

CITYnews

EN ESPAÑOL

Esta hoja informativa está disponible en español. Si desea recibir esta versión, envíe su dirección postal ó dirección electrónica a: publicinfo@novato.org ó llame al 415.899.8903

Copias también estarán disponibles en los siguientes lugares:

- Novato Library
Main Branch, 1720
Novato Blvd
- Margaret Todd
Senior Center,
1560 Hill Road
- Downtown
Recreation/
Gymnastics Center,
950 Seventh Street

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, July 2

5:30–7pm

**“After Work” (free)
lecture series @ City
Hall.** Info & RSVP:
415.899.8290

Saturday, July 4

**2015 Novato 4th
of July Parade &
Festivities**

Grant Ave. between
Reichert & 7th
Info: novatoparade.com
or 415.493.4751

Fridays, July through September

Friday Night LIVE Music
Series @ City Hall
Info: novato.org/concerts
or 415.899.8977

HELP CREATE AN IMPROVED HILL REC AREA



The City of Novato recently launched a community planning process for the Hill Recreation Area and Margaret Todd Senior Center.

The plan will help us to improve existing field conditions, enhance the use of the fields and facilities, increase parking options, and provide programs and services to meet the needs of our residents.

There will be three community workshops to create a shared community vision for this highly-utilized area. The first workshop was held on May 20 and May 30, where participants prioritized amenities they would like to see included in the plan:

- **1st Place Votes:** Tournament bocce followed by children’s playground, walking/bike paths, and soccer and Little League baseball fields.
 - **2nd Place Votes:** Restrooms followed by Tournament bocce, children’s playground and group barbecue area.
 - **3rd Place Votes:** Children’s playground followed by outdoor fitness.
 - **4th Place Votes:** Children’s playground followed by public art.
- Locate the bocce ball courts adjacent to the Margaret Todd Senior Center
 - Expand the quantity of parking
 - Use the adjacent school property for shared parking
 - Provide more accessible parking near the Margaret Todd Senior Center
 - Add a restroom
 - Provide multiuse fields for soccer and lacrosse
 - Provide children’s play area
 - Provide picnic areas
 - Provide walking paths
 - Provide access to the creek; include areas for walking, biking, picnic, parking
 - Consider a community garden

Workshop #2 to review initial design concepts and options will be held this summer. In the meantime, if you haven’t been able to attend but are interested in giving us your thoughts, please go to novato.org/opennovato and click on this topic.

For more information: novato.org/hillmasterplan, or contact us at hillmasterplan@novato.org or 415.899.8991.

Participants then sketched out plans to arrange those amenities. Common themes included:

GET ACTIVE & PLAY OUTSIDE

SUNDAYS ON SHERMAN

BRINGING NOVATO TOGETHER

Sunday, July 26
11am–3pm
Sherman Avenue
& Civic Green

Join us for “Sundays on Sherman,” a day of no-cost, family fun! All ages are invited to come play on Sherman Avenue and on the Civic Green. We’ll block off the street and have a great time

with both structured and unstructured activities such as sports, instructor-led exercise activities, rock climbing, active participation games, or just doing artwork or playing on the grass. Bring your bike, roller blades, balls, Frisbees, and other toys and simply PLAY!

“Sundays on Sherman” is a project of the City of Novato’s Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department to provide fun events to keep Novatans active and healthy. As July is National “Parks Make Life Better Month,” we thought it fitting to celebrate the role our local parks, trails, open space, and recreation facilities have in the well-being of our community.

Whole Foods will be onsite with healthy snacks and recipes, and Novato Unified School District will offer hands-on, healthy

cooking activities. The City’s Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department, Novato Gymnastics, Marin YMCA and others will be providing fun activities for all ages and abilities—and just announced: Sukha Yoga will be hosting a no-cost beginner yoga class for all ages on the Green.

You can bike, walk, jog, roller blade, or skateboard to the event and can enter our free “Get Active” raffle for various prizes including a bike tune-up. Bicycle Brūstop will host a free bike valet onsite where you can park your bike.

