC Davis in the early 1990 s. The plan was prepared by two faculty members and a student from UC Davis as a conceptual plan for open space and wildlife habitat preservation.<sup>1</sup> The plan discussed the concept of establishing greenways in and around urban areas, the benefits and elements of a greenway system, and proposals for implementing a greenway plan in the Davis area.

The concepts and proposals of the original Davis Greenway Plan have been reflected in several subsequent City documents, including the 1993 General Plan, the 1998 Open Space Implementation Plan, the 2001 General Plan update, and the 2002 Davis Open Space Acquisition and Management Plan. The City's commitment to open space preservation has led to the acquisition of several parcels of property and open space easements in and around the City of Davis. The purpose of this report is to present a synopsis of the original Greenway Plan and a brief review of subsequent City planning documents and actions related to establishment of a coordinated system of open space as proposed in the Davis Greenway Plan. Based on that review, the report makes recommendations regarding future actions related to a greenway system in the Davis area.

# II. SYNOPSIS OF DAVIS GREENWAY PLAN PREPARED IN THE EARLY 1990 §

#### A. Overview

The Davis Greenway Plan defines a greenway as "a coordinated system of open space that links existing natural and cultural facilities using city streets, railroad rights-of-way, utility easements and natural features such as stream corridors and drainage channels." The plan states that greenways provide corridors for wildlife habitat, act as a buffer zone between developments, and offer other benefits such as:

(1) providing recreational opportunities;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "The Davis Greenway, A Conceptual Plan for Open Space and Wildlife Habitat for the City of Davis, California." The plan was prepared by Mark Francis (Professor and Director of the Center for Design Research), Kerry Dawson (Assistant Professor and Director of the University Arboretum), and Stan Jones (student in the Landscape Architecture Program). It was published by the Center for Design Research, Department of Environmental Design, UC Davis. The plan is undated, but the title page indicates that the plan is based on a June 1989 report prepared as a senior thesis by Stan Jones.

- (2) providing areas for study of local flora, fauna and ecological relationships;
- (3) conserving open space;
- (4) increasing the value of nearby property;
- (5) preserving a means for city dwellers to have a closer relationship to nature;
- (6) providing parks and improved accessibility and connections to existing and future parks;
- (7) providing a safe alternative to streets for pedestrians and bicyclists;
- (8) increasing the city's economic base by revitalizing the downtown area and attracting tourists interested in experiencing Davis 'culture and open space;
- (9) helping to integrate open space areas in the City and the UC Davis campus.

Among other benefits, the plan states that greenways help strike a balance between open space and development, providing a coherent framework for the future while preserving some of the past.

## **B.** History of the Greenway Concept

The Greenway Plan reviews the historical context of the movement to provide parks and large tracks of open space in the United States beginning in the nineteenth century. In response to extensive and often unplanned development, the concept of the modern greenway was developed to help re-establish some of the lost habitat and open space and to help preserve and protect what is left of original natural habitat. The plan includes a short discussion of greenway programs in other communities and comments on several events in Davis history relevant to establishment of a greenway system including the following:

- (1) Implementation of an ambitious bicycle lane project in the 1960s;
- (2) Creation of the Village Homes area with a focus on development of housing around open space;
- (3) A 1977 study of neighborhood parks which concluded that despite a well-developed park system, many Davis parks were underused due to poor accessibility;
- (4) Passage in 1986 of Measure S to promote open space preservation and Measure L to promote slow growth.
- (5) Adoption of the 1987 General Plan with provisions which promote preservation of open space and wildlife habitat.
- (6) Development of UCD 's Long Range Development Plan underway at the time the Davis Greenway Plan was being written. The City 's 1987 General Plan recognized the interdependence of the City and UC Davis.

# C. Rationale for Establishing a Greenway System in Davis

The rationale presented for establishment of a Davis Greenway began with the recognition that the rapid growth of development in this area could adversely impact environmental quality and result in conversion of agricultural land to urban uses. The benefits of establishing a Davis Greenway cited in the plan include the following:

(1) Mitigating negative impacts of lost open space along corridors that ring and run into the city;

- (2) Providing recreational opportunities; and
- (3) Positive economic impacts of open space as documented in several studies.

