SECTION 5

RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

This section contains goals, policies, and programs that establish the framework for the provision of recreational opportunities to Eureka residents and visitors and the preservation, protection, and enhancement of cultural resources in the Eureka area. The goals and policies of this section are organized topically according to the following categories, each of which relates to a key objective for ensuring opportunities for recreation and cultural enrichment to Eureka's residents and visitors.

- General Parks and Recreation
- Coastal Recreation and Access
- Recreation Services
- Arts and Culture
- Historic Preservation
- Archaeological Resources

GENERAL PARKS AND RECREATION

Goal 5.A: To provide for park and recreational systems which include sufficient diversity of areas and facilities to effectively serve a population with varied characteristics, densities, needs and interests, consistent with protecting environmentally sensitive habitats.

Policies

5.A.1. The City of Eureka will work with other park and recreation service providers to ensure the availability of a park and recreational system that include sufficient diversity of areas and facilities to effectively serve the varied characteristics, densities, needs, and interests of Eureka residents and visitors. The City shall promote the development of parks according to the following principles:

a. Neighborhood parks should be located within the residential areas of the city with direct access from a collector street and should include both active and passive recreational uses in order to serve as a multi-activity neighborhood recreational center.
b. Community parks should provide for popular forms of recreation which require more space than would be available in the residential neighborhood park. Community parks should be designed to provide active and passive recreational facilities for all age groups while being compatible with surrounding development. Community parks should have convenient access from arterial streets in order to serve the entire community.
c. Trails should meander through residential neighborhoods and/or scenic areas. Trails should connect to community parks and schools, which should provide access points to the trails. Trails should not cross arterial streets frequently and should provide as many interesting vistas and view points as feasible.
d. New parks and recreational facilities shall be developed to minimize impacts on environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands and riparian habitat.

5.A.2. The City shall upgrade Eureka's established park system as necessary to better serve the needs of the general public.

5.A.3. The City shall strive to achieve the open space and recreation standards shown in Table 5-1.

TABLE 5-1

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION STANDARDS

Type of Facility	Radius of Service (miles)	Service Population	Site Size (Acres)	Acres per Thousand Persons	Location
Neighborhood Park	½ to 3/4	3,000 to 8,000	1 to 5	1.0	Near Center of Neighborhood, Access from Collector Street
Community Park	3/4 to 2	8,000 to 20,000	30 to 50	3.0	Near Boundary of Residential Area, Access from Arterial Street
Greenways and Trails	3/4 to 2 to access point	25,000 to 35,000	One Trail System	10.0	Within Residential Areas and/or Scenic Areas, Access from Community Parks and Schools

COASTAL RECREATION AND ACCESS

Goal 5.B: To provide public open space and shoreline accessways throughout the Coastal Zone, consistent with protecting environmentally sensitive habitats and other coastal priority land uses.

Policies

5.B.1. The City shall provide public open space and shoreline access throughout the Coastal Zone, particularly along the waterfront and First Street, through all of the following:

a. Develop Waterfront Drive from the Elk River Interchange to a terminus near Eureka Slough, with provisions for bicycle lanes, pedestrian walkways, and supporting facilities.
b. Establish a walkway system located on or near the shoreline throughout the city's waterfront Core Area.
c. Establish scenic vista points at numerous locations along the waterfront, including construction of a public access vista point at the foot of Truesdale Street.
d. Consider and protect the scenic and visual qualities of coastal areas that are visible from scenic public vista points and waterfront walkways.
e. The City, in cooperation with the Coastal Commission and Coastal Conservancy, shall provide for attractive directional signs that are meaningful on the North Coast so as to assist area residents and visitors alike in identifying visitor-serving, recreational, and historical facilities in the city.

5.B.2. On shoreline parcels where recreation or visitor-serving uses are integrated with coastal-dependent uses, the City shall ensure that the recreation or visitor-serving uses are secondary to and compatible with the coastal-dependent uses.

5.B.3. The City shall promote the maintenance of and, where feasible, shall provide, restore, or enhance facilities serving commercial and recreational boating, including party or charter fishing boats.

5.B.4. The City of Eureka shall protect and enhance the public's rights of access to and along the shoreline, consistent with protecting environmentally sensitive habitats, by:

a. Accepting offers of dedication that will increase opportunities for public access and recreation and the availability of necessary staff and funding to improve and maintain access ways and assume liability for them;
b. Actively seeking other public, community non-profit, or public agencies to accept offers of dedications and having them assume liability and maintenance responsibilities; and,

c. Allowing only such development as will not interfere with the public's right of access to the sea, where such right was acquired through use or legislative authorization.