Additionally, you can help create a community mural onsite with artists from MarinMOCA, our local community art museum located at the Novato Arts Center at Hamilton Field. Follow us on Instagram to see photos of the finished mural.

To volunteer for this event, or to get more info, e-mail kgauntlett@novato.org or call 415-899-8290.

A special thanks to our gold sponsors Sutter Health and Kiosk, and to our bronze sponsor Bradley Real Estate.

To stay updated on start times for classes and activities during this fun, FREE and active Novato event, check out: www.novato.org/sundaysonsherman

Find us on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter: @NovatoFun and follow #SundaysOnSherman

UNIENDO A NOVATO

Domingo 26 de Julio
11am–3pm
Sherman Avenue y el Civic Green

La comunidad de Novato de todas las edades está invitada a disfrutar de *Sundays on Sherman*, con actividades totalmente gratis. La calle Sherman estará cerrada al tráfico, así permitiendo actividades deportivas como el escalamiento de rocas y rutinas de ejercicio, oportunidades para hacer artesanías, música en vivo, y el gozo de juegos en el césped. Traiga su bicicleta, balones, roller blades, Frisbees, u otros juguetes para el disfrute de grandes y pequeños.

Sundays on Sherman es un proyecto del Departamento de Parques, Recreación, y Servicios Comunitarios de la Ciudad de Novato. El propósito es proveer eventos para la diversión que apoyen el bienestar público y la salud. El evento coincide con la celebración nacional durante el mes de Julio, “Los Parques Enaltecen la Vida”. Con este evento Novato celebra la aportación de nuestros parques, espacios abiertos, senderos, y facilidades de recreación al bienestar de nuestra comunidad.

Whole Foods va a proveer bocadillos y el Distrito Escolar de Novato ofrecerá enseñanza en la preparación de comidas saludables.

El Departamento de Recreación, Novato Gymnastics, y Marin YMCA también se han suscrito a proveer actividades, y recientemente Sukha Yoga anunció que va a servir de anfitrión de una clase de yoga para principiantes de todas las edades.

La comunidad puede acudir al evento en bicicleta, caminando, corriendo, o usando

skateboards; y participar en la rifa “Get Active”, con la oportunidad de ganar premios incluyendo un “tune-up” de bicicleta. Bicycle Brūstop va a proveer la cortesía de custodia gratis para su bicicleta.

Usted también puede contribuir a la creación de un mural comunitario en compañía de artistas de MarinMOCA, nuestro museo localizado en el Novato Arts Center en Hamilton Field. Siga este desarrollo en Instagram para ver fotografías del mural.

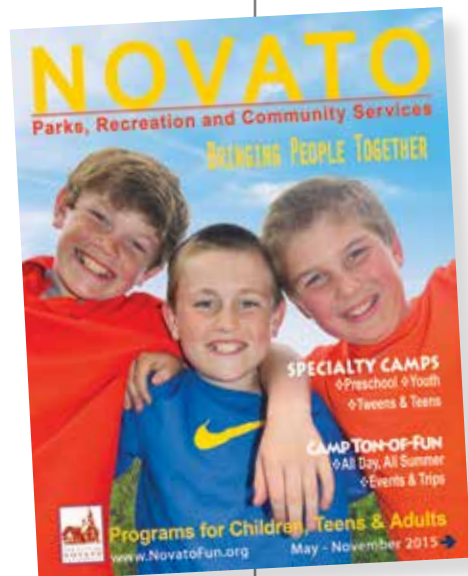
Si desea apoyar este evento como voluntario, o para más información, envíe mensaje a kgauntlett@novato.org o llame al 415-899-8290.

Damos expresivas gracias a nuestros patrocinadores de oro, Sutter Health y Kiosk, y a nuestro patrocinador de bronce, Bradley Real Estate.

