

City of Menlo Park

Environmental Justice Element

Public Review Draft

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Introduction

In 2016, the State of California passed Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000), which supports cities in adopting a general plan element focused on environmental justice. This recognition followed the hard work of California activists and advocates, as well as communities that have organized around their environments—not only in the past century, but long before California’s statehood. Environmental justice provides a specific lens through which to advance equity and protect human health. While the environmental justice movement traditionally focused on environmental contamination and degradation, the scope has broadened over time to include additional policy topics such as food access and physical activity.¹

The purpose of this Environmental Justice Element is to identify and address public health risks and environmental justice concerns, as well as foster the well-being of the City’s residents living in underserved communities. The City of Menlo Park is committed to environmental justice and acknowledges that the historical events and practices that have contributed to Menlo Park’s development (such as the Spanish Empire’s missions,² railroad construction,³ and suburban residential development that relied heavily on redlining and gentrification⁴) are inseparable from the resulting injustices that have led to inequalities and inequities seen and felt in Menlo Park as well as throughout California.

This commitment on behalf of the City has led to the development of Menlo Park’s first Environmental Justice Element. The introduction to this element begins with a discussion of its organization and relationship to Menlo Park’s General Plan, an overview of the element’s regulatory context, and a description of Drivers of Environmental Injustice and Determinants of Health that underlie environmental justice as a whole.

Menlo Park’s Environmental Justice Element is organized into the following sections:

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE¹

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

Fair treatment means no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.

Meaningful involvement means:

- People have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health;
- The public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision;
- Community concerns will be considered in the decision making process; and
- Decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

¹ For more information, see the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research document titled “Environmental Justice in California: A Brief History” in [2020 Updated Environmental Justice Element General Plan Guidelines](#), page 2.

² See generally, Prof. Edward D. Castillo, “California Indian History” (State of California Native American Heritage Commission), available at <https://nahc.ca.gov/resources/california-indian-history/>.

³ See generally, Maru Karuka “Chinese Workers and the Transcontinental Railroad” (Boom California: April 6, 2020), available at <https://boomcalifornia.org/2020/04/06/chinese-workers-and-the-transcontinental-railroad/>.

⁴ See generally, Angela Swartz, “Reflections on racial inequities that persist in Menlo Park” (Almanac News: March 12, 2021), available at <https://www.almanacnews.com/news/2021/03/12/reflections-on-racial-inequities-that-persist-in-menlo-park>.

- **Existing Setting**: This section identifies neighborhoods in Menlo Park that have concentrations of poverty and pollution that lead to disproportionately high rates of poor health outcomes. These neighborhoods are designated as “Underserved Communities” in this document.
- **Environmental Justice Outreach**: This section provides an overview of key findings from community engagement performed throughout the development of the element, as well as a discussion of engagement methodology.
- **Goals, Policies, and Programs**: This section includes actions the City will take to prioritize Underserved Communities and address the environmental injustices identified through the existing conditions analysis and community engagement.
- **Appendices**: The appendices include supporting documents that provide more details on methodology or additional reports produced as part of the development of this element.

Element Organization and Relationship to General Plan

SB 1000 (2016) allows a jurisdiction to voluntarily adopt an Environmental Justice Element at any time and requires the adoption or review of an Environmental Justice Element (or environmental justice goals, policies, and programs in other elements) upon the adoption or revision of two or more General Plan elements concurrently. The City of Menlo Park is developing this Environmental Justice Element while concurrently updating its Housing and Safety Elements. This decision was made because environmental justice in Menlo Park is so intricately linked to community concerns and priorities for housing and safety, and because of the requirements laid out in SB 1000.

These linkages can be seen in the Guiding Principles established in the Menlo Park General Plan, which “describe the kind of place that community members want Menlo Park to be.”⁵ These Guiding Principles are supported by a commitment to environmental justice broadly as well as more specifically by the goals, policies, and programs contained in this element. This is particularly true for the principles of Citywide Equity and a Healthy Community, as well as for the principles of Youth Support and Education Excellence, Great Transportation Options, Complete Neighborhoods and Commercial Corridors, Accessible Open Space and Recreation, and Sustainable Environmental Planning.

Policies Addressing Environmental Justice in Other General Plan Elements

Policies in the existing General Plan that address or are related to environmental justice are listed in Table EJ-1. These policies were developed prior to (or for the Safety and Housing Elements, in conjunction with) the Environmental Justice Element and point to the City’s broad commitment to the tenets of environmental justice. This table also demonstrates that the Environmental Justice Element fits into a supportive General Plan framework. The policies are listed in numeric order and grouped by the main topic areas required to be addressed by SB 1000, described further below.

⁵ *General Plan* (City of Menlo Park, 2016), page I-9.

Table EJ-1: Environmental Justice Policies in Other Elements

Element	Topic Area	Policy Number
Land Use	Safe and Sanitary Homes	LU-2.8
	Promote Physical Activity	LU-4.6 and LU-6.9
	Promote Public Facilities	LU-6.1, LU-6.3, and LU-6.8
Circulation	Promote Physical Activity	CIRC-1.1, CIRC-1.7, CIRC-1.8, CIRC-2.1, CIRC-2.7, CIRC-4.3, CIRC-4.4, and CIRC-5.6
	Reduce Pollution Exposure	CIRC-2.2, CIRC-4.2
	Promote Public Facilities	CIRC-2.10 and CIRC-5.2
	Prioritize the Needs of Underserved Communities	CIRC-2.4
Open Space and Conservation [†]	Promote Public Facilities	OSC-1.12, OSC-2.1, and OSC-4.1
	Reduce Pollution Exposure	OSC-2.2, OSC-2.3, and OSC-5.1
	Promote Physical Activity	OSC-2.6
	Promote Civil Engagement	OSC-3.1, OSC-3.2, OSC-3.3, OSC-3.4, OSC-3.5, and OSC-3.6
Noise [†]	Reduce Pollution Exposure	N-1.1, N-1.2, N-1.3, N-1.4, N-1.5, N-1.6, N-1.7, N-1.8, N-1.9, and N-1.10
Safety ^{†*}	Reduce Pollution Exposure	S-1.7, S-1.32, S-1.33, S-1.34, S-1.35, S-1.36, S-1.37, S-1.38, S-1.39
	Promote Public Facilities	S-1.9 and S-1.11
	Safe, Stable, and Sanitary Housing	S-1.17 and S-1.19
Housing (6th Cycle: 2023-2031) [*]	Safe and Sanitary Homes	H2.1, H2.4, H2.7, H2.A, H2.C, H2.E, H3.8, H3.9, H3.H, H3.I, and H4.P
	Promote Civil Engagement	H5.2, H5.3, H5.5, H5.B, and H5.C
	Reduce Pollution Exposure	H6.4, H6.6, H6.C, H6.E, and H6.F
	Promote Physical Activity	H6.G

[†]Menlo Park has a combined Open Space and Conservation, Noise, and Safety Element.

^{*}The Safety Element and Housing Element were updated at the same time as the Environmental Justice Element was developed. Several policies and programs were updated, modified, or newly-developed alongside the outreach and development of the Environmental Justice Element.

Regulatory Context

There are several state laws that guide Environmental Justice Element development, listed and summarized below:

- Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000) – 2016
- Government Code 65302(h)(1)
- Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) – 2016
- Assembly Bill 1553 (AB 1553) – 2001
- Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617) – 2017
- Health and Safety Code Section 39711

SB 1000

SB 1000 was signed into law in 2016 and requires local governments to identify Underserved Communities in their jurisdictions as well as address environmental justice in their general plans. SB 1000 amended Government Code 65302 to add section (h)(1), discussed below.

SB 1000 uses the term “Disadvantaged Communities” to describe low income areas that are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.⁶

Through the outreach conducted as part of the Environmental Justice Element preparation, Menlo Park community members made it clear that the term they broadly identified with and preferred was “Underserved Communities.” Throughout this Element, “Underserved Communities” will be used and is understood to be analogous to the State-defined term “Disadvantaged Communities,” which is only used when quoting or referring to state law.

Government Code 65302(h)(1)

Under Government Code 65302 (h)(1), the necessary components of an Environmental Justice Element are:

- a) Identify objectives and policies to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by means that include, but are not limited to, the reduction of pollution exposure, including the improvement of air quality, and the promotion of public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity.*
- b) Identify objectives and policies to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process.*
- c) Identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities.*

⁶ Gov. Code § 65302(h)(4)(A)

Throughout this Element, “Goals” will be used to remain consistent with the structure of other elements of the City’s General Plan, but is meant to be analogous to “Objectives” as used in Government Code Section 65302(h)(1).

This statutory requirement can be divided into seven topic areas. The Goals, Policies, and Programs are categorized by the following topic areas:

1. Prioritize the Needs of Underserved Communities
2. Reduce Pollution Exposure
3. Improve Access to Public Facilities
4. Promote Food Access
5. Promote Safe and Sanitary Housing
6. Promote Physical Activity
7. Promote Civic Engagement

SB 1383

SB 1383 (2016) intends to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including methane from organic waste in landfills. It requires implementation of food recovery programs to improve food recovery and access. The City of Menlo Park contracts with Recology San Mateo County for garbage, recycling, and compost services. Recology San Mateo County, for their part, provides curbside organics service and has a webpage dedicated to describing SB 1383.⁷

Food recovery and access includes potentially distributing food to areas of the city where communities experience food insecurity. As Menlo Park and Recology San Mateo County implement SB 1383, they may consider how implementation can support the goals, policies, and programs in the Environmental Justice Element.

AB 1553

AB 1553 (2001) requires the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to be the coordinating agency for environmental justice efforts and defines environmental justice as “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.” This Environmental Justice Element follows OPR guidance and the AB 1553 definition.

AB 617

AB 617 (2017) led to the development of the California Air Resources Board’s Community Air Protection Program. This program is focused on reducing exposure in communities most impacted by air pollution. Each Air Quality Management District submitted a methodology and list of candidate communities to be eligible for funding of AB 617 community emissions reduction programs. Menlo Park does not contain any candidate communities for the program.

⁷ “Fight Climate Change by Composting” (Recology) available at <https://www.recology.com/sb1383/>

Health and Safety Code Section 39711

The California Code defines Disadvantaged Communities and gives the California Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the responsibility for identifying such communities for investment opportunities. This Environmental Justice Element uses the Sec. 39711 definition (referenced in Government Code 65302(h)(4)):

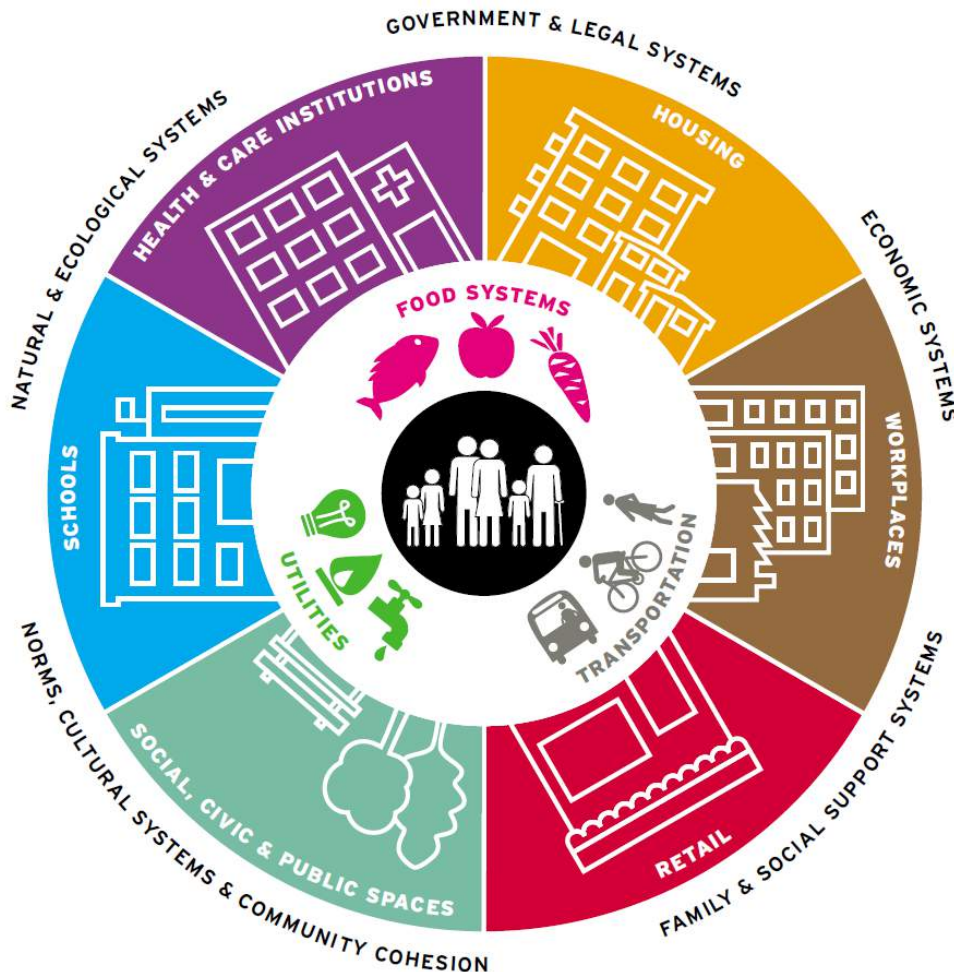
These communities shall be identified based on geographic, socioeconomic, public health, and environmental hazard criteria, and may include, but are not limited to, either of the following:

- *Areas disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative public health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.*
- *Areas with 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.*

Drivers of Environmental Injustice and Determinants of Health

Every aspect of people’s lives has implications for their health. Beyond access to and quality of health care, the characteristics of the neighborhoods where people live, work, play, learn, and pray influence their behaviors, experiences, and physical health in different ways. Health is heavily influenced by factors in a community that are not typically addressed by the health care system. These community and location-based factors make up the “Social Determinants of Health” (see Figure EJ-1)⁸

Figure EJ-1: Social Determinants of Health⁹



Some people live in relatively healthy neighborhoods that have characteristics which mostly support healthy living, for example: landscapes that promote active lifestyles, access to medical care, plentiful clean housing, and availability of nutritious food. On the

⁸ Wilkinson R, Marmot M. *Social Determinants of Health: The Solid Facts*. 2nd ed. Copenhagen, Denmark: World Health Organization; 2003. Solar O, Irwin A. *A Conceptual Framework for Action on the Social Determinants of Health*. Social Determinants of Health Discussion Paper 2. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization; 2010.

⁹ *Long-Range Planning for Health, Equity & Prosperity: A Primer for Local Governments* (ChangeLab Solutions: December 2019). Available at <https://www.changelabsolutions.org/product/long-range-planning-primer>

other hand, relatively less healthy neighborhoods have a combination of physical, social, and economic conditions that can create significant barriers to health such as unhealthy housing, poor access to healthy food, inadequate or poorly maintained public spaces, unsafe streets, under-resourced schools, and concentrated poverty.

People may live in relatively less healthy neighborhoods, not because it is a desirable choice, but because of social or economic position or other circumstances beyond their control or ability to change. Less than one-third of the U.S. population is Black or Hispanic, however, these groups represent four out of every five people living in metropolitan concentrated poverty across the country.¹⁰ When these neighborhoods also have physical, social, and economic barriers to health, then low-income residents and residents of color will disproportionately and unfairly be exposed to those unhealthy environments, increasing their risk of poor health, poor education, low income, and poverty.

In addition, political, social, economic, institutional, cultural, environmental, and other systems can create, intensify, and prolong barriers to health.

This complex web of social determinants of health points to a common outcome: poorer and racialized¹¹ people generally live shorter lives in worse health and under worse conditions than more affluent people who are not racialized. The City is committed to reducing health inequities and promoting environmental justice in Menlo Park. This Environmental Justice Element is a document that seeks to reduce or remove local disparities and inequities that exist by addressing and improving the social determinants of health in the neighborhoods and for the populations that face the greatest barriers to good health in Menlo Park.

Existing Setting

Menlo Park is one of the wealthiest cities in the San Francisco Bay Area.¹² The city has numerous high-quality jobs, high-performing schools, and well-maintained parks. Menlo Park has established connectivity both within the city itself and along highways and train routes linking it to San Francisco and San Jose (as well as across the Dumbarton Bridge to the East Bay). Plentiful street trees provide cover from urban heat and the bayfront marshlands serve as a buffer between rising sea levels and the built-up portions of the city.

¹⁰ Erica E. Meade, "Overview of Community Characteristics in Areas with Concentrated Poverty" (HHS Office for the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation: April 30, 2014), available at <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/overview-community-characteristics-areas-concentrated-poverty>.

¹¹ "to cause or believe race to be an important feature of a group of people, of society, or of a problem" (Cambridge Dictionary). Available at <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/racialize>

¹² Ángel Mendiola Ross, "One in 10 Bay Area Neighborhoods are Segregated Areas of White Wealth" (Bay Area Equity Atlas: July 27, 2022), available at <https://bayareaequityatlas.org/mapping-segregation>

However, the opportunities Menlo Park provides – and the burdens of environmental risk – are not equally experienced by all Menlo Park residents. Minority and low-income populations are more likely to live in inadequate housing,¹³ to face greater health risks,¹⁴ and to have more difficulties in making their voices heard.¹⁵ This contributes to a pattern where minority and low-income community members are more susceptible to displacement¹⁶ and at the greatest risk to move into other jurisdictions with fewer high-quality jobs and lower-performing schools.¹⁷

In order to address this inequality, Menlo Park committed to developing an Environmental Justice Element. This commitment requires identifying Underserved Communities, undertaking extensive outreach to determine the needs of the residents of these communities, and developing a policy framework to address these environmental justice needs.

Identifying Underserved Communities

Underserved Communities are areas throughout California that suffer from a combination of economic, health, and environmental burdens. These burdens include poverty; pollution; and social and health indicators of risk and stress.

Menlo Park has identified Belle Haven and the Bayfront as Underserved Communities. These neighborhoods make up the portion of the city north of US Highway 101 (US-101) (see Figure EJ-2). Historically, this was the area of Menlo Park that was segregated through racial covenants that banned Black households south of US-101.¹⁸ Even today, Belle Haven and the Bayfront are within an elementary school district separate from those districts that serve the majority of the city. Belle Haven and the Bayfront are also racialized communities: disproportionately more Hispanic and Black than the rest of the city, these Underserved Communities are made up of households that have been historically underrepresented in the planning process (and civic processes generally) in Menlo Park.

¹³ For example, a much higher percentage of lower-income housing units are overcrowded and severely overcrowded than moderate-income or above moderate income units: 3.5% of households making 0%-30% of Area Median Income (AMI) are overcrowded, 6.5% of households making 31%-50% of AMI, 4.0% of households making 51%-80% of AMI, 2.7% of households making 81%-100% of AMI, but only 1.7% of households making more than 100% of AMI. See Figure 33 in ABAG/MTC's "Housing Needs Data Report: Menlo Park (April 2021). Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) ACS tabulation, 2013-2017 release.

¹⁴ Only 52% of workers with an annual household income of less than \$30,000 have paid sick leave in California, compared to 81% of workers with an annual household income over \$120,000. "Taking Count: A Study on Poverty in the Bay Area" (Tipping Point: July 2020), available at <https://tippingpoint.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Taking-Count-2020-A-Study-on-Poverty-in-the-Bay-Area.pdf>.

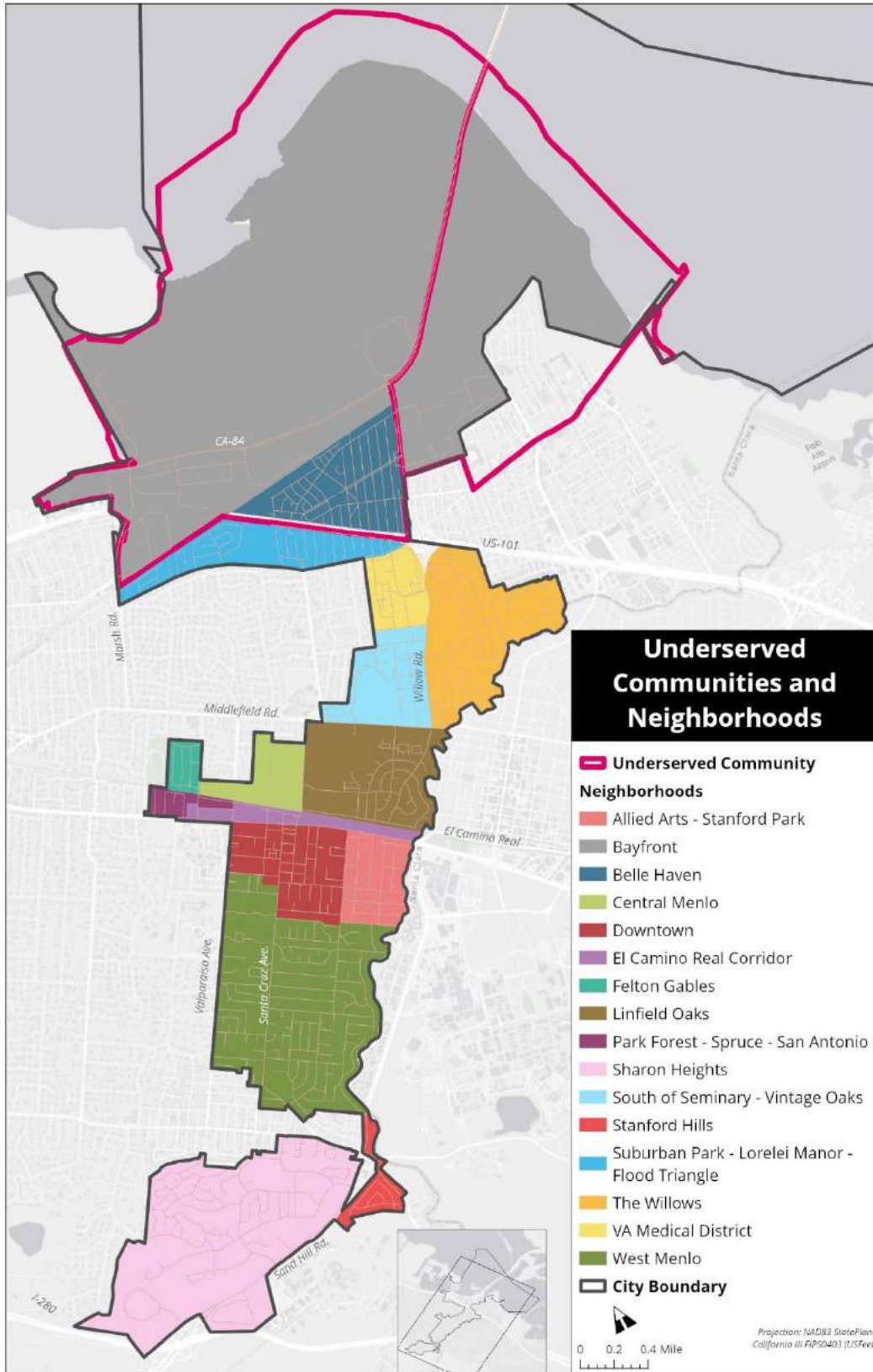
¹⁵ See, Michelle L. Kaiser, Michelle D. Hand, and Erica K. Pence: "Individual and Community Engagement in Response to Environmental Challenges Experienced in Four Low-Income Urban Neighborhoods" (Int'l. Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, March 2020), available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7142717/>.

¹⁶ See, Urban Displacement Project "SF Bay Area – Gentrification and Displacement" (2021), available at <https://www.urbandisplacement.org/maps/sf-bay-area-gentrification-and-displacement/>

¹⁷ "Inequality and Economic Security in Silicon Valley" (California Budget & Policy Center: May 2016), available at <https://www.siliconvalleycf.org/sites/default/files/publications/inequality-and-economic-security-in-silicon-valley.pdf>

¹⁸ See <https://www.menlogether.org/2019/11/27/the-color-of-law-menlo-park-edition-overcoming-systemic-segregation/>

Figure EJ-2: Map of Underserved Community Census Tracts



State Criteria

Belle Haven and the Bayfront are identified as Underserved Communities because they are in census tracts¹⁹ designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development's list of state income limits; they are historically underserved areas separated from the rest of the city by US-101 and included within an elementary school district separate from those that serve the majority of the city; and as described by the community during outreach efforts for the element preparation.

A third neighborhood, The Willows, technically falls into a census tract designated as low income. A portion of the census tract is located outside the boundaries of Menlo Park in the City of East Palo Alto and is considered very low income, which thereby lowers the overall tract-wide median income. The Menlo Park portion of the tract containing The Willows is well above the designated low-income limit and is part of the Menlo Park City School District. Appendix EJ-B, Additional Methodology, describes this discrepancy in detail.

The Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) has developed Environmental Justice Element guidelines that recommend a "thorough screening analysis" with three primary criteria to determine if any area of the city is an Underserved Community:

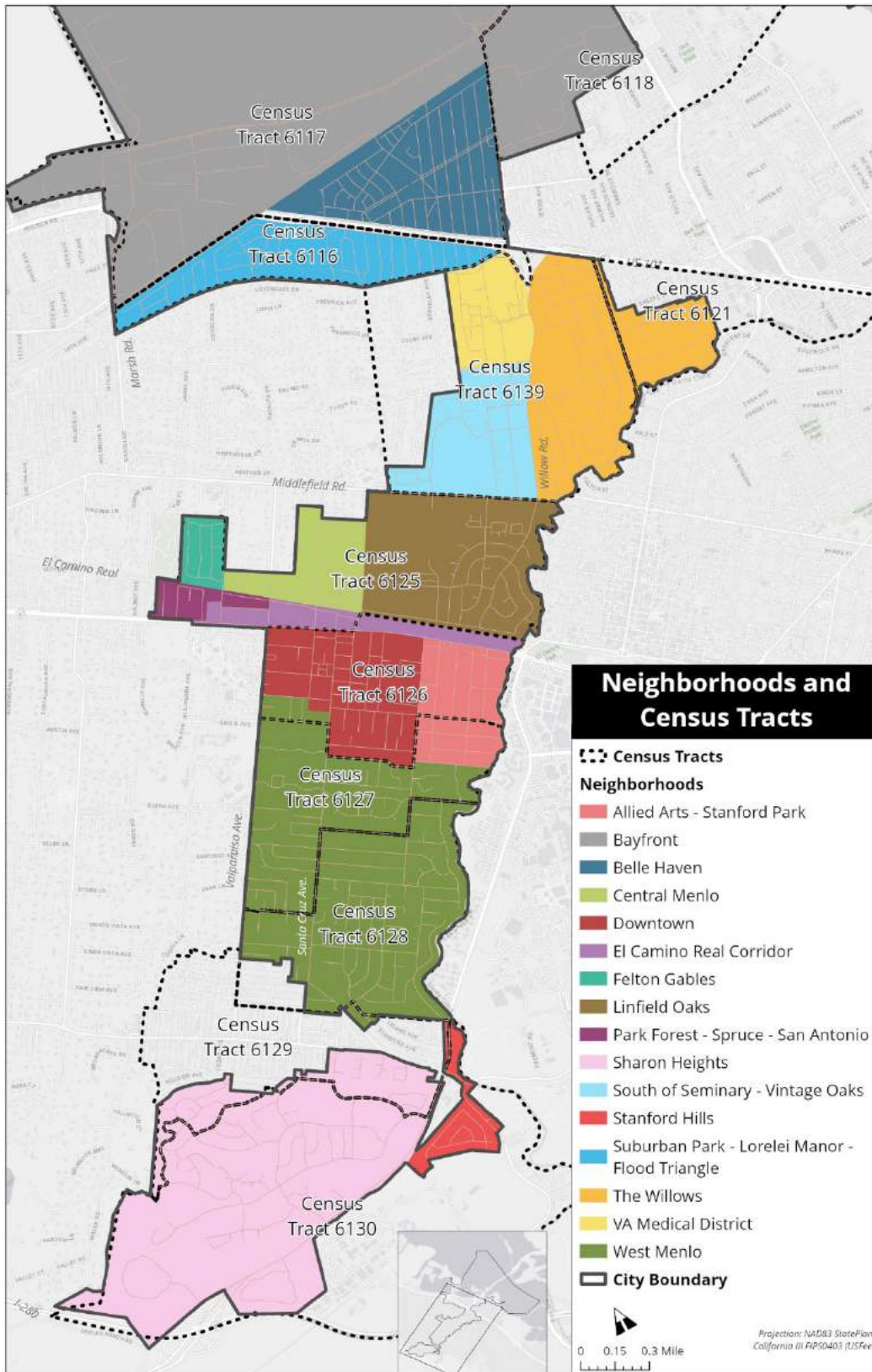
- **Criteria 1** – Affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation. This is done by using CalEnviroScreen 4.0 to examine whether the planning area for the General Plan contains census tracts that have a CalEnviroScreen 4.0 combined Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics score of 75% or higher (CalEnviroScreen is a data analysis tool discussed in Appendix EJ-A, Neighborhood Profiles of Environmental Justice Considerations. A table of all neighborhood scores is provided at the end of Appendix EJ-A).
- **Criteria 2** – An area with household incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income.
- **Criteria 3** – An area at or below the threshold designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development's list of state income limits (\$146,350 for a four-person household in 2021).

