

# GRAND JURY

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CITY OF  
SANTA ROSA

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September 19, 2007

The Honorable Robert S. Boyd, Presiding Judge  
Superior Court for the County of Sonoma  
600 Administration Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

SUBJECT: Response by City of Santa Rosa to 2006-2007 Grand Jury Final Report

Dear Judge Boyd:

BOB BLANCHARD  
Mayor

LEE PIERCE  
Vice Mayor

JANE BENDER  
SUSAN GORIN  
VERONICA JACOBI  
MIKE MARTINI  
JOHN SAWYER  
Councilmembers

The City of Santa Rosa appreciates this opportunity to respond to the 2006-2007 Grand Jury recommendations contained in its June 28, 2007 Final Report. The City's responses to these recommendations are attached.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury recommendations. Please feel free to contact our City Manager, Jeff Kolin, at (707) 543-3020 should you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

BOB BLANCHARD  
Mayor

BB/sks

attachment

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## **CITY OF SANTA ROSA'S RESPONSE TO THE 2006-2007 GRAND JURY REPORT**

### **ACCESS AND RECREATION IN OPEN SPACE DISTRICT PROPERTIES**

#### **City Response (R-6) This recommendation is currently being implemented**

The City of Santa Rosa has established a practice of meeting with the Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District to review planning on a comprehensive and long term basis. This practice includes establishing a long term plan, working with the District to identify and advance purchases of property, and developing agreements for management of property. The plan is reflected graphically on a "planning map" and is intended to be periodically updated in conjunction with the Santa Rosa City Council's biennial goal setting process.

The first joint planning effort occurred on April 18, 2006 when the Santa Rosa City Council met in Study Session with the Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District staff. During the study session, the City Council reviewed the District's long rang strategic plan draft, "Vision 2005" and reviewed a planning map of greenbelts, trail connections and projects provided by City staff to the District (see attached map). The map identified property purchase opportunities where the District's and the City's interests overlapped and has subsequently served as a longer-term planning tool for both public agencies.

Since the study session and development of the map, the City and the District have collaborated on four projects identified on the map. The City has received two matching grants from the District to assist in purchasing two neighborhood parks in southwest Santa Rosa (the Bayer property on West Avenue and the Bell property on Bellevue Avenue). The City and the District are also developing a draft interim use plan to open the Taylor Mountain open space for public access. The draft interim use plan proposes utilizing a portion of adjoining City park land for a parking lot and creating an entry trail into Taylor Mountain from the parking lot. A cooperative effort to draft the future development of Taylor Mountain and a contiguous community park will be an effort of the District, the City and other stakeholders. Finally, City staff and District staff are currently in the process of developing a management agreement for the Paulin Creek Open Space Preserve.

The City Council has established a two year goal focusing on Open Space and Recreation. A work plan for the goal was adopted by the City Council on August 14, 2007 (see attached). District staff participated in developing the work plan. The City Council's work plan incorporates activities relating to the City's Creek Master Plan and the Laguna Trail System that potentially impact the district's future expenditure plan. It is anticipated the open space planning map will be updated following completion of both the City's Recreation and Parks Master Plan and the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

## STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

### **City Council Goal: Provide Open Space and Recreational Activities**

Goal Statement:

#### **Strategy/Elements**

- I. Outcome: Help implement the Laguna de Santa Rosa Trails System**  
**Lead Committee Member: Dan Carlson**  
**Other Stakeholders: Sonoma County Agricultural and Open Space District, The Laguna Foundation, County of Sonoma**  
Milestone date: 2008
- II. Outcome: Help implement the Stone Farm Learning Center**  
**Lead Committee Member: Dan Carlson**  
**Other Stakeholders: The Laguna Foundation**
  - Conversion of the historic buildings into the Laguna Learning CenterMilestone date: 2008
- III. Outcome: Help implement the installation of portable buildings from the Golf Course to Southwest Community Park and provide programming.**  
**Lead Committee Member: Eric Jorgeson**  
Milestone date: 2008
- IV. Outcome: Interim public use of Taylor Mountain Open Space Preserve**  
**Lead Committee Members: Misti Arias, Marc Richardson, Rich Hovden,**  
**Other Stakeholders: Sonoma Academy, LandPaths, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District, City of Santa Rosa**
  - Provide public use of the area while Master Plan for Taylor Mountain Open Space Preserve and Kawana Springs Community Park is developed.Milestone dates: June, 2007 – Summer, 2008
- V. Outcome: Northwest Community Park Master Plan**  
**Lead Committee Members: Marc Richardson, Rich Hovden**
- VI. Outcome: Fountaingrove Community Park**  
**Lead Committee Members: Marc Richardson, Rich Hovden**
- VII. Outcome: Provide connection from Samuel Jones Hall to Joe Rodota Trail/Laguna**  
**Lead Committee Member: Colleen Ferguson**