Para mantenerse al tanto del horario del evento y las actividades gratuitas, vea a: www.novato.org/sundaysonsherman Encuéntrenos en Facebook, Instagram y Twitter: @NovatoFun y siga #SundaysOnSherman



City’s Summer/Fall Activity Guide recently hit Novato mailboxes delivering 84 pages of camps, classes, special events, and programs for children, teens, and adults.



WE ARE #1 FOR FUN – FOR ALL AGES

By now, Novato residents have received their long-awaited Activity Guides offering a wide variety of programs and services for all age groups provided by our Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Department.

Returning again this summer, is our **Camp-Ton-of-Fun**, an all-day, all-summer program offering specialty camps, events & trips, swimming at Hamilton

Community Pool for Grades 1st–6th (incoming) from June 15 through August 14.

For our “tweens,” PRCS offers camps for nearly every interest, including video game design, digital filmmaking, Minecraft, as well as performing arts offerings including High School Musical and Grease Musical Camps. Not to be missed is our Chefs Club, Tween/Teen Communication and Dining Essentials, and Job Interview Skills classes. Our Aquatics and Gymnastics Programs offer camps and classes to meet the needs of **all ages and levels**.

Adults can continue to enjoy belly dancing, Jazzercise, yoga, boot camp, and several exercise classes at the Margaret Todd Senior Center, and an exciting new FREE lecture

series at City Hall, “After Work,” which features monthly lectures and an opportunity to socialize from 5:30–7:30pm.

In partnership with service providers including the **Novato Independent Elders Program** and the **Novato Senior Citizen’s Club**, PRCS is able to offer extensive **senior** programs, events, and workshops. Every Wednesday at Margaret Todd Senior Center, seasonal produce is available to seniors at below-wholesale prices at the Senior Produce Market, and there are health insurance and legal counseling workshops offered throughout the year.

For our **Spanish-speaking** seniors, we offer a monthly lunch and presentation on topics important to an aging population and we also offer **multicultural services** including Spanish-to-English translation, citizenship and English as a Second Language classes.

The City of Novato values and understands the importance of recreation, parks, and senior services for a healthy, thriving, connected community and we dedicate ourselves and our resources to provide a **multitude of opportunities to our residents**. Explore the **Activity Guide** today at novatofun.org!

CONNECT WITH US

The City Council meets most Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 901 Sherman Ave.

Meetings are broadcast live on Cable TV Channel 27 and webcast online at novato.org

Sign up for e-news at novato.org/community/connectwithus

www.novato.org

[facebook.com/OurTownNovato](https://www.facebook.com/OurTownNovato)

twitter.com/TweetNovato

WANT TO REPORT AN ISSUE?

Submit your non-emergency request online at novato.org/servicerequest

Your request will go directly to the appropriate City staffer and you can track its progress. Photos can also be uploaded with your request.

City Offices
 922 Machin Ave.
 Novato, CA 94945
 415.899.8900



City News is printed on recycled paper with soy inks.

PLANNING FOR THE NEXT 20 YEARS IN NOVATO

The City is in the process of updating our General Plan to guide future development and policies through 2035. The General Plan provides guidance to decision makers as they consider policies that affect the City's growth and development, including transportation, land use, infrastructure, parks, housing and neighborhoods, recreation and community facilities, Downtown, the environment, public health and safety, and flooding.

Here are some of the topics we've been looking at:

Urban Growth Boundary
Decide whether to continue or amend the existing urban growth boundary to limit urban sprawl and protect open space.

Water Availability & Conservation
Explore the adequacy of water supply for existing and new development, and possible effects of climate change on long-term water supply.

Healthy Eating, Active Living
Identify ways to encourage residents to eat healthy foods and lead active lives to improve overall health in our community.

Hillside & Ridgeline Protection
Explore possible changes to the Hillside & Ridgeline Protection Ordinance which limits development on hillsides.

Complete Streets
Plan for a balanced, multi-modal transportation network including biking, walking, and use of public transit.

Traffic Levels of Service
Explore implications of changes to State environmental law on how we analyze traffic impacts from new development.

