



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & SAFETY ELEMENTS

February 9, 2023 Community Meeting



INTRODUCTIONS



ChangeLab Solutions

AGENDA

- **Background**
 - General Plans
 - Housing, Safety, and Environmental Justice (EJ) Elements
- **Brief Safety Element Overview**
- **Brief EJ Element Overview**
- **Key EJ Outreach Findings**
- **EJ Element Goals & Themes**
- **Public Input Opportunity**



MEETING GOALS

- **Revisit** findings from community input to date
- **Review & Discuss** proposed Environmental Justice goals, policies, and programs
- **Receive** community feedback on proposed Environmental Justice goals, policies, and programs

**We Want to Hear
What You Think**



DURING THE PRESENTATION

- Please save your questions and comments for small-group discussion
- Write notes and reminders in the space provided on the handout





BACKGROUND

QUICK POLL #1

Raise your hand if you know:

- What a **General Plan** is
- What the purpose of the **Environmental Justice Element** is

QUICK POLL #2

Raise your hand if you have attended a workshop or focus group, filled out a survey, gone to the City's website, or otherwise **engaged in this project in any way**



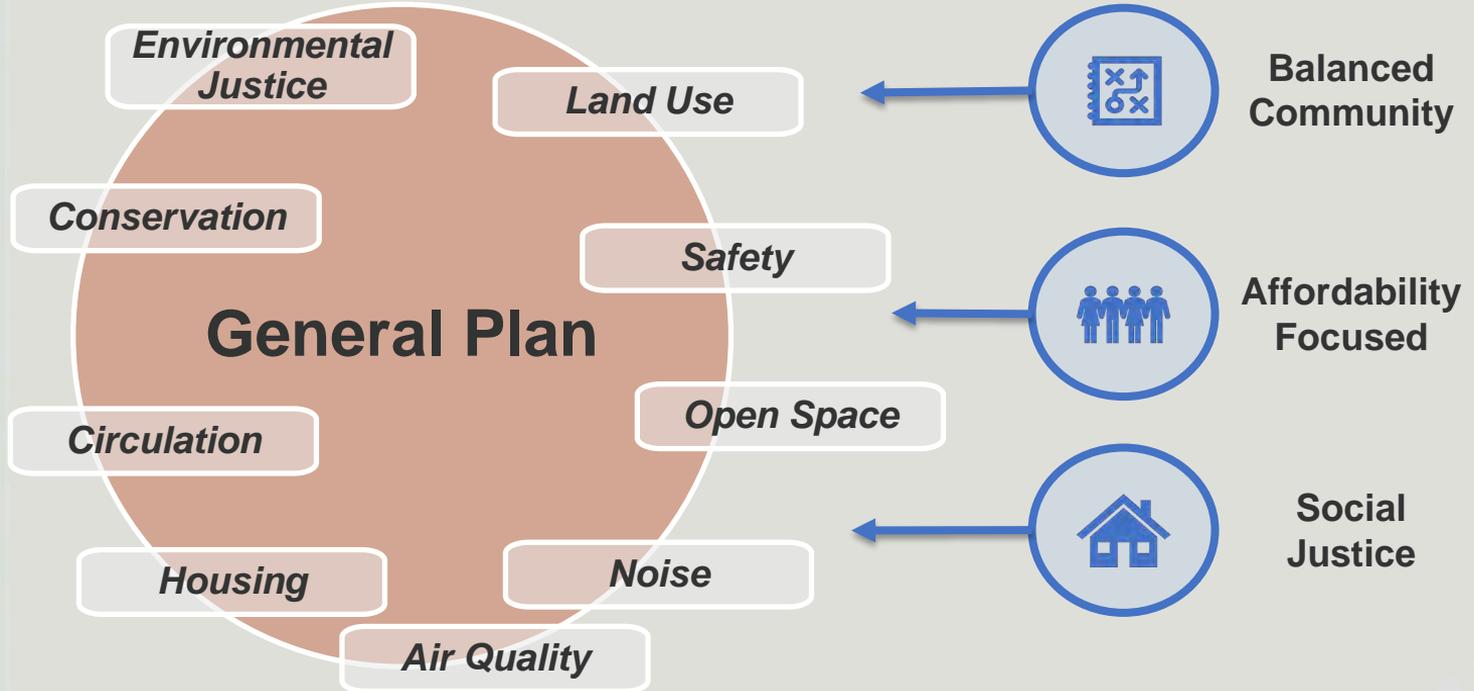
PURPOSE OF A GENERAL PLAN



Guide planning decisions across the community



GENERAL PLANS SET A CITY VISION TO ALIGN GOALS, POLICIES, & ACTIONS



WHAT'S IN EACH GENERAL PLAN ELEMENT?

