



public health law & policy



# URBAN FARM AND GARDEN PLAN

*City of Alameda*

## OVERVIEW

- Purpose: To identify opportunities to promote urban agriculture in Alameda
- The Plan provides:
  - Analysis of Opportunity Sites
  - Recommendations for Policies and Programs
  - Design guidelines and Concept Plans
  - Funding and Financing Models and Resources

## KEY TERMS

- **Urban agriculture:** “Umbrella” term to describe a range of food growing practices, from backyard gardens to urban farms.
  - **Community gardens:** Smaller-scale urban agriculture; food grown primarily for personal consumption or donation.
  - **Urban farms:** Larger-scale, more intensive urban agriculture sites; food may be grown by an organization or private enterprise, and often include entrepreneurial opportunities.
  - **School gardens:** Learning-focused sites on school property used primarily by students, teachers, and others affiliated with that particular school.

# OPPORTUNITY SITES



## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Enhance language regarding urban agriculture in the City's General Plan.
2. Amend current zoning law to allow urban agriculture in all relevant districts.
3. Amend current urban livestock regulations to support integrating animals into urban farms and gardens.
4. Identify preferred management model(s) for urban agriculture sites.
5. Consider developing a clear, streamlined, and transparent request for proposals and lease process for opening public land to urban agriculture use.

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

6. Pass a local “Quimby Ordinance” to require developers to contribute land or fees for open space.
7. Support the establishment of a centralized produce gleaning and donation programs; encourage new gardens and farms to participate in gleaning programs.
8. Support the incorporation of school gardens into the AUSD Wellness Policy as an opportunity for nutrition education, and pursue joint use opportunities with AUSD to increase access by community residents to school gardens.
9. Promote urban agriculture through ongoing programming and partnerships.

## GUIDELINES

- Site selection
- Buffers
- Circulation and Access
- Garden areas and gathering areas
- Utilities
- Furnishings
- Signage
- Materials



# GUIDELINES

Table 4-3: Community Garden Features

Feature	Layout and Design Guidelines
<b>Plots</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide at least 15 plots per garden; at least 3 of which should be raised beds that are accessible to wheel chairs.</li> <li>• Individual plots should be at least 20 square feet and no larger than 200 square feet.</li> <li>• Plots may be grouped to save space, providing that each plot is accessible by a trail. Raised beds should be grouped in groups of four or less.</li> <li>• Plots/raised beds that are not intended to be walked in should be 5 feet wide or narrower so that they can be tended from the sides. Length may vary.</li> <li>• Raised beds should be 8- to 36-inches high; wheel-chair accessible raised beds should be 2 feet tall and 30 inches wide for access from one side or 60 inches wide to be accessible from all sides, in at least some portion of the garden; and raised beds that will be tended from standing gardeners should be 3 feet tall. The latter type of bed is desirable by individuals for which sitting or kneeling is uncomfortable.</li> </ul>
<b>Trails and Roads</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trails that access plots should be at least 2 feet wide; access to wheelchair accessible raised beds and associated uses shall be a minimum of 5 feet wide.</li> <li>• Trails that provide access to group areas should be at least 5 feet wide.</li> <li>• Vehicular roads should be 10 feet wide, and should be limited to that which is necessary for material loading/unloading by authorized vehicles. Vehicular roads may double as gathering space when not in use.</li> <li>• Materials for trails can include dirt, mowed grass, concrete, or decomposed granite.</li> </ul>
<b>Shared Spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared spaces, at a minimum, should include a gathering space, composting area, and storage area. Shared spaces should be visible and easily accessible. Kitchen areas, potting areas, and other shared spaces may also be included.</li> <li>• Gathering spaces should include at least one space that is at least 400 square feet, and several smaller (50 square feet) spaces with seating. The size and number of gathering areas should be determined based on number of plots and garden size.</li> <li>• Composting areas should be at least 100 square feet, and provide adequate space for composting bins, spinners, or other selected system. Gardens greater than a half acre may include multiple composting areas to improve access.</li> <li>• A shed for shared tools should be provided; a 10 foot x 10 foot shed is ideal for most gardens.</li> </ul>