Junior Second Units
Consider whether to allow the development of junior second units to increase affordable, accessory dwelling options. (See story on back.)

North, North Redwood Blvd.
(San Marin Dr. to the Birkenstock site)
Identify appropriate land uses near the new SMART station.

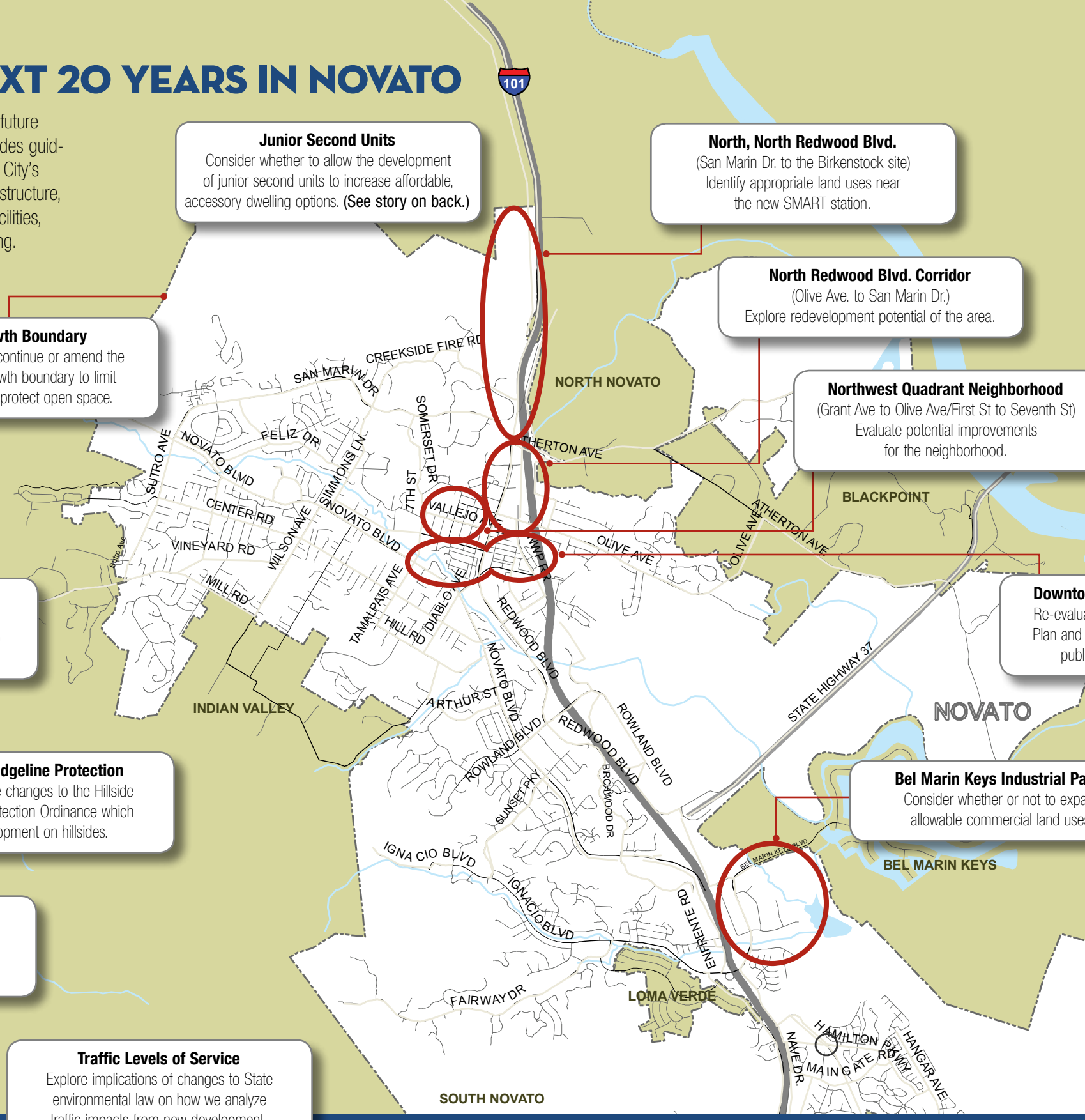
North Redwood Blvd. Corridor
(Olive Ave. to San Marin Dr.)
Explore redevelopment potential of the area.