5.B.5. For new development between the first public road and the sea, the City shall require the dedication of a vertical access easement to the mean high tide line unless:

a. Another more suitable public access corridor is available within 500 feet of the site; or
b. Access at the site would be inconsistent with other General Plan coastal policies, including existing, expanded, or new coastal-dependent industry, agricultural operations, or the protection of environmentally sensitive habitat areas; or,
c. Access at the site is inconsistent with public safety, environmental protection, or military security needs.

5.B.6. For new development between the first public road and the sea, the City shall require a lateral access easement along the shoreline unless:

a. Lateral access at the site would be inconsistent with other General Plan coastal policies, including existing, expanded, or new coastal dependent industry, agricultural operations, or the protection of environmentally sensitive habitat areas; or,
b. Access is inconsistent with public safety or military security needs.

5.B.7. The City shall establish a coordinated continuous public access system throughout its Coastal Zone, consisting of pedestrian walkways, nature walks, and bikeways with necessary support facilities, as described in Table 5-2 and shown in Figure 5-1.

5.B.8. The City shall enforce the access standards and recommendations contained in the State Coastal Conservancy/Coastal Commission *Report on Coastal Access* (revised August 1980) as the criteria for improvement, maintenance, and management of accessways and supporting facilities proposed in this General Plan. Special attention in design and construction of accessways shall be given to minimizing maintenance requirements given the North Coast climate and to minimizing the possibilities of vandalism. Where public accessways or vista points are located near environmentally sensitive habitat areas, attractive barriers shall be provided to preclude disturbance of natural areas by off-road or all-terrain vehicles.

5.B.9. The City shall ensure that public access support facilities are distributed throughout the Eureka Coastal Zone. Off-street parking shall be provided in the waterfront area; however, it shall not be located immediately adjacent to the shoreline, unless there is no feasible alternative.

5.B.10. To the maximum extent feasible, the City shall ensure universal public access to the waterfront, including support facilities.

5.B.11. The City shall participate in the development of a facility for the Humboldt Bay Rowers Association on the waterfront.

TABLE 5-2

COASTAL ZONE PUBLIC ACCESS

Access Point/Area	Description of Proposed Access
Along shoreline between "J" and "M" Streets	To be located along the shoreline, East Plaza and West Plaza shall be developed in coordination with the overall Restoration Plan.
At the foot of "C" Street	The City-owned pier and dock shall, consistent with any lease requirements or conditions, be restored for pedestrian and public fishing use.
At the Small Boat Basin	A small plaza and improved access facilities, including off-street parking, bicycle racks, benches, tables, restrooms, and an improved boat-launching area shall be provided. Lamoreaux Park shall be upgraded. Public use facilities shall be designed and located to complement potential adjacent revenue generating uses. Existing access to piers with docks shall be continued consistent with public safety and protection of the property of boat owners.
At the foot of "V" Street	A passive recreation plaza with landscaping improvements and picnic tables shall be provided at the shoreline. Development of the "V" Street Plaza shall occur either in conjunction with the construction of Waterfront Drive or the private development of the property (in proximity to the Blue Ox), whichever comes first.
At Eureka Slough, north of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad tracks	A passive recreation plaza with landscaping improvements and picnic tables shall be provided at the shoreline. Public access improvements either at Eureka Slough or near the Samoa Bridge shall also include a small boat launch ramp and off-street parking area, provided that in consultation with the Department of Fish and Game, Coastal Commission, and the Coastal Conservancy, a specific location for these access improvements can be identified that will create no significant adverse effects on environmentally sensitive habitat areas.
At Woodley Island at the westerly end of the marina	A scenic vista point shall be developed to complement the existing public access and support facilities and be compatible with other permitted development. Access to the Woodley Island wildlife area shall continue to be by permit from the Department of Fish and Game.
From the Samoa Bridge to and along Eureka Slough	A continuous shoreline pedestrian walkway shall be developed. Portions of this accessway may be incorporated into the extension of Waterfront Drive, which shall also provide for a bicycle way, provided that in consultation with the Department of Fish and Game, Coastal Commission, and the Coastal Conservancy, a specific location for these access improvements can be identified that will create no significant adverse effects on environmentally sensitive habitat areas. Support facilities shall include parking areas and trash receptacles.
Along the Eureka northern waterfront between Commercial Street on the west and the Samoa Bridge on the east	A continuous shoreline accessway shall be developed to include: (1)completion of lateral accessways at the foot of "J" and "M" Streets; (2)vista points at the foot of "F" Street and the end of "M" Street (on the bluff top near the Carson Mansion/Ingomar Club); (3)access support facilities distributed throughout Old Town so as to minimize potential adverse impacts.
Near Second and "Y" Streets in the East Bridge District	The City shall accept a vertical accessway easement dedication offer if further consultation with the Department of Fish and Game indicates that access can be provided consistent with protection of sensitive natural habitat areas. If the dedication offer is accepted, access shall be integrated through directional signing and support facilities into the northern waterfront shoreline access system.
At the foot of Truesdale Street	A scenic vista point shall be developed on the shoreline to complement the existing vertical access at the street end. Access support facilities shall include a small parking area, bicycle racks, and trash receptacles.
Along waterfront between Truesdale Street and Hilfiker Lane	A continuous waterfront trail shall be dedicated and developed in conjunction with future development in order to connect the vertical accessways at the two street ends. The waterfront trail shall be fenced and/or landscaped to protect adjacent property.
Halvorsen Village and East Park Plaza	The City shall, concurrent with the development of, construct the Fountain Plaza Pedestrian Bridge immediately to the west of the East Park Plaza amphitheater, so as to provide safe public access across the Northwestern Pacific Railroad right-of-way from Waterfront Drive to Old Town.