GUIDELINES

# GUIDELINES

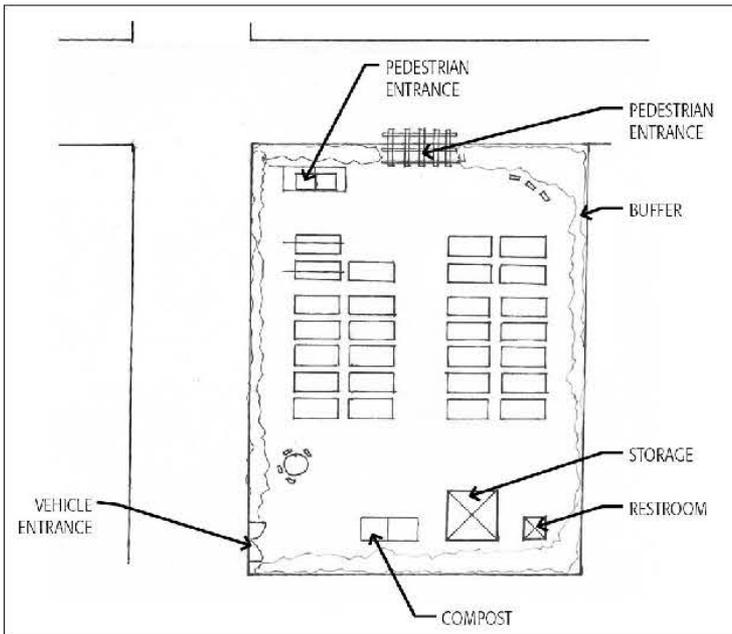
GUIDELINES



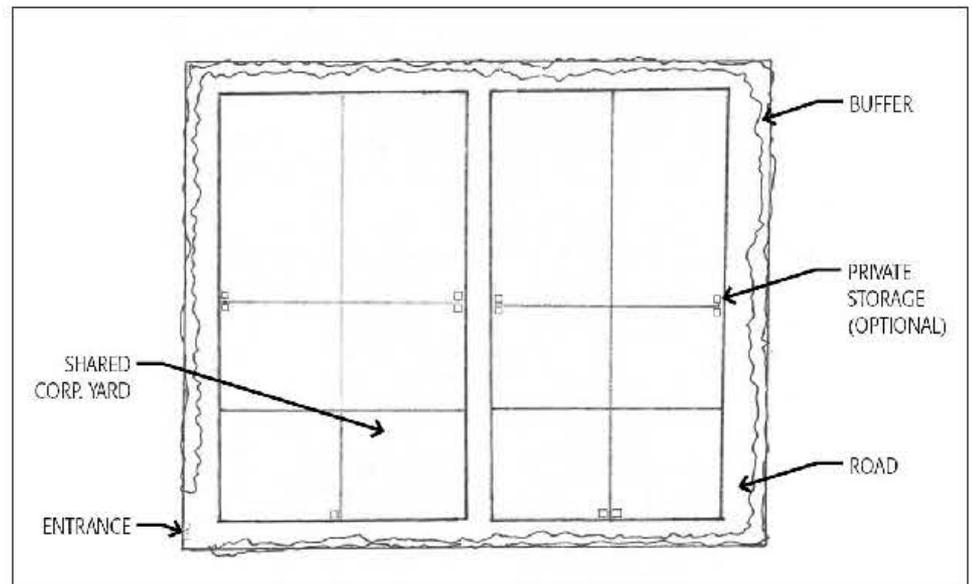
Table 4-3 (continued): Community Garden Features