Northwest Quadrant Neighborhood
(Grant Ave to Olive Ave/First St to Seventh St)
Evaluate potential improvements for the neighborhood.

Downtown Specific Plan & Parking
Re-evaluate the 1998 Downtown Specific Plan and study options to ensure sufficient public parking in the Downtown.

Bel Marin Keys Industrial Parks
Consider whether or not to expand allowable commercial land uses.

Climate Change Action Plan & Sea Level Rise
Identify strategies to reach greenhouse gas reduction goals. Explore areas at risk of flooding due to sea level rise and ways to adapt.



- GET INVOLVED**
- **Learn** about the General Plan update process & topics, and how it affects you: novato.org/generalplan
 - **Weigh-in** at Open Novato, an online City forum, from the convenience of your computer or smart device at novato.org/opennovato
 - **Attend** a meeting:
 - » Planning Commission
 - » City Council
 - » Community workshops
 - **Stay informed:** sign-up for updates on this planning process by visiting novato.org, click on "e-notifications" at the top of the page, and select "General Plan Update."

GENERAL PLAN UPDATE TIMELINE

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| APRIL 2013 City kicks-off process | SEPT 2013–JUNE 2015 City studies Focus Areas (North Redwood Blvd, North, North Redwood Blvd, & Northwest Quad neighborhood) | MARCH 2014–JUNE 2015 City develops White Papers (reports on topics including Bel Marin Keys, Urban Growth Boundary, Jr. Accessory Dwelling Units, Water, Hillside Protection, Complete Streets, Climate Change & Sea Level Rise, Healthy Eating/Active Living) | JAN–AUG 2015 City evaluates existing Downtown Specific plan and studies Downtown parking | SEPT 2015 Draft General Plan for public review | OCT–NOV 2015 Public workshops to gather feedback | SEPT 2015–MAR 2016 Prep draft Environmental Impact Report | MAR–DEC 2016 Public workshops & hearings with commission, then to Council for adoption consideration |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|

NEW FISCAL YEAR, NEW BUDGET

In June, the City proposed a fiscally-responsible budget that responds to our community's top priorities to the City Council for the 2015–2016 fiscal year.

The City's budget:

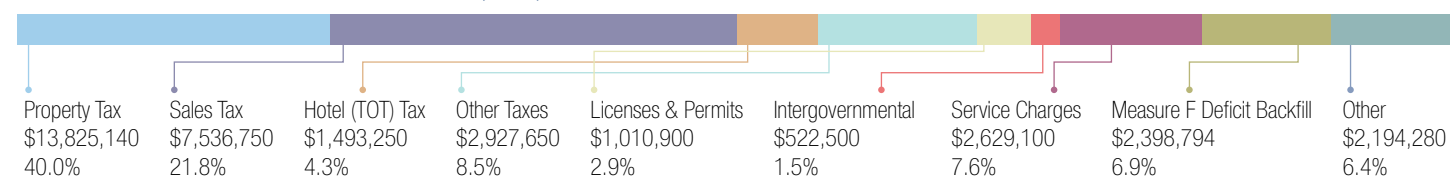
- 1 **Safeguards Our Quality of Life**—maintains the current level of City services to our community, which Novatans have to come to expect and which contribute to our high quality of life.
- 2 **Protects Our Public Safety**—as a result of locally-controlled funding, our Police Department has been able to maintain rapid 9-1-1 emergency response times and provide proactive response to crime via our Novato Response Team (NRT)—which focuses on prevention, intervention, and enforcement to address gangs, crime, and quality of life issues.
- 3 **Invests in Our Local Economy**—a key City priority is to support our local businesses and attract new businesses, bring higher-paying jobs to our community, and to keep our dollars local to ensure long-term financial stability for Novato. This includes leading the North Bay Life Sciences Alliance effort to attract regional investment and jobs to Novato and invest in our Downtown to bring more commerce and community events to our city center.
- 4 **Maintains our City Streets, Sidewalks, and Parks**—we are investing \$1 million annually for the repair and maintenance of Novato's infrastructure **that keeps drivers and pedestrians safe** (see *Capital Improvement Plan Highlights*, right), **makes our community clean and green**, and **offers recreational opportunities for a healthy Novato**. This includes new street crossings and sidewalks, improved median landscaping, and a plan for the Hill Recreation Area.