In concluding that the proposed Davis Greenway would have a positive economic benefit, the plan referred to the economic value of quantifiable benefits due to:

- (1) user satisfaction;
- (2) energy conservation;
- (3) use of local parks;
- (4) tourism; and
- (5) increased land values.

The plan also noted that preservation of open space in a greenway system would have non-quantified benefits such as:

- (1) improvement of mental and physical health;
- (2) reduction of air and noise pollution;
- (3) increased opportunities for the disadvantaged; and
- (4) increased community identity and manageability.

#### D. Elements of the Proposed Davis Greenway

The areas that were identified for possible inclusion in a Davis greenway system are shown on page 27 of the Davis Greenway Plan which is included as **Attachment 1** to this report. The proposed Greenway Plan was to be composed of four main categories of elements as described below:

<u>Greenstreets</u>: Greenstreets are green and tree-lined roadways that make use of existing bicycle lanes. The streets make use of vegetation to provide a canopy cover and, eventually, should have signage to other potential linkages in the Greenway system.

<u>Green Ring</u>: The Greenway Plan cites language from the 1987 General Plan calling for creation of a buffer 'ring "around the City 's urbanized areas as a long range goal. It notes, however, that some areas are not protected by an open space buffer, thereby resulting in fragmented areas of open space around the City. The plan refers to a 'Ring Greenway "as being made up of many different elements, including the University Arboretum, drainage swales and ponds in West Davis, the North Fork of Putah Creek as it runs through South Davis and the drainage channel in North Davis. Two areas in which the proposed Greenway plan differ from open space provisions in the 1987 General Plan were identified as: (1) the area north of Covell Road and west of Highway 113; and (2) the area north of the Mace Road curve to County Road 105. In those areas the Greenway Plan suggests that the proposed Ring Greenway should be located further north in order to create a more identifiable and contiguous open space area around the northern part of the City.

<u>Connector Greenways</u>: The Greenway Plan refers to 'Connector Greenways'' as serving as an extension of the Greenstreets concept, except they are farther from the core

of the City and they are generally in more of a naturalized or undeveloped state. The plan states that Connector Greenways could be undeveloped roadsides, drainage swales, or other areas that provide a link between the City and outlying open space areas and which provide wildlife corridors for cover, food and habitat.<sup>2</sup>

<u>Natural Habitat Areas</u>: The Greenway Plan cites several portions of the 1987 General Plan that stress the importance of protecting and preserving natural habitat for wildlife in parks, along waterways, on the UC Davis campus, and in other wildlife habitat areas. The plan emphasizes the importance of riparian habitat and proposes that the City act to preserve existing riparian habitat along the South Fork of Putah Creek and Willow Slough.

#### E. Planning Process Proposed in the Greenway Plan

The Davis Greenway Plan was developed as a conceptual plan that recognized further, more specific planning would be necessary. The plan emphasizes seeking public input from as many groups as possible and use of an organizing committee to establish the goals and objectives of the process. The Davis Greenway Plan suggests developing a "conceptual plan" prior to discussion and adoption of a final proposal. The plan also discusses the need for public involvement to build a constituency for the greenway

#### F. Other Factors Discussed in Greenway Plan

Among other relevant factors and opportunities discussed in the Greenway Plan are the following:

- (1) Cooperation between the existing Davis Land Trust and the City to protect and preserve desirable open space areas;
- (2) Under Proposition 70 that was passed in 1988, the City was scheduled to receive approximately \$22 million for acquisition of land for open space or a greenway;
- (3) The possibility of obtaining for a community development block grant for open space acquisition; and
- (4) The opportunity for the City to work with private groups such as the Sierra Cub, the Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited or the Audubon Society to raise funds or other support for projects.