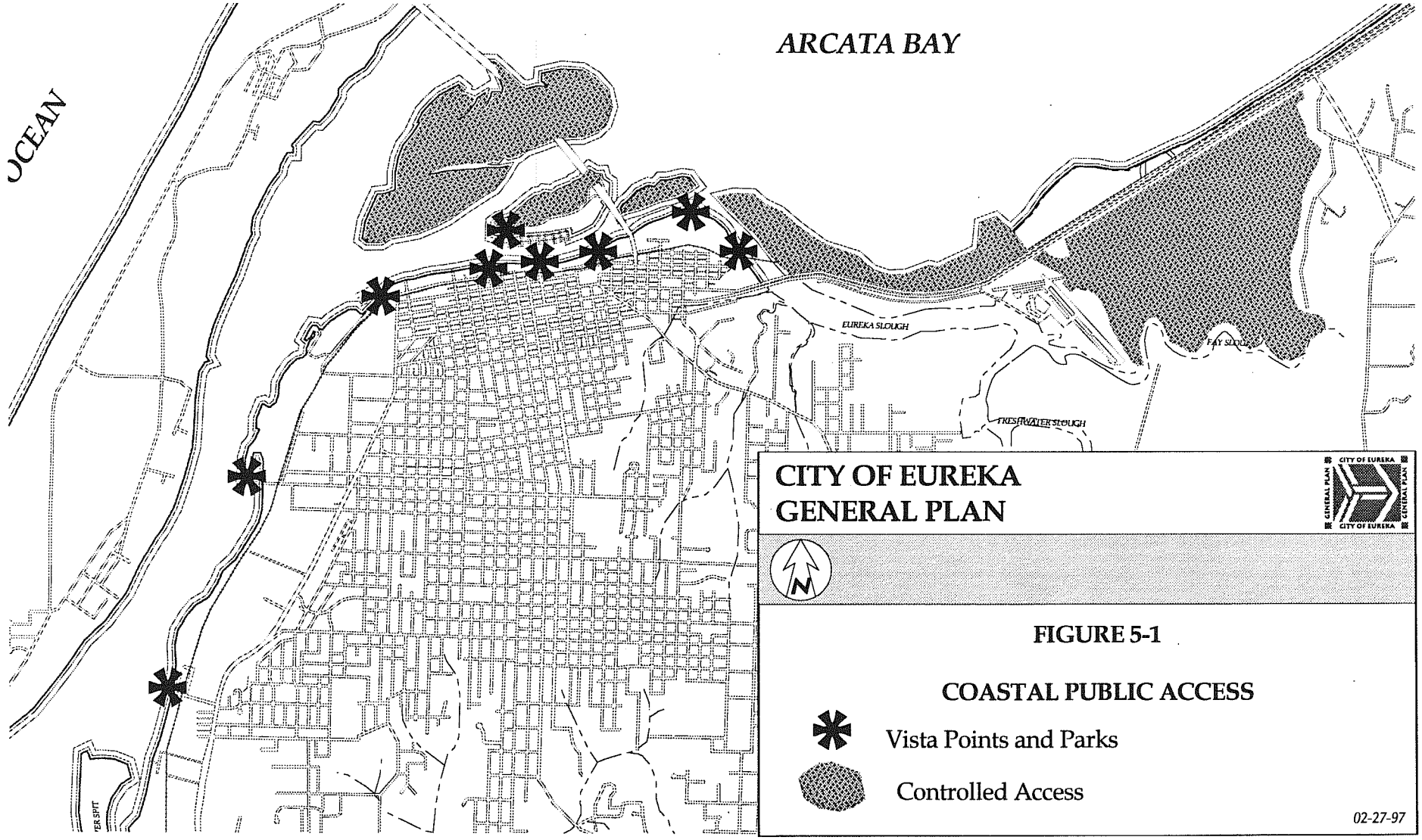
ARCATA BAY
OCEAN
EUREKA SLOUGH
FRESHWATER SLOUGH
CITY OF EUREKA
GENERAL PLAN
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FIGURE 5-1
COASTAL PUBLIC ACCESS
Vista Points and Parks
Controlled Access
02-27-97