It is also recommended that jurisdictions "incorporate and analyze community-specific data and examine for additional pollution burden and health risk factors." This is **Criteria 4**, encouraging the incorporation of community outreach which the City has undertaken and will continue to engage in.

The OPR criteria are based on census tracts, which do not line up identically with Menlo Park's city boundaries and neighborhood boundaries (see Figure EJ-3).

¹⁹ Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county.

Figure EJ-3: Neighborhoods, Tracts, City Boundaries



In Menlo Park, there are three census tracts which meet at least one of the three primary criteria noted by OPR and could be considered as containing Underserved Communities:

- Tract 6117 (Belle Haven and Bayfront)
- Tract 6118 (Bayfront)
- Tract 6121 (The Willows)

All three census tracts listed are eligible due to Criteria 3: their household incomes are at or below the threshold designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development’s list of state income limits. However, Tract 6121 (The Willows) only meets Criteria 3 due to portions of the census tract located outside of Menlo Park in the City of East Palo Alto. Therefore, Tract 6121 (The Willows) is not considered an Underserved Community within Menlo Park’s Environmental Justice Element. Tract 6117 (Belle Haven and Bayfront) is also eligible due to Criteria 2: its household incomes are at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income (see Table EJ-2; Underserved Communities shown bolded).

Table EJ-2: Household Median Income of Census Tracts in Menlo Park

Menlo Park Census Tract	Neighborhoods	Household Median Income (2020)
<i>Citywide Household Median Income*</i>		\$167,567
6116	Suburban Park – Lorelei Manor – Flood Triangle	\$222,708
6117	Belle Haven; Bayfront	\$74,032
6118	Bayfront	\$85,500
6121	The Willows	\$64,690**
6125	Central Menlo; El Camino Real Corridor; Felton Gables; KLinfield Oaks; Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio	\$154,861
6126	Downtown; Allied Arts/Stanford Park	\$140,795
6127	Allied Arts/Stanford Park; West Menlo	\$238,333
6128	West Menlo	\$250,000+
6129	Sharon Heights	\$192,250
6130	Sharon Heights; Stanford Hills	\$156,000
6139	South of Seminary – Vintage Oaks; The Willows; VA Medical District	\$214,222

*= Citywide Household Median Income is calculated by the US Census separately from tract-by-tract Household Median Income. This number is not the median tract household income.

**= Tract 6121’s Household Median Income is disproportionately affected by portions of the Census tract outside of Menlo Park.

Although neither Tract 6117 nor Tract 6118 have *combined* Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics scores of 75 percent or higher – meaning that they have a “worse” situation than 75 percent of Census tracts in California – these tracts are the only ones in Menlo Park with a Pollution Burden score over 75 (see Table EJ-3; Underserved Communities shown bolded).

Table EJ-3: Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics Scores

Menlo Park Census Tract	Pollution Burden Score	Population Characteristics Score
<i>Citywide Average</i>	26.2	18.6
6116	71	2
6117	82	49
6118	83	49
6121	73*	58*
6125	45	2
6126	52	4
6127	35	5
6128	26	1
6129	29	17
6130	47	11
6139	44	5

*= Tract 6121’s scores are disproportionately affected by portions of the Census tract outside of Menlo Park.

A detailed description of Menlo Park’s neighborhoods and their relationship to environmental justice, including analyses of Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics scores, is included within the Neighborhood Profiles of Environmental Justice Considerations (see Appendix EJ-A).

Additional details on how demographic data in Census tracts 6118 and 6121 break across city boundaries between Menlo Park and East Palo Alto is provided in Appendix EJ-B, Additional Methodology.

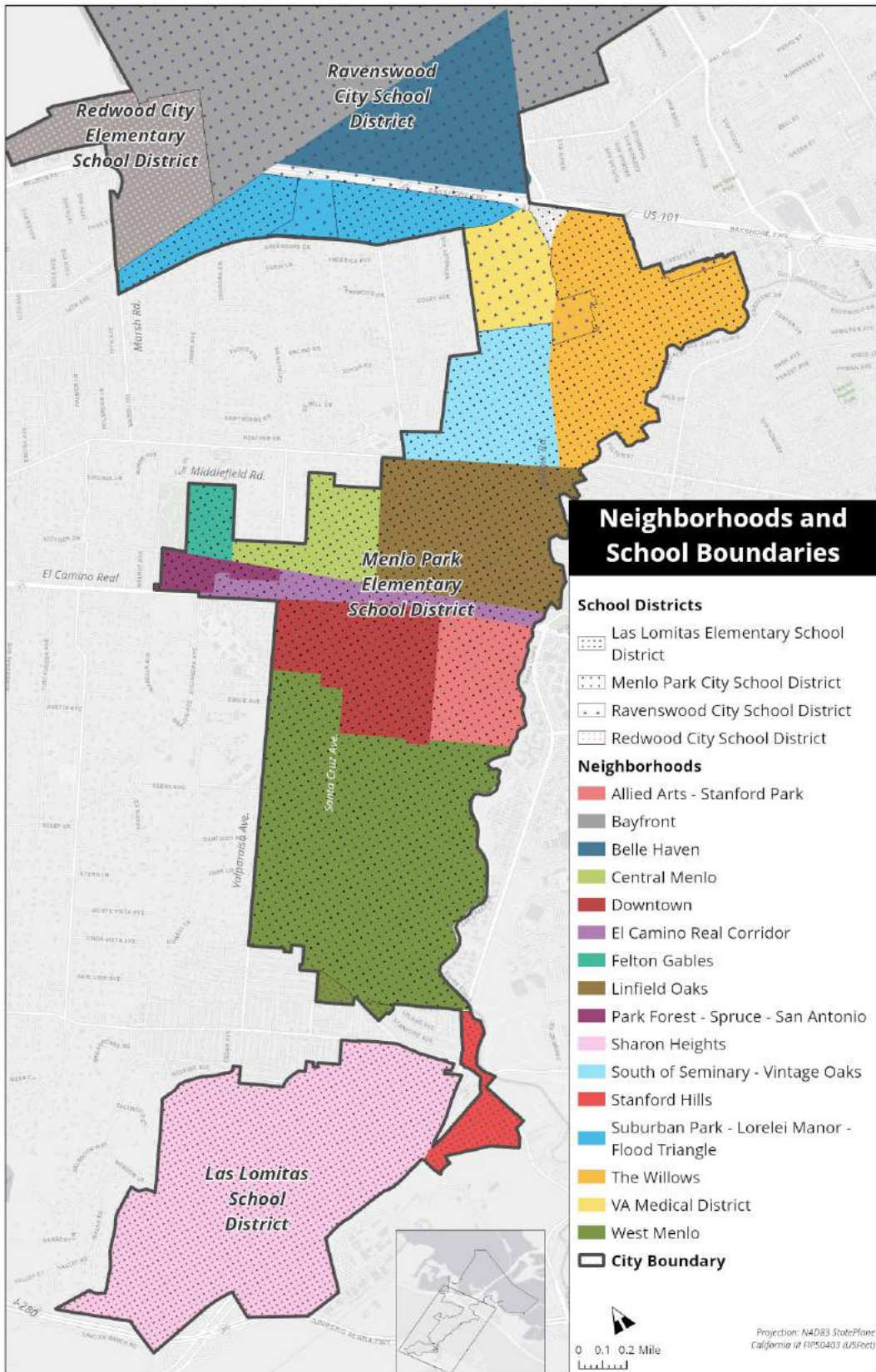
Community-Specific Data

OPR recommends community-specific data to be incorporated as well as the tract-level CalEnviroScreen 4.0 data. In Menlo Park’s case, the City’s school district stratification as well as its historic and current land use patterns are relevant factors in identifying Belle Haven and the Bayfront as Underserved Communities.

School Districts

Menlo Park is served by four school districts with elementary and middle schools: Las Lomas Elementary School District, Menlo Park City School District, Ravenswood City School District, and Redwood City School District (see Figure EJ-4).

Figure EJ-4: Elementary and Middle School Districts and Neighborhoods



Ravenswood City School District serves Belle Haven, the Bayfront, and the neighboring City of East Palo Alto (a minority-majority city). Historically, there was also a Ravenswood High School that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) argued – unsuccessfully – was illegally segregated at its 1958 opening.²⁰ This high school was subject to a 1970 desegregation order and was eventually shut down due to declining enrollment in 1975.²¹ In the present day, Menlo-Atherton High School (served by the Sequoia Union High School District) serves all students in Menlo Park who opt for a public high school. In addition, Ravenswood City School District is the sole school district serving Menlo Park with student math and English test scores below state averages (see Table EJ-4):

Table EJ-4: Test Scores in Menlo Park School Districts²²

School District	% of Students Hispanic or Latino	% Passing State Test	
		Math	English
<u>State Average</u>	<u>56%</u>	<u>40%</u>	<u>51%</u>
<i>Las Lomas</i>	5%	82%	86%
<i>Menlo Park City</i>	7%	83%	84%
<i>Ravenswood City</i>	60%	12%	18%
<i>Redwood City</i>	42%	43%	54%

Land Use

The City’s Zoning Ordinance currently allows industrial uses in the Bayfront in the M-2 zoning district (see Figure EJ-5, below) and historically, in and around this portion of the city, there have been a number of light industrial, manufacturing, and warehouse facilities. These land uses are correlated to worse health outcomes in neighboring communities.²³ This is because industrial uses can be the sites of legacy pollution, or industrial chemicals that remain in the environment long after they were first introduced – or even long after the original user has left. In the Bay Area, and Menlo Park specifically, many of these legacy pollutants are also located in areas vulnerable to sea level rise.²⁴

²⁰ Tracy Jan “Ravenswood revisited, reunited” (Palo Alto Online: September 11, 1996, available at https://www.paloaltoonline.com/weekly/morgue/cover/1996_Sep_11.COVER11.html).

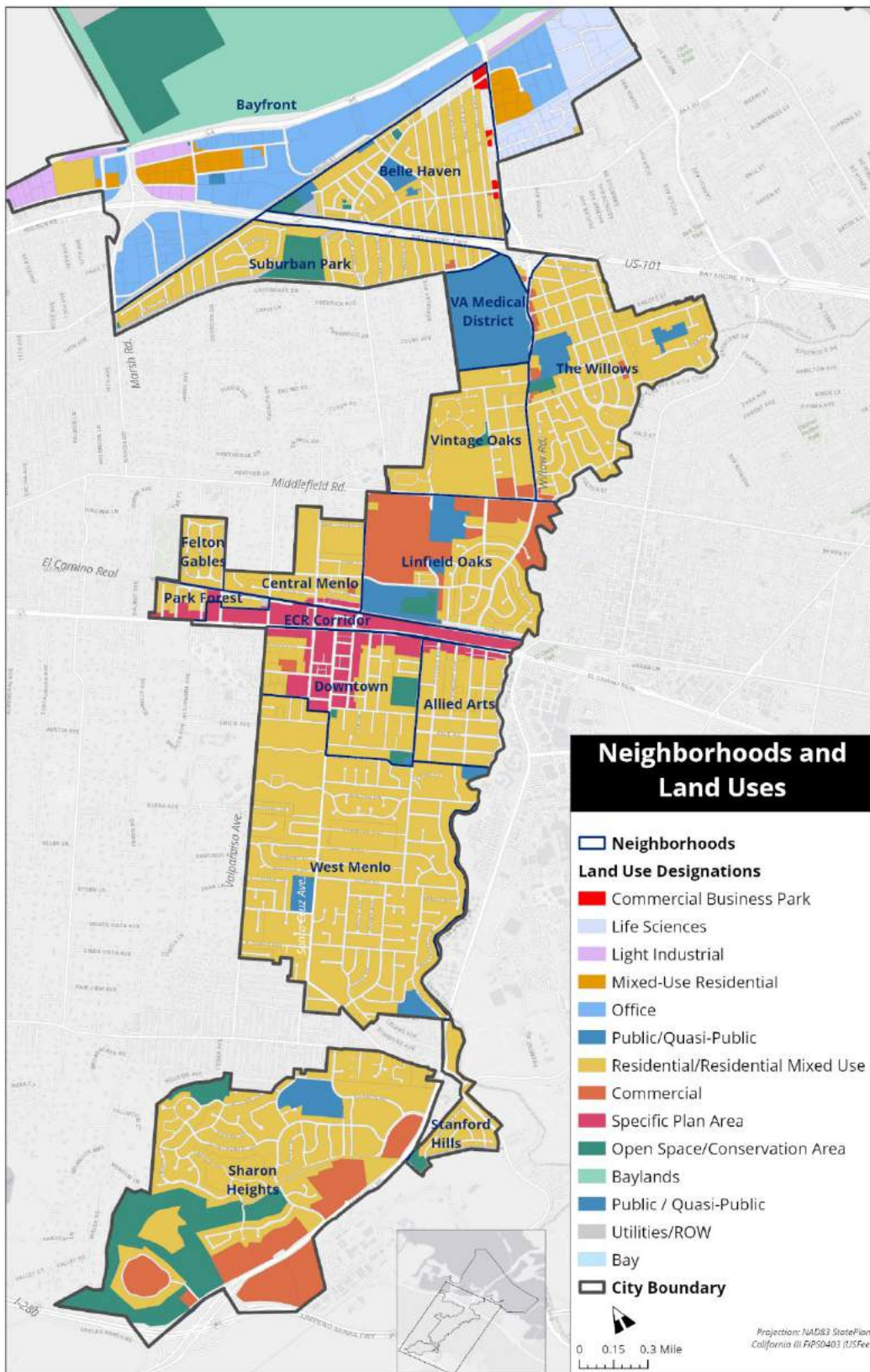
²¹ Kim-Mai Cutler “East of Palo Alto’s Eden: Race and the Formation of Silicon Valley” (TechCrunch: January 10, 2015) available at <https://techcrunch.com/2015/01/10/east-of-palo-altos-eden/>. Cutler notes that two community “Nairobi Schools” in East Palo Alto were firebombed in 1975.

²² Data via California Department of Education, 2019

²³ See generally, Juliana Maantay “Zoning, Equity, and Public Health” (American Journal of Public Health: July 2001) available at <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdf/10.2105/AJPH.91.7.1033>

²⁴ See “Toxic Tides” Available at <https://sites.google.com/berkeley.edu/toxictides/home>.

Figure EJ-5: Menlo Park Neighborhoods and Generalized Land Uses



Environmental Justice Outreach

The City of Menlo Park is committed to an inclusive and equitable planning process. An inclusive and equitable planning process allows community members, especially residents of Underserved Communities, to provide input and contribute to the development of the Environmental Justice Element. The City of Menlo Park conducted community outreach and engagement on its own as well as partnering with a community-based organization that was intentionally focused and specialized in outreach and engagement efforts for Underserved Communities. The outreach included community meetings, pop-ups, English-Spanish translated/interpretation services, and surveys. Whenever possible, outreach was conducted with the intent to “meet people where they are” to increase participation, engagement, and build relationships with the community.

Menlo Park worked with a community-based organization in order to expand and bolster outreach with Underserved Communities’ hard-to-reach populations. The City partnered with Climate Resilient Communities (CRC), a community-based organization dedicated to serving the underrepresented through empowering community voices to implement climate solutions that bring about unity and resilience. CRC is a recognized community-based organization in Menlo Park and conducted their outreach efforts in Belle Haven and the Bayfront, Menlo Park’s Underserved Communities. Through a diverse and multifaceted outreach strategy, the City was able to better understand the impacts of environmental justice issues that Underserved Communities in Menlo Park face and together with the community, plan for positive change.

Outreach Findings

The findings and issues identified by the community have been recognized by the City and translated into prioritized policies in the Housing, Safety, and Environmental Justice Elements.

Generally, air quality and pollution reduction were common issues of community concern. In addition, housing security – both in terms of affordable housing and repairs to keep existing housing safe – was a consistent priority for the community. Other issues included equitable access to public facilities (e.g., bicycle infrastructure or community centers), access to healthy foods, and improved infrastructure (e.g., street trees and public lighting). More detailed findings are provided in the below tables for each of the main methods of outreach: community meetings, focus groups, and survey.

Outreach Methodology

Tables describing key findings, recommendations collected and summarized by CRC (if any), and how those key findings and recommendations were brought into the Goals, Policies, and Programs of the Environmental Justice Element are provided under each outreach and engagement method.

The environmental justice-focused outreach began with a City Council meeting on May 25, 2021. There, the staff team provided an introduction to the Housing, Safety, and

Environmental Justice Elements. Following that Council meeting, CRC facilitated several outreach and engagement events:

- Community Meetings (see Table EJ-5)
 - August 26, 2021
 - April 5, 2022
- Focus Groups (see Table EJ-6)
 - May 9, 2022 (with El Comité de Vecinos del Lado Oeste, East Palo Alto)
 - May 13, 2022 (with Belle Haven Community Development Fund)
 - May 20, 2022 (with Belle Haven residents)
- Survey (see Table EJ-7)
 - May 20 through July 12, 2022

The City of Menlo Park partnered with CRC because of their history of working with Underserved Communities. This partnership is rooted in the City's desire to ensure the Environmental Justice Element follows an inclusive and equitable planning process. Underserved Communities are more prone to environmental justice issues and are harder to reach. CRC focused most of its outreach efforts in Belle Haven, one of the communities identified as an underserved community. CRC also worked with communities who live and work in the Bayfront. The focus groups and CRC's community survey confirmed quantified metrics available from CalEnviroScreen through resident narratives and experiences. CRC was able to increase participation, build capacity, and describe the environmental justice issues affecting residents in Underserved Communities.

Community Meetings

On August 26, 2021, the City held a virtual community meeting to share information about housing equity, environmental justice and safety issues in Menlo Park and provide an opportunity to receive input from the public. The community meeting was conducted with simulcast Spanish interpretation that was paired with a shareable Spanish presentation. Throughout the meeting, live polling was used as a tool to engage attendees and gain greater insight on who was in attendance and what their priorities were in terms of equity, housing, environmental, and safety concerns. Following the presentation, an open discussion forum was held to collect feedback and share information.

On April 5, 2022, the City held a hybrid virtual/in-person community meeting to provide a summary of initial findings, including presentation of the Neighborhood Profiles of Environmental Justice Considerations (see Appendix EJ-A). Input from the community was taken through public comment and live polling. The community meeting was conducted with simulcast Spanish interpretation that was paired with a shareable Spanish presentation. At this meeting, participants were asked which preferred term should be used to describe a "Disadvantaged Community" (the State-defined term or an alternative). The majority of respondents preferred use of the term "Underserved Communities." Table EJ-5 provides key findings identified from the community meetings and shows relationship to highlighted policies and programs included within this element (see more in the Goals, Policies, and Programs section).

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
Housing insecurity is related to health impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 5.2 • Considered as part of Menlo Park’s 6th Cycle Housing Element
Provide more bike/pedestrian infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program 1.D • Program 1.E • Program 3.G • Program 6.A • Policy 6.2
Give more visibility to Environmental Justice issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 7.1 • Policy 7.2 • Program 7.A

Focus Groups

A total of 124 Belle Haven residents attended at least one of the three (3) focus groups in May 2022. The focus groups met in person at the Belle Haven Branch Library and were intended to engage specific populations of the community. The first focus group was centered on sharing information and receiving feedback from families, parents, and children. The second focus group was catered to Spanish-speaking residents. The third focus group was for all residents. All focus groups were open to the public. A full summary report for the focus groups is available in Appendix EJ-C, Outreach Report: Safety and Environmental Justice Elements.

In the focus groups, key findings were identified through “jamboard” exercises where individuals noted which statements they agreed with from those identified during facilitated community discussion. CRC made a series of primary and secondary findings and recommendations based on these findings, which were then translated into policies

and programs for the Environmental Justice Element. Table EJ-6 provides the key findings identified in the focus groups as well as the recommendations, and highlighted policies and programs are shown (see more in the Goals, Policies, and Programs section).

Table EJ-6: Key Findings from Focus Groups

Key Finding	Recommendations	Policies / Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary: Reduce traffic pollution • Secondary: Mitigate emissions from stationary sources and issues from wildfire smoke 	Incentivize electric vehicle use (including electric bicycles)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program 3.G
	Strengthen permitting requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality Permitting is enforced by the local Air Quality District.
	Fund home weatherization and distribute air purifiers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 5.1 • Program 5.B
	Conduct tap water testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City currently conducts water testing as described in the annual Menlo Park Municipal Water report. The city does not currently rely on groundwater supply.
	Help families with water expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program 7.K • Existing PG&E CARE program is used by City currently, which provides support for water, garbage, and recycling bills.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary: Upgrade community centers • Secondary: More health care facilities and improved road infrastructure with complete streets 	Reexamine administrative policies to encourage affordable and accessible programming in community centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 3.1 • Policy 3.2
	Create a community health clinic in Belle Haven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program 3.J • Program 3.K
	Consider transportation infrastructure overhauls that ease walking, bicycling, and public transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program 1.E • Program 3.G • Program 3.I
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary: Increase access to healthy and affordable foods 	Ensure that any new grocery store offers high-quality, affordable food; includes a pharmacy; and accepts SNAP and food vouchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 4.1 • Program 4.A
	Look for opportunities for a new or expanded farmers' market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program 1.D • Program 4.B

Key Finding	Recommendations	Policies / Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary: Augment affordable housing programs and anti-displacement measures • Secondary: Mitigate pest, mold, and asbestos issues in homes and increase access to groceries and green spaces 	Offer homeowners and renters vital home safety repairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program 7.K • City is working on grant program through Habitat for Humanity for home repairs.
	Enact/expand rent control ordinances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2023-2031 Housing Element does not propose additional rent control regulations, however, the development of an anti-displacement strategy is included.
	Promote affordable housing throughout the city, and outside of Belle Haven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 5.3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary: Increase information accessibility and enhance prior knowledge of City processes • Secondary: Schedule meetings to avoid time conflicts 	Ensure substantial and sustained multilingual outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program 7.C • Program 7.F • Program 7.N • Program 7.O
	Expand education and capacity-building opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program 7.A • Program 7.B
	Revamp public meeting scheduling protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program 7.G • Program 7.H
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary: Increase street lighting • Secondary: Upgrade sidewalks and other infrastructure improvements 	Fill gaps in streetlight coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program 6.A • Program 6.B
	Assess ADA compliance in sidewalks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program 3.G • Program 6.A
	Systematically assess neighborhood connectivity infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 1.4 • Program 1.E • Program 3.B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary: Increase tree canopy • Secondary: Reduce noise pollution and retrofit buildings for resilience and energy efficiency 	Commit to urban forestry efforts by setting urban canopy expansion goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program 1.C • Program 1.F
	Create publicly accessible ticketing system for maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently done through ACT Menlo Park program.
	Consider community solutions for addressing concerns related to parking (e.g., idling and noise, parking availability)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program 1.G

Survey

CRC canvassed the city from May 20 through July 12, 2022 for a survey, focusing their outreach on the Underserved Communities of Belle Haven and Bayfront. The survey was available for completion both online and in-person, gathering 420 total responses. Of the responses, 328 (78%) of respondents were Belle Haven residents. The full survey report is available as Appendix EJ-D, Menlo Park Survey Final Report.

CRC made a series of key findings and recommendations, which were then translated into policies and programs for the Environmental Justice Element. Table EJ-7 provides the key findings identified in the survey as well as the recommendations; highlighted policies and programs are shown (see more in the Goals, Policies, and Programs section).

Table EJ-7: Key Findings from July 2022 Environmental Justice Survey

Key Finding	Recommendations	Policies / Programs
<p>A majority of respondents experienced poor air quality, traffic congestion, and dust and noise from construction as adverse environmental impacts within their households in the last 10 years. Belle Haven households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of adverse environmental impacts than other Menlo Park households.</p> <p>Non-White households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of adverse environmental impacts than their White counterparts.</p>	<p>Implement air and noise pollution mitigation measures specifically in Belle Haven. Install sensors to measure outcomes before and after pilot interventions. Work with Belle Haven community organizations to scope pilot projects and ensure cultural competency when interventions are conducted at the household level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 2.1 • Policy 2.2 • Program 2.A • Program 2.B • Air quality monitors currently exist in Belle Haven.
<p>More than a third of respondents experienced stress/anxiety, high blood pressure or cholesterol, COVID-19 and/or asthma within their households in the last 10 years. Belle Haven households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of health issues than other Menlo Park households.</p> <p>Non-White households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of health issues than their White counterparts.</p>	<p>Conduct culturally competent outreach to inform Belle Haven residents of the prevalence of health issues in the neighborhood, environmental risk factors, and opportunities for preventative or supportive action.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 3.3
<p>About a third of respondents have spent more than \$100 in the past year on home repairs related to environmental damages or risks. More than a third of respondents have delayed home repairs due to cost. A quarter of respondents, if faced with a \$400 emergency expense, would not be able to immediately pay for it in cash, and would have to pay with a credit card or borrow the money. Both of these findings also</p>	<p>Develop a rapid response program that can assist Belle Haven homeowners with emergency home repairs through a no-interest loan, including volunteer labor and donated materials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 5.1 • Program 7.K • City is working on grant program through Habitat for Humanity for

Key Finding	Recommendations	Policies / Programs
demonstrate significant geographic and racial and ethnic disparities.		home rehabilitation.
More than a third of respondents would prioritize spending extra money on air conditioning, air purifiers, home repairs and earthquake-related upgrades, compared to solar, rainwater capture, home insurance or electrification.	Expand reduced cost home weatherization and retrofit programs, as well as DIY (“Do-It-Yourself”) air filter initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 5.1 • City offers water conservation rebates, incentives, and free fixtures.²⁵
More than a third of respondents would prioritize public spending on pedestrian safety, road repairs, safer biking routes, street trees, and improved parks or community gardening, compared to public air quality monitoring, stormwater management, code enforcement and flood barriers.	While continuing to mitigate risk from less frequent climate hazards, deepen prioritization of public transportation and recreation infrastructure in Belle Haven.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 1.3 • Policy 1.4 • Program 3.A • Program 1.C

Goals, Policies, and Programs

Menlo Park’s objective of furthering Environmental Justice is an action-oriented process. The City will continually work toward Environmental Justice, with collective efforts and collaboration from Belle Haven and Bayfront residents, community leaders, and the greater Menlo Park, San Mateo County, and Bay Area communities.

The goals, policies, and programs in the Environmental Justice Element are developed from the issues and priorities identified in the data analysis and the community outreach and engagement findings and recommendations completed for Menlo Park’s first Environmental Justice Element. Below is a description of the goals, policies, and programs that make up the Environmental Justice Element.

- **Goals** – Broad actions Menlo Park will pursue to work towards environmental justice.
- **Policies** – Focused principles that Menlo Park is adopting in order to achieve goals.
- **Programs** – Precise steps that Menlo Park will take in furtherance of policies and goals.

²⁵ See “Conservation rebates and incentives” Available at <https://menlopark.gov/Government/Departments/Public-Works/Utilities/Menlo-Park-Municipal-Water/Water-conservation/Conservation-rebates-and-incentives>

Many of the policies and programs call for direct investment in low resource Underserved Communities. Prioritizing investments such as time, political energy, and capital in Underserved Communities will have net benefits and a high return on investment for Menlo Park as a whole.