Goals

Broad desired results

Policies

Principles or approaches to achieve goals

Programs

Precise actions to implement policies and goals

WHAT'S INVOLVED IN THE CURRENT "HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE" PROJECT?



Goals for Housing

- Equity
- Quality of Life
- Diversity
- Housing Variety
- Affordability
- Housing Production, Preservation, and Protection
- Address the Needs of People Experiencing Homelessness



WHAT'S INVOLVED IN THE CURRENT "HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE" PROJECT?





SAFETY ELEMENT



FOCUS AND SCOPE OF THE SAFETY ELEMENT UPDATE



- **Last updated in 2013**
- **Focused update to address state-required topics**
 - Protect against impacts of climate change
 - Protection for wildfire and residential areas with only 1 entrance/exit route
- **Align with San Mateo County’s Multi-Jurisdictional “*Local Hazard Mitigation Plan*”**
 - Adopted in 2021

WHAT IS THE LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN?

Collaborative:

- 36 planning partners, including all 20 cities/townships in the county

Community Led:

- Over 2,000 survey responses received

Unique to Menlo Park:

- Assesses hazard risks and vulnerability
- Identifies actions to reduce injury and damage
- Assesses ability to implement safety actions



SAFETY ELEMENT IMPLEMENTATION

The updated Safety Element is implemented in multiple ways:

City Code Updates

**Development
Application Review**

**Coordination Across
Organizations
(e.g., Police, Fire)**

**Collaboration with
County and State
Agencies**

SAFETY ELEMENT GOAL: ASSURE A SAFE COMMUNITY

Safety Element policies cover the topic areas listed below. Specific implementing programs are associated with these topics.

- General Safety Policies
- Geologic and Seismic Safety Policies
 - New Program: Review Approach to Buildings in High Seismic Areas
- Hazardous Materials Policies
- Flood Control, Tsunami and Dam Safety Policies
- Fire Safety Policies
- Public Safety and Emergency Response Policies
 - New Programs: Senior Outreach; Public Communication; Public Heat Respite; Heat Island Minimization



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT



WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?

“The fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”

[State of CA Assembly Bill No. 1628 \(2019\)](#)



HOW DO WE ACHIEVE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?

1. Identify and focus on underserved communities

Poor Environmental Conditions

High levels of environmental hazards that can lead to negative public health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.

Socially or economically burdened groups of people

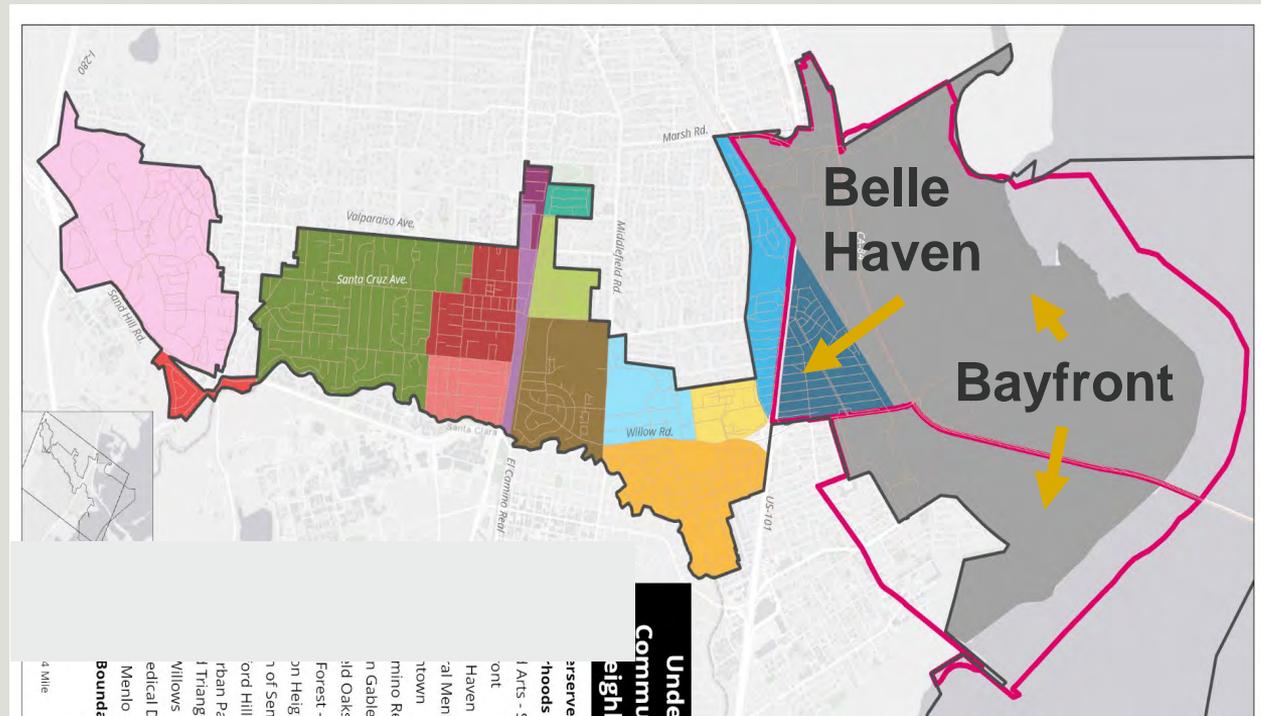
Concentrations of people that are of low income, high unemployment, low levels of homeownership, high rent burden, sensitive populations, or low levels of educational attainment.