Feature	Layout and Design Guidelines
<b>Fencing/Security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6-to 8-foot tall fencing should be placed around site (unless other physical barriers are present). Chainlink fence should not be used on street-facing sides of the garden.</li> <li>• One to two entrance gates should be provided; gates should be at least 4 feet wide, and at least one gate should be able to open 12 feet to accommodate vehicles when necessary.</li> <li>• Main entrance should be inviting and well marked.</li> <li>• Locks should be provided on all gates and on storage shed.</li> <li>• Any night time lighting should be dark-sky approved and/or directed downward to reduce light contamination.</li> </ul>
<b>Setbacks and Buffers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garden plots should be located at least 10 feet from the edge of the parcel and 10 feet from the entrance.</li> <li>• Compost area should be 10 feet from growing areas.</li> <li>• Vegetated buffers should be established between busy streets and gardens. Orchard planting may be used as a buffer.</li> <li>• Bathrooms, if provided, should be located at least 15 feet from garden beds.</li> </ul>
<b>Materials and Furnishings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recycling and garbage receptacles should be provided in a visible location, preferably near entrance.</li> <li>• Provide chairs, benches or other seating close to gathering areas and in shaded areas.</li> <li>• Consider providing potting tables/work tables.</li> </ul>
<b>Utilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide hose bibs at each plot or plot grouping.</li> <li>• Electricity should be available at main gathering area and near storage.</li> </ul>
<b>Parking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One parking space for every five plots should be provided.</li> <li>• Parking may be accommodated by on-street parking, depending on the site and neighborhood context.</li> <li>• If off-street parking is provided, the parking area should be clearly signed.</li> <li>• If all visitors/gardeners live in very close proximity to garden, less parking may be required.</li> </ul>
<b>Signage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locational signage should be provided at entrance and key features.</li> <li>• Signage should provide garden rules and contact information.</li> </ul>

# GUIDELINES



Community Garden prototype



Urban farm prototype

## CONCEPT PLANS

- Two demonstration sites:
  - Alameda Point
  - Proposed Belt Line Park
- Illustrate potential application of design guidelines
- Inform future design of agricultural elements at demonstration sites and throughout City

