

**4.4.6.7 Sand Creek.** The Sand Creek Focus Area encompasses approximately 2,712 acres in the southern portion of the City of Antioch (Figure 4.8).

This Focus Area is bounded by existing residential neighborhoods to the north, Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve to the west, the city limits to the south, and the City of Brentwood to the east. Empire Mine Road and Deer Valley Road run in a general north-south direction through the Focus Area, dividing it roughly into thirds.

**a. Purpose and Primary Issues.** The Sand Creek Focus Area combines two existing policy and planning areas identified in the previous General Plan: the southern portion of “Focused Policy Area 18” and the entirety of Future Urban Area 1.” Previous General Plan policy tied the timing of development within this Focus Area to progressive build out of the land immediately to the north (the area generally known as Southeast Antioch), and to agreement on an alignment for the SR-4 bypass.

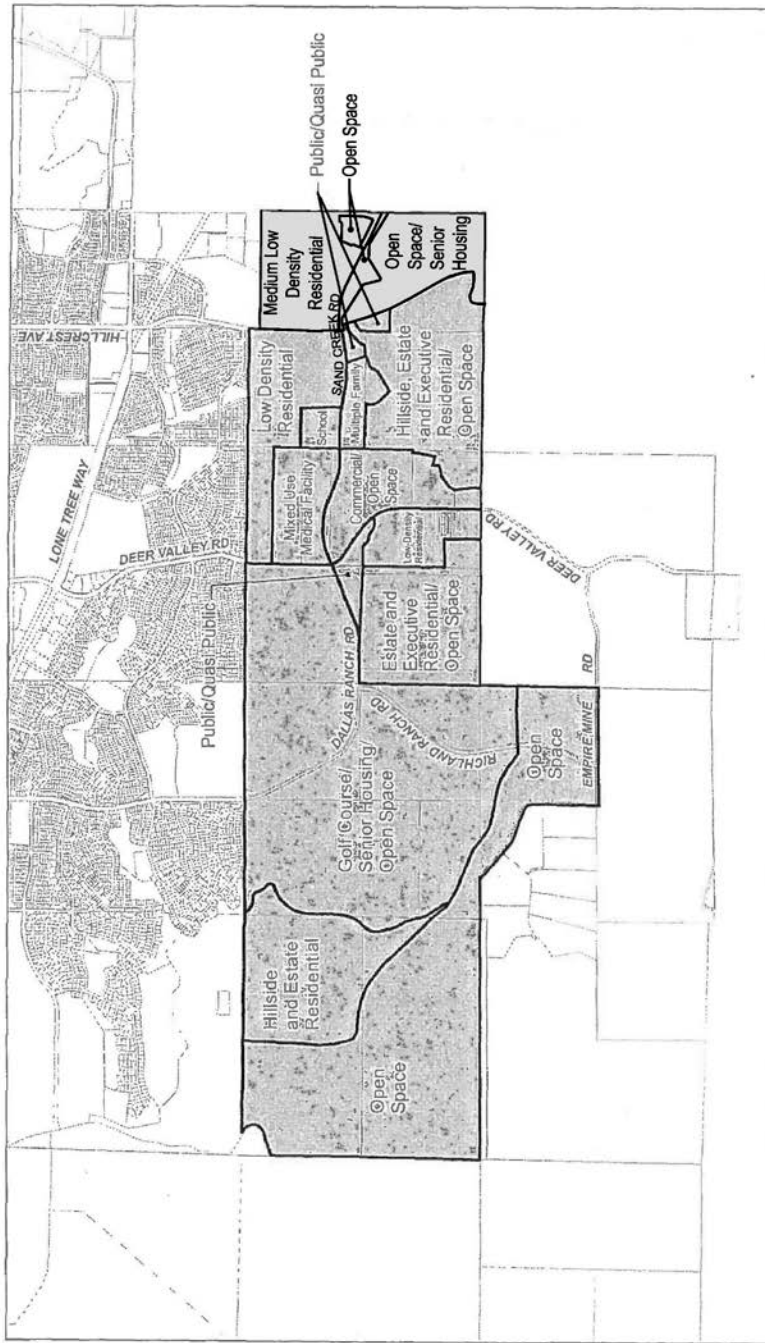
Through the 1990s, build out of Southeast Antioch was largely completed, an alignment for the SR-4 bypass was selected, and financing for construction of the bypass was developed. As a result, the City stepped up its planning efforts for the Sand Creek Focus Area with area landowners. Because of the multiple ownerships within the Sand Creek Focus Area, detailed coordination of access and infrastructure, along with the establish-

ment of workable financing mechanisms was necessary in addition to land use planning.