Access Point/Area	Description of Proposed Access
Near "K" Street across the Northwestern Pacific Railroad right-of-way from Waterfront Drive to Old Town	The City shall, concurrent with the development of the community conference center, parking structure, and West Park Plaza, construct a pedestrian bridge. West Park, located at the foot of "J" Street, shall include a small parking area and public pier available for fishing and, if feasible, use by a tourist-oriented water taxi.
Across the Northwestern Pacific Railroad right-of-way along the city's bayfront	The City shall, in conjunction with the California Public Utilities Commission and the Northwestern Pacific Railroad, prepare an implementable long-range plan for pedestrian and vehicular at-grade access, consistent with requirements of this General Plan, in order to maximize public access opportunities and ensure public safety.
Greenways or gulches near Eureka, First, and Second Sloughs.	The City shall utilize public lands, rights-of-way, potential future dedications of land, and/or limited acquisition to establish public walkways in greenways or gulches. The precise location of walkways shall be determined after consultation with adjacent private property owners, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Coastal Conservancy in order to assure that private property rights and environmentally sensitive habitat areas are protected, while this important community asset is opened for appropriate levels of public use and enjoyment. In consultation with the Coastal Conservancy, the City shall explore creation and funding of a community non-profit organization to assist in the design, implementation, and maintenance of the greenway/gulch public access system.
Elk River	Public accessways shall be implemented by the City in consultation with the Department of Fish and Game.
Elk River Spit	The pedestrian footbridge and appropriate directional signing shall be constructed.

RECREATION SERVICES

Goal 5.C: To ensure that a range of recreation services, activities, and programs are offered which provide a desirable quality of life for all citizens of Eureka.

Policies

5.C.1. The City shall consider the needs of all age groups, abilities, disabilities, and special interest groups in its park, recreation, and community services planning.

5.C.2. The City shall encourage and support agencies that actively provide recreation and community service programs and activities.

5.C.3. The City shall ensure that a mechanism is in place to provide opportunities for participation by economically disadvantaged families and individuals.

5.C.4. The City shall provide supervision of park areas to protect the rights of the users of the parks and reduce vandalism and shall work with law enforcement agencies to eliminate crime at parks and recreation facilities.

5.C.5. The City shall provide an ongoing emphasis on youth programs and services, especially those that provide positive educational and social influences for youth at risk for illegal, anti-social, or unhealthy behaviors.

5.C.6. The City shall ensure a wide range of services, activities, and programs reflecting the cultural diversity of the community.

5.C.7. The City shall ensure the provision of services and programs designed for physically and mentally challenged citizens, and make reasonable accommodations for the participation of such individuals in City programs.

5.C.8. The City shall provide opportunities for citizen input and participation in the planning of recreation and community services programs and activities.

ARTS AND CULTURE

Goal 5.D: To promote development and programs that meet the artistic and cultural needs of the Eureka community.

Policies

5.D.1. The City shall establish the Core Area as the city's and region's focal point for entertainment, cultural, and community activities.

5.D.2. The City shall continue to support the local arts community through its participation in the Cultural Arts Resource District, the Phantom Art Gallery program, and similar programs.

5.D.3. The City shall support efforts to establish a performing arts-theater center in the area bounded by 6th and 7th and E and F Streets.

5.D.4. The City shall actively support the establishment of a community center in the downtown area to meet both the civic and cultural needs of the community.

5.D.5. The City shall encourage coordination among local arts and cultural groups and events to expand their appreciation by the community.

5.D.6. The City shall encourage the development of entertainment, recreational, and cultural activities for youth.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Goal 5.E: To preserve and enhance the historical features of the Eureka area.