FISCAL YEAR 2015/16

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES Total \$35,684,635



GENERAL FUND REVENUE Total \$34,538,364



BENEFITS OF LOCALLY-CONTROLLED FUNDING

As promised, voter-approved Measure F continues to help preserve and protect City services, with approximately \$6 million to be invested in the 2015–16 fiscal year:

1. **Deficit backfill**—to protect existing service levels to the community and prevent budget reductions, locally-controlled funding will help backfill the General Fund at approximately **\$2.4 million**.
2. **Supporting the Local Economy**—economic development programs to help support local businesses and strengthen our economy.
3. **Maintain local services**—to retain our quality of life—including public safety services, city streets, roads and parks and to support our local economy, including jobs by attracting and retaining local businesses.
4. **Capital improvements**—approximately **\$3 million will be dedicated to youth and senior recreation** facilities, safe pathways to schools, and needed technology upgrades to keep the City running efficiently.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

The 2015–16 Capital Improvement Budget proposes to invest approximately \$6.9 million for the following community projects:

- Completion of the Hill Recreation Area master plan which will include field, facility and parking improvements.
- Site selection and construction of a synthetic turf sports field.
- **\$1 million** for maintenance of City-owned buildings, facilities, and infrastructure.
- Street and sidewalk pavement rehabilitation and new pedestrian & crosswalk upgrades
- Addition of bike lanes to Olive Avenue
- Complete resurfacing of the De Long and Ignacio interchanges
- Construction of the Nave pathway near the Hamilton Gymnasium and other safe routes to schools projects citywide

HAVE A VOICE IN CITY GOVERNMENT

APPLY FOR A CITY BOARD, COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE

Committees, commissions, and boards play a significant role in helping City staff and City Council make important decisions that affect the lives of Novato residents. The City of Novato values broad participation in these advisory bodies and highly encourages Novatans to apply. Committee positions are open to City of Novato residents.

The City has approximately 12 advisory bodies made up of active and engaged Novato residents who provide valuable input and energy to the local government process.

- Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee Design Review Commission
- Economic Development Advisory Commission
- Housing & Building Codes Appeals Board
- Measure F Oversight/Citizen Finance Advisory Committee
- Multicultural Advisory Commission
- Novato Community Television Board of Directors

- Novato Streetscape Committee
- Planning Commission
- Police Advisory & Review Board
- Recreation, Cultural & Community Services Advisory Commission
- Street Improvement Oversight Advisory Committee

Interested in serving on a city committee? It's as easy as 1 - 2 - 3:

1. **Go to novato.org/government/citycouncil and click on "Applications for Membership"** to view current vacancies.
2. **Select committees you would like to serve on.** (Check out "Agendas & Minutes" to review each committee's meeting schedule to ensure your availability)
3. **Complete the application online.**

Once you've submitted your completed application, it will remain on file in the City Clerk's Office and, as vacancies occur in your areas of interest, your application will be reviewed.



"Serving as a member of a Commission, Committee or Board for Novato is a truly rewarding, meaningful opportunity. You and your colleagues can lead with a shared vision for the betterment of Novato. Your public service is your investment in keeping our wonderful community moving forward. Your efforts strengthen our community, and the experience you gain is invaluable. Both are priceless."