Sand Creek, as well as natural hillsides and canyons within the Sand Creek Focus Area, contain habitats for sensitive plant and animal species, as well as habitat linkages and movement corridors. Overall, the western portion of the Focus Area is more environmentally sensitive than the eastern portion in terms of steep topography, biological habitats and linkages, the existence of abandoned coal mines, and proximity to public open space at Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve. The west end of the Sand Creek Focus Area serves as a linkage between two regionally significant blocks of grassland. Decades of urban and agricultural use have greatly reduced the width of this linkage, substantially increasing the ecological importance of the remaining linkage within the Sand Creek Focus Area. Land has been preserved in regional parks and permanent open space, primarily in extensive grassland to the immediate west and northwest, as well as south of the Sand Creek Focus Area. These preserves represent a significant investment of public resources, and are a valued public asset.

Stream and riparian communities occupy a small portion of the Focus Area, but are widely distributed. Because of their high biotic value, stream and riparian communities within the Focus Area are considered to be a sensitive resource. The Focus Area also includes an oak woodland and savanna community, which, because of its high wildlife value, is considered to be a sensitive resource.

Figure 4.8: Sand Creek



L S A

FIGURE 4.8

(REVISED BY CGP, 11/09/15)

FIGURE 4.8

City of Antioch  
General Plan  
Sand Creek Focus Area

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F:\974974-98\GCP\DEVELOPMENT\98-048\_FIGURE 4.8\_ANTIOCH\_GENERAL\_PLAN.DWG

**b. Policy Direction.** The environmental sensitivity of portions of the Sand Creek Focus Area was recognized in the City's previous General Plan; however, policy direction was very general. As an example, the previous General Plan did not provide any indication of the maximum allowable development intensity for Future Urban Area 1. The previous General Plan also stated that while the area between Contra Loma Boulevard and Empire Mine Road was designated Estate Residential, "the actual density should be based on a development plan that ensures that the special characteristics of the area, including steep slopes, riparian habitat, and other environmental constraints, are accommodated.

The following policy discussion and policies for the Sand Creek Focus Area are intended to provide clear direction for the future development and environmental management of the area.

The Sand Creek Focus Area is intended to function as a large-scale planned community, providing needed housing and employment opportunities. This Focus Area is also intended to provide substantial employment opportunities. Up to approximately 280 acres are to be devoted to retail and employment-generating uses, which will result in the creation of up to 6,500 jobs at build out. Residential development within the Sand Creek Focus Area will provide for a range of housing types, including upper income estate housing, golf course-oriented age-restricted housing for seniors, suburban single-family detached housing for families or seniors, and multifamily development.

The following policies apply to development within the Sand Creek Focus Area.

- a. Prior to or concurrent with approvals of any development applications other than major employment-generating uses (including, but not limited to a medical facility on the Kaiser property), a specific plan or alternative planning process as determined by the City Council, shall be prepared and approved for the Sand Creek Focus Area. Such specific plan or alternative planning process shall identify
  - b. and provide for project for project-related land uses, financing of required public services and facilities, open space preservation, community design, recreational amenities, and community improvements within the area proposed for development.
  - b. Sand Creek Focus Area development shall make a substantial commitment to employment-generating uses. Up to 180 acres are to be devoted to employment-generating uses within the areas shown for Commercial/Open Space, in addition to the area shown as Mixed Use Medical Facility. Appropriate primary land uses within employment-generating areas include:
    - Administrative and Professional Offices
    - Research and Development
    - Light Manufacturing and Assembly
    - Hospital and related medical uses
  - c. Secondary, support and ancillary uses within employment-generating areas include:
    - Banks and Financial Services
    - Business Support Services
    - Eating and Drinking Establishments
    - Health Clubs and Spas
    - Lodging and Visitor Services
    - Storage and Distribution – Light
    - Civic Administration
    - Cultural Facilities
    - Day Care Centers
  - d. The maximum development intensity for employment-generating lands shall be an overall FAR of 0.5.
    - a. A maximum of 95 acres of retail commercial uses designed to service the local community may be developed within the areas shown for Commercial/Open Space, with a maximum overall development intensity of a 0.3 FAR.