Goals

In Menlo Park, as in many other places throughout California and beyond, areas with a higher concentration of low-income households are more likely to be exposed to pollution and environmental hazards. Consequently, individuals in these areas experience higher rates of poor health outcomes. To reduce the disproportionate health risks that exist in these Menlo Park neighborhoods, this Environmental Justice Element has policies and programs organized into seven goals consistent with the requirements of SB 1000 (see Table EJ-8):

Table EJ-8: Goals of the Menlo Park Environmental Justice Element

SB 1000 Required Topic Area	Environmental Justice Element Goal
Prioritize the Needs of Underserved Communities	Goal 1: Address unique and compounded health risks
Reduce Pollution Exposure	Goal 2: Reduce pollution exposure and eliminate environmental inequities
Improve Access to Public Facilities	Goal 3: Equitably provide appropriate public facilities to individuals and communities
Promote Food Access	Goal 4: Promote access to affordable healthy and high-quality foods
Promote Safe and Sanitary Housing	Goal 5: Provide safe and sanitary homes for all residents
Promote Physical Activity	Goal 6: Encourage physical activity and active transportation
Promote Civic Engagement	Goal 7: Create equitable civic and community engagement

There is natural overlap between the goals of the Environmental Justice Element. A strong Environmental Justice Element provides framework for a cohesive and complementary set of goals, policies, and programs.

The Environmental Justice Element was developed simultaneously with the 6th Cycle Housing Element. The policies and programs in the 6th Cycle Housing Element largely also support the Environmental Justice Element’s goal to provide safe and sanitary homes for all residents. Rather than duplicate this language in both elements, the Environmental Justice Element instead references the language in the Housing Element that is reviewed by the California Department of Housing and Community Development and subject to annual reporting requirements.

Policies and Programs

Policies and programs have been developed to meet the goals listed above. The policies and programs were created based on analysis of data relevant to environmental justice, as well as community outreach and engagement.

List of Goals, Policies, and Programs

Goal 1: Address unique and compounded health risks

Policy 1.1: *Prioritize programs that address the unique and compounded health risks in Underserved Communities.*

Policy 1.2: *Reduce climate vulnerability in Underserved Communities.*

Policy 1.3: *Strengthen efforts to collaborate with residents in Underserved Communities on public improvement projects.*

Policy 1.4: *Prioritize multimodal improvements, transit incentives, and neighborhood connectivity in Underserved Communities.*

Program 1.A: Prioritize addressing the needs of Underserved Communities in the development of the City's 5-year Capital Improvement Plan.

Program 1.B: Prioritize the needs of those in Underserved Communities when developing Department workplans and budget recommendations. The departments shall coordinate to ensure consistency and reduce duplication of programs and services for the Underserved Communities and streamline efforts where feasible. Workplans should have specific, measurable goals with achievable deadlines. An analysis of spending in Underserved Communities versus the city at-large should be prepared every two years.

Program 1.C: Seek and support grants that will specifically help address issues in Underserved Communities such as safe housing, increased tree coverage, recreational resources, active transportation, environmental concerns, air quality, and other issues.

Program 1.D: Ease the permitting process for temporary street closures in Underserved Communities to facilitate farmers' markets, arts and craft fairs, bicycle and pedestrian events, and other public events. Inform residents and organizations in Underserved Communities of the permitting process and how to apply.

Program 1.E: Prioritize infrastructure funding allocated to the City from regional, statewide, and federal entities towards public improvement needs in Underserved Communities and to address climate change.

Program 1.F: In urban forest management planning, focus efforts for planting street trees in Underserved Communities.

Program 1.G: Consider community solutions for addressing concerns related to parking (e.g., idling and noise, parking availability challenges).

Program 1.H: Ensure that disaster preparedness planning as described in the Safety Element includes outreach in Menlo Park's Underserved Communities.

Goal 2: Reduce pollution exposure and eliminate environmental inequities

Policy 2.1: Prioritize pollution reduction, air quality, and water quality programs that reduce inequitable exposure in Underserved Communities.

Policy 2.2: Maximize the positive impacts on environmental quality of Menlo Park's planning efforts.

Program 2.A: Work with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and other agencies to improve quality of local air quality monitors and to minimize exposure to air pollution and other hazards in Underserved Communities.

Program 2.B: Work with any identified significant stationary pollutant generators to minimize the generation of pollution through all available technologies.

Program 2.C: Work with Caltrans to evaluate potential mitigation measures to reduce noise and air quality impacts from adjacent freeways and highways, particularly those impacting Underserved Communities.

Program 2.D: Review existing standard conditions of approval for discretionary projects and consider potential additions/enhancements that could further mitigate environmental issues that may arise during construction

Program 2.E: Consider amending the Zoning Code to allow neighborhood-serving retail uses within neighborhoods at key nodes to provide opportunities for retail services and micro-fulfillment within one-quarter mile of all residences. Permit these neighborhood-serving uses with reduced parking requirements to encourage non-motorized travel to neighborhood retail.

Program 2.F: Work with Caltrans and other agencies to review truck routes and otherwise pursue reductions to diesel emissions in Underserved Communities.

Program 2.G: Implement and periodically update the City's 2030 Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Program 2.H: Ensure that zoning and other development regulations require adequate buffering between residential and industrial land uses.

Goal 3: Equitably provide appropriate public facilities to individuals and communities

Policy 3.1: Prioritize public facility programs that provide appropriate public facilities in Underserved Communities.

Policy 3.2: Public facilities shall be accessible to all community members, especially those in Underserved Communities.

Policy 3.3: Support community health programs and best practices that increase access to public health resources for Underserved Communities.

Policy 3.4: Encourage a range of health services in locations that are convenient and accessible to the community.

Policy 3.5: Coordinate with local school districts, transit agencies, and other public agencies to provide adequate public facilities, improvements, and programs in Underserved Communities

Program 3.A: Ensure the City provides equitable public improvements (e.g., siting and funding) to Underserved Communities.

Program 3.B: Consider high-speed internet access as essential infrastructure to be provided in Underserved Communities. This is critical to reduce/eliminate inequities in communication and educational opportunities. The City can work with internet service providers to support affordable access for low-income households, potentially in partnership with neighboring jurisdictions or state agencies.

Program 3.C: Consider working with local stakeholders (such as school districts or companies) to analyze joint use agreements at local schools to enable recreational fields to be used by the community at appropriate times.

Program 3.D: Consider affordable childcare and after school care (particularly on-site after school care) as community amenities eligible for City funding support in Underserved Communities.

Program 3.E: Provide a park system that provides all residents of all ages, income levels, genders, and lifestyles, with access to parks, community centers, sports fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities.

Program 3.F: Ensure that new public facilities are well designed, energy efficient, maintained, and compatible with adjacent land uses.

Program 3.G: Support implementation of the City's Transportation Master Plan to create a network of safe, accessible (including ADA accessible where appropriate) and appealing pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

Program 3.H: Encourage local transit providers to establish and maintain routes and services that provide Underserved Communities with convenient access to health service facilities, where feasible.

Program 3.I: Continue to pursue strategies including partnerships with other transportation providers to provide a comprehensive system of para-transit service for seniors and people of all abilities and enhance service within the city and to regional public facilities, especially for access to health care and other needs.

Program 3.J: Identify means of support for a city-wide paramedicine program providing health care delivery, pop-up clinics, and home visits, especially to those most vulnerable

or underserved, such as seniors and residents of Underserved Communities through partnering with health care services.

Program 3.K: Consider ways to provide a community health clinic in Belle Haven through partnerships or other agreements with a health care specialist.

Goal 4: Promote access to affordable healthy and high-quality foods

***Policy 4.1:** Prioritize adequate food access to fresh and healthy foods for all residents, particularly those in Underserved Communities.*

Program 4.A: Work with grocery stores and online food service delivery and meal providers to provide increased access to high-quality affordable and healthy food. Encourage and support the acceptance of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and reduced or waived delivery fees to combat food insecurity.

Program 4.B: Encourage and facilitate the establishment and operation of a farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, mobile health food markets, and convenience/corner stores (that sell healthy foods including fresh produce) in Underserved Communities.

Program 4.C: Encourage healthy food options at all municipal buildings and at City events where food is made available by the City.

Program 4.D: Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens within or adjacent to neighborhoods and housing development sites. This could include allowing community gardens as an amenity in required open space areas of new multifamily and mixed-use development projects, identifying properties suitable for community gardens on vacant or undeveloped lots, or other opportunities for community-supported agriculture within the community.

Program 4.E: Facilitate the installation of community gardens at senior centers and senior housing facilities.

Program 4.F: Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through fliers, community events, information at shelters and food banks, as well as other appropriate outreach methods and the Homeless Outreach Team.

Goal 5: Provide safe and sanitary homes for all residents

***Policy 5.1:** Prioritize housing programs that provide safe and sanitary homes in Underserved Communities.*

***Policy 5.2:** Maintain and develop safe and sanitary housing across all locations and affordability ranges.*

Policy 5.3: Support housing development distribution throughout the city and not concentrated within Menlo Park's Underserved Communities.

Program 5.A: Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination, particularly in Underserved Communities.

Program 5.B: Support the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) administered by the California Department of Community Services and Development with outreach to potentially eligible households.

Goal 6: Encourage physical activity and active transportation

Policy 6.1: Prioritize programs that encourage physical activity in Underserved Communities.

Policy 6.2: Support physically active lifestyles through investment in complete streets and multimodal transportation and safety in Underserved Communities, consistent with the General Plan Circulation Element.

Program 6.A: Identify and eliminate, where feasible, barriers to outdoor physical activity, such as damaged, incomplete, blocked, or littered sidewalks and bike paths, lack of safe street crossings and direct connections, excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping and shade trees along streets in Underserved Communities.

Program 6.B: Develop and implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling and taking transit. These efforts should include education for people using all modes.

Goal 7: Create equitable civic and community engagement

Policy 7.1: Prioritize civic and community engagement programs that enhance the participation and inclusion of Underserved Communities.

Policy 7.2: Keep residents informed about governmental meetings and actions.

Policy 7.3: Treat all members of the community fairly and promote equity and capacity building toward creating a healthy environment and just community.

Policy 7.4: Ensure transparency and accessibility in government and decision making.

Program 7.A: Promote capacity-building efforts to educate and involve traditionally underrepresented populations, including those in Underserved Communities, in the public decision-making process.

Program 7.B: Partner with community-based organizations that have relationships, trust and cultural competency with target communities to outreach on local initiatives and issues.

Program 7.C: Distribute City information such as numbers to call for enforcement, programs, housing needs, and general City information in Underserved Communities and in appropriate languages.

Program 7.D: Consider ways to ensure representation from all districts on City boards and commissions.

Program 7.E: Ensure that all City activities are conducted in a fair, predictable, and transparent manner.

Program 7.F: Inform the public on decisions – and seek feedback on decisions – using multiple communication methods, including traditional and online forms of communication.

Program 7.G: Proactively engage the community in planning decisions that affect their health and well-being.

Program 7.H: Evaluate protocols around scheduling of public meetings to allow for a wide range of participation options.

Program 7.I: Initiate outreach efforts as early as possible in the decision-making process before significant resources have been invested.

Program 7.J: Support local media, including alternative media, in publicizing accurate information and the community's opinions about planning efforts in the city.

Program 7.K: Inform the public on City-run and other programs that provide support for household rehabilitation, utility bill expenses, and other costs that put low-income households at risk of displacement.

Program 7.L: Utilize culturally appropriate approaches to public participation and involvement.

Program 7.M: Conduct broad outreach on public hearings that affect the environment in languages used by the community.

Program 7.N: Provide key written notices and other announcements in multiple languages.

Program 7.O: Offer interpretation services at key meetings and workshops on issues affecting the environment.

Program 7.P: Consider offering childcare at key meetings and workshops on environmental issues affecting entire neighborhoods and the city as a whole.

Program 7.Q: Periodically evaluate the City's progress in involving the broader community in decisions affecting the environment and quality of life.

Program 7.R: Conduct open meetings on issues affecting land use and the environment.

Program 7.S: Coordinate outreach efforts between City departments to avoid duplication and ensure that all Menlo Park community stakeholders receive notification and information.

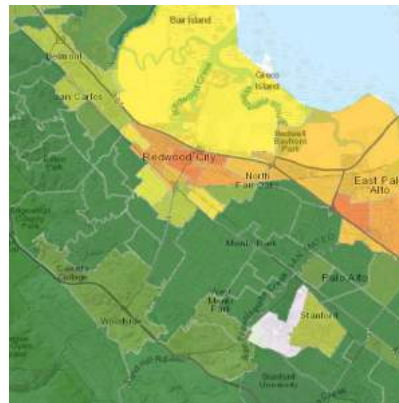
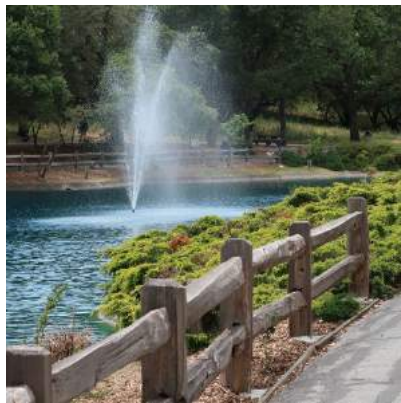
Program 7.T: Develop educational workshops for City staff to understand social injustice and housing needs pertaining to equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Program 7.U: Consistently provide training for decision makers, City staff, applicants, and public on social justice issues that affect community members.

Program 7.V: Fund bias and sensitivity training for law enforcement who may interact with historically discriminated groups, particularly people with disabilities and developmental disabilities.

Program 7.W: Continually evaluate City laws, ordinances, practices that hinder equity.

City of Menlo Park Neighborhood Profiles of Environmental Justice Considerations



October 2022

Updated from April 2022

City of Menlo Park

Neighborhood Profiles of Environmental Justice Considerations

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Introduction

The City of Menlo Park is updating its required General Plan Housing Element and Safety Element, and preparing its first ever Environmental Justice Element. Environmental justice (commonly referred to as “EJ”) is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.¹

Fair treatment means no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.

Meaningful involvement means:

- People have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health.
- The public’s contribution can influence the regulatory agency’s decision.
- Community concerns will be considered in the decision making process.
- Decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

As part of the Environmental Justice Element preparation, the City is learning about and helping to prioritize policies and actions that have the most impact in improving the physical environment so that it supports good health and quality of life for current and future Menlo Park residents.

What is a Neighborhood Profile?

A neighborhood profile provides a summary analysis on a specific neighborhood's social, economic, and environmental conditions, such as demographics, unemployment rate, and pollution exposure. These factors, or “indicators,” help set the stage for community conversations regarding priorities and plans for positive change. In this document, we look at Menlo Park through the lens of 16 neighborhoods and draw comparisons of indicator impacts among neighborhoods and the city as a whole. The neighborhood profiles serve as a precursor for the preparation of Menlo Park's first ever Environmental Justice Element.

Background Information

The State of California allows all jurisdictions to adopt an Environmental Justice Element (EJ Element) pursuant to Senate Bill 1000 (2016). The adoption of an EJ Element can occur at any time, but is required under the following conditions:

- The jurisdiction is adopting or revising two or more General Plan Elements concurrently.

¹ Government Code section 65040.12, subdivision (e)(2).

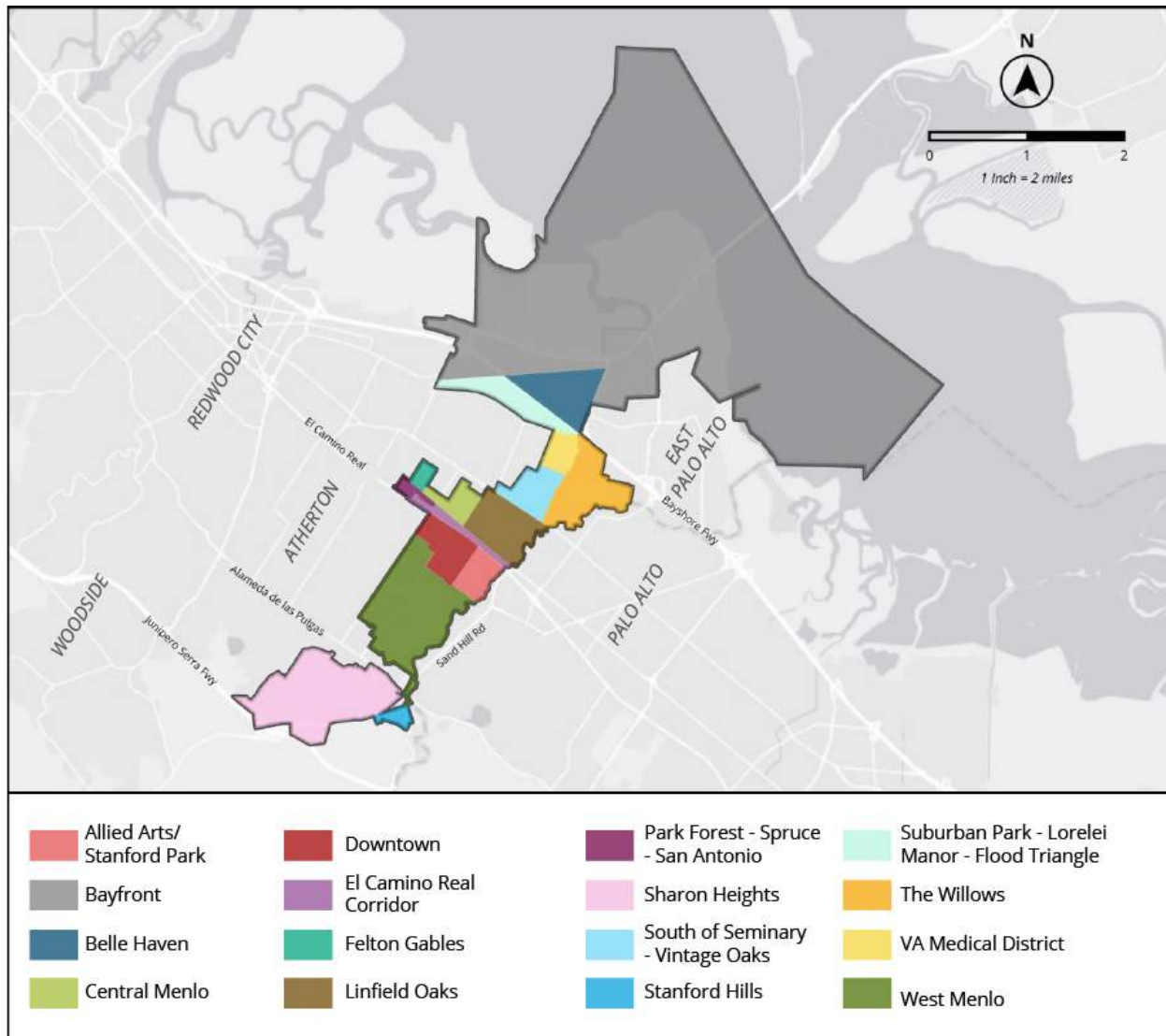
- The jurisdiction contains “Disadvantaged Communities” as defined by State law.

According to State law, a "Disadvantaged Community" is an area identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code, or, an area that is a low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation. Menlo Park is required to adopt an EJ Element as it is currently updating its required General Plan Housing Element and Safety Element (revising the combined Open Space/Conservation, Noise, and Safety Elements).

There are areas within Menlo Park that meet the State-defined criteria for “Disadvantaged Communities.”² Throughout this appendix, “Underserved Communities” will be used and is understood to be analogous to the state-defined term “Disadvantaged Communities,” which is only used when quoting or referring to state law.

² Information regarding “Disadvantaged Communities” is available at: <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/sb535>.

Neighborhoods in Menlo Park

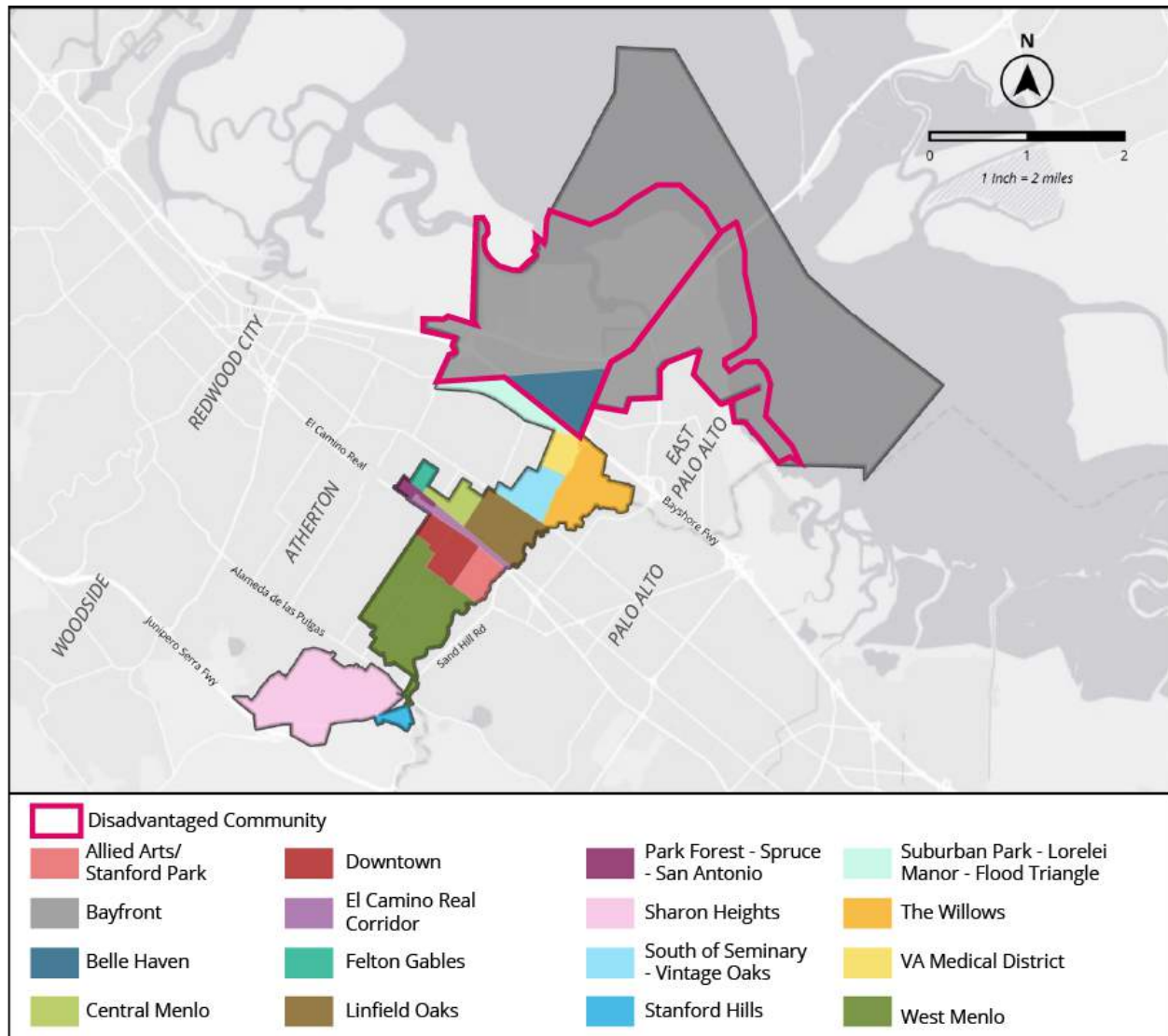


In this document, we look at Menlo Park through the lens of 16 neighborhoods as shown in the above map. The neighborhood boundaries displayed are for reference and informational purposes only, with the intent of contributing to more area-specific analysis of the city as there are differences among the neighborhoods that are helpful to highlight for the EJ Element preparation.

Underserved Communities

There are two Underserved Communities identified in Menlo Park: Belle Haven and Bayfront. These communities were identified because they are in census tracts designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development's list of state income limits and because they are historically underserved areas separated from the rest of the city by US-101 and served by a different school district.

Map of Underserved Community Census Tracts



Underserved Communities Overview

Underserved Communities are areas throughout California which suffer from a combination of economic, health, and environmental burdens. These burdens include poverty, pollution, and social and health indicators of risk and stress.

These communities are specifically targeted for investment of proceeds from the State's Cap-and-Trade Program that are aimed at improving public health, quality of life, and economic opportunity. They are defined at the census tract level, which in Menlo Park's case, means that the tracts intersect with city and neighborhood boundaries.³ The full methodology for determining Underserved Communities in Menlo Park is in Appendix EJ-B: Additional Methodology.

³ Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county.

The two Underserved Communities, Belle Haven and Bayfront, are adjacent to each other but have different histories and lived experiences. Belle Haven is a historically residential neighborhood, whereas Bayfront has been an industrial neighborhood until the recent residential development permitted by 2015's Connect Menlo plan.

The adjacency of these two neighborhoods is not an accident. Black and African American households, historically excluded from the south side of US-101 by racial covenants, found homes in Belle Haven near polluting industrial uses. As those polluting uses have phased out and technology companies have moved into Bayfront, the Belle Haven community faced displacement fears as high-income workers moved into the city north of US-101.

Understanding these two Underserved Communities as distinct, albeit linked by geography, is crucial to the environmental justice analysis of Menlo Park.

Belle Haven

Belle Haven is on the north side of US-101 and is a historically segregated neighborhood in Menlo Park. When racial covenants excluded Black and African American families from purchasing houses on the south side of US-101, many turned to Belle Haven instead.

The Household Median Income in Belle Haven's census tract, 6117, is \$74,032. This is lower than the threshold designated as low income (\$146,350) by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

Bayfront

Menlo Park's eastern Bayfront is in Census Tract 6118. This tract is also designated as an Environmental Justice Underserved Community because its median household incomes are below the threshold designated as low income (\$146,350) by the Department of Housing and Community Development. The Tract's median household income is \$85,500.

Neighborhood Profiles Methodology

Each neighborhood profile includes a map of the neighborhood area and three sections highlighting data points typically used to inform environmental justice conversations:

- ***Physical Description***
 - Pattern of Development
 - Transportation
 - Open Space
 - Natural Hazard Risk
- ***Environmental Conditions***
 - Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden
 - Major Pollution Burden Disparities
- ***Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics***

- Primary Factors
- Major Disparities

Neighborhood Area Maps

The neighborhood area maps include data for land use zoning districts, flood hazard areas (areas with a one percent chance of flooding annually, as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA]), SamTrans bus stops, and grocery stores. This serves as useful reference for areas of different land uses and risk profiles, as well as points of interest and community nodes.

Menlo Park's neighborhoods do not line up evenly with census tracts, which are used to quantify environmental data. It should be noted that the neighborhoods of The Willows; Allied Arts/Stanford Park; West Menlo; and Bayfront have been further divided for mapping and analysis purposes to better correspond to census tract-level data available. Further, six census tracts encompass more than one neighborhood and as a result, those neighborhoods share CalEnviroScreen scores (Tracts 6117, 6125, 6126, 6127, 6130, and 6139).

Neighborhoods and Census Tracts Cross-Reference	
Neighborhood	Census Tract(s)
Allied Arts/Stanford Park	6126 (North) 6127 (South)
Bayfront	6117 (West)* 6118 (East)*
Belle Haven	6117*
Central Menlo	6125
Downtown	6126
El Camino Real Corridor	6125
Felton Gables	6125
Linfield Oaks	6125
Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio	6125
Sharon Heights	6130
South of Seminary – Vintage Oaks	6139
Stanford Hills	6130
Suburban Park – Lorelei Manor – Flood Triangle	6116
The Willows	6139 (West) 6121 (East)
VA Medical District	6139
West Menlo	6127 (North) 6128 (South)

**Census tract designated as Underserved Community*

CalEnviroScreen Indicators

The summarized indicators and corresponding scores for pollution burden and population characteristics are provided by the California Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool called "CalEnviroScreen 4.0."

CalEnviroScreen provides an interactive mapping tool to identify communities in California that are disproportionately burdened, and allows users to see how these burdens compare to other areas throughout California. An indicator is a measure of either environmental conditions, in the case of **Pollution Burden Indicators**, or health and vulnerability factors for **Population Characteristics Indicators**. CalEnviroScreen indicators fall into four broad groups—exposures, environmental effects, sensitive populations, and socioeconomic factors.

- **Exposure** indicators are based on measurements of different types of pollution that people may come into contact with.
- **Environmental** effects indicators are based on the locations of toxic chemicals in or near communities.
- **Sensitive population** indicators measure the number of people in a community who may be more severely affected by pollution because of their age or health.
- **Socioeconomic factor** indicators are conditions that may increase people's stress or make healthy living difficult and cause them to be more sensitive to pollution's effects.