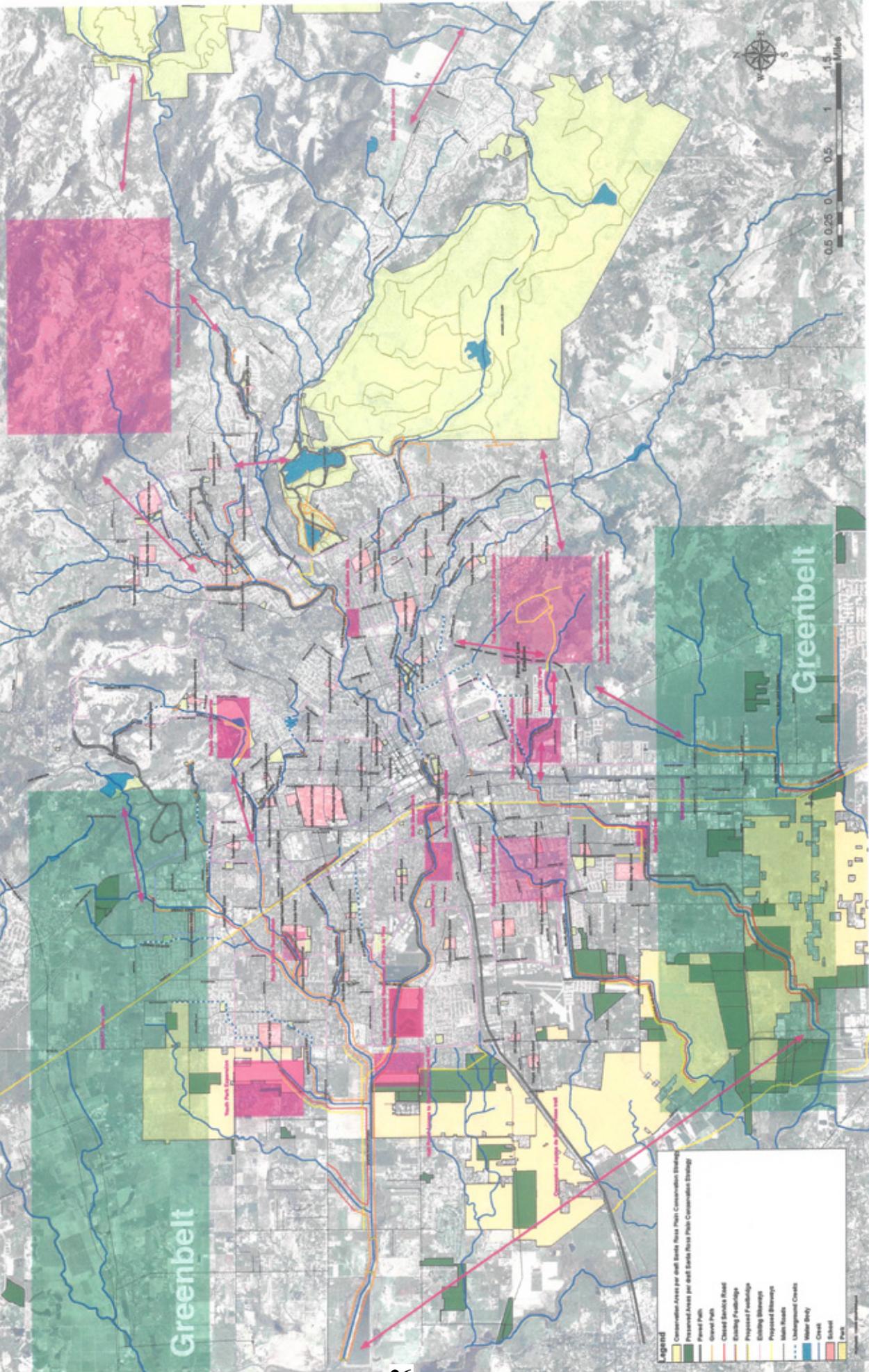
- Develop routes and signage plan for bicycle and pedestrian connections from Samuel Jones Hall to the Joe Rodota Trail near Sebastopol Road and Wright Road  
Milestone date: 2008

- VIII. Outcome: Prince Gateway Park  
Lead Committee Member: Rich Hovden**
- IX. Outcome: Begin implementation of the City Wide Creek Master Plan  
Lead Committee Member: Colleen Ferguson**
- Promote County adoption of master plan  
Milestone date: 2008
- X. Outcome: Pierson Reach/Prince Memorial Greenway  
Lead Committee Members: Marc Richardson, Ed Flint, Rick Moshier,  
Dave Gouin**
- XI. Outcome: Continue Creek Stewardship Program  
Lead Committee Member: Colleen Ferguson**
- Execute new funding agreement with Sonoma County Water Agency
  - Place initial signage along Santa Rosa Creek from Pierson Street to Fulton Road
  - Provide watershed education during City Recreation and Parks summer playground, camp and lunch programs
- XII. Outcome: Bayer Property Acquisition  
Lead Committee Member: Marc Richardson**
- XIII. Outcome: Completion of business and strategic action plan for the Recreation and Parks Department identifying needs, resources and strategies.  
Lead Committee Member: Marc Richardson  
Other Stakeholders: Moore, Iacofano, Goltsman, Inc.  
Milestone date: February, 2008**
- XIV. Outcome: Complete Phase II of A Place To Play (3 soccer fields, parking, wildlife lake and observatory)  
Lead Committee Members: Marc Richardson, Rich Hovden**
- Design, bid, and secure any additional needed funding to complete Phase II of A Place To Play with construction starting in June 2007
  - Identify funding strategy for staff resources needed for ongoing operation and maintenance of Phase II of A Place To Play by opening of facility in September of 2009

- XV. Outcome: Complete Finley Center Senior Addition**  
**Lead Committee Members: Marc Richardson, Eric Jorgeson**
- Funding has been secured, design completed and construction contract awarded
  - Coordinate Finley Senior Center expansion efforts  
Milestone date: November, 2008

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# Greenbelts, Trail Connections, and Projects for the Santa Rosa Area



- Legend**
- Conservation Area per each Santa Rosa Public Conservation Strategy
  - Proposed Access per each Santa Rosa Public Conservation Strategy
  - Private Park
  - General Park
  - Classified Service Road
  - Existing Footpaths
  - Proposed Footpaths
  - Existing Bikeways
  - Proposed Bikeways
  - Main Roads
  - Water Body
  - Underground Cretals
  - Cretal
  - School
  - Park