- f. Up to 1.24 million square feet of retail commercial uses may be constructed. Within areas designated for retail use (areas shown for Commercial/Open Space), office development may be developed at a maximum FAR of 0.5.
- g. Appropriate uses within the retail portions of this Focus Area include:
- Administrative and Professional Offices
  - Automotive Uses
  - Banks and Financial Services
  - Business Support Services
  - Eating and Drinking Establishments
  - Food and Beverage Sales
  - General Merchandise
  - Health Clubs and Spas
  - Personal Services
  - Personal Instruction
  - Theaters
  - Civic Administration
  - Cultural Facilities
  - Day Care Centers
  - Residential development as part of a mixed-use medical facility
- h. Commercial areas shall be designed as cohesive centers, and not in narrow corridors or commercial strips.
- i. Each commercial center shall establish an identifiable architectural theme, including buildings, signage and landscaping.
- j. Commercial and employment-generating developments shall be designed to accommodate public transit and non-motorized forms of transportation.
- k. A maximum of 4,000 dwelling units may be constructed within the Sand Creek Focus Area. Appropriate density bonuses may be granted for development of age-restricted housing for seniors; however, such density bonuses may not exceed the total maximum of 4,000 dwelling units for the Sand Creek Focus Area.
- l. It is recognized that although the ultimate development yield for the Focus Area may be no higher than the 4,000 dwelling unit maximum, the actual development yield is not guaranteed by the General Plan, and could be substantially lower. The actual residential development yield of the Sand Creek Focus Area will depend on the nature and severity of biological, geologic, and other environmental constraints present within the Focus Area, including, but not limited to constraints posed by slopes and abandoned mines present within portions of the Focus Area; on appropriate design responses to such constraints, and on General Plan policies. Such policies include, and but are not limited to, identification of appropriate residential development types, public services and facilities performance standards, environmental policies aimed at protection of natural topography and environmental resources, policies intended to protect public health and safety, and implementation of the Resource Management Plan called for in Policy “t,” below.
- m. As a means of expanding the range of housing choices available within Antioch, three types of “upscale” housing are to be provided, including Hillside Estate Housing, Executive Estate Housing, and Golf Course-Oriented Housing.
- Hillside Estate Housing consists of residential development within the hilly portions of the Focus Area that are designated for residential development. Appropriate land use types include Large Lot Residential. Within these areas, typical flat land roadway standards may be modified (e.g., narrower street sections, slower design speeds) to minimize required grading. Mass grading would not be permitted within this residential type. Rough grading would be limited to streets and building pad areas. Residential densities within Hillside Estate Areas are to be limited to one dwelling unit per gross developable acre (1 du/ac), with typical lot sizes ranging upward from 20,000 square feet. The anticipated population density for this land use type is up to four persons per developed acre. Included in this category is

custom home development, wherein semi-improved lots are sold to individuals for construction of custom homes. Approximately 20 percent of Hillside Estate Housing should be devoted to custom home sites.

Executive Estate Housing consists of large lot suburban subdivisions within the flatter portions of the Focus Area. Appropriate land use types include Large Lot Residential. Densities of Executive Housing areas would typically be 2 du/ac, with lot sizes ranging upward from 12,000 square feet. The anticipated population density for this land use type is up to eight persons per developed acre.

Golf Course-Oriented Housing consists of residential dwelling units fronting on a golf course to be constructed within the portion of the Focus Area identified as Golf Course/Senior Housing/Open Space in Figure 4.8. Appropriate land use types include Single Family Detached and Small Lot Single Family detached for lots fronting on the golf course. Maximum densities for golf course-oriented housing would typically be 4 du/ac, with lot sizes as small as 5,000 square feet for lots actually fronting on the golf course. Given the significant environmental topographic constraints in the portion of the focus area west of Empire Mine Road, the minimum lot size for executive estate housing within this area shall be a minimum of 10,000 square feet. This would allow additional development flexibility in situations where executive estate housing needs to be clustered in order to preserve existing natural features. In no case shall the 10,000 square foot minimum lot size constitute more than 20 percent of the total number of executive estate housing units in the area west of Empire Mine Road. The anticipated population density for this land use type is up to eight to twelve persons per acre developed with residential uses. Should the City determine as part of the development review process that development of a golf course within the area having this designation would be infeasible, provision of an alternative open space program may

be permitted, provided, however, that the overall density of lands designated Golf Course/Senior Housing/Open Space not be greater than would have occurred with development of a golf course.