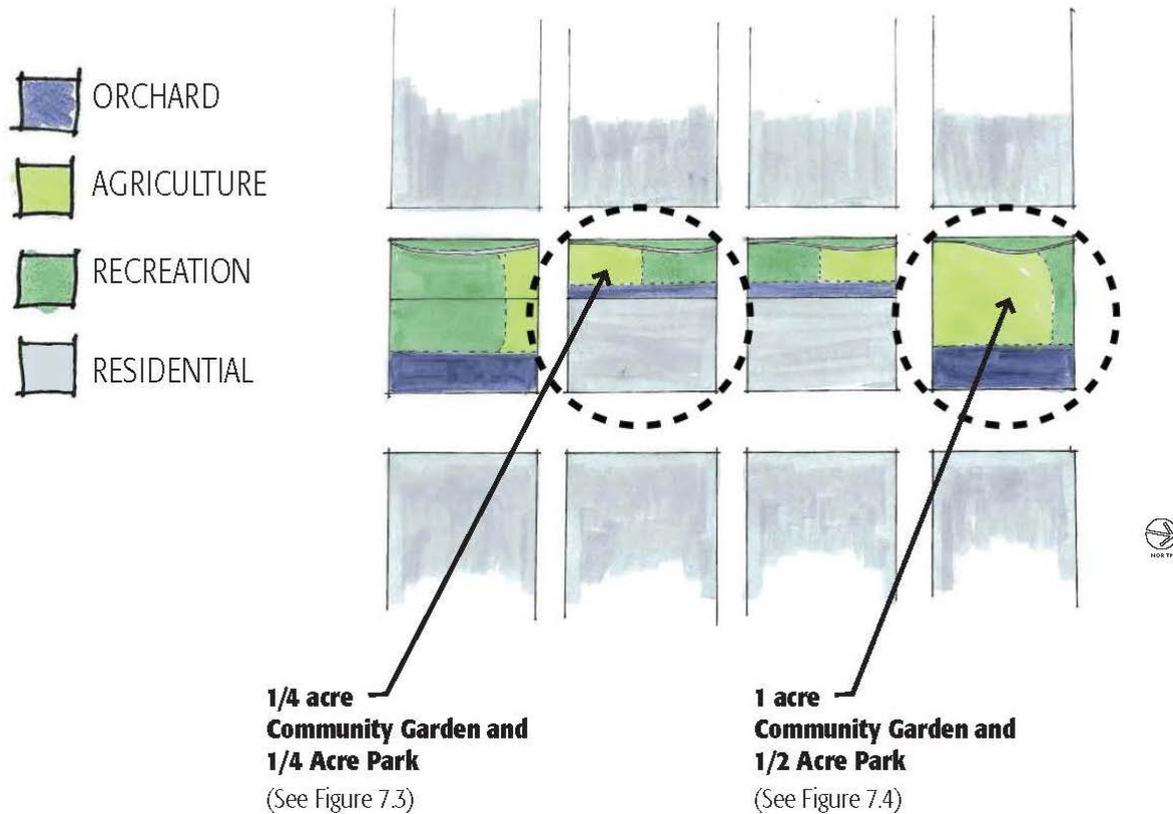
# ALAMEDA POINT CONCEPT PLAN

Figure 7-1: Potential Location