#### **III. CITY OF DAVIS ACTIONS RELATED TO GREENWAY PLAN**

In the years since development of the original Davis Greenway Plan, the City has completed several documents and taken numerous other actions that are relevant to implementation of concepts presented in the Greenway Plan. Some of the most significant developments are discussed below.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Greenway Plan predicts that a Davis Greenway would have the potential to become the 'hub''of a larger and more extensive system connecting up to open space areas in the northern Central Valley and adjacent foothills.

## A. Treatment of Greenway Plan in 1993 General Plan

The California Government Code requires that a city's general plan must include an open space element which addresses the use of land that is "essentially unimproved" and devoted to one of several specified uses.<sup>3</sup> At the time of the City's adoption of the 1993 General Plan, the land uses that were required to be addressed in the open space element of a general plan were:

- (1) Open space for the preservation of natural resources;
- (2) Open space for the managed production of resources;
- (3) Open space for outdoor recreation; and
- (4) Open space for public health and safety.<sup>4</sup>

The Davis Greenway Plan developed by UC Davis was presented as a conceptual proposal. It was not developed to comply with the Government Code requirements applicable to the open space element of a general plan. However, the City's 1993 General Plan uses the term 'open space element of the general plan "interchangeably with the term 'Greenway Plan." and states:

"The Open Space Element of the plan is also known as the Greenway Plan. The concept of a Greenway Plan originated in work done in the Landscape Architecture Program at the University of California at Davis."

The 1993 General Plan states that, through the implementation of the Open Space Element, the City seeks to coordinate uses of open space lands to create areas that serve more than one of the four purposes identified by the Government Code. For example, a single open space area may serve multiple uses by providing flood protection, wildlife habitat, and open space for outdoor recreation. In addition to the policies set forth in the Open Space Element, the City's policies regarding open space were also addressed in the Land Use Element, Schools Element, Conservation Element and Safety Element of the 1993 General Plan.

The 1993 General Plan further defines and builds upon much of the conceptual approach for a Davis Greenway as set forth in the original Davis Greenway Plan. The 1993 General Plan utilizes terminology from the Greenway Plan and it specifies the following <u>nine land-use classifications</u> for open space areas, some of which overlap with terms used in the Greenway Plan:

- (1) Agricultural Reserve
- (2) Agricultural Open Space
- (3) Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas
- (4) Davis Greenbelt
- (5) Connector Greenways
- (6) Neighborhood Greenbelts
- (7) Greenstreets

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> California Government Code sections 65300, 65302 and 65560.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> California Government Code section 65560

- (8) City and Neighborhood Parks
- (9) Community Infrastructure.<sup>5</sup>

The areas within each of the nine classifications above are shown on the map that was designated as Figure 7B of the Open Space Element of the 1993 General Plan. Table 5A of the Open Space Element shows how each of the nine land use classifications comes within one or more of the four types of open space classifications specified in Government Code section 65560. Figure 7B of the 1993 General Plan includes many of the areas identified in the UC Davis Greenway Plan. Figure 7B also includes a large additional area between Davis and Woodland identified as "Agricultural Reserve" under the 1993 General Plan, but which was not specifically identified for inclusion in the Davis Greenway Plan. Inclusion of this area under the Agricultural Reserve designation in the 1993 General Plan reflects the policy of the City to maintain a significant area of agricultural land surrounding the City and to avoid continuous expansion of metropolitan areas in which neighboring cities eventually grow together. (1993 General Plan, Volume 1, General Plan Policies, p. 2-7.)

In summary, the 1993 General Plan was developed to comply with specific regulatory requirements in the Government Code. The 1993 General Plan appears to embrace the overall conceptual proposal set forth in the (UC Davis) Davis Greenway Plan, and the Open Space Element of the 1993 General Plan states that it 'is also known as the Greenway Plan." Despite similarities in terminology and concepts, however, the 1993 General Plan does not commit the City to implementation of the specific proposals of the Greenway Plan developed by the UC Davis group. In addition, the Open Space element of the 1993 General Plan includes a substantial area that was not identified in the original Greenway Plan.

