

# PB&R GPAC Ad Hoc (September 2025)

- **We like when a concept is in one element, but is also relevant in other elements, that is stated in each and is cross-referenced by number and via hyperlinks.**
- **We believe the safety of people on foot versus motorized and other non-foot traffic should be a balancing factor in the areas below & where otherwise applicable. Especially in consideration of prioritizing safe access to parks, beaches, & other recreation facilities.**
  - Preamble to HBB10 “Public Access to Public Resources
  - Preamble to R7 “Beach Recreation”
  - NR1.1 (safety consideration in addition to promoting walkable & bikeable neighborhoods)
- **We like these areas that highlight the importance and value of our Urban Forest. Additionally, we think it is important to recognize the threat of invasive species and the significance of their eventual removal.**
  - Policy NR-7.1: Review existing policies, procedures, and guidelines regarding plant, shrub, and tree palettes, and consider revisions to ensure they feature native and naturalized non-invasive species. (New code)
  - Policy NR-7.2: Adopt standards for new public parks to include recommended vegetation featured on the revised plant, shrub, and tree palette. (Parks and Rec)
  - Policy NR-7.3: Perform regular removal of invasive species on public lands to protect native habitats. (Parks and Rec)
  - Policy NR-7.7: Monitor and assess the health and air quality benefits of the urban forest canopy through regular tree surveys and air quality measurements. (Parks and Rec)
  - Policy NR-7.8: Consider drafting an urban forest management plan that prioritizes native and naturalized non-invasive tree species known for improving air filtration and species habitat. (Parks and Rec)
- **We also think it is important to educate the public about invasive species and encourage them to use native species.**
  - Policy NR-7.4: Create and distribute educational resources and incentives to increase awareness and use of native and resilient species in landscaping on private properties. (Community Involvement)
  - Policy NR-7.5: Work with local nurseries to highlight native and naturalized non-invasive species and discourage the sale of invasive species. (Community Involvement)

- Policy NR-7.6: Create or promote a yard habitat certification program encouraging landscaping practices that support native ecosystems. (Community Involvement)
- **We like the idea of promoting more dog parks. We believe this should have its own bullet point as opposed to being a part of Policy R-4.2:**
  - Policy R-4.2: Prioritize park improvements based on identified needs, including shade structures, dog parks, and other improvements identified through community outreach. (Imp. 23.1)
  - The bullet point prioritizing new dog parks might mention the frequency of infractions related to dogs off leash, dogs in protected areas, etc., and that additional dog parks would not only provide dogs a safe place to recreate, but reduce the dangers to people of dogs off leash and to wildlife and more of dogs in protected open spaces.
- **We like the recognition of the need for providing and maintaining support facilities in parks and recreational spaces in Policy R-8.**
  - We suggest specifically calling out the need for additional restrooms or porta potties and drinking fountains near the Upper Newport Bay where increasing numbers of people are traversing the streets and pathways on foot, bicycles, and other non foot vehicles.

## Questions:

- Policy R-5.8: Use reasonable efforts to evaluate tree canopy cover in parks and the public right-of-way, **considering shade and priority active transportation corridors**. (Policy S-7.1.5)
  - ◆ What is meant by this highlighted portion?
- Would it be relevant to include something about assessing the use of parks and how under-utilized areas might be repurposed for public use? (i.e. the back corner of Sunset Ridge Park behind the playground)
- Who exactly is the Newport Bay Watershed Executive Committee? HBB12
- Should the Newport Bay Conservancy be referenced as a coordinating entity in HBB12.2, as the Upper Newport Bay is their area of specialty and there is a longstanding coordination with the City?