Each indicator is scored separately and CalEnviroScreen assigns each census tract a percentile value based on where it falls among values statewide.⁴ A higher number always indicates a "worse" situation. For example, if a census tract is in the 60th percentile for "Unemployment," that means its burden indicator value is higher than 60 percent of all other census tracts in California. In addition to this metric comparing the census tract to the state, the Neighborhood Profiles also show the citywide average and the tract's difference (positive or negative, meaning higher or lower) from the citywide average. These numbers show specific neighborhood differences from Menlo Park as a whole.

The indicators are divided into two categories: Pollution Burden Indicators and Population Characteristics Indicators. These two categories average the percentiles of their underlying indicators.

The table below provides descriptions for the summarized **Pollution Burden Indicators** provided by CalEnviroScreen.

⁴ CalEnviroScreen information is available at <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen>.

Pollution Burden Indicators	
Indicator	Description
Air Quality: Ozone	Ozone is the main ingredient of smog. At ground level, ozone is formed when pollutants chemically react in the presence of sunlight. Ground-level ozone is formed from the reaction of oxygen-containing compounds with other air pollutants in the presence of sunlight. The main sources of ozone are trucks, cars, planes, trains, factories, farms, construction, and dry cleaners.
Air Quality: Air Quality: PM2.5	Particulate matter, or PM2.5, is very small particles in air that are 2.5 micrometers (about 1 ten-thousandth of an inch) or less in diameter. This is less than the thickness of a human hair. Particulate matter, one of six U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) criteria air pollutants, is a mixture that can include organic chemicals, dust, soot and metals. These particles can come from cars and trucks, factories, wood burning, and other activities.
Diesel Particulate Matter	Exhaust from trucks, buses, trains, ships, and other equipment with diesel engines contains a mixture of gases and solid particles. These solid particles are known as diesel particulate matter (diesel PM). Diesel PM contains hundreds of different chemicals. Many of these are harmful to health. The highest levels of diesel PM are near ports, rail yards and freeways. People are exposed to diesel PM from breathing air containing diesel exhaust.
Pesticide Use	Pesticides are chemicals used to control insects, weeds, and plant or animal diseases. Over 1,000 pesticides are approved for use in California. They are applied to fields by air, by farm machinery, or by workers on the ground.
Toxic Releases from Facilities	Facilities that make or use toxic chemicals can release these chemicals into the air. Information is available on the amount of chemicals released for over 500 chemicals for large facilities in the United States. ⁵ People of color and low income Californians are more likely to live in areas with higher toxic chemical releases.
Traffic Impacts	California has the biggest network of freeways in the country. Its cities are known for heavy traffic. Traffic impacts are a measure of the number of vehicles on the roads in an area. Non-whites, Latinos, low income people, and people who speak a language other than English often live in or near areas with high traffic.
Drinking Water Contaminants	Most drinking water in California meets requirements for health and safety. However, the water we drink sometimes becomes contaminated with chemicals or bacteria. Both natural and human sources can contaminate drinking water. Natural sources can be found in rocks and soil or come from fires. Human sources include factories, sewage, and runoff from farms. Poor communities and people in rural areas are exposed to contaminants in their drinking water more often than people in other parts of the state.
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	Lead is a toxic heavy metal that occurs naturally in the environment. However, the highest levels of lead present in the environment are a result of human activities. Historically, lead has been used in house paint, plumbing, and as a gasoline additive. While lead levels have declined over the past five

⁵ Toxics Release Inventory resource, available at: <https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program>

Pollution Burden Indicators	
Indicator	Description
	decades in the United States, it still persists in older housing.
Cleanup Sites	Cleanup sites are places that are contaminated with harmful chemicals and need to be cleaned up by the property owners or government. People living near these sites are more likely to be exposed to chemicals from the sites than people living further away. Some studies have shown that neighborhoods with cleanup sites are generally poorer and have more people of color than other neighborhoods.
Groundwater Threats	Hazardous chemicals are often stored in containers on land or in underground storage tanks. Leaks from these containers and tanks can contaminate soil and pollute groundwater. Common pollutants of soil and groundwater include gasoline and diesel fuel from gas stations, as well as solvents, heavy metals and pesticides. The land and groundwater may take many years to clean up. Man-made ponds containing water produced from oil and gas activities may also contain pollutants.
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	Waste created by different commercial or industrial activity contains chemicals that may be dangerous or harmful to health. Only certain regulated facilities are allowed to treat, store or dispose of this type of waste. These facilities are not the same as cleanup sites. Hazardous waste includes a range of different types of waste. It can include used automotive oil as well as highly toxic waste materials produced by factories and businesses. Studies have found that hazardous waste facilities are often located near poorer neighborhoods and communities of color.
Impaired Water Bodies	Streams, rivers and lakes are used for recreation and fishing and may provide water for drinking or agriculture. When water is contaminated by pollutants, the water bodies are considered impaired. These impairments are related to the amount of pollution that has occurred in or near the water body. Groups such as tribal or low income communities may depend on fish, aquatic plants and wildlife in nearby water bodies more than the general population.
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	Solid waste facilities are places where household garbage and other types of waste are collected, processed, or stored. These include landfills, transfer stations, and composting facilities. The waste can come from homes, industry or commercial sources. Most of these operations require permits. The communities near solid waste facilities are usually home to poor and minority residents.

The table below provides descriptions for the summarized **Population Characteristics Indicators**.

Population Characteristics Indicators	
Indicator	Description
Asthma	Asthma is a disease that affects the lungs and makes it hard to breathe. Symptoms include breathlessness, wheezing, coughing, and chest tightness. The causes of asthma are unknown but genetic and environmental factors can be involved. Five million Californians have been diagnosed with asthma at

Population Characteristics Indicators	
Indicator	Description
	some point in their lives. Asthma is the most common long-term disease in children. African Americans and people with low incomes visit hospitals for asthma more often than other groups.
Low Birth Weight Infants	Babies who weigh less than about five and a half pounds (2500 grams) at birth are considered low birth weight by the California Department of Public Health. Many factors, including poor nutrition, lack of prenatal care, stress and smoking by the mother, can increase the risk of having a low birth-weight baby.
Cardiovascular Disease	Cardiovascular disease refers to conditions that involve blocked or narrowed blood vessels that can lead to a heart attack or other heart problems. Heart attack is the most common cardiovascular event. Although many people survive and return to normal life after a heart attack, quality of life and long-term survival may be reduced, and these people are more prone to future cardiovascular events. There are many risk factors for developing cardiovascular disease including diet, lack of exercise, smoking and exposure to air pollution.
Educational Attainment	Educational attainment is the highest level of education a person has completed. People with more education usually earn more than people with less education. In California, 19 percent of adults over 25 do not have a high school degree, compared to 14 percent for the United States according to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA).
Linguistic Isolation	Linguistic isolation is a term used by the US Census Bureau for limited English speaking households. More than 40 percent of Californians speak a language other than English at home. About half of those do not speak English well or at all.
Poverty	The US Census Bureau determines the Federal Poverty Level each year. The poverty level is based on the size of the household and the ages of family members. If a person or family's total income before taxes is less than the poverty level, the person or family are considered in poverty.
Unemployment	The US Census Bureau counts people who are over 16 years old, out of work and able to work as unemployed. It does not include students, active duty military, retired people or people who have stopped looking for work.
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	Housing burdened low income households are households that are both low income and highly burdened by housings costs. California has very high housing costs relative to much of the country, which can make it hard for many to afford housing. Households with lower incomes may spend a larger proportion of their income on housing and may suffer from housing-induced poverty. Housing-Burden Low-Income Households make less than 80 percent of the Area Median Family Income and pay greater than 50 percent of their income to housing costs, whether they are renting or owning their homes.

Key Points for Consideration

This detailed analysis of Menlo Park demonstrates the fine-grained differences between the 16 neighborhoods that make up the residential areas of the city. As a whole, the neighborhood profiles describe Menlo Park as a city with a pleasant natural environment, rich employment opportunities, and potential educational advancement that are not necessarily spread equitably throughout the community.

- The neighborhoods of Belle Haven and Bayfront are considered as Underserved Communities per an initial OPR-guided screening, meaning they are areas where residents experience more financial, environmental, and/or social stress relative to the State as a whole. Although Belle Haven and Bayfront are both identified as potential Underserved Communities, they have different histories and geographic contexts.
- An Environmental Justice Element, such as the one being developed by the City of Menlo Park, must include objectives and policies that:
 - Reduce the unique or compounded health risks in Underserved Communities by means that include, but are not limited to, the reduction of pollution exposure, including the improvement of air quality, and the promotion of public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity.
 - Promote civil engagement in the public decision-making process. Underserved Prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of Underserved Communities.
- The issues in Underserved Communities at the highest risk percentiles are lead risk and traffic impacts.

These neighborhood profiles serve as a starting point for considering environmental justice in Menlo Park. They require outreach and a more contextual understanding of the data points in order to serve potential Underserved Communities and the city as a whole. The profiles are designed to set the stage for community conversations and set the foundation for plans for positive change in Menlo Park.

Summary Table

The table below shows the overall Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics scores in CalEnviroScreen and their relative “rank” to Menlo Park as a whole.

A **higher score** indicates a “**worse**” situation. A **lower score** indicates a “**better**” situation.

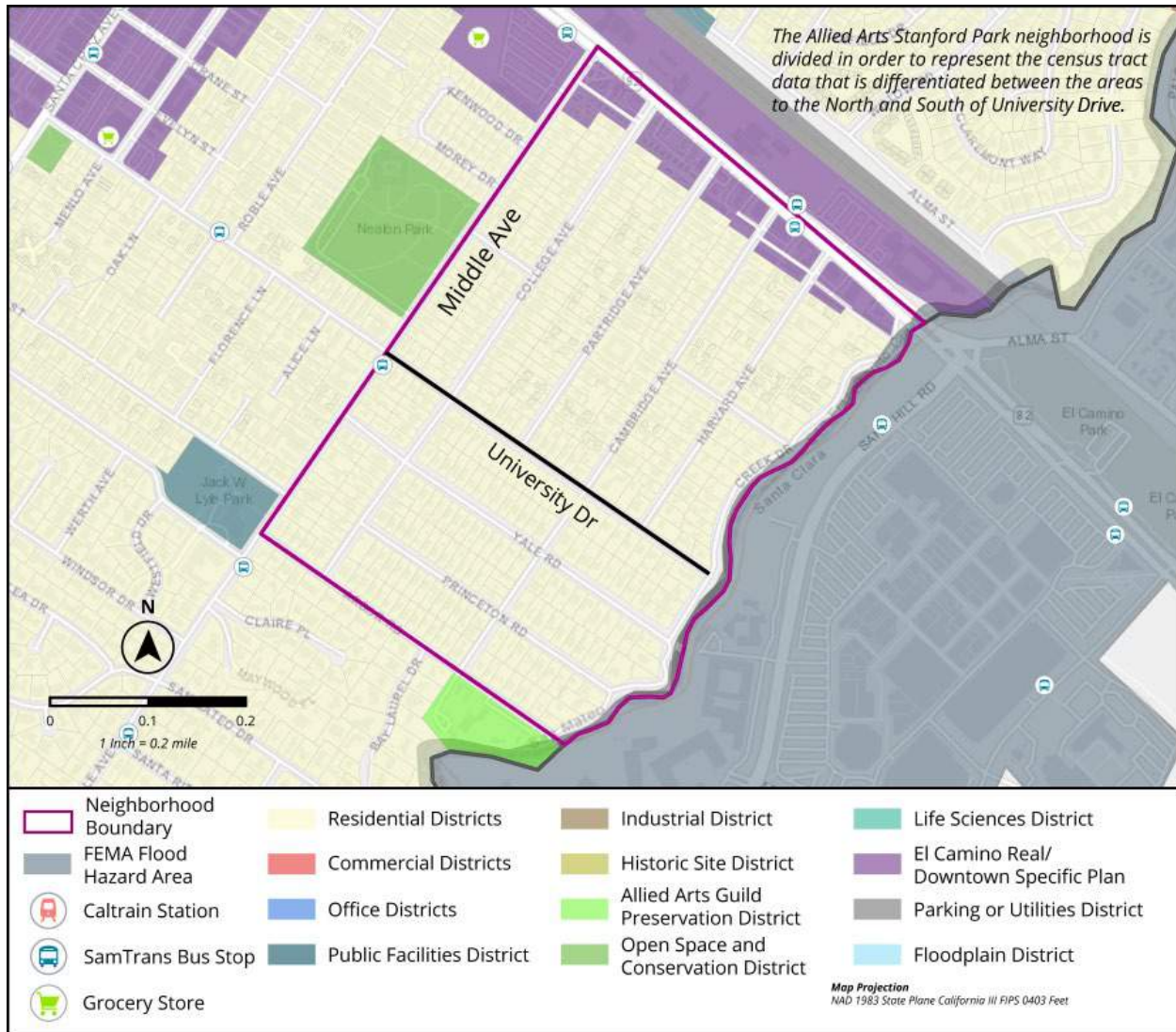
A **higher rank** indicates a “**better**” situation. A **lower rank** indicates a “**worse**” situation.

The higher the score, the lower the rank (e.g., Belle Haven's Pollution Burden Score of 82 is lower-ranked at 9th than Central Menlo's Pollution Burden of 45 ranked higher at 4th).

Neighborhood Score Summary Table				
Neighborhood	Pollution Burden Score	Pollution Burden Rank	Population Characteristics Score	Population Characteristics Rank
Citywide Average	56	-	19	-
Allied Arts/Stanford Park (North)	52	6th (tied)	4	3rd (tied)
Allied Arts/Stanford Park (South)	35	2nd (tied)	5	4th (tied)
Bayfront (East)	83	10th	49	6th (tied)
Bayfront (West)	82	9th (tied)	49	6th (tied)
Belle Haven	82	9th (tied)	49	6th (tied)
Central Menlo	45	4th (tied)	2	2nd (tied)
Downtown	52	6th (tied)	4	3rd (tied)
El Camino Real Corridor	45	4th (tied)	2	2nd (tied)
Felton Gables	45	4th (tied)	2	2nd (tied)
Linfield Oaks	45	4th (tied)	2	2nd (tied)
Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio	45	4th (tied)	2	2nd (tied)
Sharon Heights	47	5th (tied)	11	5th (tied)
South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks	44	3rd (tied)	5	4th (tied)
Stanford Hills	47	5th (tied)	11	
Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle	71	7th	2	2nd (tied)
The Willows (East)	73	8th	58	7th
The Willows (West)	44	3rd (tied)	5	4th (tied)
VA Medical District	44	3rd (tied)	5	4th (tied)
West Menlo (North)	35	2nd (tied)	5	4th (tied)
West Menlo (South)	26	1st	1	1st

Note: Since census tract boundaries intersect with neighborhood boundaries, there are some neighborhoods that are divided East/West or North/South. Other neighborhoods share underlying data, in which case they are "tied" in the table. Due to these numerous "ties", the rankings are not 1 through 16: there are 10 total ranks for Pollution Burden and 9 for Social Characteristics.

Allied Arts/Stanford Park



Physical Description

Pattern of Development

The Allied Arts/Stanford Park neighborhood is made up primarily of detached single-family homes and 2-story apartments. Non-residential uses include commercial and retail along El Camino Real. Most of the neighborhood is not within a half-mile of a grocery store, although there are three grocery stores outside the western edge of the neighborhood. Two local parks, Nealon Park and Jack W. Lyle Park, are just outside the west side of Allied Arts/Stanford Park.

Transportation

El Camino Real provides residents of Allied Arts/Stanford Park connectivity to the rest of the city and the Peninsula. Residents of the neighborhood also have access to Middle Avenue, a north-south arterial road that runs through the city, and University Drive running east-west.

Open Space

There are no open space areas in the neighborhood, although San Francisquito Creek makes up its eastern boundary. Jack W. Lyle Park is located to the west, outside of the neighborhood. The open play field is available for public use upon reservation. Nealon Park is located northwest of the neighborhood and includes facilities for softball, tennis, and a dog park. Little House Activity Center, a senior citizen center, is also located at Nealon Park.

Natural Hazard Risk

Allied Arts/Stanford Park is not located in a flood hazard area, but is adjacent to San Francisquito Creek and flood hazard areas in Palo Alto.

Environmental Conditions

Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Allied Arts/Stanford Park has overall Pollution Burden scores of 52 (North of University Drive) and 35 (South of University Drive), ranking 6th (4 points less than the citywide average) and 2nd (21 points less than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden					
Indicator	Score ¹				
	North of University Drive	Difference from Citywide Average	South of University Drive	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Pollution Burden	52	-3.8	35	-20.8	55.8
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	14	-1.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	69	+7.5	48	-13.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	25	-2.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	36	-24.3	20	-40.3	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	59	-7.4	39	-27.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	54	-13.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	96	+32.3	72	+8.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	90	+27.3	73	+10.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	50	-25.6	78	+2.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	8	-9.8	20	+2.2	17.8

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

Primary Factors and Major Disparities

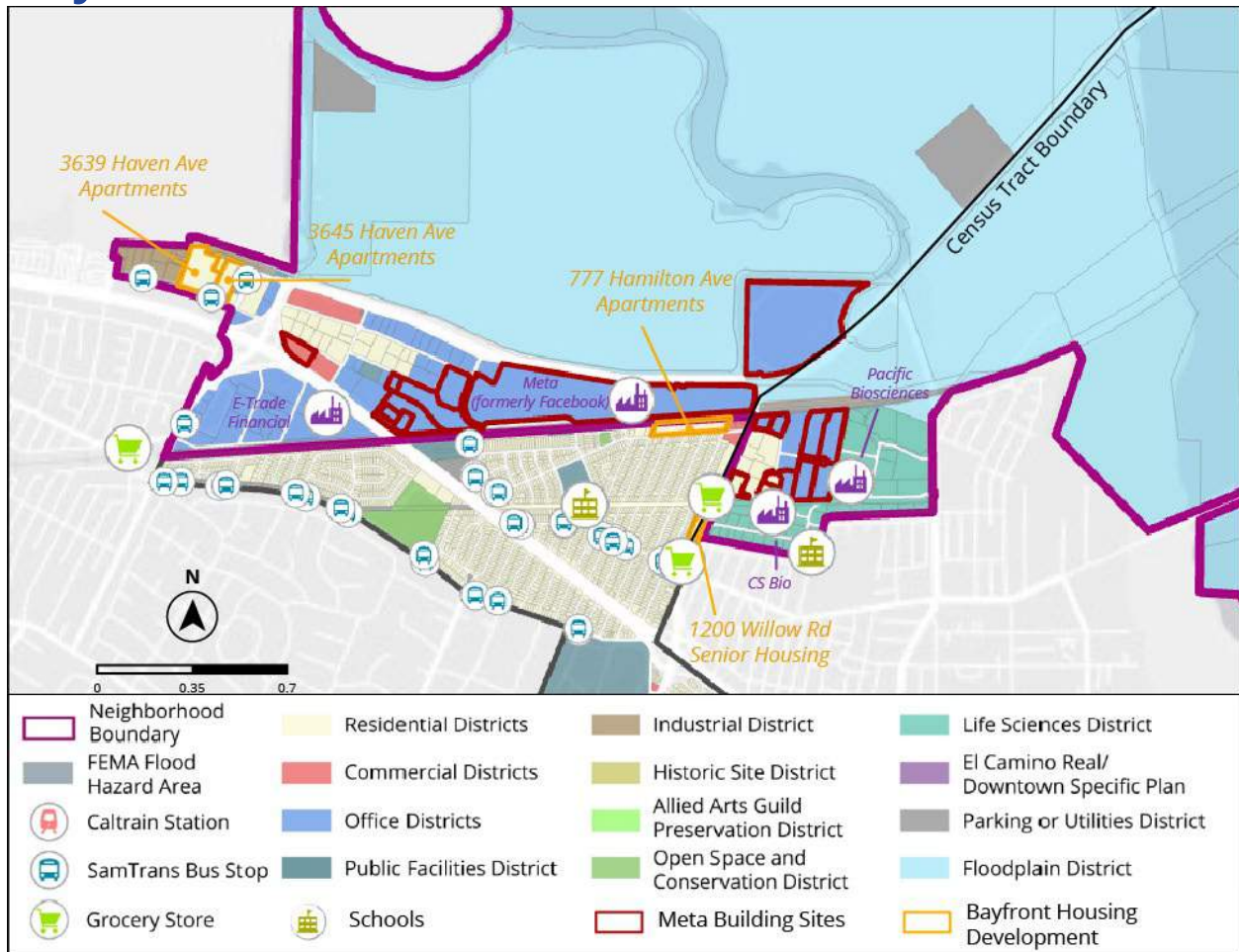
Allied Arts/Stanford Park has overall Population Characteristics scores of 4 (North of University Drive) and 5 (South of University Drive), ranking 3rd (15 points less than the citywide average) and 4th (14 points less than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics					
Indicator	Score ¹				
	North of University Drive	Difference from Citywide Average	South of University Drive	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Population Characteristics	4	-14.6	5	-13.6	18.6
Asthma	21	-3.9	22	-2.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	11	-16.8	51	+23.2	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	9	+0.3	9	+0.3	8.7
Education	6	-23.0	0	-29.0	29
Linguistic Isolation	22	-9.5	0	-31.5	31.5
Poverty	19	-9.4	9	-19.4	28.4
Unemployment	6	-19.7	6	-19.7	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	32	-9.2	12	-29.2	41.2

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

Bayfront



Physical Description

Pattern of Development

Of the developed areas within Bayfront, the neighborhood is comprised of high-density apartments, professional office, and industrial and research facilities. Other uses include a local park and some neighborhood-serving retail. Much of the area is either open space or the open water of San Francisco Bay.

Transportation

US-101 and Bayfront Expressway (CA-84) provide connectivity between Bayfront and the rest of the city and the Peninsula and East Bay. Although there are several bus stops within the neighborhood, there is less public transit service than other areas in the city.

Open Space

The Bedwell Bayfront Park includes bike trails, an open play field, and several walking paths within its 160 acres.

Natural Hazard Risk

Bayfront is located entirely within a flood hazard area.

Environmental Conditions

Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Bayfront has overall Pollution Burden scores of 82 (West of Willow/CA-84) and 83 (East of Willow/CA-84), ranking 9th (26 points more than the citywide average) and 10th (26 points more than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden					
Indicator	Score ¹				
	West of Willow/CA-84	Difference from Citywide Average	East of Willow/CA-84	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Pollution Burden	82	+26.2	83	+27.2	55.8
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	10	+0.8	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	16	+0.8	17	+1.8	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	88	+26.5	49	-12.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	32	+4.4	28	+0.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	94	+33.7	60	-0.3	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	69	+2.6	87	+20.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	96	+28.6	99	+31.6	67.4
Cleanup Sites	89	+25.3	82	+18.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	61	-1.7	98	+35.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	83	+7.4	85	+9.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	0	-37.8	84	+46.2	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	63	+45.2	21	+3.2	17.8

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

Primary Factors and Major Disparities

Bayfront has overall Population Characteristics scores of 49 both West and East of Willow/CA-84, ranking 6th (30 points more than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics					
Indicator	Score ¹				
	West of Willow/CA-84	Difference from Citywide Average	East of Willow/CA-84	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Population Characteristics	49	+30.4	49	+30.4	18.6
Asthma	24	-0.9	47	+22.1	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	45	+17.2	22	-5.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	10	+1.3	13	+4.3	8.7
Education	82	+53.0	86	+57	29
Linguistic Isolation	86	+54.5	38	+6.5	31.5
Poverty	59	+30.6	65	+36.6	28.4
Unemployment	46	+20.3	74	+48.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	83	+41.8	90	+48.8	41.2

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

Physical Description

Pattern of Development

Belle Haven is comprised of mostly detached single-family homes and few areas of low-rise apartments. Non-residential uses in the neighborhood include a public library, a public school (elementary), a private school (kindergarten through middle), a fire station, and three local parks. Approximately 50 percent of the neighborhood is within a half-mile of one of two small grocery stores on the eastern side of the neighborhood.

Transportation

US-101 and Bayfront surround Belle Haven, requiring residents to use only Willow Road and the pedestrian/bicycle Bay Trail to connect with the rest of the city. Newbridge Street is well-serviced by SamTrans, as well as few other minor roads. Most homes in the area are within a quarter-mile from a bus stop.

Open Space

Kelly Park, Karl E. Clark Park, and Hamilton Park are available for public use. Tennis courts and the soccer field at Kelly Park are available for public use and may be reserved.

Natural Hazard Risk

More than 60 percent of Belle Haven is in a flood hazard area.

Environmental Conditions

Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Belle Haven has an overall Pollution Burden score of 82, ranking 9th (26 points more than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score ¹		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Pollution Burden	82	+26.2	55.8
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	16	+0.8	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	88	+26.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	32	+4.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	94	+33.7	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	69	+2.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	96	+28.6	67.4
Cleanup Sites	89	+25.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	61	-1.7	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	83	+7.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	0	-37.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	63	+45.2	17.8

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

Primary Factors and Major Disparities

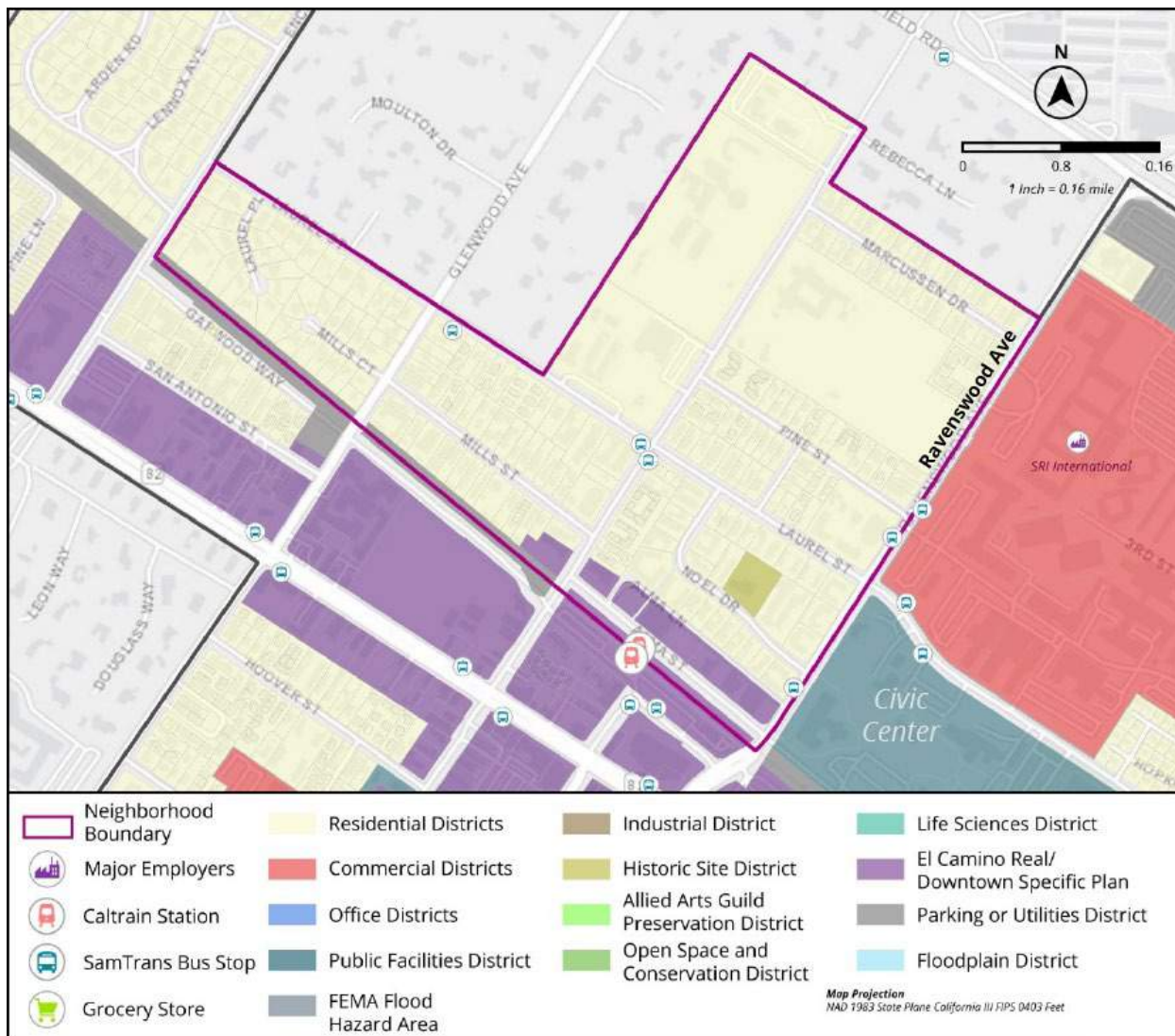
Belle Haven has an overall Population Characteristics score of 49, ranking 6th (30 points more than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score ¹		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Population Characteristics	49	+30.4	18.6
Asthma	24	-0.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	45	+17.2	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	10	+1.3	8.7
Education	82	+53.0	29
Linguistic Isolation	86	+54.5	31.5
Poverty	59	+30.6	28.4
Unemployment	46	+20.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	83	+41.8	41.2

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

Central Menlo



Physical Description

Pattern of Development

Central Menlo is primarily made of apartments, ranging from 2-3 stories. Non-residential uses include neighborhood-serving retail and offices along the southern edge of Central Menlo neighborhood. The building in the Historic Site District on Noel Drive is commonly referred to as the Bright Eagle and is currently used for offices.