of Linear Park

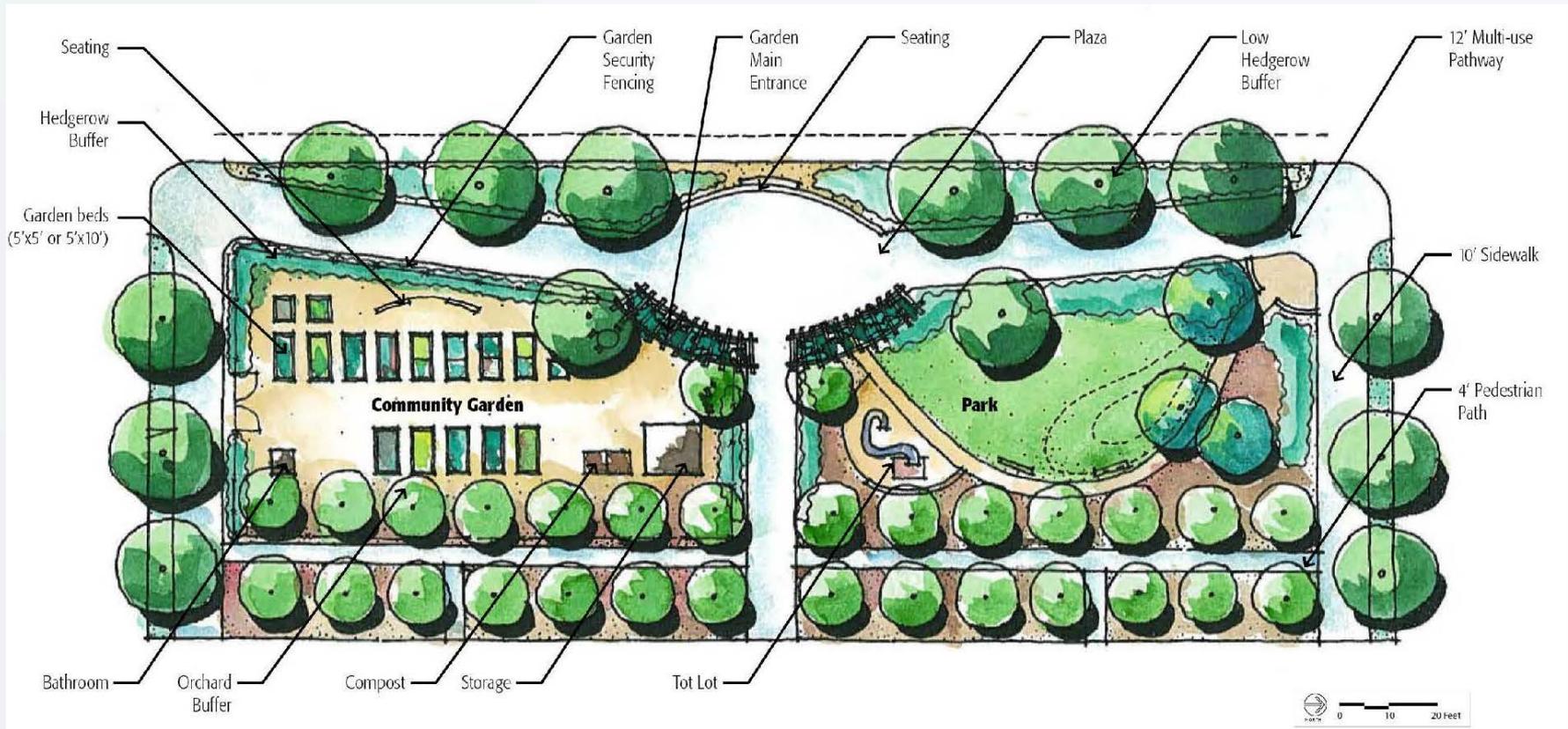
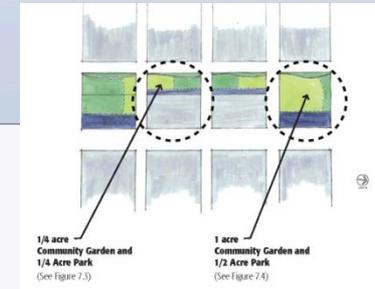