#### B. Final Report on the 1998 Davis Open Space Implementation Plan

In 1996, the City hired Economic Planning Systems, Inc. (EPS) from Berkeley to assist in developing an open space implementation and financing plan. In late 1997, the City provided EPS with a list of priority projects identified by the Open Space Commission, and on April 2, 1998, EPS completed its Final Report on the Davis Open Space Implementation Plan.

The report provides estimates in 1998 dollars of the capital and operating costs for numerous specific projects. It also identifies existing funding sources for those projects, and describes additional financing mechanisms that could be used to meet the difference between estimated costs and existing funding sources. Although many of the projects identified in the 1998 plan have been undertaken in one form or another, the Open Space and Habitat Commission has not attempted to evaluate the extent to which each of the projects identified in the 1998 plan have been implemented.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 1993 General Plan, pp. 2-11 through 2-13. The General Plan also notes that some elements of community infrastructure such as wastewater treatment, flood control, and landfill facilities serve secondary roles as greenway elements.

## C. Treatment of Greenway Plan in 2001 General Plan Update

The Davis General Plan Update was adopted in May 2001. As evidenced by the more than 45 open space and agricultural protection goals and policies, the 2001 General Plan places a strong emphasis on protecting open space and agricultural resources. The concept of the original Greenway Plan as a system of open space linking natural and cultural facilities is found throughout the 2001 General Plan Update. The inspiration of the original Greenway Plan has been well incorporated into the Land Use Element of the 2001 General Plan Update.

Among the visions set forth in the 2001 General Plan Update is the vision of maintaining Davis as a cohesive, compact, university-oriented community surrounded by and containing farmland, greenbelts, natural habitats, and natural resources. (Section III of the 2001 General Plan, *General Plan Visions, p. 41.*) Section IV of the General Plan, *Land Use and Growth Management* includes numerous goals and policies designed to support this land use vision. For example, the plan establishes an Urban Agricultural Transition Area around Davis, and provides for use of linkages, corridors and other connectors to provide a network of parks, open space, greenbelts and bike paths throughout the City. A key concept is to provide for mobility, by developing continuous trails and bikeways. While the linkages and corridors were not new to Davis in 2001, the formal adoption of the Urban Agricultural Transition Area was new. Allowable uses in the Urban Agricultural Transition Area include trails and bikeways, wildlife habitat, drainage ways, community gardens, and agriculture. The related, but distinct agricultural buffer requirement found in the City's Right to Farms and Farmland Preservation code includes a minimum 150-foot wide buffer between agricultural areas and residential uses.

D. Measure O and the 2002 Davis Open Space Acquisition and Management Plan

In November 2000, the Davis electorate adopted Measure O which established a parcel tax estimated to raise \$17.5 million for open space acquisition and management over a 30-year period. In late 2000, the Open Space Commission and City staff began a year-long process to refine the City 's open space priorities and to establish a framework for guiding future land acquisition and management decisions. The result was the Davis Open Space Acquisition and Management Plan adopted on January 9, 2002.

The 2002 acquisition and management plan establishes goals regarding acquisition and management of open space lands and development of an open space program budget. The plan discusses implementation of the City's open space program and the relationship between the open space plan, the 2001 Davis General Plan, Measure J and the City/County Pass Through Agreement,<sup>6</sup> the Yolo County General Plan, and the Solano County General Plan.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Measure J, adopted by Davis voters in 1999 requires voter approval for most actions that redesignate agricultural/open space land to urban. The voluntary City/Yolo County Pass Through Agreement transfers Davis Redevelopment Agency tax funds to Yolo County in exchange for the City's ability to comment on urban development projects within the Davis Planning Area.

Although the principles and goals discussed in the 2002 acquisition and management plan address many of the same subjects addressed in the original Davis Greenway Plan, the 2002 plan does not mention the Davis Greenway Plan. Unlike the Final Report for the 1998 Open Space Implementation Plan, the 2002 Acquisition and Management Plan does not identify specific project to be undertaken, nor does it estimate the costs for individual projects.