Transportation

Central Menlo is easily accessible to the El Camino Real, which provides connectivity to the rest of the city and throughout the Peninsula. Laurel Street is also well-served by public transit. Ravenswood Avenue, which borders Central Menlo's east side, provides residents with access to three bus stops. The Menlo Park Caltrain station, which provides transportation from San Francisco to the South Bay in Gilroy, is on the southeast corner of the neighborhood.

Open Space

There are no local parks in Central Menlo, but Burgess Park is just outside the neighborhood's eastern boundary, connected to the Civic Center.

Natural Hazard Risk

Central Menlo is not in a flood hazard zone.

Environmental Conditions

Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Central Menlo has an overall Pollution Burden score of 45, ranking 4th (11 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score ¹		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Pollution Burden	45	-10.8	55.8
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	59	-2.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	32	-28.3	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	61	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	96	+32.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	90	+27.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	41	-34.6	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0

Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

Primary Factors and Major Disparities

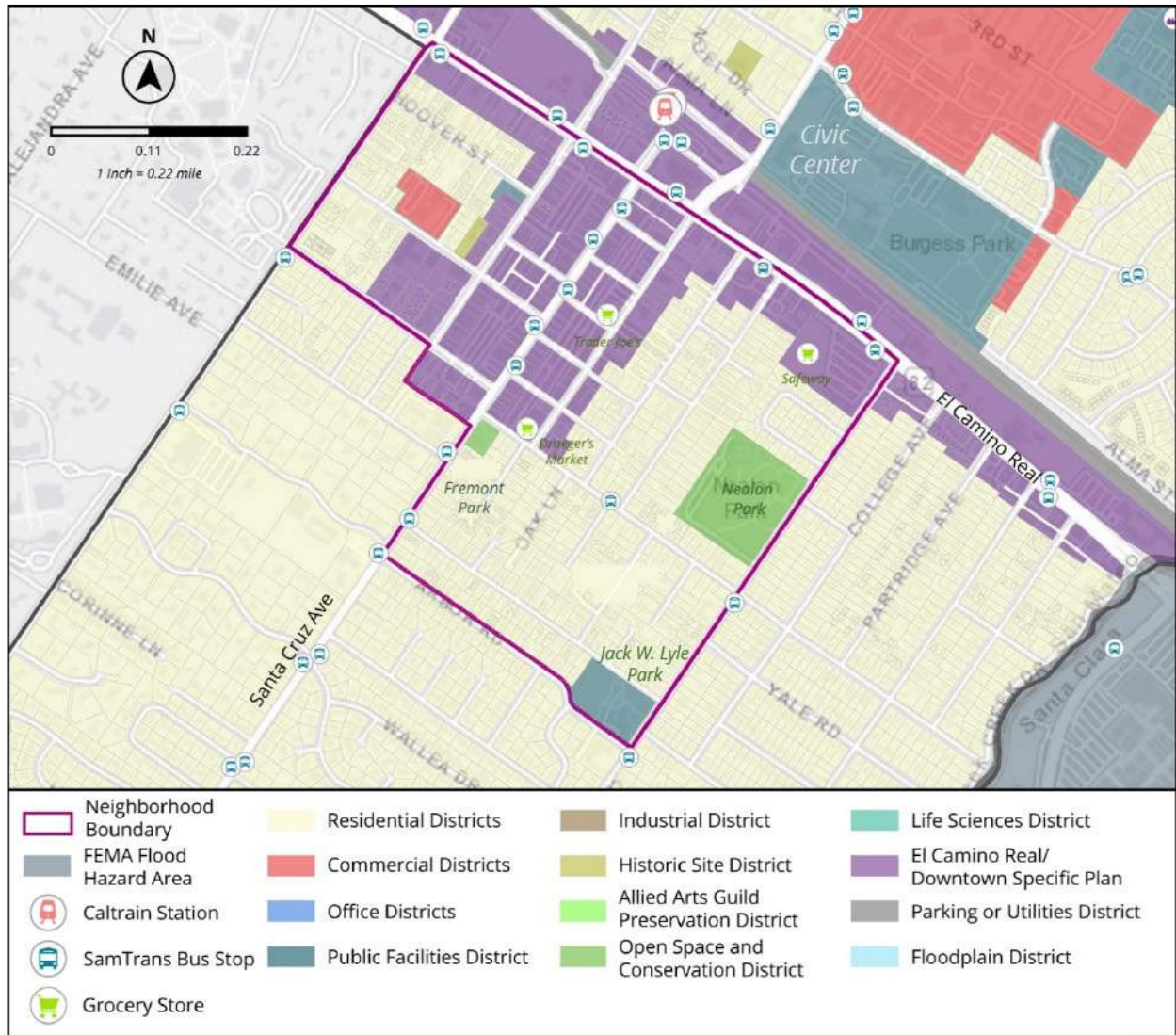
Central Menlo has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2nd (17 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score ¹		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Population Characteristics	2	-16.6	18.6
Asthma	13	-11.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	21	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	4	-4.7	8.7
Education	2	-27.0	29
Linguistic Isolation	16	-15.5	31.5
Poverty	4	-24.4	28.4
Unemployment	5	-20.7	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	29	-12.2	41.2

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

Downtown



Physical Description

Pattern of Development

Downtown is made of mostly apartments and commercial/retail uses, as well as personal service as part of the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan Area. Other notable uses include three local parks, three grocery stores, and a fire station.

Transportation

Santa Cruz Avenue and El Camino Real provide most residents with access to a bus stop within a quarter-mile. El Camino Real provides Downtown residents with connectivity to the north and south of the Peninsula as well. The city's Caltrain station borders the Downtown.

Open Space

Nealon Park, Fremont Park and Jack W. Lyle Park are local parks available for public use. Softball fields, tennis courts, and picnic areas at Nealon Park are available for public use and may be reserved.

Natural Hazard Risk

Downtown is not located in a flood hazard area.

Environmental Conditions

Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Downtown has an overall Pollution Burden score of 52, ranking 6th (4 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score ¹		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Pollution Burden	52	-3.8	55.8
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	69	+7.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	36	-24.3	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	59	-7.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	96	+32.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	90	+27.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	50	-25.6	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	8	-9.8	17.8

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

Primary Factors and Major Disparities

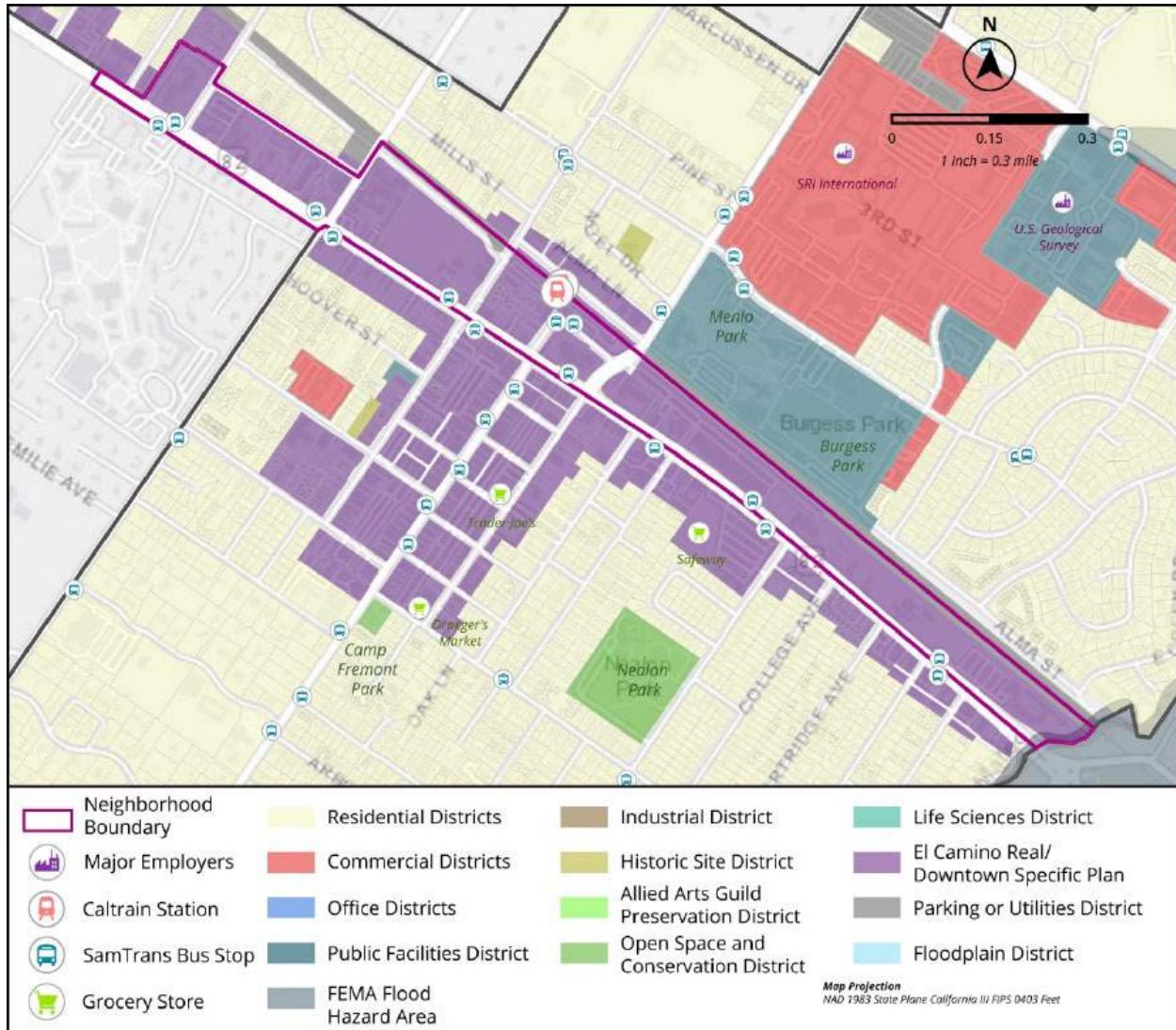
Downtown has an overall Population Characteristics score of 4, ranking 3rd (15 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score ¹		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Population Characteristics	4	-14.6	18.6
Asthma	21	-3.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	11	-16.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	9	+0.3	8.7
Education	6	-23.0	29
Linguistic Isolation	22	-9.5	31.5
Poverty	19	-9.4	28.4
Unemployment	6	-19.7	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	32	-9.2	41.2

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

El Camino Real Corridor



Physical Description

Pattern of Development

The El Camino Real Corridor is made of larger retailers, neighborhood commercial, and professional office services under the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan.

Transportation

El Camino Real Corridor has convenient access to other neighborhoods via El Camino Real, Ravenswood Avenue, and Santa Cruz Avenue, all with regular bus service. Additionally, Menlo Park's Caltrain station is located within this neighborhood.

Open Space

There are no open space areas within the El Camino Real Corridor. However, Burgess Park, Camp Fremont Park, and Nealon Park are within a half-mile of most areas of the neighborhood.

Natural Hazard Risk

El Camino Real Corridor is not located within a flood hazard zone.

Environmental Conditions

Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

El Camino Real Corridor has an overall Pollution Burden score of 45, ranking 4th (11 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score ¹		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Pollution Burden	45	-10.8	55.8
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	59	-2.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	32	-28.3	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	61	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	96	+32.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	90	+27.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	41	-34.6	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

Primary Factors and Major Disparities

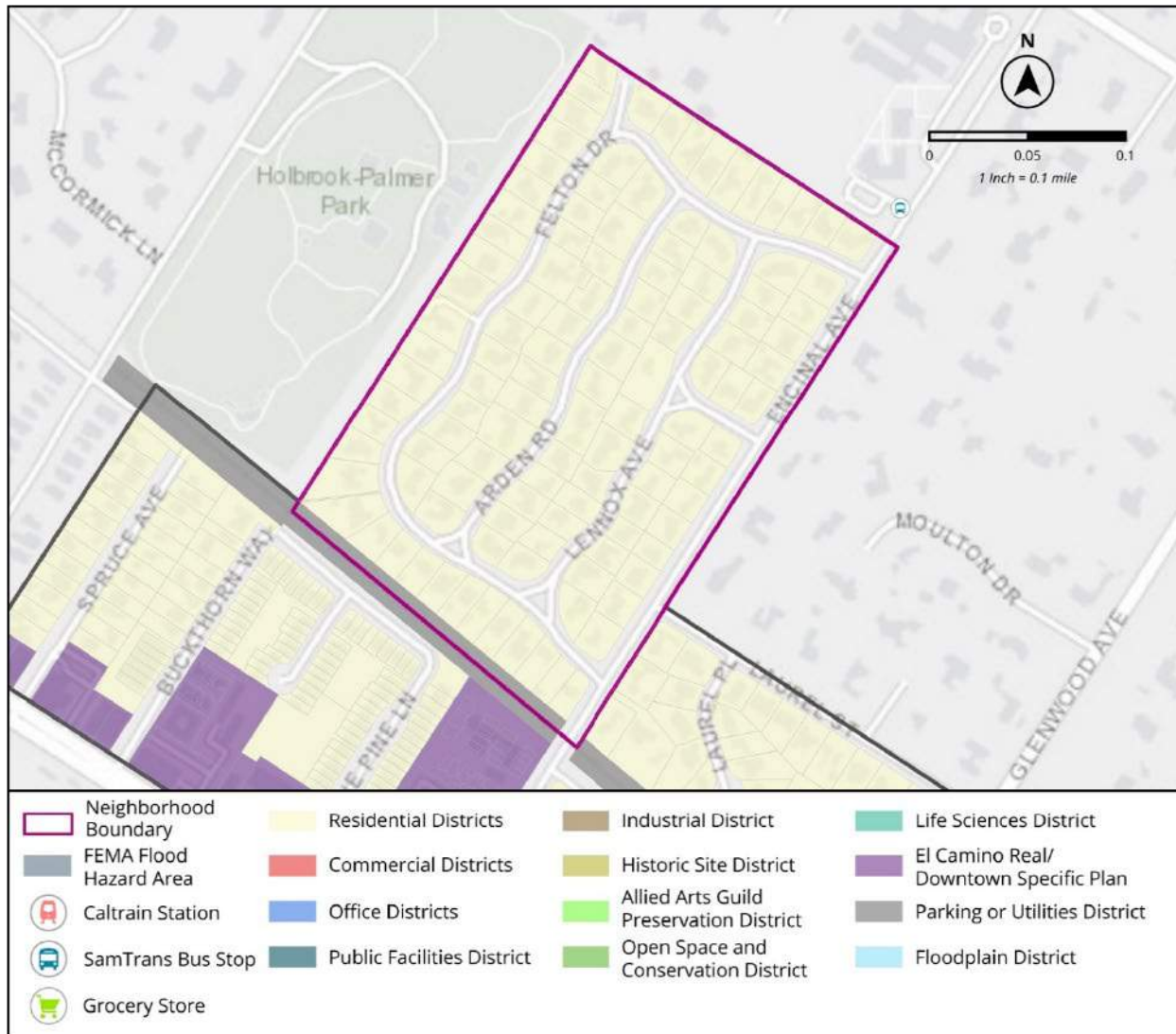
El Camino Real Corridor has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2nd (17 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score ¹		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Population Characteristics	2	-16.6	18.6
Asthma	13	-11.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	21	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	4	-4.7	8.7
Education	2	-27.0	29
Linguistic Isolation	16	-15.5	31.5
Poverty	4	-24.4	28.4
Unemployment	5	-20.7	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	29	-12.2	41.2

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

Felton Gables



Physical Description

Pattern of Development

The Felton Gables neighborhood is made up entirely of detached single-family homes. There are no other uses within the neighborhood.

Transportation

Connectivity is limited to the north-south Encinal Avenue on the east side of the neighborhood. There are no public transit bus stops within the neighborhood. There are no continuous sidewalks, nor are there bicycle lanes in this neighborhood. Caltrain tracks are located at the southern border of Felton Gables, cutting off connectivity to El Camino Real.

Open Space

There are no open spaces or parks within the neighborhood. Holbrook-Palmer Park, in the neighboring town of Atherton, is adjacent to Felton Gables. For groups of 12 people or less, the park and its amenities are available for free. There are also three facilities available to rent.

Natural Hazard Risk

Felton Gables is not located within a flood hazard area.

Environmental Conditions

Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Felton Gables has an overall Pollution Burden score of 45, ranking 4th (11 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score ¹		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Pollution Burden	45	-10.8	55.8
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	59	-2.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	32	-28.3	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	61	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	96	+32.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	90	+27.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	41	-34.6	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

Primary Factors and Major Disparities

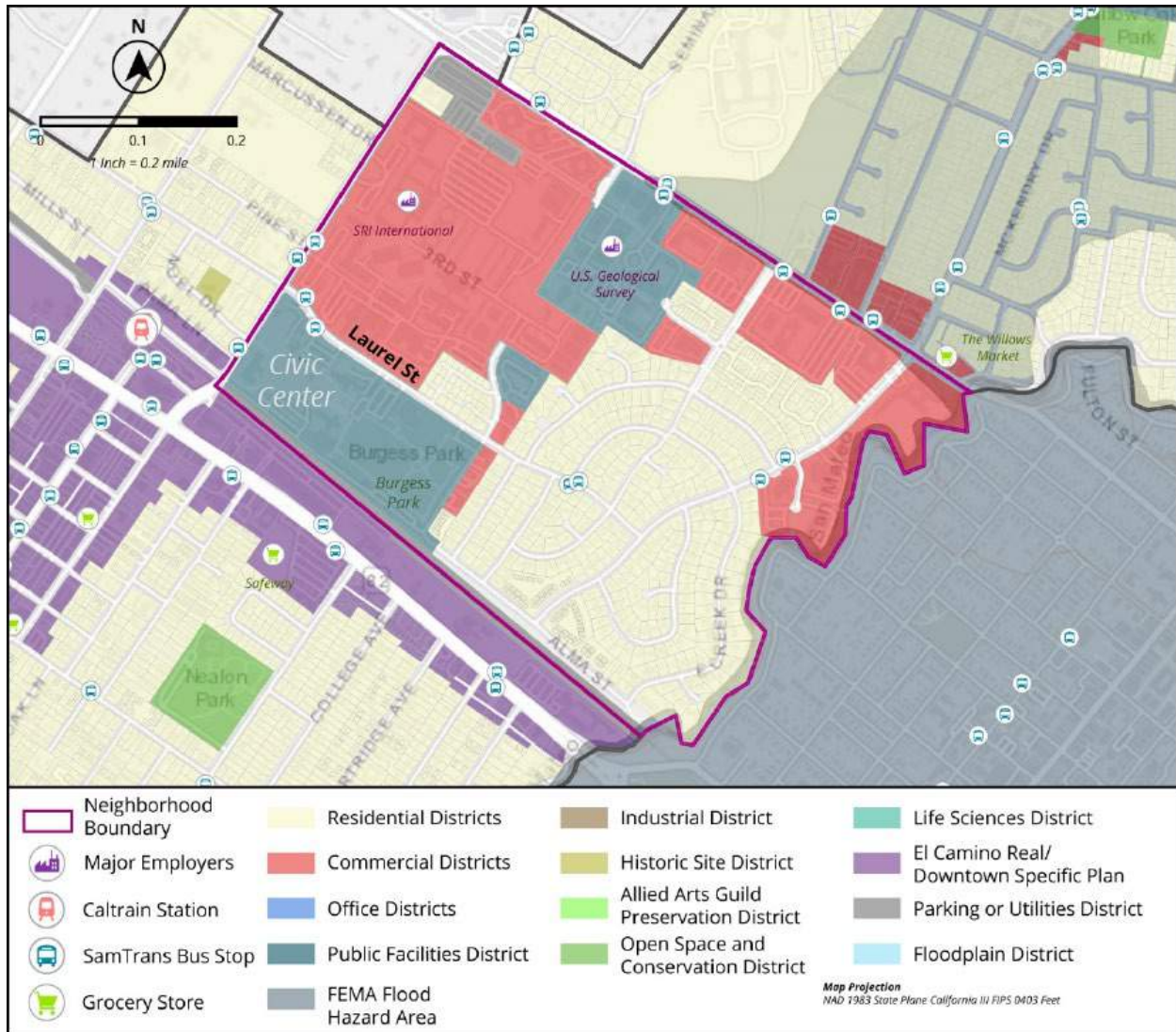
Felton Gables has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2nd (17 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score ¹		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Population Characteristics	2	-16.6	18.6
Asthma	13	-11.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	21	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	4	-4.7	8.7
Education	2	-27.0	29
Linguistic Isolation	16	-15.5	31.5
Poverty	4	-24.4	28.4
Unemployment	5	-20.7	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	29	-12.2	41.2

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

Linfield Oaks



Physical Description

Pattern of Development

Linfield Oaks is comprised of a mix of residential, retail, and public facilities districts. Non-residential uses include the Stanford Research Institute (SRI International), City of Menlo Park government offices, and a local park. The neighborhood is within a half-mile of three grocery stores.

Transportation

Alma Street limits the connectivity to and from Linfield Oaks, though residents can reach Bayfront Expressway (CA-84) after exiting the neighborhood from the west or southeast. Willow Road provides connectivity to the north end of the city. There is limited public transit service, entering Linfield Oaks from Laurel Street, and exiting through Willow Road.

Open Space

Burgess Park is the only public open space in Linfield Oaks. The park has tennis courts, picnic areas, baseball fields and soccer fields available to reserve. Burgess Park is also adjacent to the Burgess Pool, Arrillaga Family Gymnastics Center, Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, Skate Park, and Arrillaga Family Gymnasium.

Natural Hazard Risk

Linfield Oaks is not located in a flood hazard area.

Environmental Conditions

Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Linfield Oaks has an overall Pollution Burden score of 45, ranking 4th (11 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score ¹		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Pollution Burden	45	-10.8	55.8
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	59	-2.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	32	-28.3	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	61	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	96	+32.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	90	+27.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	41	-34.6	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

Primary Factors and Major Disparities

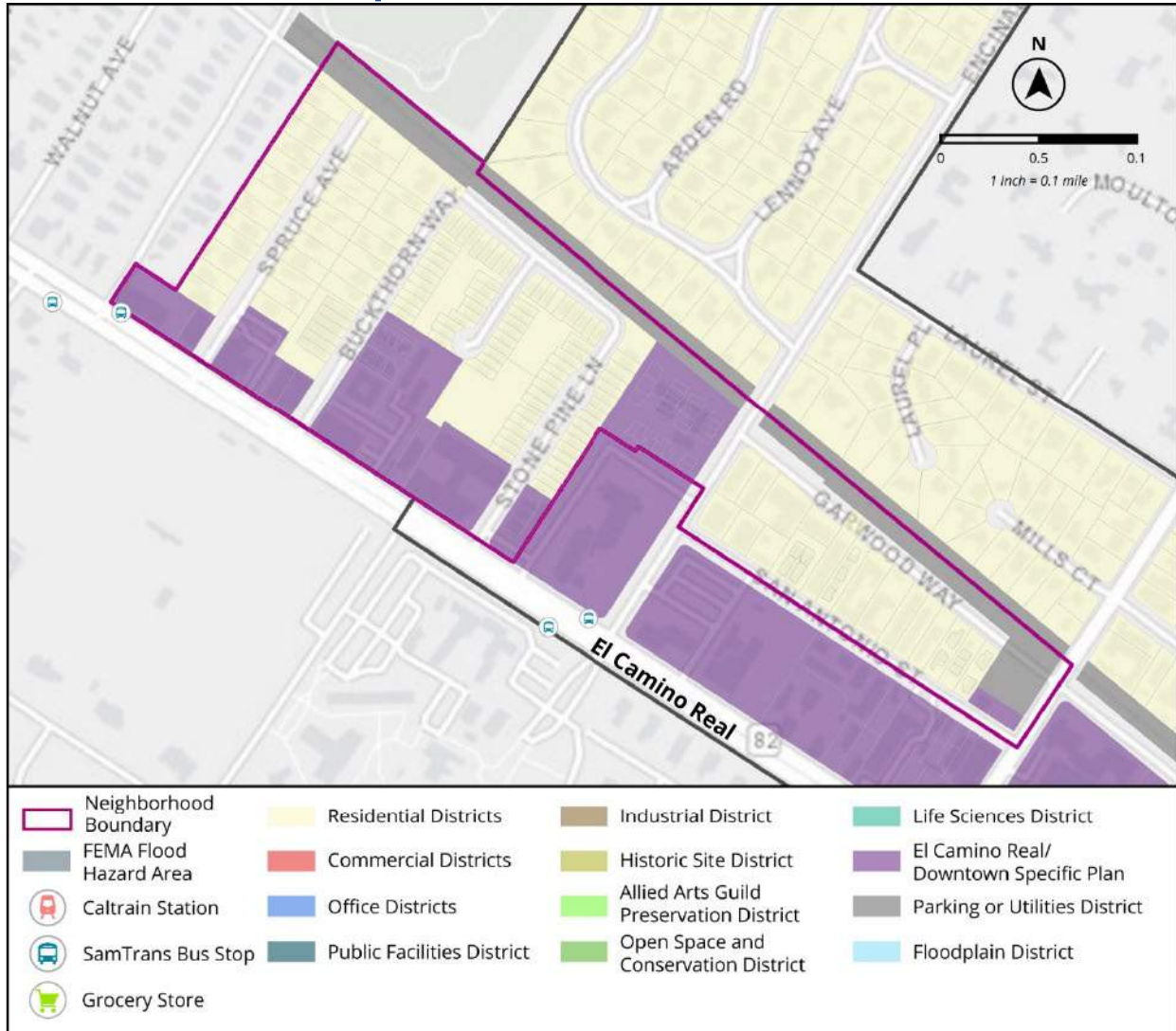
Linfield Oaks has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2nd (17 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score ¹		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Population Characteristics	2	-16.6	18.6
Asthma	13	-11.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	21	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	4	-4.7	8.7
Education	2	-27.0	29
Linguistic Isolation	16	-15.5	31.5
Poverty	4	-24.4	28.4
Unemployment	5	-20.7	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	29	-12.2	41.2

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio



Physical Description

Pattern of Development

The Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio neighborhood is made up mostly of low-rise apartments and detached single-family homes. About 50 percent of the neighborhood is under the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan. There are no grocery stores within or near the census tract.

Transportation

The neighborhood has access to El Camino Real, providing residents with connectivity to and from the neighborhood as well as bus service. Caltrain tracks limit connectivity at the northern border of the neighborhood.

Open Space

There are no open spaces or parks within the neighborhood.

Natural Hazard Risk

Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio is not located within a flood hazard area.

