



TOWN OF ROSS

General Plan

2007 - 2025



Welcome and Overview

Ross will celebrate the 100th anniversary of becoming a town in 2008. While the railroad and horses of 1908 are gone, the residential neighborhoods still suggest a changeless quality.

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ROSS**

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Whether we represent a third generation Ross family or moved to Town yesterday, we share many reasons for choosing Ross as our home: its historic character, small-town charm, tree-lined streets, excellent school, wooded hillsides and meandering creeks. We want Ross to retain these attributes and still be a dynamic and evolving community.

We define stewardship as the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. This community shares a unique environment in which we foster, nurture and protect our families. The founding principles of this place are joy in the physical environment, the families who stand together and the education of the children who will learn and project these values into the future. We have come to this valley in search of a better way to live. In every aspect this view of the projected future, this General Plan, is grounded in the stewardship of these irreplaceable assets.

State law requires that all municipalities have a long-range general plan for their physical development. More than just meeting this mandate, we want our plan to be a compelling and stimulating road map for addressing the fundamental elements affecting our town. The Ross General Plan supports and advances healthy, safe and sustainable principles that preserve Ross' unique environmental qualities and encourage participation from all Ross residents in Town government.

For the creation of the General Plan, the Town Council appointed a steering committee comprised of seven Ross residents and a member of the Council. Over a period of more than two years, the committee met with professional planners, local design professionals, Town staff and numerous experts on the topics addressed in the plan. The process also included extensive opportunities for valuable community involvement to reflect the best current ideas and a future vision for our community.

Among new ideas contained in the General Plan are:

- **Establish ADR** (Advisory Design Review) comprised of an advisory group of local volunteer design professionals to provide design review assistance to staff.
- **Develop Detailed Design Guidelines** to be applied during the application review process.
- **Prepare a Plan for the Downtown Area** to address street design, parking, potential uses, design guidelines, pedestrian/bicycle access, and places for gathering.
- **Require Design Review of Larger Landscape Projects** that include alterations that could affect the visual and/or physical character of a site or neighborhood.
- **Prepare a Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan** to assure safe bicycle and pedestrian travel in Ross, including safe routes for children.

Acknowledgements

Ross Town Council

William Cahill
Diane Durst
R. Scot Hunter
Michael Skall
Richard Strauss
Jeanne Barr (*former member*)
Thomas Byrnes, Jr. (*former member*)

Ross General Plan Steering Committee

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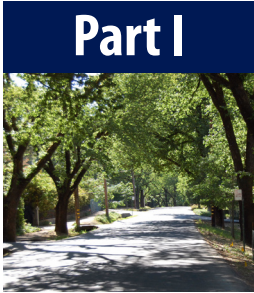
Other Groups, Organizations and Agencies

Amy Skewes-Cox, Volunteer, Ross Safe Routes to Schools
Catherine Townsley, Superintendent, Ross School District
Sam Ruark, Marin County Community Development Agency
Ross Property Owners' Association
Sandra Guldman, Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed
Liz Lewis, Stormwater Program Administrator for Marin County
Lindsay Merriman and Edward Yates, Coalition for Corte Madera Creek
Becky Duckles, Town Arborist
Jay Turnbull, April Hesik, and Chris VerPlanck, Page & Turnbull

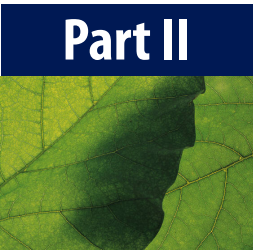
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Ross General Plan Contents



Our History And Who We Are Today 1
How We Became A Town..... 1
The History of Some of Our Important Places..... 2
Who We Are Today . . . And Tomorrow 5



