

# Parks & Open Space Parcel Tax

## Measure M

In 2018, Albany voters approved Ballot Measure M ([Ordinance 2018-05](#)), which enacted an ongoing special parcel tax in the City of Albany to fund the maintenance and improvement of City park and open space facilities.

Measure M provides an average of \$470,000 in revenue annually, which is placed into a separate special revenue fund and allocated to appropriate programs and projects during the biennial operating budget and Capital Improvement Plan processes.

The tax is ongoing and is adjusted annually according to the Consumer Price Index. [Exemptions and rebates](#) are available through the City's Finance department for residents whose combined family income qualifies as "very low income." (See [AMC Ch. 4-15](#).)

The first year of the tax collection was in fiscal year 2019-20. The City has received the following amounts per fiscal year as of September 2021.

### Taxes Collected by Fiscal Year

2020	2021	2022
\$461,547	\$476,392†	\$470,000*

(†) Pending completed audit

(\*) Projection only

Projects and Programs	Fiscal Year	Amount Spent
Parks Maintenance Program	2021†	\$57,383
	2022*	\$96,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$153,383</b>
Urban Forestry Program	2021†	\$175,238
	2022*	\$200,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$375,238</b>
Open Space Maintenance Program	2021†	\$34,300
	2022*	\$60,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$94,300</b>
Major Playground Repairs	2022**	\$114,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$114,000</b>
Capital Improvements Reserve	2020	\$446,283
	2021	\$187,645
	2022	-

	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$633,928</b>
<b>Fund Administration</b>	2019	\$3,203
	2020	\$12,061
	2021	\$10,325
	2022*	\$11,500
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$37,090</b>
<b>Total for All Uses:</b>		<b>\$1,407,939</b>

(†) Pending completed fiscal year 2020-21 audit

(\*) Projection for fiscal year 2022

(\*\*) These items are subject to appropriation by City Council on an as-needed project-specific basis.

## Project and Program Descriptions

### Parks Maintenance Program



Park maintenance includes all the work necessary to keep Albany's public park areas safe, clean, and operating efficiently to serve the needs of our residents. The program includes caring for park

landscapes and fields; tending to irrigation systems; planting, watering, and pruning of park trees; utilities including water for irrigation and electricity for lighting; cleaning park restrooms and related facilities; monitoring and addressing trash; and managing contract services for tasks such as regular mowing, specialized repairs to electrical or irrigation systems, and pest control.

A detailed view of the Parks Maintenance Program budget, including Measure M allocations, is available in the City's Biennial Operating Budget [here](#) (page 129).

### Urban Forestry Program



Albany's Urban Forest spans approximately 6,000 trees within the City limits, and is an essential part of the City's landscape. Albany's City Arborist monitors and maintains the City's publicly-owned street trees, which are generally trees between the sidewalk and roadway in the public right-of-way. The program includes tree pruning, planting, watering, and emergency maintenance, as well as assessment and facilitation of any necessary removals and/or replacements.

For further information, please visit the [Urban Forestry webpage](#). A detailed view of the Urban Forestry Program budget, including Measure M allocations, is available in the City's Biennial Operating Budget [here](#) (page 130).

### **Creeks & Open Space Maintenance Program**



Creeks and Open Space maintenance includes all the work necessary to keep Albany's natural resource areas clean and safe for residents to enjoy. This program covers maintenance on Albany Hill, in our creeks, and at the Albany Bulb & Waterfront. The program includes general vegetation management and habitat restoration, monitoring and study of sensitive wildlife populations, and partnering with Albany's Fire Department to monitor and mitigate



wildfire safety issues. Currently, Public Works staff partner with [Urban Tilth](#), a local nonprofit based in Richmond, to perform routine maintenance on Albany Hill and in Codornices and Cerrito Creeks, under the guidance of the City’s Natural Areas Coordinator.

A detailed view of the Creeks & Open Space Program budget, including Measure M allocations, is available in the City’s Biennial Operating Budget [here](#) (page 131).

Capital Improvement Reserves



The balance of revenues not utilized for the City’s current maintenance programs is currently collected in the fund as a reserve for upcoming Capital Improvements. Examples of types of improvements include but are not limited to: park landscape and lighting enhancements, major repair and/or upgrades to playground equipment, new or improved sports facilities, urban forestry projects, accessibility improvements to natural areas or park facilities, and more.

Project prioritization is currently underway as part of the [Parks Master Plan](#) and is expected to be incorporated into subsequent Capital Improvement Plan revisions.

Fund Administration

The City employs NBS Government Finance Group to administer and report on levy and collection of the special tax. Annual reports are linked below by fiscal year.

2020	2021	2022
<a href="#">2019/20 Annual Report</a>	2020/21 Annual Report	2021/22 Annual Report

Administration also includes annual property tax administrative charges levied by Alameda County for collection of the tax, as well as expenditures for staff efforts to administer the tax.