Environmental Conditions

Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio has an overall Pollution Burden score of 45, ranking 4th (11 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score ¹		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Pollution Burden	45	-10.8	55.8
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	59	-2.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	32	-28.3	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	61	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	96	+32.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	90	+27.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	41	-34.6	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

Primary Factors and Major Disparities

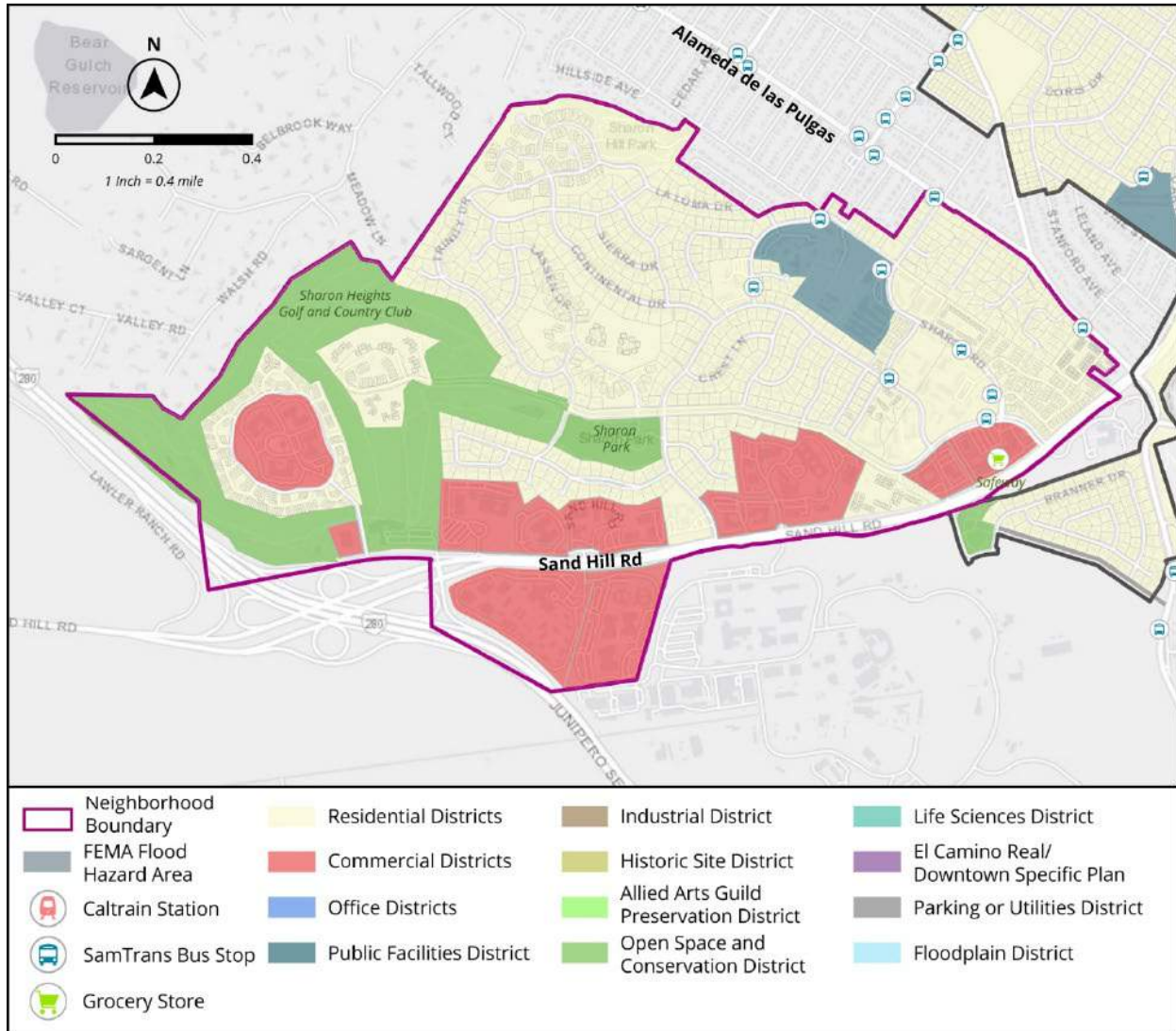
Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2nd (17 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score ¹		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Population Characteristics	2	-16.6	18.6
Asthma	13	-11.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	21	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	4	-4.7	8.7
Education	2	-27.0	29
Linguistic Isolation	16	-15.5	31.5
Poverty	4	-24.4	28.4
Unemployment	5	-20.7	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	29	-12.2	41.2

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

Sharon Heights



Physical Description

Pattern of Development

Sharon Heights is made up of a mix of detached single-family homes, with medium-density apartments on the east and west sides of the neighborhood. Non-residential uses include offices, a country club, a local park, neighborhood commercial, a public middle school, a private elementary school (pre-K through 5th grade), and a public school district office. Most households live further than a half-mile from the one grocery store within the neighborhood (Safeway at the Sharon Heights Shopping Center).

Transportation

Sand Hill Road leads residents to and from the rest of the city. Alameda de las Pulgas provides connectivity to residents at the northwest of Sharon Heights. Public transportation in Sharon Heights is limited, with the only bus stops located to the west of Sharon Heights. Most streets do not have accessible sidewalks and there are no bicycle lanes.

Open Space

There is one public open space, Sharon Park, and one private open space, the Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club. Picnic areas, playground, and the grass area are available for public usage. The Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club is a private country club, with golf, fine dining, and special events available for members and their guests.

Natural Hazard Risk

Sharon Heights is not located within a flood hazard zone.

Environmental Conditions

Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Sharon Heights has an overall Pollution Burden score of 47, ranking 5th (9 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score ¹		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Pollution Burden	47	-8.8	55.8
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	14	-1.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	41	-20.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	36	+32.4	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	+0.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	78	+17.7	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	74	+7.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	27	-40.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	2	-61.7	63.7
Groundwater Threats	96	+33.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	78	+2.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

Primary Factors and Major Disparities

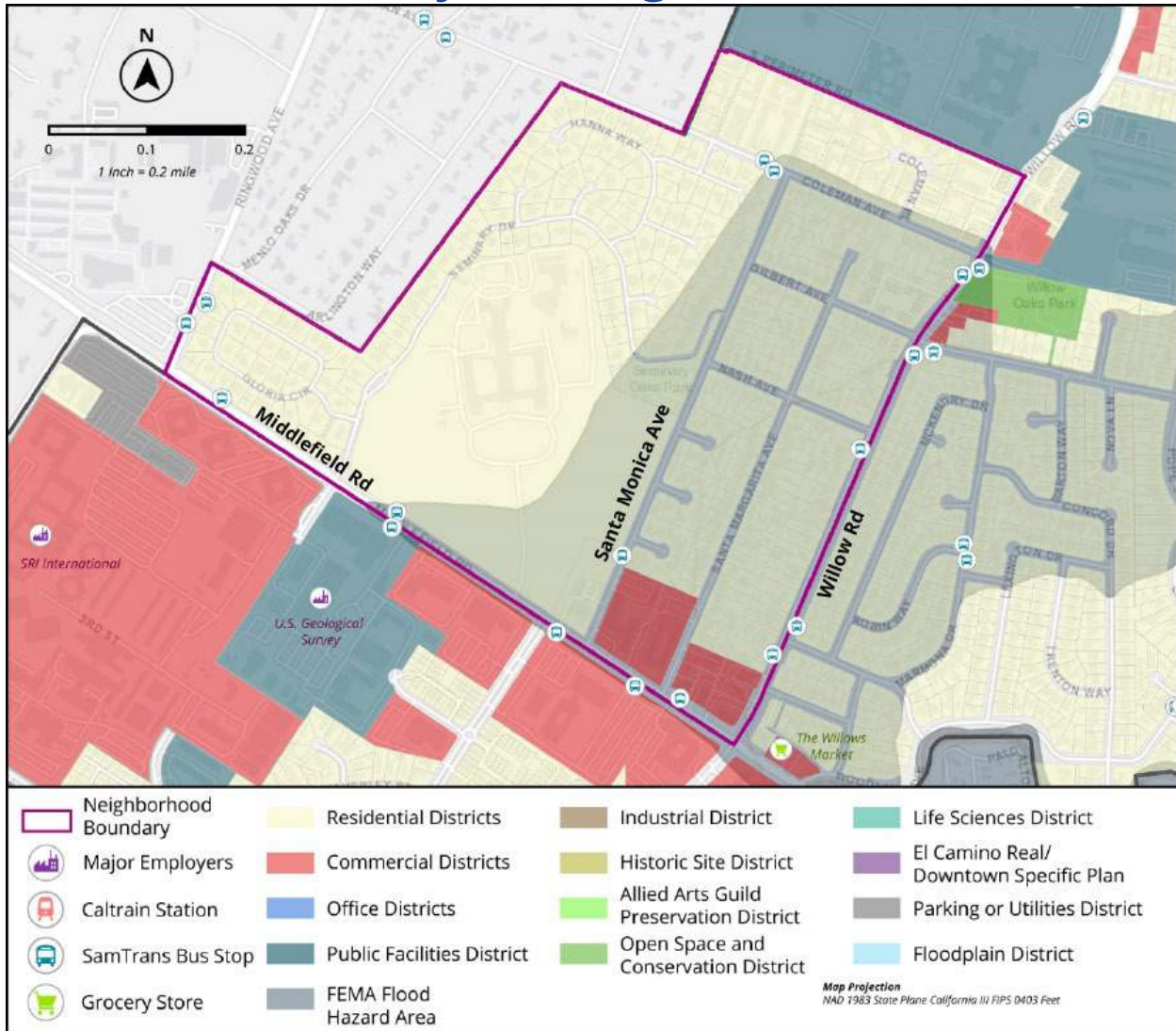
Sharon Heights has an overall Population Characteristics score of 11, ranking 5th (8 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score ¹		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Population Characteristics	11	-7.6	18.6
Asthma	11	-13.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	16	-11.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	3	-5.7	8.7
Education	4	-25.0	29
Linguistic Isolation	58	+26.5	31.5
Poverty	23	-5.4	28.4
Unemployment	27	+1.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	69	+27.8	41.2

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks



Physical Description

Pattern of Development

South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks is made of primarily detached single-family homes. Non-residential uses include commercial offices at the south end of the census tract. There is one local park just outside of the census tract. There is one grocery store just outside the southeastern corner of the neighborhood that serves some residents.

Transportation

Willow Road and Middlefield Road provide the neighborhood with connectivity to and from the rest of the city. Both roads are well serviced by public transit. Coleman Avenue and Santa Monica Avenue are serviced by low-frequency bus routes (typical wait times more than 15 minutes).

Open Space

Willow Oaks Park is located just outside the northeastern corner of South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks. Willow Oaks Park has an off-leash dog park, public art exhibit, and tennis courts that are open to the public.

Natural Hazard Risk

Approximately 40 percent of South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks is located in a flood hazard area.

Environmental Conditions

Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks has an overall Pollution Burden score of 44, ranking 3rd (12 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score ¹		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Pollution Burden	44	-11.8	55.8
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	53	-8.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	+0.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	77	+16.7	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	68	+1.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	79	+11.6	67.4
Cleanup Sites	46	-17.7	63.7
Groundwater Threats	0	-62.7	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	90	+14.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

Primary Factors and Major Disparities

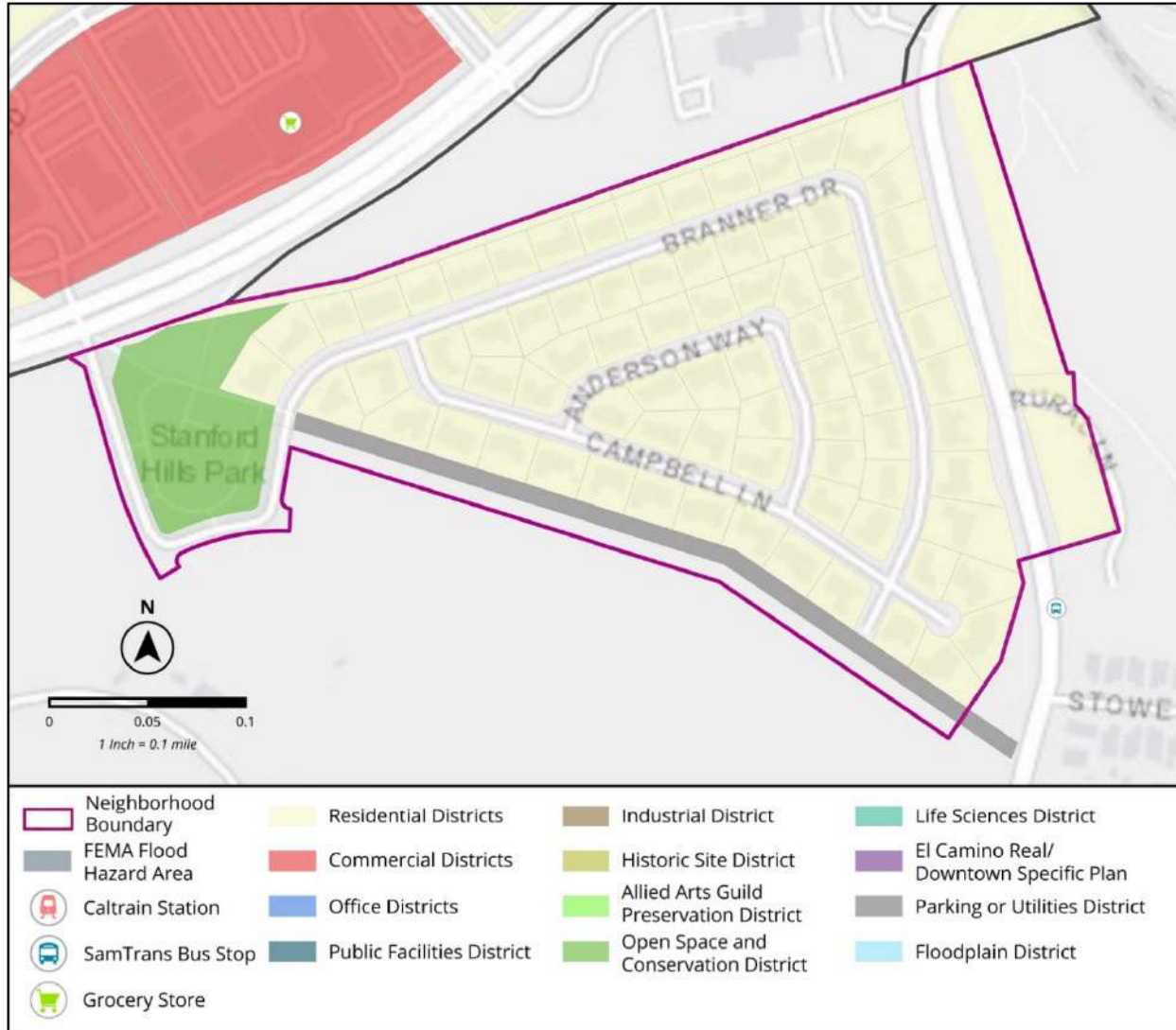
South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks has an overall Population Characteristics score of 5, ranking 4th (14 points less than the citywide average).

The four highest indicators (two tied indicators) and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score ¹		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Population Characteristics	5	-13.6	18.6
Asthma	21	-3.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	21	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	8	-0.7	8.7
Education	22	-7.0	29
Linguistic Isolation	9	-22.5	31.5
Poverty	20	-8.4	28.4
Unemployment	27	+1.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	2	-39.2	41.2

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

Stanford Hills



Physical Description

Pattern of Development

The Stanford Hills neighborhood is made up almost entirely of detached single-family homes. There is one open space area, the Stanford Hills Park. All homes in the Stanford Hills neighborhood are within a half-mile from the one grocery store just north of the neighborhood (Safeway at Sharon Heights Shopping Center).

Transportation

Connectivity is limited to Branner Drive on the west side of the neighborhood which leads to Sand Hill Road. There are no public transit bus stops within the census tract. All streets have accessible sidewalks but there are no bicycle lanes.

Open Space

The Stanford Hills Park is available for public use. Amenities at the park include a grass area, walking paths, and benches.

Natural Hazard Risk

Stanford Hills is not located within a flood hazard area.

Environmental Conditions

Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Stanford Hills has an overall Pollution Burden score of 47, ranking 5th (9 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score ¹		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Pollution Burden	47	-8.8	55.8
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	14	-1.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	41	-20.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	36	+32.4	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	+0.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	78	+17.7	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	74	+7.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	27	-40.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	2	-61.7	63.7
Groundwater Threats	96	+33.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	78	+2.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

Primary Factors and Major Disparities

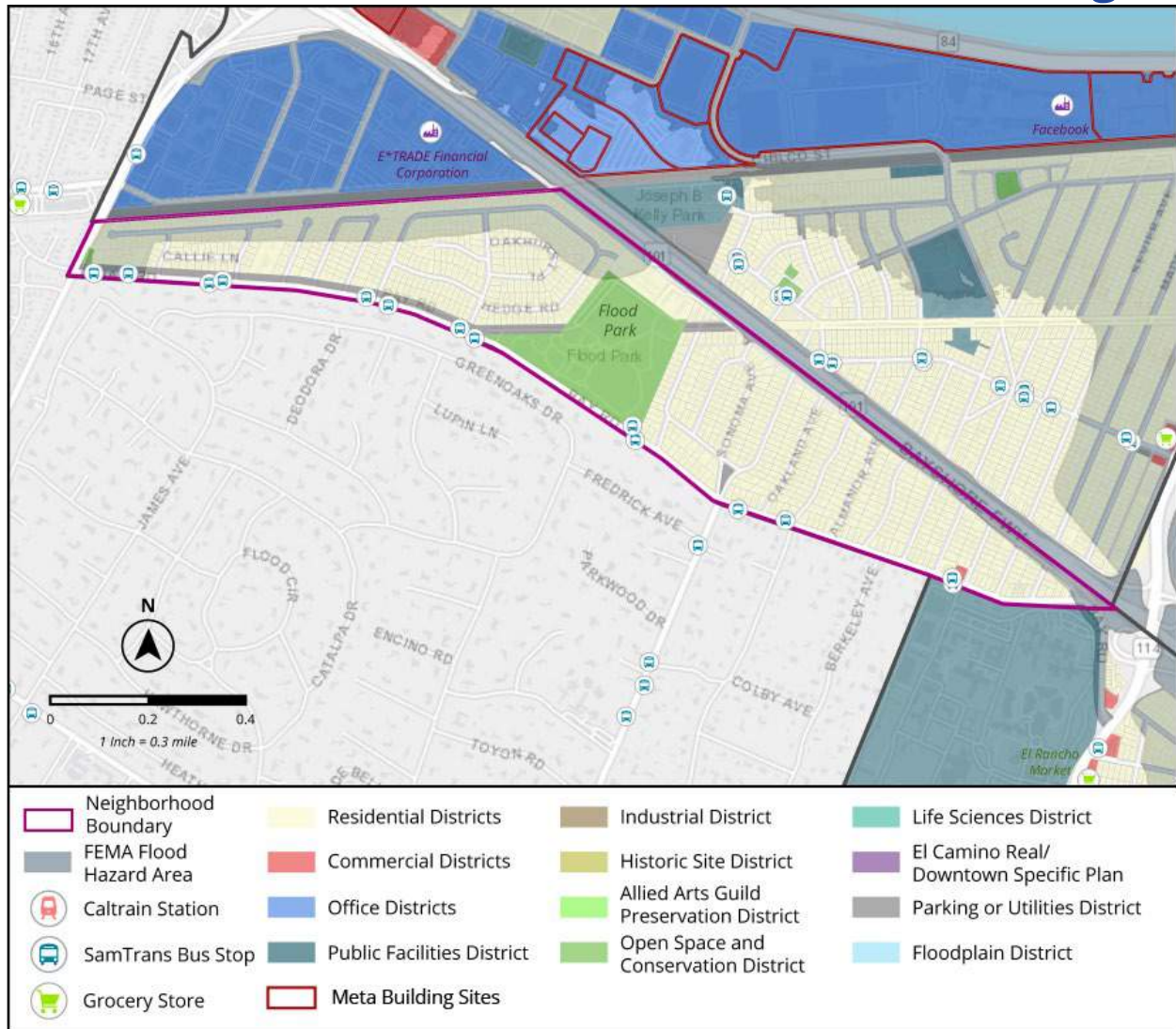
Stanford Hills has an overall Population Characteristics score of 11, ranking 5th (8 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score ¹		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Population Characteristics	11	-7.6	18.6
Asthma	11	-13.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	16	-11.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	3	-5.7	8.7
Education	4	-25.0	29
Linguistic Isolation	58	+26.5	31.5
Poverty	23	-5.4	28.4
Unemployment	27	+1.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	69	+27.8	41.2

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle



Physical Description

Pattern of Development

Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle is made up almost entirely of detached single-family homes. Non-residential uses include a local park and a single neighborhood commercial parcel adjacent to the Bright Angel Montessori Academy. Most homes in the neighborhood do not have any proximity to a grocery store within Menlo Park, though there are grocery stores nearby in other jurisdictions.

Transportation

Bayshore Freeway (CA-84) closes off the north side of Suburban Park and this results in residents exiting only from Bay Road, the southern boundary of the neighborhood. Bay Road is well serviced by public transit and most homes are within a half-mile from a bus stop.

Open Space

Flood Park is a part of the San Mateo County Parks Foundation. Flood Park facilities such as the softball field, tennis courts and volleyball courts are available for public use. Group picnic areas and the baseball field may be reserved.

Natural Hazard Risk

Approximately 15 percent of Suburban Park is in a flood hazard area.

Environmental Conditions

Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Suburban Park – Lorelei Manor – Flood Triangle has an overall Pollution Burden score of 71, ranking 7th (15 points more than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score ¹		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Pollution Burden	71	+15.2	55.8
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	13	-2.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	76	+14.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	31	+3.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	95	+34.7	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	60	-6.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	70	+2.6	67.4
Cleanup Sites	65	+1.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	56	-6.7	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	91	+15.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	0	-37.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	66	+48.2	17.8

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

Primary Factors and Major Disparities

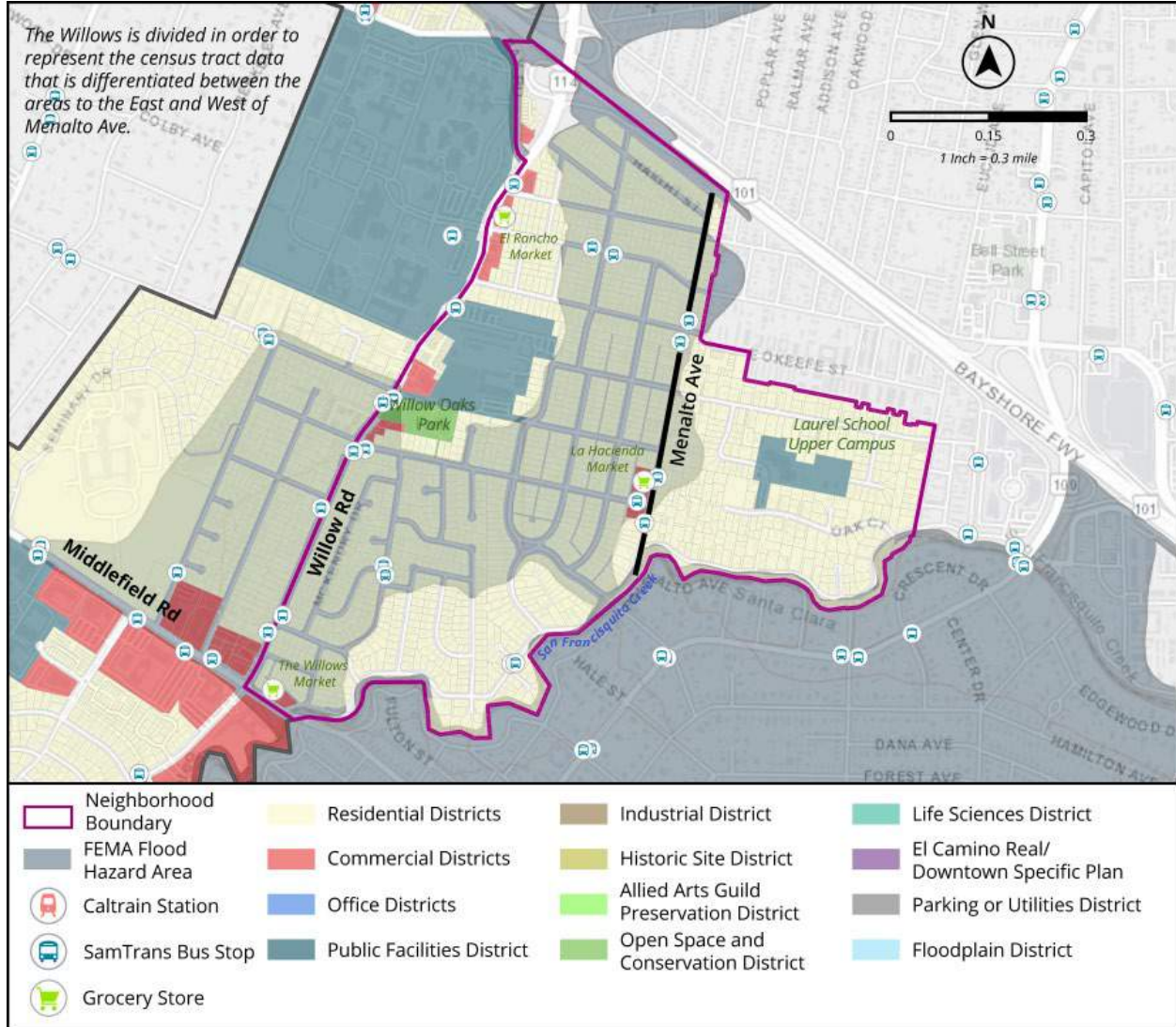
Suburban Park – Lorelei Manor – Flood Triangle has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2nd (17 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score ¹		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Population Characteristics	2	-16.6	18.6
Asthma	22	-2.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	19	-8.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	9	+0.3	8.7
Education	2	-27.0	29
Linguistic Isolation	6	-25.5	31.5
Poverty	4	-24.4	28.4
Unemployment	16	-9.7	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	13	-28.2	41.2

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

The Willows



Physical Description

Pattern of Development

The Willows neighborhood is made up primarily of detached single-family homes. Non-residential uses include a public school (elementary), a private school (pre-kindergarten through high school), and a few gas stations and strip commercial buildings spaced out along Willow Road, Middlefield Road, and Menalto Avenue. Most of the neighborhood is within a half-mile of one of three grocery stores.

Transportation

US-101 and San Francisquito Creek are barriers to connectivity in/out of the neighborhood. Two low frequency bus routes (typical wait times more than 15 minutes) run along Willow Road and Menalto Road. Most homes in the neighborhood are further than a quarter-mile from a bus stop. Most streets have Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant sidewalks and are bicycle friendly, with a Class II (dedicated traffic lane) bikeway along Willow Road.

Open Space

Willow Oaks Park is the only public open space in the neighborhood. Laurel School Upper Campus' sports fields can be reserved for public use.

Natural Hazard Risk

About 75 percent of the neighborhood west of Menalto Avenue and 15 percent of the neighborhood east of Menalto Avenue is in a flood hazard area.