Our Relationship With The Natural Environment 7
Goal 1 An Abundance of Green and Healthy Natural Systems 7
Our Vision of Ross in the Year 2025 7
Ross General Plan Policies 8
Overview of Our Past Accomplishments 8
Action List of New Ideas 9
Goal 2 Sustainable Building and Community Practices 10
Our Vision of Ross in the Year 2025 10
Ross General Plan Policies..... 10
Overview of Our Past Accomplishments 11
Action List of New Ideas 11

Part III



Excellence of Design	13
Goal 3 Design With Nature, Neighborhood and Community	13
Our Vision of Ross in the Year 2025	13
Ross General Plan Policies.....	14
Overview of Our Past Accomplishments	15
Action List of New Ideas	17
Goal 4 Protecting Historic Places and Resources	19
Our Vision of Ross in the Year 2025	19
Ross General Plan Policies.....	19
Overview of Our Past Accomplishments	20
Action List of New Ideas	21

Part IV



Assuring the Health and Safety of the Community	22
Goal 5 Protecting Community Health and Safety, and Preparing for Emergencies ..	22
Our Vision of Ross in the Year 2025	22
Ross General Plan Policies.....	22
Overview of Our Past Accomplishments	25
Action List of New Ideas	25
Goal 6 Protecting Creek Habitat and Reducing Flooding Hazards	26
Our Vision of Ross in the Year 2025	26
Ross General Plan Policies.....	26
Overview of Our Past Accomplishments	28
Action List of New Ideas	29

Part V



Easy and Safe Travel Throughout Ross	30
Goal 7 Safe, Connected and Well-Maintained Streets, Pedestrian and Bicycle Routes	30
Our Vision of Ross in the Year 2025	30
Ross General Plan Policies.....	30
Overview of Our Past Accomplishments	31
Action List of New Ideas	32

Part VI



The Future Use of Our Land	33
Goal 8 A Beautiful, Safe and Close-Knit Community	33
Our Vision of Ross in the Year 2025	33
Ross General Plan Policies	34
Overview of Our Past Accomplishments	35
Action List of New Ideas	36
Goal 9 Excellence of Community Stewardship	37
Our Vision of Ross in the Year 2025	37
Ross General Plan Policies.....	37
Overview of Our Past Accomplishments	38
Action List of New Ideas	39
Goal 10 Provision of Affordable Housing Opportunities	41
Our Vision of Ross in the Year 2025	41
<i>(See Town of Ross Housing Element, adopted January 13, 2005, which is available in a separate document)</i>	

Part VII



Commitment to Our Future	42
Goal 11 Implementing the Ross General Plan	42
Our Vision of Ross in the Year 2025	42
Criteria to Define Action/Implementation Priorities	43
Near-Term Actions (1-3 Years)	44
Medium-Term Actions (3-8 Years)	47

Appendices

Appendix A — Ross General Plan Maps

- Figure 3 — Town of Open Space Plan
- Figure 4 — Sub-areas of Ross
- Figure 11 — Pedestrian/Bicycle System in Ross
- Figure 12 — Town of Ross Land Use Plan

Appendix B — Ross General Plan Vision for the Year 2025

Appendix C — Ross General Plan Index

List of Figures

- Figure 1 — Regional Location and Surrounding Jurisdictions
- Figure 2 — Ross Planning Area and Sphere of Influence
- Figure 3 — Town of Open Space Plan (*see Appendix A*)
- Figure 4 — Transect of Ross
- Figure 5 — Sub-areas of Ross (*see Appendix A*)
- Figure 6 — Illustration of How the ADR Process Might Work
- Figure 7 — Generalized Areas in Ross with Steeper Slopes
- Figure 8 — Land Use/Noise Compatibility Standards
- Figure 9 — Generalized Areas in Ross Subject to Flooding and Potential Dam Inundation
- Figure 10 — Properties Affected by the New Year’s Eve Flood of 2005
- Figure 11 — Pedestrian/Bicycle System in Ross (*see Appendix A*)
- Figure 12 — Town of Ross Land Use Plan (*see Appendix A*)
- Figure 13 — Existing (2006) Land Use in Ross