Underserved Communities and Neighborhoods



HOW DO WE ACHIEVE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?

1. Identify and focus on underserved communities



Underserved Community

Neighborhoods

- Allied Arts - Stanford Park
- Bayfront
- Belle Haven
- Central Menlo
- Downtown
- El Camino Real Corridor
- Felton Gables
- Linfield Oaks
- Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio
- Sharon Heights
- South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks
- Stanford Hills
- Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle
- The Willows
- VA Medical District
- West Menlo

City Boundary



Projection: NAD83 StatePlane California III FIPS403 (US Feet)

0 0.2 0.4 Mile



Underserved Communities
 4 Mile

HOW DO WE ACHIEVE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?

2. Reduce unique, unequal, and unfair health risks



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IDENTIFY NEEDS & PRIORITIZE ACTION BASED ON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



March - June 2021
Countywide LHMP Outreach Events (12)

June 2021
**CRC Community Event in
English and Spanish**

July 2021
**Housing Element Update
Project Introduction Webinar**

August 2021
**Community
Housing Element Update
Survey**

August 2021
**Community Meeting:
Housing Equity, Safety, and
Environmental Justice**

August 2021
**Pop-up Meetings:
Downtown Farmers Market (2)
Belle Haven Shopping Center
Mi Tierra Linda**

April 2022
**Neighborhood Profiles
Released**

April 2022
**Community Meeting:
Introduction to Environmental
Justice and Safety**

May 2022
**CRC Outreach Meetings
Belle Haven (3)**

May – July 2022
**Menlo Park Environmental
Justice and Safety Survey**

December 2022
**Draft EJ and Safety Elements
Released**

The background of the slide is a photograph of a white stucco tower with a tiled roof. The tower has several arched openings. The sky is a clear, bright blue. There are some green trees visible in the background behind the tower. On the left side of the slide, there are vertical bars in shades of purple and blue.

KEY EJ OUTREACH FINDINGS

SEE HOW KEY OUTREACH FINDINGS CONNECT TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GOALS, POLICIES & PROGRAMS:



Table EJ-5: Key Findings from Community Meetings

Key Finding	Policies / Programs
Address air quality and safety concerns in Belle Haven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program 1.C • Policy 2.1 • Program 2.G
Preserve open space and parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program 3.E • Program 4.D
Use public owned land to build affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered as part of Menlo Park's 6th Cycle Housing Element
Distribute new housing throughout the city and in high resource areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 5.3
Reduce pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program 1.D • Policy 2.1 • Policy 2.2

KEY COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED ISSUES: *HEALTHY, STABLE, AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING*

Key General Plan Approaches	Examples of Relevant General Plan Actions
Prioritize	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prioritize housing programs that provide healthy housing in underserved communities
Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and use a range of state, regional, and local funds to support housing production, preservation, and protection against displacement
Implement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopt an anti-displacement strategy• Amend zoning ordinance to protect existing housing• Encourage rental housing assistance• Consider city-owned land for housing• Plan for and support affordable housing production throughout the city• Connect low-income households to programs that can prevent displacement

KEY COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED ISSUES: *COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT*