Environmental Conditions

Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

The Willows has overall Pollution Burden scores of 44 (West of Menalto Avenue) and 73 (East of Menalto Avenue), ranking 3rd (12 points less than the citywide average) and 8th (17 points more than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators (four for East of Menalto Avenue, due to a tie) and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden					
Indicator	Score ¹				
	West of Menalto Avenue	Difference from Citywide Average	East of Menalto Avenue	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Pollution Burden	44	-11.8	73	+17.2	55.8
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	10	+0.8	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	18	+2.8	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	53	-8.5	85	+23.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	+0.4	27	-0.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	77	+16.7	85	+24.7	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	68	+1.6	86	+19.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	79	+11.6	84	+16.6	67.4
Cleanup Sites	46	-17.7	66	+2.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	0	-62.7	10	-52.7	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	90	+14.4	73	-2.6	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	90	+52.2	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	0	-17.8	17.8

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

Primary Factors and Major Disparities

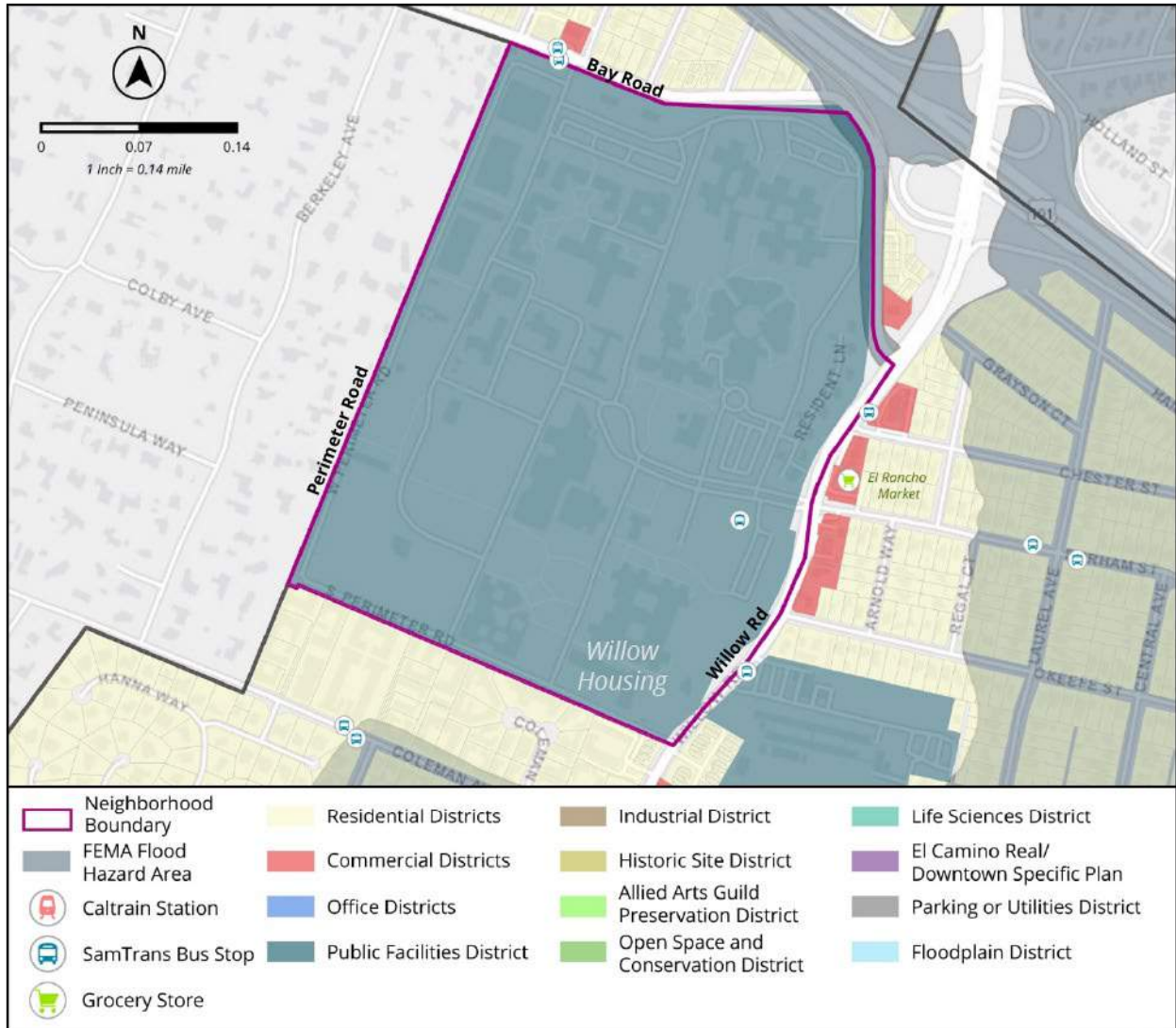
The Willows has overall Population Characteristics scores of 5 (West of Menalto Avenue) and 58 (East of Menalto Avenue), ranking 4th (14 points less than the citywide average) and 7th (39 points more than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators (four for West of Menalto Avenue, due to a tie) and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics					
Indicator	Score ¹				
	West of Menalto Avenue	Difference from Citywide Average	East of Menalto Avenue	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Population Characteristics	5	-13.6	58	+39.4	18.6
Asthma	21	-3.9	48	+23.1	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	21	-6.8	69	+41.2	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	8	-0.7	14	+5.3	8.7
Education	22	-7.0	85	+56.0	29
Linguistic Isolation	9	-22.5	75	+43.5	31.5
Poverty	20	-8.4	79	+50.6	28.4
Unemployment	27	+1.3	11	-14.7	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	2	-39.2	80	+38.8	41.2

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

VA Medical District



Physical Description

Pattern of Development

Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical District consists strictly of the Menlo Park VA Medical Center, made up of medical buildings, open spaces, and housing, ranging from 1-2 stories tall. Willow Housing, located at the southern edge of the VA Medical District, is a 60-unit affordable housing community designed for veterans who are homeless or at risk of imminent homelessness.

Transportation

Willow Road, Bay Road, Perimeter Road provide the VA Medical District with access to and from the neighborhood. There are three bus stops within the neighborhood, all located on Willow Road at the eastern side.

Open Space

There are no public open space areas within the neighborhood, however there is open space within the VA Medical Center.

Natural Hazard Risk

The northeastern border of VA Medical District is located within a flood hazard area.

Environmental Conditions

Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

VA Medical District has an overall Pollution Burden score of 44, ranking 3rd (12 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score ¹		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Pollution Burden	44	-11.8	55.8
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	53	-8.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	+0.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	77	+16.7	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	68	+1.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	79	+11.6	67.4
Cleanup Sites	46	-17.7	63.7
Groundwater Threats	0	-62.7	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	90	+14.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

Primary Factors and Major Disparities

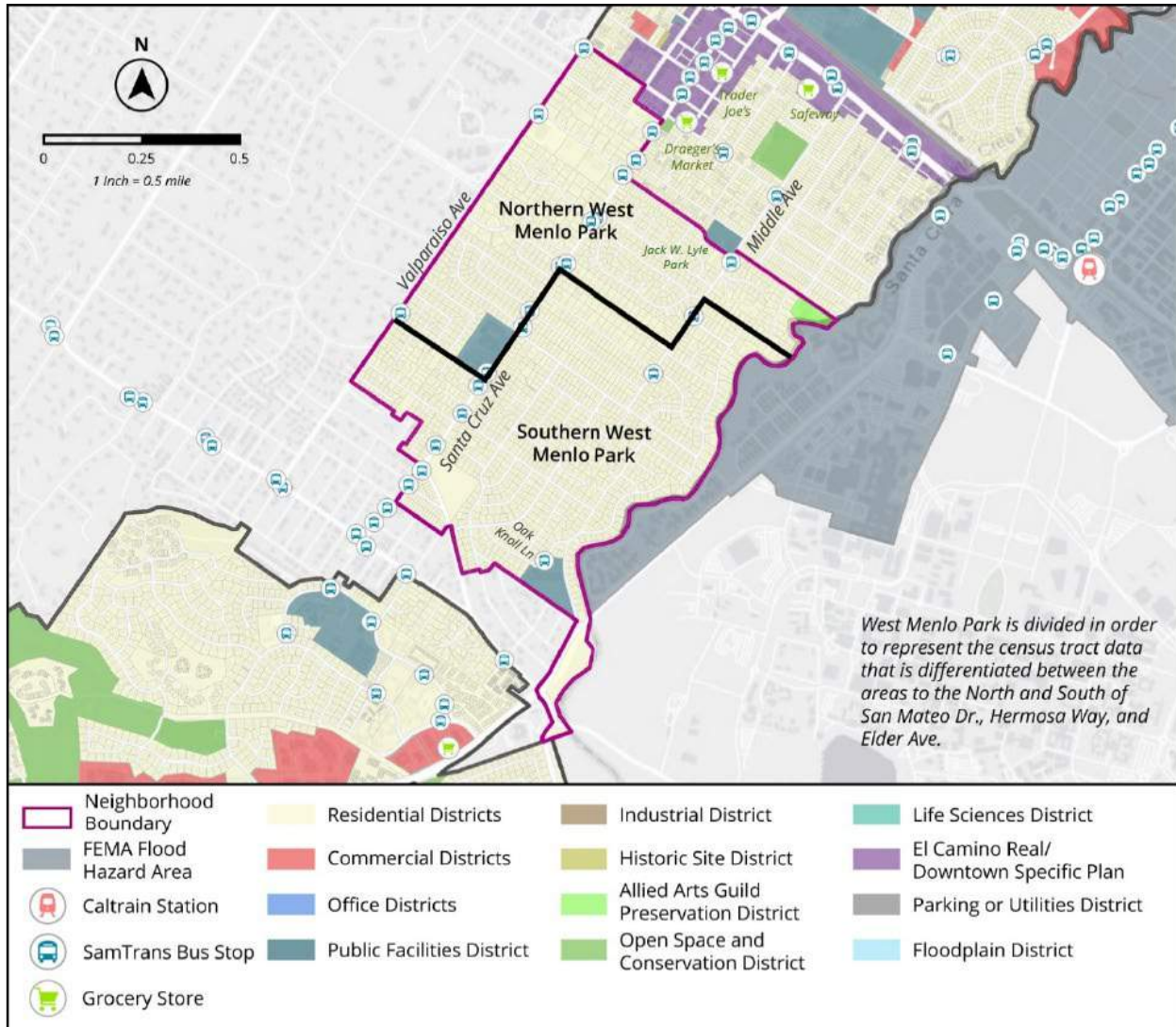
VA Medical District has an overall Population Characteristics score of 5, ranking 4th (14 points less than the citywide average).

The four highest indicators (two tied indicators) and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score ¹		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Population Characteristics	5	-13.6	18.6
Asthma	21	-3.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	21	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	8	-0.7	8.7
Education	22	-7.0	29
Linguistic Isolation	9	-22.5	31.5
Poverty	20	-8.4	28.4
Unemployment	27	+1.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	2	-39.2	41.2

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

West Menlo



Physical Description

Pattern of Development

West Menlo is made up primarily of detached single-family homes. Non-residential uses include one public elementary school, one public middle school, one private elementary (pre-K-8), a church, a cemetery and an art gallery. About 20 percent of the neighborhood is within a half-mile of one of the four grocery stores located outside of the neighborhood, three north of it and one to the south.

Transportation

Valparaiso Avenue and Santa Cruz Avenue are two arterial roads that provide connectivity to and from West Menlo. Santa Cruz Avenue is well-serviced by public transit, with bus stops located at each block. Valparaiso Avenue and Middle Avenue have limited service, with three bus stops each. Oak Knoll Lane has one bus stop.

Open Space

There are no public open spaces in West Menlo. Jack W. Lyle Park is located outside of the northwest end of the neighborhood.

Natural Hazard Risk

The western border of West Menlo borders flood hazard area.

Environmental Conditions

Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

West Menlo has overall Pollution Burden scores of 35 (North) and 26 (South), ranking 2nd (21 points less than the citywide average) and 1st (30 points less than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden					
Indicator	Score ¹				
	Northern West Menlo	Difference from Citywide Average	Southern West Menlo Park	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Pollution Burden	35	-20.8	26	-29.8	55.8
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	14	-1.2	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	48	-13.5	47	-14.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	25	-2.6	25	-2.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	20	-40.3	26	-34.3	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	39	-27.4	61	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	54	-13.4	47	-20.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	72	+8.3	23	-40.7	63.7
Groundwater Threats	73	+10.3	53	-9.7	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	78	+2.4	87	+11.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	20	+2.2	0	-17.8	17.8

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

Primary Factors and Major Disparities

West Menlo has overall Population Characteristics scores of 5 (North) and 1 (South), ranking 4th (14 points less than the citywide average) and 1st (18 points less than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics					
Indicator	Score ¹				
	Northern West Menlo	Difference from Citywide Average	Southern West Menlo	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
Overall Population Characteristics	5	-13.6	1	-17.6	18.6
Asthma	22	-2.9	20	-4.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	51	+23.2	3	-24.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	9	+0.3	8	-0.7	8.7
Education	0	-29.0	1	-28.0	29
Linguistic Isolation	0	-31.5	5	-26.5	31.5
Poverty	9	-19.4	2	-26.4	28.4
Unemployment	6	-19.7	39	+13.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	12	-29.2	2	-39.2	41.2

¹ The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

Appendix: CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Scores

The following page contains the CalEnviroScreen scores organized in a table. Each column of the table details the percentile at which any listed indicator affects a neighborhood within Menlo Park. An indicator is a measure of a condition, such as Air Quality or proximity to Groundwater Threats. Other indicators provide information about demographics, such as the proportion of households in a census tract who do not speak English well or at all. These indicators can tell us which communities are considered more vulnerable to environmental hazards.

CalEnviroScreen is a web-based mapping tool created by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. CalEnviroScreen uses environmental, health, and socioeconomic information to produce a score for every census tract in the state. Each census tract is evaluated by 21 indicators and are given 21 scores based on the data. By averaging the indicator scores, CalEnviroScreen produces overall CalEnviroScreen scores (overall pollution burden; overall population characteristics) for comparisons between census tracts.

The "Overall Percentile EnviroScreen" for each census tract in Menlo Park is below the 75th percentile, even if Pollution Burden, Population Characteristics, or individual indicators are above the 75th percentile. Because this "Overall Percentile" score is below the 75th percentile, it does not trigger a Underserved Community designation for any census tract in the city. However, the Underserved Communities – Tracts 6117 (West Bayfront, Belle Haven) and 6118 (East Bayfront) – have Overall Pollution Burden scores over 75 as well as low-income designations from HCD.

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILES ANALYSIS

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILES ANALYSIS												
INDICATOR	CENSUS TRACT AND NEIGHBORHOODS											CITYWIDE AVERAGES
	6118 East Bayfront	6117 West Bayfront & Belle Haven	6121 The Willows East of Menalto Ave	6139 The Willows West of Menalto Ave; VA Medical District; & South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks	6130 Sharon Heights & Stanford Hills	6126 Downtown & Allied Arts/Stanford Park North of University Ave	6116 Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle	6127 Allied Arts/Stanford Park South of University Ave & Northern West Menlo	6125 Felton Gables; Central Menlo; Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio; Linfield Oaks; & El Camino Real Corridor	6128 Southern West Menlo		
Overall Percentile CalEnviroScreen	67	66	68	10	18	10	8	8	5	2	26.2	
POLLUTION BURDEN	Overall Pollution Burden <i>(Combined Score from all Pollution Indicators)</i>	83	82	73	44	47	52	71	35	45	26	55.8
	Air Quality: Ozone	10	9	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9.2
	Air Quality: PM2.5	17	16	18	15	14	15	13	14	15	15	15.2
	Diesel Particulate Matter	49	88	85	53	41	69	76	48	59	47	61.5
	Pesticide Use	0	0	0	0	36	0	0	0	0	0	3.6
	Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	32	27	28	28	26	31	25	26	25	27.6
	Traffic Impacts	60	94	85	77	78	36	95	20	32	26	60.3
	Drinking Water Contaminants	87	69	86	68	74	59	60	39	61	61	66.4
	Children's Lead Risk from Housing	99	96	84	79	27	59	70	54	59	47	67.4
	Cleanup Sites	82	89	66	46	2	96	65	72	96	23	63.7
	Groundwater Threats	98	61	10	0	96	90	56	73	90	53	62.7
	Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	85	83	73	90	78	50	91	78	41	87	75.6
	Impaired Water Bodies	84	0	90	34	34	34	0	34	34	34	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	21	63	0	0	0	8	66	20	0	0	17.8	
POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	Overall Population Characteristics <i>(Combined Score from all Population Characteristics Indicators)</i>	49	49	58	5	11	4	2	5	2	1	18.6
	Asthma	47	24	48	21	11	21	22	22	13	20	24.9
	Low Birth Weight Infants	22	45	69	21	16	11	19	51	21	3	27.8
	Cardiovascular Disease	13	10	14	8	3	9	9	9	4	8	8.7
	Educational Attainment	86	82	85	22	4	6	2	0	2	1	29
	Linguistic Isolation	38	86	75	9	58	22	6	0	16	5	31.5
	Poverty	65	59	79	20	23	19	4	9	4	2	28.4
	Unemployment	74	46	11	27	27	6	16	6	5	39	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	90	83	80	2	69	32	13	12	29	2	41.2	

Appendix EJ-B: Additional Methodology

The State Office of Planning and Research (OPR) recommends a "screening analysis" that incorporates community-specific data and issues unique to their communities, which might or might not be reflected in the statewide data sets. This screening analysis gives the City of Menlo Park (City) the ability to treat the three census tracts identified as potential Underserved Communities differently, as appropriate to the issues present in these communities. In Menlo Park, there are three census tracts which meet at least one of the three primary criteria noted by OPR and could be considered as containing Underserved Communities:

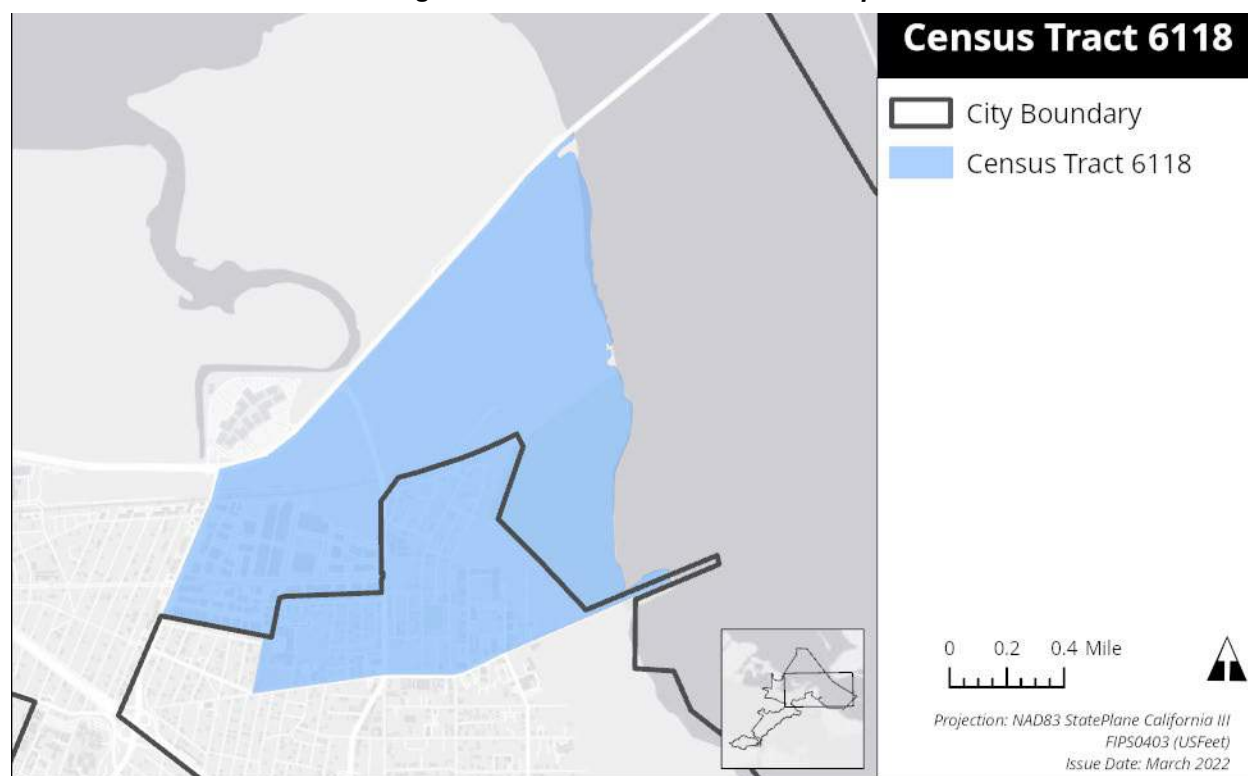
- Tract 6117 (Belle Haven and Bayfront)
- Tract 6118 (Bayfront)
- Tract 6121 (The Willows)

Census Tract 6117 has a clear history of different treatment and has a clear geographic distinction from the rest of Menlo Park. Census Tract 6118 shares this distinction, but Census Tract 6121 does not. Therefore, Census Tract 6118, containing Bayfront as well as portions of neighboring East Palo Alto, is identified as a Underserved Community in Menlo Park's Environmental Justice Element. Census Tract 6121, which contains The Willows as well as East Palo Alto, is not identified as such.

The flexibility of OPR's recommended approach allows two neighboring jurisdictions to use different approaches for the same census tract. Treating Census Tract 6118 as a Underserved Community, but not Census Tract 6121, does not conflict with or limit any future decisions by East Palo Alto to identify their portion of Census Tracts 6118 and/or 6121 as Underserved Communities if they deem it appropriate.

Census Tract 6118 – Bayfront

Bayfront is partially composed of Census Tract 6118, which spans Menlo Park and East Palo Alto (see Figure EJ-B-1). There are currently no residential units in the Menlo Park portion of the tract. The 950 residential units currently in this census tract are all located in the East Palo Alto portion of the tract.

Figure EJ-B-1: Census Tract 6118 Map

Even though there are currently no residential units in the Menlo Park portion of Census Tract 6118, the neighborhood qualifies as a Underserved Community because the tract-wide median income is below state income limits (see Figure EJ-B-2). The Environmental Justice Element will treat the area as a Underserved Community because it shares development history, current zoning, transportation, and school districts with the western portion of Bayfront.

Census Tract 6121 – The Willows

The Willows, one of Menlo Park's 16 neighborhoods, includes Census Tract 6121. This tract could be designated as an Environmental Justice Underserved Community because its median household incomes are below the threshold designated as low income (\$146,350 for a four-person household in 2021) by the Department of Housing and Community Development. The Census Tract's median household income is \$57,627.

This Census Tract consists of five block groups. Only Block Group 1 is within Menlo Park. Block Groups 2-5 are located in East Palo Alto. The median household income of Block Group 1 in Menlo Park is well over the low-income threshold at \$174,844 and does not meet the Underserved Communities designation. Block Groups 2-5 in East Palo Alto are far under the low-income threshold and could qualify as Underserved Communities (see Figure EJ-A-3 and Table EJ-A-1).

Figure EJ-B-2: Block Groups in Census Tract 6121

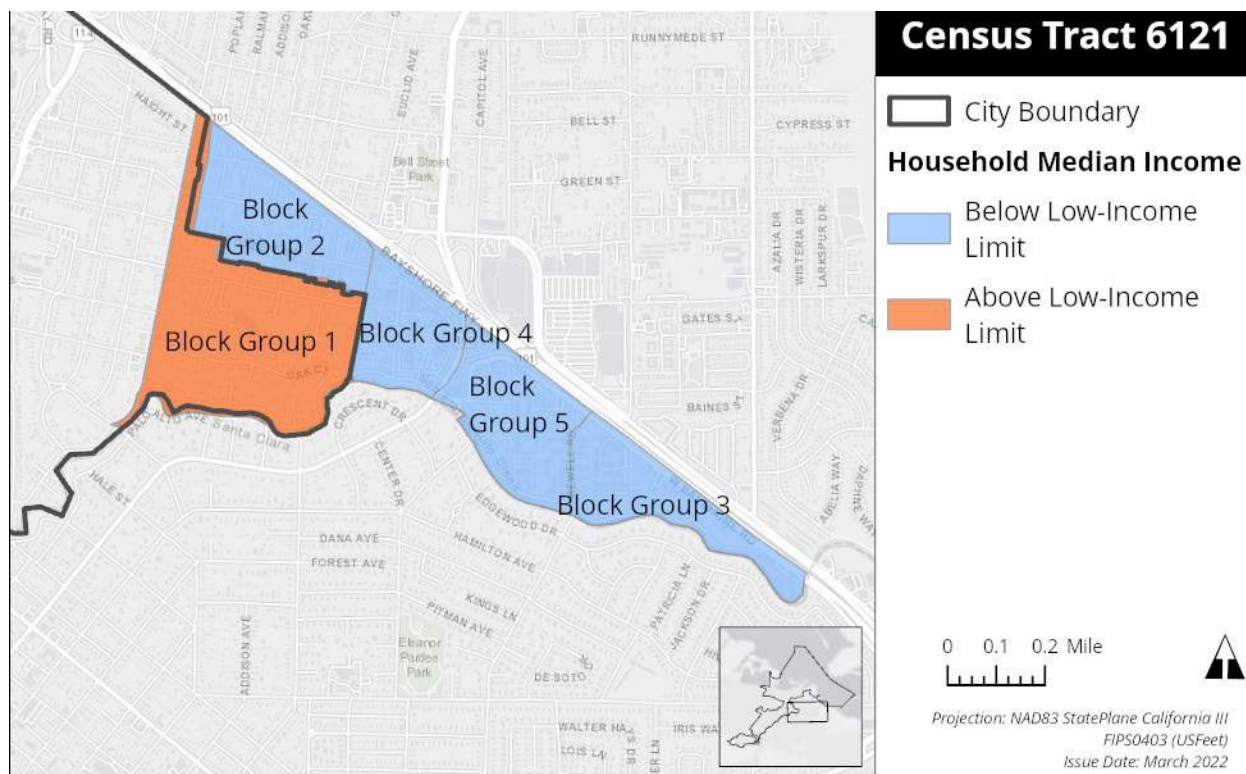


Table EJ-B-1: Median Household Income by Block Group in Census Tract 6121

Block Group	Median Household Income
<i>In Menlo Park</i>	
Block Group 1	\$174,7844
<i>In East Palo Alto</i>	
Block Group 2	\$44,319
Block Group 3	\$67,097
Block Group 4	\$43,818
Block Group 5	\$47,396
Census Tract 6121	\$57,627
HCD Low-Income Designation for San Mateo County¹	\$146,350

All data from US Census American Communities Survey, 2015-2019 5-year estimates.

Menlo Park’s Environmental Justice Element does not identify Census Tract 6121 as a potential Underserved Community. While there may be environmental issues in the tract’s portion of neighboring East Palo Alto, those issues do not apply to the high-income neighborhood of The Willows.

¹ <https://www.smcgov.org/media/30286/download?inline=>

Outreach Report: Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

MAY 27, 2022

PREPARED BY
Climate Resilient Communities



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***“¡Tienes una voz!” (You have a voice!) – Victoria
Robledo, Belle Haven Community Leader and Focus
Group Facilitator***

Introduction

This report summarizes the processes and findings of three focus groups conducted by Climate Resilient Communities' (CRC) its partnering organizations: El Comite de Vecinos, Belle Haven Community Development Fund, and a group of three highly motivated and connected community leaders. These meetings were convened to solicit public input and raise awareness about the updates to the Safety and Environmental Justice Elements of the City of Menlo Park's General Plan. Belle Haven is a neighborhood in Menlo Park, lying east of Highway 101 and closest to the San Francisco Bay. Belle Haven is a historically redlined community, meaning residents who attempted to buy homes elsewhere were forbidden and forced to buy in Belle Haven, a practice that systematically prevented residents from building intergenerational wealth on the basis of their race.

In Belle Haven, as throughout the world, it will be the people who lack the monetary resources to respond and adapt who will be most affected by the impacts of climate change. Low-income communities and communities of color are on the frontlines of sea-level rise, extreme heat events, and are suffering more severe consequences from wildfire smoke exposure. These facts make the urgency and necessity of robust engagement with frontline communities a necessity for equitable and just climate adaptation. To that end, CRC has partnered with the City of Menlo Park to help elevate community voices and ensure equitable representation in the General Plan update process. The sustained participation and leadership of residents is the only pathway to fixing the issues currently contributing to the stark inequality between East and West Menlo Park. The three focus groups are just one of several projects to receive feedback and input from the Belle Haven community. These meetings took place on May 9th, May 13th, and May 20th of 2022. The sections that follow contain a summary of the methods and results of the three focus groups. The appendix includes original copies of reports from our three partnering groups.



Executive Summary

This report summarizes the findings of three (3) focus groups conducted by the Belle Haven Community Development Fund (BHCDF), El Comite de Vecinos, and a group of three community leaders: Victoria Robledo, Karen Williams, and Telesia Alusa. Climate Resilient Communities trained each organization, provided logistical and financial support, and participated in outreach and facilitation wherever and whenever required. In total, **124 Belle Haven Residents** attended one of the focus groups to have their voices heard and contribute to a process they hope will bring about substantial change and investment in their community. The focus groups targeted specific sections of the community: the first was for parents and children, the second for Spanish speakers, and the third for a general audience. Each focus group was held at the Belle Haven Branch Library at 413 Ivy Dr.

After a brief presentation on what the Environmental Justice and Safety Elements are, what the update process means for the community, and a brief history of redlining and disinvestment in the area, residents had an opportunity to ask questions and walked table to table to identify their top environmental and safety priorities.

A summary of the top community-identified priorities and key issues is listed below with the number of residents who listed a various concern in parenthesis.

Safety: The three top safety concerns for residents attending each focus group were Air Quality with 53 residents listing it as a concern, tied with Hazardous Materials (53), and followed by Earthquakes (40). Data collected by the City of Menlo Park and CalEnviroScreen 4.0 validates their lived experience: Menlo Park's data shows the Belle Haven neighborhood has air quality and emissions that are 42% worse than the city at large and CalEnviroScreen data places Belle Haven above the 88th percentile statewide for Hazardous Waste exposure.