# ALAMEDA POINT CONCEPT PLAN

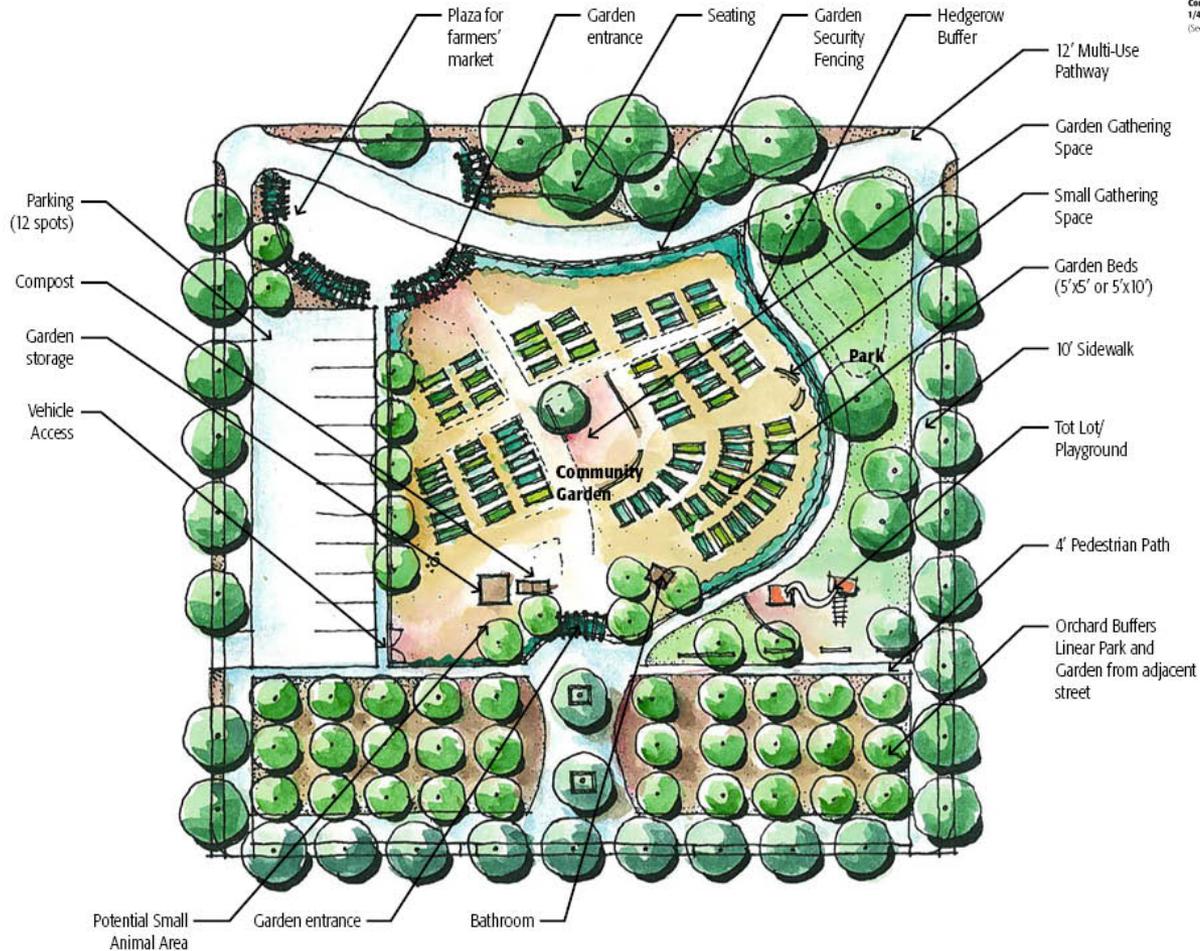
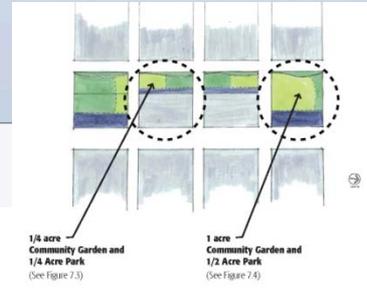
Figure 7-2: Alameda Point Concept Diagram