— Nancy Weber, Recreation, Cultural & Community Services Commission since 2007

ANNUAL CITY PAVEMENT PROGRAM BEGINS

To help keep Novato a safe and accessible community for all, the City annually prioritizes streets and sidewalks in need of repair and kicks off its pavement rehabilitation program during the summer months.

The first phase of work, which includes replacement of damaged concrete curb, gutters, and sidewalks, replacement of street trees, and the addition of 40 ADA-compliant access ramps at crosswalks citywide, began in late May.

The next phase—pavement of City streets—is anticipated to start in mid-July and be completed by the end of August. All residents are notified of when work will begin and what to expect during the project. "No parking" signs are also placed at least 72 hours prior to the start date. As this phase of work gets closer, the City will post a schedule of when to expect work on your street.

At right is a list of streets that will be repaved.

For more information or questions, please contact the City's Public Works Department at pw@novato.org or 415.899.8246.

| STREET NAME | BEGINNING POINT | ENDING POINT |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Cerro Crest Drive | Bahia Drive | Laguna Vista Drive |
| Laguna Vista Drive | #2204 Laguna Vista | #2024 Laguna Vista |
| San Marin Drive | 925 Ft W/O San Ramon Way | Novato Boulevard |
| San Felipe Way | San Marcos Court | San Ramon N |
| San Aleso Court | San Felipe Way | End |
| San Marcos Court | San Felipe Way | End |
| San Ramon Way | San Carlos Way | San Marin Drive |
| Ramona Way | San Luis Way | San Carlos Way |
| San Luis Way | San Carlos Way | Romero Court |
| San Luis Way | Romero Court | San Carlos Way |
| San Marin Drive | Sereno Way | Simmons Lane |
| Tamalpais Avenue | Center Road | Novato Blvd |
| Center Road | Tamalpais Ave | Diablo Avenue |
| First Street | Vallejo Avenue | Olive Avenue |
| Second Street | Vallejo Avenue | Olive Avenue |
| First Street | Elm Street | Mirabella Avenue |
| Del Mar Avenue | Hill Road | Hotchkin Drive |
| Canyon Road | Hill Road | 979 Ft West Of Hill Road |
| Canyon Road | 979 Ft West Of Hill Road | West End |
| Lynwood Drive | 1000 Ft North Of Midway | Midway Boulevard |
| Sunset Parkway | Cambridge Street | S. Novato Boulevard |
| Midway Boulevard | So Novato Blvd | East End |
| Midway Court | Midway Blvd | N End Midway Boulevard |
| Kavon Court | Lynwood | East End |
| Kristy Court | Center Road | North End Intersection |



THE CITY OF
NOVATO
CALIFORNIA

922 MACHIN AVE
NOVATO, CA 94945

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DEAR NEIGHBOR,

A big thank-you to for completing the survey to let us know your top priorities for Novato! Your feedback is instrumental in helping us provide the services that are important to you and to continue being a City that Works.

If you haven't had an opportunity to fill out the survey, please go to: novato.org/acitythatworks.



JUNIOR ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

Ever considered adding a second dwelling unit (or “granny unit”) to your home but were put off by the permit costs (about \$31,000 including utility connection fees)? A **Junior Accessory Dwelling Unit** may be just right for you! Last December, the City Council approved new zoning regulations allowing Junior Accessory Dwelling Units (JADUs), which involve repurposing an existing bedroom in a single-family home by adding a wet-bar type of kitchen (small sink with hot plate or convection cooking unit) and an exterior entrance. JADUs can

be up to 500 square feet in size, can have a private or shared bathroom, and they can be rented for income or provided to a caregiver or family member. The City, Novato Fire District, Marin Sanitary, and North Marin Water Districts have all waived fees, so **the permit fees** (excluding building permit fee) **have been reduced from about \$31,000 to \$414 and no additional parking is required.**

For more information about Junior Accessory Dwelling Units, call the Planning Division at 415-899-8989.