- n. Single-Family Detached housing within suburban-style subdivisions with lot sizes ranging from 7,000 square feet to 10,000 square feet may also be developed within the Sand Creek Focus Area within areas shown as Residential and Low Density Residential in Figure 4.8. The anticipated population density for this land use type is up to eight to twelve persons per acre developed with residential uses.
- o. Small Lot Single Family Detached housing within the Vineyard at Sand Creek planned development with lots small than 7,000 square feet may be developed in the Sand Creek Focus Area within the areas shown as Medium Low Density Residential in Figure 4.8. The anticipated population density for this land use type is fourteen to eighteen persons per acre developed with residential uses.
- p. A total of 25 to 35 acres is to be reserved for multi-family housing to a maximum density of 20 du/ac. Areas devoted to multi-family housing should be located adjacent to the main transportation routes within the Focus Area, and in close proximity to retail commercial areas. The anticipated population density for this land use type is up to forty persons per acre developed with residential uses.
- q. Age-restricted senior housing should be developed within the Focus Area as a means of expanding the range of housing choice within Antioch, while reducing the Focus Area's overall traffic and school impacts. Such senior housing may consist of Single Family Detached, Small Lot Single Family Detached, of Multi-Family Attached Housing, and may be developed in any of the residential areas of the Sand Creek Focus Area. Within areas identified in Figure 4.8 specifically for senior housing, limited areas of non-senior housing may be permitted where environmental or topographic constraints would limit development densities to a

- range more compatible with estate housing than with senior housing.
- r. Areas identified as Public/Quasi Public and School in Figure 4.8 are intended to identify locations for new public and institutional uses to serve the future development of the Sand Creek Focus Area. Development within these areas is to be consistent with the provisions of the Public/Institutional land use category described in Section 4.4.1.4 of the Land Use Element.
  - s. Sand Creek, ridgelines, hilltops, stands of oak trees, and significant landforms shall be preserved in their natural condition. Overall, a minimum of 25 percent of the Sand Creek Focus Area shall be preserved in open space, exclusive of lands developed for golf course use.
  - t. Adequate buffer areas adjacent to the top of banks along Sand Creek to protect sensitive plant and amphibian habitats and water quality shall be provided. Adequate buffer areas shall also be provided along the edge of existing areas of permanently preserved open space adjacent to the Sand Creek Focus Area, including but not limited to the Black Diamond Mines Regional Park. Buffers established adjacent to existing open space areas shall be of an adequate width to minimize light/glare, noise, fire safety, public safety, habitat, public access impacts within the existing open space areas, consistent with the provisions of Section 10.5, Open Space Transitions and Buffers Policies of the General Plan.
  - u. Because of the sensitivity of the habitat areas within the Sand Creek Focus Area, and to provide for mitigation of biological resources impacts on lands in natural open space, as well as for the long-term management of natural open space, a project-specific Resource Management Plan based on the Framework Resource Management Plan attached as Appendix A to this General Plan shall be prepared and approved prior to development of the Sand Creek Focus Area properties.
  - v. A viable, continuous grassland corridor between Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve and Cowell Ranch State Park shall be retained using linkages in the southwestern portion of the Lone Tree Valley (within the Sand Creek drainage area), Horse Valley, and the intervening ridge. The primary goal of preserving such a corridor is to allow for wildlife movement between Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve and Cowell Ranch State Park. Completion of such a corridor is contingent upon the cooperation with the City of Brentwood and Contra Costa County, each of whom may have land use jurisdiction over portions of this corridor.
    - To preserve this corridor and in view of other significant development constraints, certain lands in the southwestern portion of the Focus Area shall be designated as "Open Space," as depicted in Figure 4.8. Limited future adjustments to the boundaries of this "Open Space" area may occur as part of the Specific Plan and/or project level environmental review processes, provided that such adjustments: (a) are consistent with the goals and policies outlined in the Framework for Resource Management set forth in Appendix A; (b) are based upon subsequently developed information and data relating to environmental conditions or public health and safety that is available at the Specific Plan stage, the project-level development plan stage, or during the permitting processes with federal, state or regional regulatory agencies; and (c) would not cause the "Open Space" area west of Empire Mine Road to be less than 65 percent of the total lands west of Empire Mine Road. Any open space and otherwise undeveloped areas west of Empire Mine Road that are within the area designated as "Hillside and Estate Residential" shall not count towards meeting this 65 percent minimum "Open Space" requirement.
    - All areas designated as "Open Space" within the Focus Area may be utilized