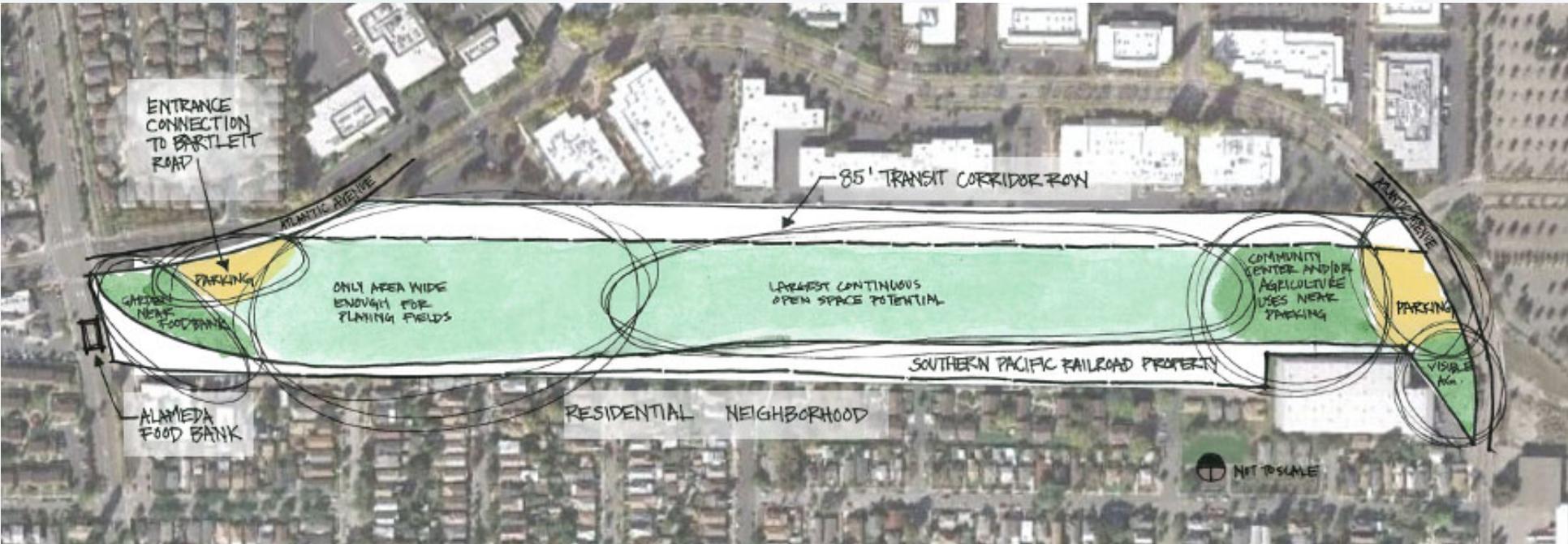
# ALAMEDA POINT CONCEPT PLAN



# ALAMEDA POINT CONCEPT PLAN



# BELT LINE CONCEPT PLAN- Existing Conditions



# BELT LINE CONCEPT PLAN- Passive

Figure 6-2: Passive Park Concept Plan



**1-acre  
Community Garden**

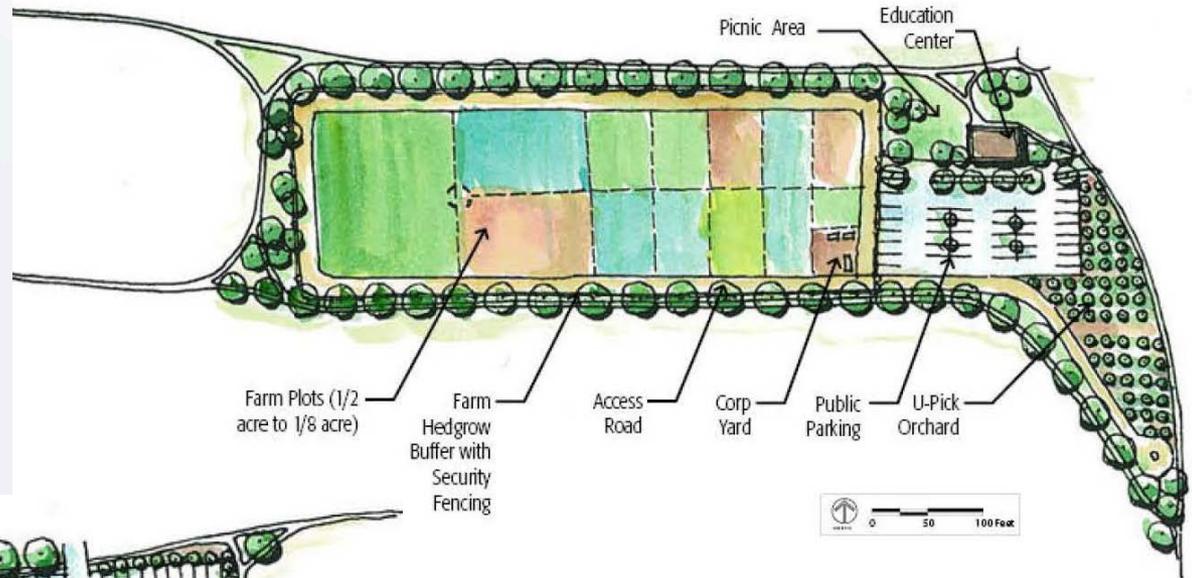
- Connects to shared parking area
  - Connects to Alameda Food Bank
  - Orchard buffers between park and garden
  - Shared Parking for park and garden
- (See Figure 6.3)

**2.5 acre  
Community Farm**

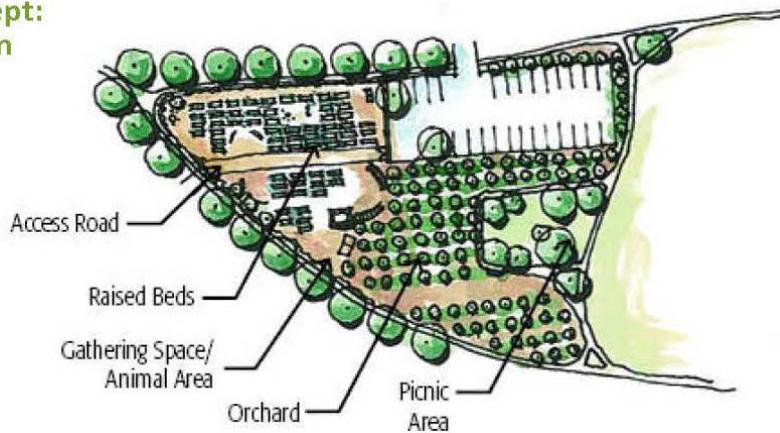
- U-pick orchard provides agricultural aesthetic and street frontage
  - Park and Education Center visible from street frontage
- (See Figure 6.4)