As a follow up action to the passage of Measure O and the adoption of the Acquisition and Management Plan, the City Council adopted an acquisition priorities map in January 2004. This map was the result of nearly a year of analysis and deliberation by the Open Space Commission and City Council. It geographically represents the acquisition priorities described in the General Plan and the Open Space Acquisition and Management Plan.

## E. Acquisitions of Property and Easements Related to Davis Greenway

Over the last 15 years, the City of Davis has acquired numerous parcels of property and easements designed to preserve open space and establish elements of a greenway system in and around the City. In addition, other governmental and private entities own large areas of land that are managed as open space and wildlife habitat. Attachment 2 to this report describes the parcels of property held by the City and other public and private entities which provide open space and wildlife habitat in the City of Davis Planning Area. Those parcels are shown on the map included as Attachment 3 to this report. Attachment 4 shows land in the Davis Planning Area that is presently publicly managed or otherwise protected, together with other areas designated in the original Davis Greenway Plan that are not under public ownership or otherwise protected.

# IV. SUMMARY AND CURRENT STATUS OF GREENWAY PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Davis Greenway Plan was developed by faculty members and a student at UC Davis in the early 1990's as a conceptual plan for the establishment of a coordinated system of open space in and around the City of Davis. The plan envisioned a system of larger open space areas and parks, connected by a network of smaller 'Connector Greenways' and 'Green Streets.' The benefits the plan was designed to provide include: protection of wildlife habitat and corridors, conservation of open space, providing a buffer between developed areas, increased recreational opportunities, improved accessibility to existing and future parks, and providing a safe alternative to streets for use by pedestrians and bicyclists. Many of the ideas and concepts from the Greenway Plan are reflected in subsequent City planning documents including elements of the City's General Plan and the City's 2002 Open Space Acquisition and Management Plan.

Although the original Greenway Plan was developed as a conceptual proposal, it identified proposed areas to be acquired or protected in order to most efficiently accomplish the plan 's objectives. The City 's 2002 Open Space Acquisition and Management Plan provides extensive guidance regarding the goals of the City 's open space program and establishes a framework for land acquisition and management decisions. However, the 2002 plan focuses less on identifying specific areas for future acquisition or protection than did either the original Davis Greenway Plan or the 1998 Report on the Davis Open Space Implementation Plan.

In the 15 years following development of the Davis Greenway Plan, fee title ownership and easements over many of the areas identified in the plan have been acquired by the City or by other public and private entities. The City has also made considerable progress in extending its network of bikeways and greenbelts throughout the City.<sup>7</sup> The City 's open space program has achieved a great deal, but a complete interconnected, coordinated system of open space as envisioned in the Davis Greenway Plan has not yet been established.

# V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Open Space and Habitat Commission believes that further establishment of an interconnected, coordinated system of open space in and around the City of Davis would have many benefits to Davis residents and the surrounding environment. In order to encourage and facilitate further development and protection of open space and a greenway system similar to the concept proposed in the Davis Greenway Plan and subsequent City planning documents, the Open Space and Habitat Commission makes the following recommendations:

- 1. Establishment of an interconnected, coordinated system of open space and greenways in and around the City of Davis should be adopted as a priority and recognized as a framework guiding future City planning decisions, revisions to the General Plan, and decisions regarding acquisition of land and easements for open space purposes.
- 2. The original Davis Greenway Plan map and an updated map showing showing protected open space in the Davis area should be digitized and made available as a GIS layer on the City of Davis website.
- 3. Appropriate staff from the relevant City Departments should meet on not less than an annual basis to discuss coordinated management of City open space lands in order to best achieve the City 's objectives as recognized and established in prior City documents.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Recent installation of more maps and signs in greenbelt areas showing the connections to other greenbelts and bikeways has been a helpful addition.