Key General Plan Approaches	Examples of Relevant General Plan Actions
Prioritize	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prioritize and improve efforts to engage underserved community residents in public decision-making processes
Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fund law enforcement bias and sensitivity training
Implement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do community engagement in multiple languages and in culturally appropriate ways• Coordinate engagement efforts across city departments• Partner with community organizations to engage residents in underserved communities• Be proactive and provide multiple options for residents in underserved communities to engage in planning decisions that affect their health and well-being

KEY COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED ISSUES: *AIR QUALITY, TRAFFIC, & POLLUTION*

Key General Plan Approaches	Examples of Relevant General Plan Actions
Prioritize	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prioritize programs that reduce pollution in underserved communities• Focus street tree planting efforts in underserved communities
Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seek funding for pollution reduction activities
Implement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement Climate Action Plan• Implement Transportation Masterplan• Work with other agencies to monitor air quality risks in underserved neighborhoods• Align planning decisions with environmental quality goals

KEY COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED ISSUES: *WALKING, BIKING, & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY*

Key General Plan Approaches	Examples of Relevant General Plan Actions
Prioritize	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prioritize underserved neighborhoods for active transportation infrastructure in the City's Capital Improvements Plan process
Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct a combination of state, regional, local, and grant funds to underserved neighborhoods for complete streets, active transportation infrastructure, and other public improvements
Implement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement Transportation Masterplan• Collaborate with residents of underserved communities about public improvement projects• Remove barriers to outdoor physical activity in underserved neighborhoods• Support street closures for community events

KEY COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED ISSUES:

HEALTHY & AFFORDABLE FOOD

Key General Plan Approaches	Examples of Relevant General Plan Actions
Prioritize	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prioritize access to fresh, healthy foods in underserved communities.
Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct state, regional, local, and grant funds to underserved neighborhoods for public improvements
Implement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage, facilitate, and enable a variety of ways to access healthy food in underserved neighborhoods including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Farmer's markets• Community gardens• Online food service delivery• Mobile food markets and farm stands• Grocery stores, corner stores, or ethnic markets• Encourage and support ways to make food affordable such as accepting SNAP

KEY COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED ISSUES:

PARKS & TREES

Key General Plan Approaches	Examples of Relevant General Plan Actions
Prioritize	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prioritize street tree planting efforts in underserved communities
Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct state, regional, local, and grant funds to underserved neighborhoods for public improvements
Implement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan, build, and maintain an equitable park system• Support community gardens

KEY COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED ISSUES: COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND HEALTH RESOURCES

Key General Plan Approaches	Examples of Relevant General Plan Actions
Prioritize	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prioritize public facility programs the address needs in underserved communities
Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prioritize using state and regional funding for public improvements in underserved neighborhoods
Implement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure equitable public facilities accessibility• Support programs that increase access to health resources in underserved communities• Work with partners to provide transportation options to public facilities for people of all ages and abilities• Work with partners to bring healthcare delivery to residents in underserved communities• Partner to consider establishing a community health clinic in Belle Haven



THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING



Through the EJ Element, the City is Committed to:

- **Proactively engage** the community in planning decisions that affect their health and well-being.
- Periodically **evaluate progress** in involving the broader community in decisions affecting the environment and quality of life
- **Continually evaluate City laws, ordinances, practices that hinder equity**



**LET'S WORK TOGETHER
TO MAKE THE
EJ ELEMENT BETTER**

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

- Documents available at [MenloPark.gov/HousingElement](https://menlopark.gov/HousingElement)
- Email your input:
 - cchan@menlopark.gov

NEXT STEPS

- In March, we will begin work on the next draft of the Elements.
- Send us your comments by Friday, March 3, 2023
- Next draft will be published in advance of Planning Commission and City Council review later this year
 - These are public meetings, please attend and give your comments!



THANK YOU

INTERACTIVE SESSION

Review and Reflect

- Form into small groups to review EJ goals and themes
- Discussion Questions:
 - How does this align with what you expected?
 - How can this draft be improved? What is missing?
 - Are there any Environmental Justice themes that are particularly important to you?
 - What steps should the City take first to address Environmental Justice?
- Additional input? Email cchan@menlopark.gov

EJ ELEMENT GOALS



1. Address unique and compounded health risks.



2. Reduce pollution exposure and eliminate environmental inequities.



3. Equitably provide appropriate public facilities to individuals and communities.



4. Promote access to affordable healthy and high-quality foods.



5. Provide safe and sanitary homes for all residents.



6. Encourage physical activity and active transportation.



7. Create equitable civic and community engagement.



QUESTIONS?