

Tower District Specific Plan Update | DRAFT Objectives and Policies

Parks and Public Facilities

* Asterisks indicate where policies are adapted from current Specific Plan

POS 1: *Increase and enhance public open space areas and amenities in the Tower District.*

POS 1.1*: Provide parks in accordance with the Parks Master Plan. **KEEP**
Pursue opportunities for new parks and public spaces in the Tower District according to the policies and standards adopted in the Parks Master Plan. Give priority to improvements in park-deficient areas, consistent with the Measure P implementation process.

[Adapted from Goal 6, Objective 3, Policy 1.]

- Tower District is underserved with existing park space and greenways
- What does Measure P include for future park expansion in the Tower District?
- Discussion on Dry Creek Canal beautification

POS 1.2*: New park acquisition. **KEEP**
Strategically pursue land for the acquisition and establishment of new parks. Two new parks have been developed or are near completion: Broadway Park and Trolley Park. These projects will be valuable additions for Tower District residents. Future opportunities that should be explored include:

- A public plaza in the central core near the Tower Theatre
- Mini parks and community gardens on vacant land, City-owned land, and unneeded portions of school properties. Explore opportunities in Van Ness Village, adjacent to the Fire Station at Clinton and Arthur and at the corner of Clinton and Palm, at the northeast corner of the Hamilton School site, and
- Privately-owned public spaces (POPS) created as part of new development on large sites, which might be required of larger development projects like the Blackstone Avenue corridor.

[Adapted from Goal 6, Objective 3, Policy 1 and Goal 6, Objective 3, Policy 8.]

- Interest in public plaza space in central core area near Tower Theater
- Discussion about preserving existing parking lots/spaces
- Clarification on “unneeded portions of school properties” to expand joint-use agreements with local schools

- POS 1.3: Enhance existing parks for greater recreational value. **KEEP**
In particular:
- **Ted C. Wills.** Advocate for a park master planning process and redesign that could make better use of the space and provide more amenities. Reuse of the parking lot and the school campus should be considered.
 - **Roeding Park.** Roeding Park lies directly west of the Tower District and has been identified in the Measure P implementation process as a top priority for park improvements. Advocate for a park master planning process and redesign that could make this park a more valuable asset for the City as a whole.
- POS 1.4: Measure P funding. **KEEP**
- Leverage Measure P funding for acquisition and development of new parks and improvements to existing parks. Measure P generates sales tax revenue to fund improvements and maintenance of existing public parks, build and maintain new parks and trails, and support local arts and cultural amenities.
- **Discussion to ensure Tower receives fair share of Measure P allocation**
- POS 1.5*: Pursue joint-use partnerships with schools and basin sites in the Tower District. **REVISE**
The City has a joint-use partnership for community use of the athletic fields and the aquatic facilities at Fresno High School, which should be expanded to include other sites in the District, thereby helping to implement the “closing the gaps” strategy defined in the Fresno Parks Master Plan. New joint-use partnerships should be designed to improve the capability of utilizing District open space for passive and active recreational and leisure opportunities by adding landscaping, lighting, picnic facilities, and other appropriate amenities, and by extending hours of use. Joint-use agreements should not diminish the need to create new parks in the Tower District.
- [Adapted from Goal 6, Objective 3, Policy 7.]*
- POS 1.6*: Clean Up Dry Creek. **REVISE**
- **Develop and implement a clean-up action program for Dry Creek that engages neighboring residents and businesses.
- **The right-of-way on Dry Creek Canal is maintained by Fresno Irrigation District (FID). The City is working to engage in conversations with FID to understand the feasibility of a clean-up action program along Dry Creek Canal.
- [Adapted from Goal 6, Objective 1, Policy 1.]*
- POS 1.7*: Greenway and trail corridor along Dry Creek **REVISE**
Study the feasibility of increasing public access to Dry Creek, such as trails between streets, look out points, and strategic access of parcels. Pursue a greenway and trail corridor along Dry Creek to establish public access and amenities. Work with the Fresno Irrigation District to obtain access easements along its right-of-way and require that development on adjacent parcels contribute to trail improvements and/or amenities. Initiate a dialogue between the City of Fresno, the Fresno Irrigation District, and Tower District residents to reach agreement around an effective design and financial framework. This effort should build on recent work to develop the Midtown Trail along

the Mill Canal. Seek to acquire vacant or key parcels along Dry Creek to act as greenway nodes, enhancing the corridor and providing more access. ****Include further planting of trees and vegetation along the Dry Creek Canal in addition to trash cans, pet pick up stations and public benches to ensure ADA compliance is met.**

****The right-of-way on Dry Creek Canal is maintained by Fresno Irrigation District (FID). The City is working to engage in conversations with FID to understand the feasibility of additional landscaping and public amenities along Dry Creek Canal.**

[Adapted from Goal 6, Objective 3, Policy 6.]

POS 1.8*: Transportation impact mitigation and funding. **KEEP**
Work with Caltrans to ensure that rights-of-way adjacent to major transportation facilities are landscaped to help protect the neighborhood from visual, air quality, and noise impacts from freeways and rail corridor. Seek Federal and State funding to provide transportation mitigation and environmental enhancement along major transportation facilities (i.e., Highway 180, High speed rail).

[Adapted from Goal 6, Objective 3, Policy 9 and Goal 6, Objective 3, Policy 4.]

- **Further clarification on future high-speed rail plans from the High-Speed Rail Authority and closures on FWY-99 from Caltrans needed**

POS 2: *Improve access to parks for Tower District residents.*

POS 2.1: Remove barriers to access parks. **KEEP**
Ensure that parks in the Tower District are designed and managed in a way that maintains access and a sense of welcome from the street. Specifically, minimize the use of fences and gates along the street edges of parks, and address safety by improving lighting and visual sight lines.

- **Use fences strategically (shorter, friendly fencing for child safety)**

POS 2.2: Pedestrian and bike overcrossings. **KEEP**
Advocate for high-quality pedestrian and bike access to Roeding Park with Olive and Belmont Avenue overcrossings of the rail corridor at the district's western edge. Explore opportunities for a separate bike and pedestrian overcrossing linking the Tower District with Roeding Park.

POS 3: *Recognize that streets serve as public open space and provide for their improvement in Tower District.*

POS 3.1: Sidewalks as public space. **REVISE**
Plant trees and make other streetscape improvements to enhance pedestrian environments, particularly along the Tower District's commercial corridors. See also Circulation policies. Refer to the City's Urban Forestry Management Plan for a list of approved street trees.

POS 4: *Align public facilities and services with community needs to support quality of life in the Tower District.*

POS 4.1: Tower Public Library. KEEP

Work with Fresno County to bring a library back to the Tower District, by relocating an existing branch or creating a new branch. Support this effort through actions that may include, but are not limited to, zoning to allow for a library and allowing for the joint use of City-owned facilities.

- Discussion on Gilles Library: if Gillis gets relocated closer to Tower, then matter is closed. If not, then a new library may be considered. There is a long line for libraries

POS 4.2: Public ~~nighttime~~ safety. REVISE

Recommend maintaining consistent police presence ~~on popular nights~~ through a combination of Patrol Officers, Traffic Officers, and Contract Law Enforcement Services and explore a stand-alone budget to additionally support Entertainment District peak hours and special events.

- Discussion on new police substation in Tower and adding a resource site for unhoused individuals