# BELT LINE CONCEPT PLAN- Passive

Figure 6-4: Passive Park Concept: Urban Farm (2.5 Acres)

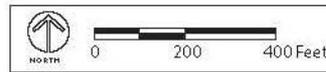


Passive Park Concept:  
Community Garden  
(1 Acre)



# BELT LINE CONCEPT PLAN- Active

Figure 6-6: Active Park Concept



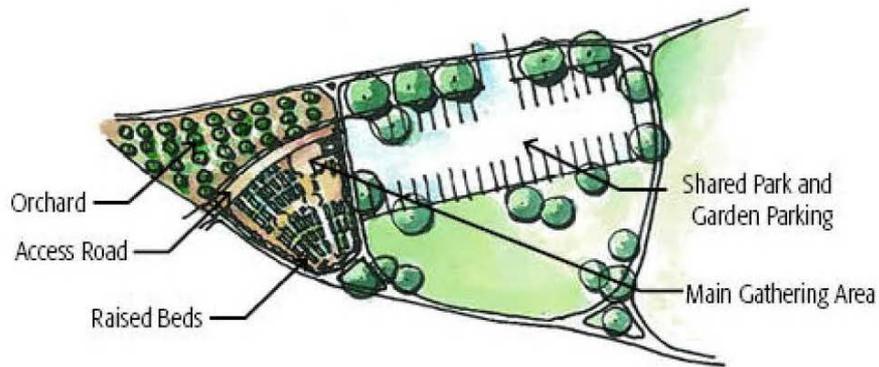
**1/4-acre  
Community Garden**

- Connects to Shared Parking area
  - Connects to Alameda Food Bank
  - Orchard buffers garden from adjacent streets
- (See Figure 6-7)

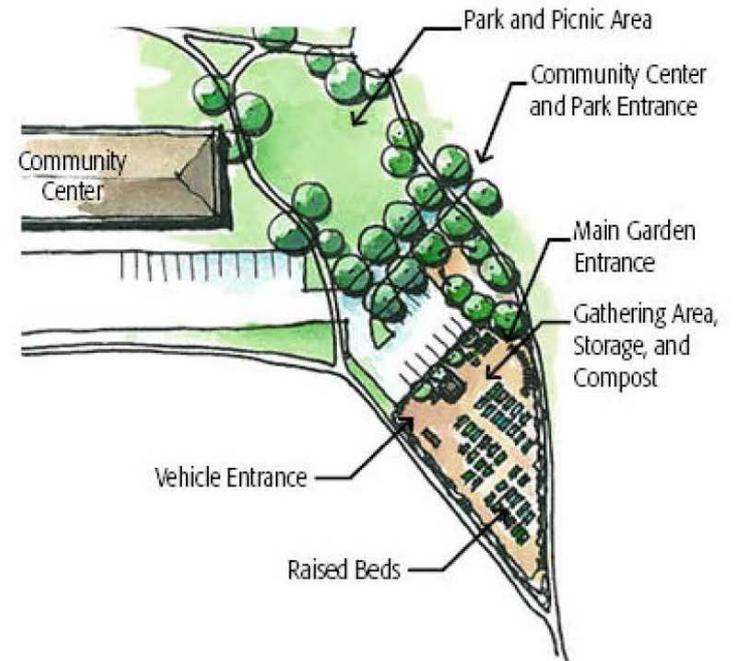
**1 acre  
Community Garden**

- Connects to Community Center
  - Separate Parking area
- (See Figure 6-8)

# BELT LINE CONCEPT PLAN- Active



Western Community Garden (1/4 Acre)



Eastern Community Garden (1 Acre)



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