- for mitigation for loss of grassland and other project-level impacts by projects within the Focus Area.
- Due to the varied and complex topography west of Empire Mine Road the exact boundary between the "Hillside Estate" residential area and "Estate" residential area shall be determined as part of the project-level entitlement process.
  - It is anticipated that there will be only minor adjustments to the boundary between the open space area and the hillside and estate residential area shown in Figure 4.8. Minor adjustments may be made to this boundary provided that such adjustments shall not create islands of residential development within the area designated open space in Figure 4.8..
  - In order to ensure adequate buffering of the Black Diamond Mines Regional Park from development in the Sand Creek Focus Area, no residential development shall be allowed north of the Sand Creek channel between the area designated "Hillside and Estate Residential" in Figure 4.8 west of Empire Mine Road and the existing Black Diamond Mines Regional Park boundary.
- w. The construction of facilities necessary to ensure adequate public access across Sand Creek west of Empire Mine Road, including the bridging of Sand Creek, an appropriately sized parking lot and staging area, and any trails needed to ensure public access to Black Diamond Mines Regional Park shall be implemented as an infrastructure component of development in the Focus Area.
- x. To mitigate the impacts of habitat that will be lost to future development within the Focus Area, an appropriate amount of habitat shall be preserved on- or off-site per the compensatory provisions of the Framework Resource Management Plan prepared for the Sand Creek Focus Area (attached as Appendix A of the General Plan).
- y. Ponds, wetlands, and alkali grassland associated with upper Horse Creek shall be retained in natural open space, along with an appropriate buffer area to protect sensitive plant and amphibian habitats and water quality. If impacts on the Horse Creek stream and riparian downstream are unavoidable to accommodate infrastructure, appropriate compensatory mitigation shall be required off-site per the provisions of the Resource Management Plan attached as Appendix A to this General Plan.
  - z. Chaparral, scrub, and rock outcrop community within the western portion of the Focus Area (west of Empire Mine Road), as well as adjacent grassland community that is suitable habitat for the Alameda whipsnake (*masticophis lateralis euryxanthus*) shall be retained in natural open space. Within other portions of the Focus Area, the chaparral, scrub, and rock outcrop shall be retained in natural open space contiguous to the required grassland linkage to function as a buffer and protect the grassland linkage south of the chaparral, scrub, and outcrop community.
  - aa. Within the western portion of the Focus Area (west of Empire Mine Road), the oak woodland and savanna community shall be preserved in natural open space. Within other portions of the Focus Area, the oak woodland and savanna community shall be preserved in natural open space where it overlaps the rock outcrop community.
  - bb. As appropriate and necessary to protect public health and safety, abandoned mines shall be included within required natural open space areas, along with appropriate buffer areas and measures to prevent unauthorized entry.
  - cc. Mass grading within the steeper portions or the Focus Area (generally exceeding 25 percent slopes) is to be avoided.
  - dd. Impacts of residential development on the Antioch Unified School District and

Brentwood school districts will be mitigated pursuant to a developer agreement with the District.

- ee. Project entry, streetscape, and landscape design elements are to be designed to create and maintain a strong identification of the Sand Creek Focus Area as an identifiable “community” distinct from Southeast Antioch.
- ff. The Sand Creek Focus Area is intended to be “transit-friendly,” including appropriate provisions for public transit and non-motorized forms of transportation.
- gg. subject to its financial feasibility (see Policy “m”), a golf course shall be provided within the Focus Area, designed in such a way as to maximize frontage for residential dwellings. The golf course may also be designed to serve as a buffer between development and open space areas set aside to mitigate the impacts of development.

The golf course shall be designed to retain the existing trail within Sand Creek.

The golf course and Sand Creek corridor shall function as a visual amenity from the primary access road within the Focus Area (Dallas Ranch Road/Sand Creek Road). As part of the golf course clubhouse, banquet and conference facilities shall be provided.

- hh. A park program, providing active and passive recreational opportunities is to be provided. In addition to a golf course and preservation of natural open space within Sand Creek and the steeper portions of the Focus Area, the development shall meet the City’s established park standards. A sports complex is to be developed.

A sports complex is to be developed. The sports complex is intended to be located within the Flood Control District’s detention basin.

Neighborhood park facilities may be privately maintained for the exclusive use of project residents. The sports complex within the Sand Creek Detention Basin will be maintained by the City.

- ii. Development of an appropriate level of pedestrian and bicycle circulation throughout the community is to be provided, including pathways connecting the residential neighborhoods, as well as non-residential and recreational components of the community. Sand Creek Focus Area development should also provide recreational trail systems for jogging and bicycling, including areas for hiking and mountain biking. Trails along Sand Creek and Horse Valley Creek shall be designed so as to avoid impacting sensitive plant and amphibian habitats, as well as water quality.