Policies

5.E.1. The City shall designate historic districts for the restoration and preservation of those areas, buildings, and sites in Eureka that are of historic, cultural, and/or architectural significance.

5.E.2. The City shall support the registration of cultural resources in appropriate landmark designations (i.e., National Register of Historic Places, California Historical Landmarks, Points of Historical Interest, or Local Landmark).

5.E.3. The City shall give highest restoration priority to those buildings and open space areas identified as having historic, cultural, or architectural significance that are in imminent danger of decay or demolition and vulnerable to earthquake damage (e.g., unreinforced masonry buildings).

5.E.4. The City shall encourage federal and state governments as well as financial institutions and private citizens to provide loans for refurbishing historical buildings and restoring artifacts and memorabilia.

5.E.5. The City shall sponsor and support legislation to provide incentives for maintaining and enhancing structural stability and aesthetic value of significant structures.

5.E.6. The City shall encourage local citizens to cooperate in a campaign to identify and publicize the significance of historical sites and buildings.

5.E.7. The City shall prepare and adopt design review guidelines that provide for architectural review of new developments and of exterior alterations to existing structures in designated historical areas.

5.E.8. The City shall review all building or demolition permits for buildings either designated historic or within historical districts to ensure, where feasible, the preservation of these historic facilities.

5.E.9. The City shall protect and enhance the integrity of the historical atmosphere by supporting the restoration, renovation, and quality replication of historic buildings.

5.E.10. The City shall promote re-use of historic buildings for both public and private uses.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Goal 5.F: To identify, protect, and enhance Eureka's important archaeological and cultural sites and their contributing environment.

Policies

5.F.1. The City shall solicit the cooperation of the owners of cultural resources, encourage those owners to treat these resources as assets rather than liabilities, and encourage the support of the general public for the preservation and enhancement of these resources.

5.F.2. The City shall solicit the views of the Native American Heritage Commission and/or the local Native American community in cases where development may result in disturbance to sites containing evidence of Native American activity and/or to sites of cultural importance.

5.F.3. The City shall coordinate with Humboldt County to promote the preservation and maintenance of archaeological resources in the Planning Area.

5.F.4. The City shall use, where feasible, incentive programs to assist private property owners in preserving and enhancing cultural resources.

5.F.5. The City shall require that discretionary development projects identify and protect from damage, destruction, and abuse, important historical, archaeological, and cultural sites and their contributing environment. Such assessments shall be incorporated into a citywide cultural resource data base.

5.F.6. The City shall require that discretionary development projects are designed to avoid potential impacts to significant cultural resources whenever feasible. Unavoidable impacts, whenever feasible, shall be reduced to a less than significant level and/or shall be mitigated by extracting maximum recoverable data. Determinations of impacts, significance, and mitigation shall be made by qualified archaeological or historical consultants, depending on the type of resource in question.

5.F.7. The City shall, within its power, maintain confidentiality regarding the locations of archaeological sites in order to preserve and protect these resources from vandalism and the unauthorized removal of artifacts.

5.F.8. The City shall consider acquisition programs as a means of preserving significant cultural resources that are not suitable for private development. Organizations that could provide assistance in this area include, but are not limited to, the Archaeological Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMS

5.1. The City shall prepare, adopt, and implement procedures for review and approval of all City-permitted projects involving ground disturbance and all building and/or demolition permits that will affect buildings, structures, or objects identified as historically significant.

Responsibility: City Council
Historic Preservation Commission
Community Development Department
Building Department
Time Frame: FY 96-97

5.2. The City shall develop preservation incentive programs for owners of important cultural resources, using such mechanisms as the Mills Act, the Historic Preservation Easement program, the Certified Local Government program, and the Heritage Tourism program.

Responsibility: City Council
Historic Preservation Commission
Community Development Department
Redevelopment Agency
Time Frame: FY 97-98

5.3. The City shall consider pursuing the following cultural resource management programs and shall explore possible funding sources to support these programs:

1. Pursuit of status as a Certified Local Government to facilitate state funding and technical assistance from the State Office of Historic Preservation; and
2. Preparation, adoption, and implementation of a cultural resources ordinance that provides definitions and standards for identification and protection of cultural resources and provides penalties for their disturbance.
3. Preparation and updating of a citywide cultural resource data base.

Responsibility: City Council
Community Development Department
Redevelopment Agency
Historic Preservation Commission
Time Frame: FY 97-98

5.4. The City shall participate in the development of a facility for the Humboldt Bay Rowers Association on the waterfront.

Responsibility: City Council
Engineering Department
Community Development Department
Redevelopment Agency
City Manager
Time Frame: As funding becomes available