Recommendations: Based on these concerns, the city should consider appropriating funds for transportation infrastructure improvements that reduce traffic to improve air quality, work closely with other oversight agencies to identify and ameliorate legacy pollution, and initiate neighborhood specific disaster preparedness planning.

Promoting Civic Engagement: The top three community identified ways this project and others could promote the civic engagement of the Belle Haven Community are through making the information accessible (37), enhancing prior knowledge (35), and scheduling to avoid time conflicts (27). Accessible information includes content provided in different languages, content that is easily read and interpreted by a lay-person, and content provided in different formats (auditory, visual, etc.). The number of residents who identified prior knowledge as a constraint to participation speaks to a real need to conduct more education and capacity building in the community so residents feel comfortable participating in a public forum.

Recommendations: Residents would urge the city to make policies that ensure substantial and sustained multilingual outreach, expand its education and capacity building opportunities, and revamp existing protocols around the scheduling of public meetings.

Reducing Pollution: Residents were very concerned about the quality of air and the proliferation of asthma in their community. They saw immediate opportunities for air quality improvements by regulating residential and cut through traffic in the neighborhood (63), regulating emissions from stationary sources like industrial facilities (38), and protecting families from the impacts of wildfire smoke (37). When it comes to water pollution, data collected by the City of Menlo Park shows that

drinking water is 38% better in Belle Haven than that of the rest of the city.¹ This comes in contrast to CalEnviroScreen statistics that place the Belle Haven neighborhood in the 97th percentile statewide for groundwater threats. Residents would like assurances and clarity on the quality of the water (61) and programs to address recent water price hikes and ensure affordability (48).

Recommendations: The community would like to see the city make policies to 1) further incentivize the use of electric vehicles and pursue micro-mobility alternatives like subsidized electric bicycles 2) strengthen permitting requirements for polluting facilities and enforce existing regulations, 3) allocate funding for home weatherization and the distribution of air purifiers for residents with health conditions, 4) conduct regular tap water testing and hold workshops to explain the results, and 5) explore options to help families with water expenses.

Public Facilities: When it comes to public facilities, community members prioritized expanding and upgrading their community centers (50), creating affordable and accessible programs. Additionally, residents hoped to see more healthcare facilities in their community (47) because they currently have to travel substantial distances to receive even basic care. Residents also expressed strong support for updating the road structure so as to foster safe forms of transportation other than driving (45). This includes resident support for bike lanes, sidewalk improvements, and other public transportation upgrades.

Recommendations: To address community concerns around public facilities, residents suggest the City reexamine administrative policies governing community centers to encourage affordable and accessible programming and expand community centers. The city should seriously consider the creation of a community health clinic in Belle Haven and transportation infrastructure overhauls.

Food Access: All said, 63 residents said their Belle Haven neighborhood needed increased access to healthy and affordable foods. Belle Haven does not have a full-service grocery store; not a single resident of the 124 who participated in the process said food access was sufficient. Residents are interested primarily in a store that could offer high quality and healthy foods at low prices. They also saw opportunities to improve the Facebook Mobile Market by moving away from cell-phone based ordering or opening regular Farmer's Markets in Belle Haven to replicate what happens at Bloomhouse in East Palo Alto.

Recommendations: Existing development plans include space for a grocery store, but community members would like the City to ensure that the eventual occupant offer high quality, affordable food and be required to take food assistance vouchers and contain a pharmacy. Additionally, the city should look for opportunities and spaces to host a farmer's market.

Ensuring Safe and Sanitary Homes: Residents overwhelmingly supported the creation and expansion of programs that help people renovate their homes when faced with pest infestations (37), mold (35), or toxics like lead and asbestos (35). Housing quality is intimately tied to resident health and programs that outfit homes for resilience and health are vital to dissolving inequities within Menlo Park. A necessary part of ensuring safe and sanitary homes is keeping residents in stable housing. 52 residents expressed support for programs that would make housing affordable and 45 expressed support for policies that would protect renters from displacement. In written comments left by residents, they expressed support for rent control measures and preventing large companies from buying housing in the neighborhood. When it comes to residents' new home siting priorities, they would prefer new homes be located near grocery stores (45), community gardens (30), and parks (28). Many also insisted that new housing be built throughout the city, and not solely in Belle Haven.

¹ Per the Neighborhood Profiles developed for the City for the Environmental Justice Element. ([Linked here](#))

Recommendations: Community members urge the City to begin investing in programs that offer homeowners and renters vital home safety repairs, enact and expand rent control ordinances, and promote the development of affordable housing throughout the city, not relying on Belle Haven alone to bear the brunt of nearly all new development.

Physical Activity: Encouraging additional physical activity can help improve the overall health of the community and, if done through modes of active transportation, can reduce local emissions leading to even more health benefits. To foster additional activity, existing barriers have to be addressed. 56 residents said there were barriers to being active and getting enough exercise, only 8 residents said there were no barriers. When it comes to promoting physical activity, residents prioritized increasing the prevalence of street lights and road lighting (35), upgrading, expanding and maintaining sidewalks (33), and other physical infrastructure changes (ie, bike share, covered rest areas, bike storage, etc.) (31). Residents pointed out existing sidewalks were not compliant with requirements under the Americans with Disability Act and that they feel unsafe walking and exercising due to the lack of lighting and severe traffic.

Recommendations: The community would like to see the city install streetlights along major residential corridors, assess the prevalence, accessibility, and ADA compliance of sidewalks in the neighborhood and look to add additional sidewalks where feasible. Additionally, a systematic assessment of neighborhood infrastructure should be undertaken and a major re-envisioning of streets and infrastructure is necessary to alleviate traffic, air quality issues, and promote active transport.

Addressing Unique or Compounded Issues: Residents saw several opportunities to address their unique challenges, which will only be exacerbated by climate change, sea level rise, and extreme heat. Residents suggested more trees (29) to reduce the prevalence and severity of extreme heat events while improving local air quality. They also saw opportunities to address noise pollution (25) by implementing traffic calming techniques and limiting the hours construction is taking place. They also thought attention should be paid to retrofitting buildings for resilience and energy efficiency (23) to protect their health on a multitude of fronts.

Recommendations: The community would like to see programs established that give residents trees, free of charge, and to see the City recommit to urban forestry efforts on public property by setting yearly urban canopy expansion goals. To address other resident concerns, residents encourage the creation of a publicly accessible ticketing system for requesting maintenance and repairs to public property, and a community driven process to find a solution to problems surrounding residential parking.

Methodology

Participant Demographics

Those who participated in the focus group meetings were representative of the neighborhood at large. The focus groups had substantial Latino representation and one of the focus groups was conducted entirely in Spanish to give everyone the opportunity to speak confidently in their first language — 44 residents attended that meeting. Black residents were well represented at both the general audience and parent and child meetings. There was also a strong showing from the Pacific Islander community at the general audience meeting.

Great attention was paid to make the meetings as accessible as possible. The meetings were held at the local public library, a place within walking distance so access to transportation was not a prerequisite. Dinner and drinks were provided and children were welcome to attend. A \$50 gift card was provided to each participant to compensate them for their expertise and recognize that they were taking time out of their busy schedules to help inform public decision making. Belle Haven is a working-class community where many residents work multiple jobs to support their families. Without these accessibility measures, attendance would have certainly been hurt. Implementing these accessibility measures was very successful in this instance, and if increased civic participation is how the inequalities between East and West Menlo Park are dissolved, expanding and mainstreaming them should be a priority.



Outreach Methods

CRC coordinated with three other groups to conduct outreach to inform the community of these focus groups. The partners were the BHCDF, El Comité de Vecinos, and a group of three passionate community leaders. The outreach methodology consisted of each organization distributing the information through established relationship channels and leveraging their existing networks. Additionally, CRC created multilingual flyers to advertise each meeting and distributed them physically and electronically throughout the community. BHCDF circulated the flyer at local schools, El Comité conducted door-to-door canvassing, and the community leaders spoke to their neighbors door-to-door with CRC. CRC and each partner also circulated flyers through social media and to established Climate Change Community Teams in the area. The most effective form of outreach was through existing relationships and canvassing—when speaking with residents they were informed about the purpose of the meeting, told about the importance of their participation and told they'd receive dinner and a gift card for participating. Canvassers found that speaking about the health impacts of climate change, additional development, and traffic generated substantial interest in the meeting.

Facilitation Methods

CRC and our partners co-created the content and procedure for each focus group, tailoring the material and format to best fit each audience. Each meeting consisted of a brief presentation of the

meeting objectives, information about the general plan update process, and a description of the environmental justice and safety elements. The partnering organizations saw the focus groups as an opportunity to further educate the community about its history and preserve its culture and character. To that end, each presentation also included a brief history of the neighborhood and an explanation of redlining and the discriminatory lending practices that continue to shape the community. This history served to ground the meeting in a shared experience and build trust and understanding among residents.



After the presentation, each meeting broke briefly for dinner. When people had finished eating, they were told to circulate to each table to complete the “jamboard” exercise. This consisted of drawing an ‘X’ alongside statements they agreed with. They could vote for as many or as few options as they saw fit. There were also provided Sticky Notes to comment on the items, add additional responses, or elaborate on their answer. There were 14 questions across the tables that residents had the opportunity to respond to. A facilitator was positioned at each table to answer questions, interpret materials, or

clarify the contents. After participants had time to circulate to each table, a survey was handed out and participants were asked to complete it and, for the first two groups, were asked to write any feedback they have in the margins. The final group simply completed the survey. The surveys were offered in Spanish and English and feedback was incorporated into the document before it was offered to the final focus group. Each participant returned their survey and then were handed their gift card after confirming they had signed in for the meeting.

Results

Listed below are the combined results from all three focus groups. The comments listed came from the Sticky Notes used to extrapolate on responses. They have been lightly edited for clarity, but are otherwise true to form. Each area of discussion is bolded and underlined with the prompt for the exercise written in bold and the comments listed in bullet form. The (+X) denotes others who indicated agreement with the comment.

Safety

Top Safety Concerns	
Air Quality	53
Drought Conditions	38
Earthquakes	40
Flooding	20
Hazardous Material	53
Heatwaves	33
Wildfire and Smoke	36
Sea level rise	19

Comments:

- (+1) Home owners are required to have Flood Insurance and it is not affordable.
- Traffic & Public transportation (Down Hamilton people run stop signs).
- Crosswalks. You cannot assume you have the right of way.
- Sanitize sitting areas & benches, maintaining sidewalks clean.
- Willow rd & Bay front intersection is dangerous.
- Create safe walking route.
- Resources to unhoused people, they can be a hazard for community members and should be cared for.
- Programs and grants to help community centers, schools, and homes with air conditioning systems.
- More training and seminars on what to do in case of earthquakes and floods.
- Weatherization - AC & heaters for homes.
- Toxic waste - create a process to address this.
- Concern for air quality—families have members with Asthma.

Promoting Civic Engagement

Yes	40
No	0

Would you be willing to work with the city by working through community-based organizations and community leaders?

Accessible information (language, etc)	35
Level of prior knowledge regarding the planning process	31
Time conflicts	27
Meeting format	26
Access to transportation	25
Power dynamics	17
Childcare	17

Improvements that could help you consider participating in these public decision-making processes

Comments:

- I have tried calling the city multiple times, but no response. We need better communication.
 - Street lights are not maintained, the City should do regular, monthly maintenance in Belle Haven.
 - Respond to concerns emailed to the city and have a process for maintenance and community feedback.
 - Flyers & Outreach: Make sure they are in spanish as well.
 - Holding meetings in-person and in Belle haven or over Zoom with a lot of advertising. People have a lot of input, but may not have the time or have other conflicts.
- Provide community shuttles that are free for all to use.

- Have more meetings in the Belle Haven Library.
- The community wants to be better informed of when meetings of the city are happening.

Pollution Reduction

Pollution Sources of Concern	
Traffic	63
Industrial Facilities	38
Wildfire Smoke	37
Gas Appliances	31
Smoking	21

Comments:

- EPA: Pulgas and Bay rd - Smell of a chemical since new development
- Rodents, pose health risks and can worsen breathing
- Traffic: Facebook Busses
- Less traffic commuting through the streets of the Belle Haven Community
- Dumbarton Smell is now closer to the Bayfront area, especially during the warm summers. The city used to spray to keep the smell away and should consider starting that again
- People drive too fast on Chilco. Speed bumps, firetrucks use the road but can do so elsewhere
- Sidewalks have lots of holes, a trip hazard and accessibility issue
- Solar in older homes is needed, but often require roof repairs
- Residents are concerned with the amount of cars in Belle Haven, some people block the side of the sidewalk with a trash bin just to save a spot for parking which makes it hard for other residents to pass by with their vehicle.
- We would like there to be bags for dog feces since some people don't pick up after their dog at public parks where children play and that is very bad since those feces have germs/bacteria.

Water Concerns	
Quality	61
Affordability	48
Accessibility	44

Comments:

- Water affordability: since water pipes have been renewed, cost has increased.
- Have more annual pickups from recolas and not make price for garbage pickup be so expensive to help reduce the garbage pollution.
- More disposable area for hazardous materials.

General Public Facilities Considerations

Priorities of Public Facilities	
Community centers	50
Health care	47
Road structure encouraging and providing a safe route to walk, bike and use public transportation	45
Reliable internet access	42
Safe drinking water and wastewater services	38
Parks	36
Flood control	28

Comments:

- (+6) All the above
- (+1) Buses to transport children going to canada and high school
- Concerns with maintaining a local community center & Kelly park & Pool activities are affordable; Basketball, soccer & other activities.
- Prioritize Belle Haven Community members. Residents from the westside began to use the community center and they began a process to reserve the facilities, which made it hard for local BH residents to continue their use
- Local Belle Haven Community center should be for residents

- Community center: affordable programs & activities (Question: Are there going to be affordable programs & activities?)
- Reliable internet access: not have a strong internet affects youth (affecting their education) & elderly
- Assessment of sidewalks - street signs, the narrow sidewalks do not allow for strollers, wheelchairs, and other uses to use side walk when there are street signs placed almost in the middle. Hazardous for families
- Community Center: prioritize BH residents for rentals and making it affordable
- Local Health Care so that residents do not have to travel far
- Light improvement on Willow Road and Ivy Drive. Resident had a close call with police car that did not see the resident walking on crosswalk
- Safe Bike route - not safe for kids at the moment
- Hamilton, not safe
- More community spaces accessible for the use of the residents
- Closer pharmacy
- Affordable community programs
- Safety for bicycles/police safety tip program
- Grocery store needed
- Community center classes for youth and seniors, swim classes, expansion of the library
- Community center, classes for young youth
- Adding to park trees to bring oxygen for environment cleaner air

Promoting Food Access

Yes	63
No	0

Is it important to have more access to affordable and higher quality food? (In Belle Haven, near Belle Haven, neighboring cities)

Comments:

- (+7) More grocery stores, food at markets is too expensive
- A Trader Joes is needed
- A super walmart, or something with affordable goods and services
- Winco or a Grocery Outlet would be preferred, so people can get healthy, affordable food
- (+2) Foodmax
- Sprouts
- (+4) A local pharmacy is greatly needed
- (+9) Safe stores
- (+8) Second Harvest - creating a location in Belle Haven
- (+7) Facebook has a mobile market on Sundays. Assess who is making use of the market and see if we can replicate Bloomhouse in Belle Haven
- (+6) More outreach on community gardens, location and hours to be made public
- (+6) A regular or affordable grocery store (at the moment we have little markets that are not affordable)
- (+5) Facebook Mobile Market: Increase access, so that you do not need to use mobile phone to make an order
- (+1) Promote Community Gardens
- (+1) Rent Planters & community gardens for families to cultivate organic veggies/fruit
- Affordable food - markets are expensive
- Move back the food giveaway to the Belle Haven Community
- Food for less (lower prices on food ESPECIALLY with the pandemic)
- A Walmart

- A grocery store with organic food that way residents have access to healthier food
- The grocery stores in Belle Haven sell food at a high price for bad quality food (health concern, food poisoning)
- Safe stores (cameras, police nearby)

Promoting Safe and Sanitary Homes

Renovate homes that have...	
Pest infestation	37
Toxins like lead	35
Mold	35
Second/third hand smoke	33
Poor insulation	25
Plumbing and exposure	16
Water leaks	15

Comments:

- (+4) Mold: need to make sure there is enough air circulation
- (+4) Assistance Programs to help with indoor renovations and appliances
- (+1) Grants not loans
- No smoking at Belle Haven Park should be allowed.
- (+4) Rats
- Make living affordable
- (+4) Conduct home assessments to see if these concerns may be addressed. People may be scared to be cited.

- No cost programs.
- New pipes raised the cost of water.
- Construction caused more mice in people's homes.
- Provide free resource to assist financially elderly/family with renovations, we lack knowledge about safe/sanitary conditions
- To make programs where residents can help out and clean the streets in Belle Haven (The city provides materials).
- To make a solution about construction since many rats from the areas that are being built go to where residents are living.

Affordability Priorities	
Make housing affordable	52
Protecting renters from displacement	45
Preserving existing affordable housing	37

Comments:

- Make housing affordable for people with low income and/or bad credit.
- (+1) Find a safe location to gather in case of emergencies.
- (+15) Prevent big companies from buying homes/land in this area
- (+1) Displacement: When families moved out, their children also left, left their good jobs to be close to family and are no longer able to comeback.
- (+1) More renters than homeowners that can be due to barriers and hardships
- (+1) Hard to preserve affordable housing and will no longer be affordable for low and very low income families, only if someone is able to buy it and provide it as affordable
- (+1) Help and give our youth the opportunity to stay in the community
- No empty homes or apartments; make affordable after 90 days vacant
- Prevent LLC & companies from buying
- Monitor and regulate Airbnb
- Rent control for renters, landlords have raised the rent up by \$500
- Rent Control

- Available parking to Belle Haven Residents because homeowners who rent don't offer parking on their property to the renter, and they don't have enough money to pay for a permit from the city.

Site houses in neighborhoods with...	
Grocery stores	45
Community gardens	30
Parks	28
Work/education opportunities	26
Schoolyards	24
Access to road structure that encourages and provides a safe route to walk, bike, and use public transportation	17

Comments:

- New housing prices should not be raised for renters. Rent should be regulated.
- (+7) Increase awareness in promoting Jobtrain, Streetcode, other resources of job training and careers.
- (+5) Provide more opportunities for Youth to go to College and earn industry certificates that may take a few months. Many youth need to work to help sustain their family.
- (+2) Communication about Farmers Markets and adding more options

- A safeway that's affordable and organic

Promoting Physical Activity

Are there barriers to being active?	
Yes	56
No	8

Comments:

- The light on the Willow Rd. entry to the freeway confuses people.
- The traffic on Carlton Ave. makes it difficult to feel safe exercising.
- (+4) Child care

What improvements could help the community improve physical activity?	
Streetlights or lighting	35
Sidewalks	33
Improve public transportation infrastructure: covered rest areas, shade, age friendly seating, bike storage	31
Provide safe routes to school to encourage active transportation	30
Bike lanes	25
Reliable, accessible, and convenient public transportation connecting homes to schools, work, and public facilities	24
Partnerships/agreements with schools, churches or other private properties to access more green spaces	10
No smoking policies	6

- (+3) Lack of time from working and commuting
- (+8) Access to community center and Kelly Park
- (+6) Regular group community exercise such as walking around the community
- Outdoor gym
- Community center gym
- Class for musical activities for adults, seniors and kids
- Sports for children, soccer and basketball
- (+2) Low cost programming
- More lights at night makes it hard to see/ people can't walk at night since they are afraid to walk outside in the dark.
- MORE POLICE at night to be on the lookout of drivers speeding or doing race shows
- Better communication with the community of Belle Haven and the City of Menlo Park also it's police department.

Reducing Additional Unique or Compounded Health Risks:

What else should be addressed?	
More Trees	29
Noise Pollution	25
Retrofitting buildings & houses to improve energy efficiency	23
Cooling centers	19
Earthquake retrofit assistance	18
Temperature extremes	18
Smoke free multiunit housing	15
Efficient circulation	14
Conservation and recapture of water	14
Sea level rise	12

Comments:

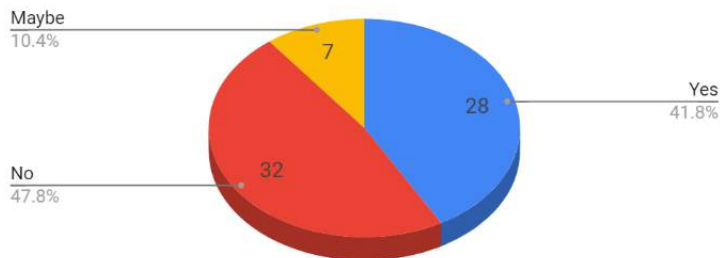
- The extreme chemical sewage smell that flows from Marsh Road and the Belle Haven community in the evening & 2:30 am from Facebook area
- Bad sewage smell and taste of drinking water
- Need speed bumps on streets to stop vehicle racing (1)
- Drainage outside have lots of rodents and insects that come to house
- More trees!
- Also to cut down branches when needed since it can be a danger to residents.
- Air sensors in apartments for the future so residents can see how the air they are breathing is.

Capacity Building Needs

An exit poll was administered to two of the focus groups to inform facilitators about best practices and decide if alterations needed to be made to focus group facilitation. The results of the exit poll are presented in graphical form below. They demonstrate the success of the informative aspects of the focus groups presentations and underline the need for significant investments in community capacity building and education around existing environmental justice hazards. Very few residents were aware of the ongoing Environmental Justice and Safety elements update process but were very interested in the issues being discussed. This indicates that prior outreach methods were not particularly effective at reaching the Belle Haven community.

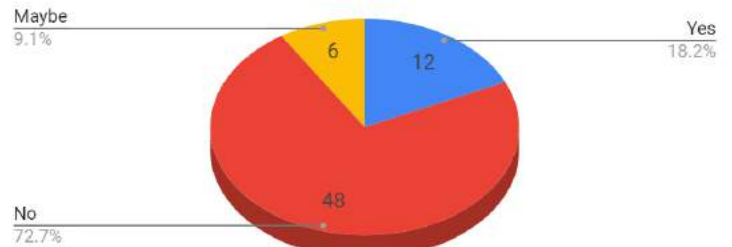
Before you came to this discussion, did you know much about Belle Haven's history?

(count = 67)



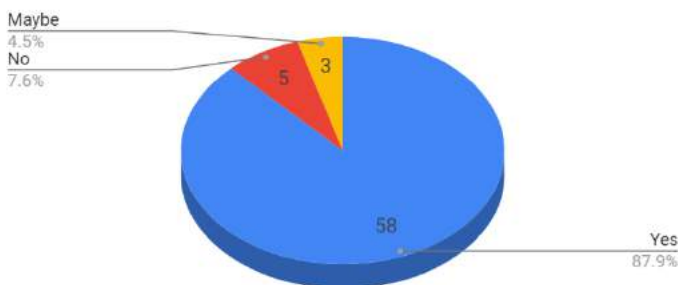
Before you came, did you know much about the Environmental Justice Element?

(count = 66)



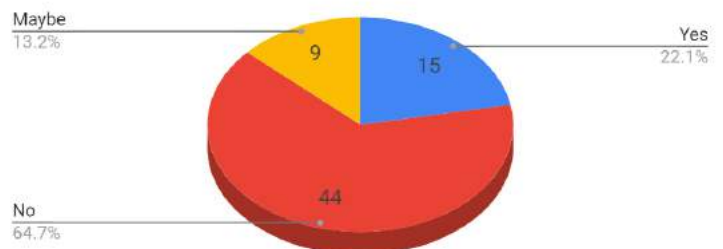
Are the topics discussed important to you?

(count = 66)



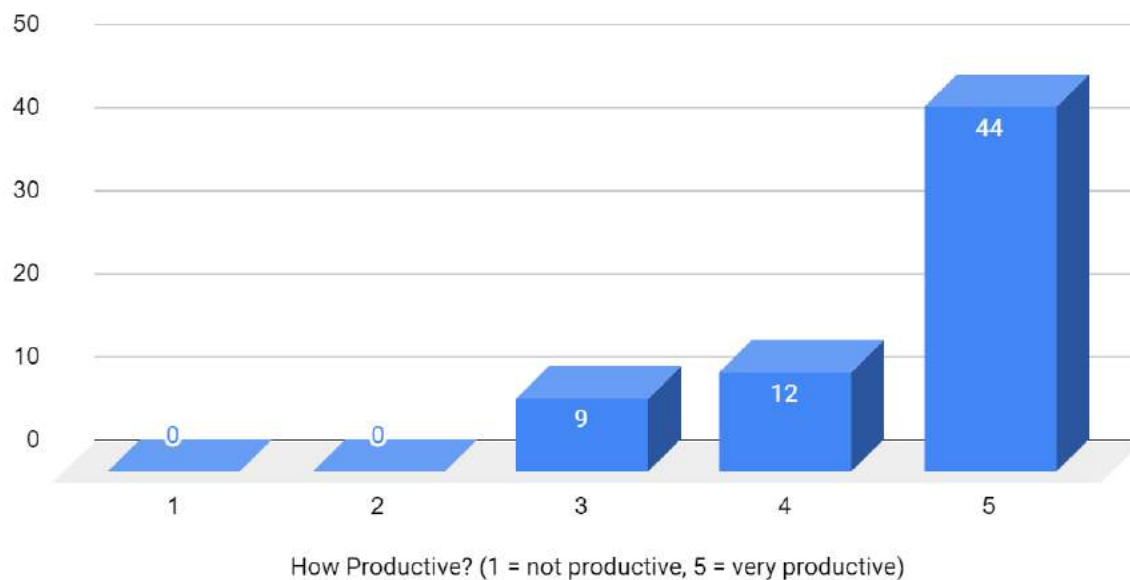
Before you came, did you know much about the Safety Element?

(count = 68)



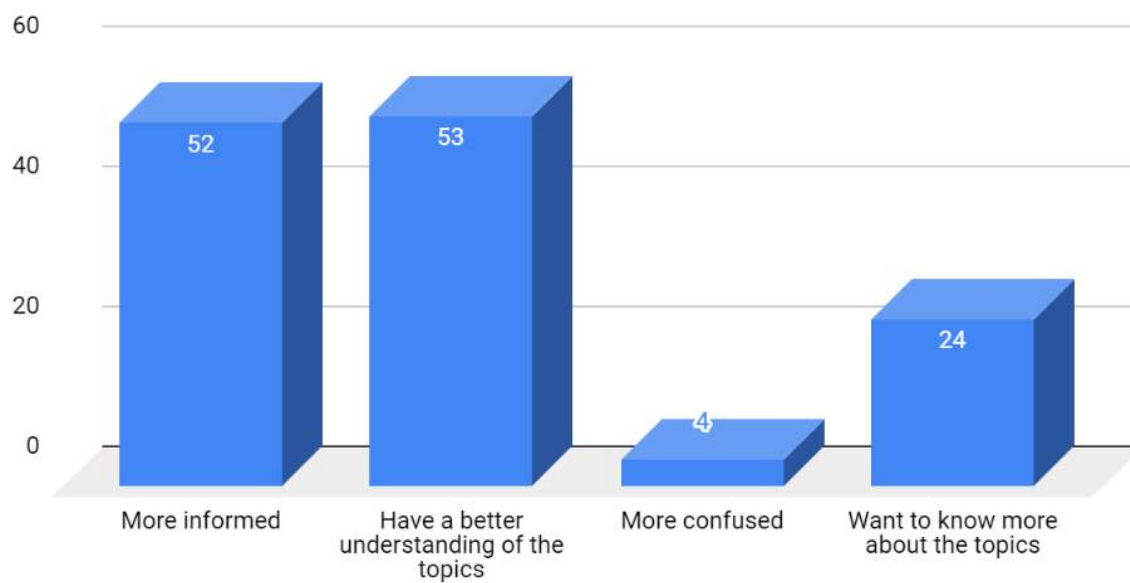
Did you find the breakout activities productive?

(count = 65)



What are your takeaways from this discussion?

(count = 67)





Recommendations

Based on the cumulative results of three focus groups in which Belle Haven residents offered direct feedback on their environmental justice and safety priorities, the following areas of policy proposals should be evaluated and implemented with urgency.

Safety: Community members identified Air Quality, Hazardous Materials, and Earthquakes as their top safety concerns. To improve air quality, the city of Menlo Park should consider **appropriating funds for transportation infrastructure improvements** that reduce both residential and cut-through traffic. This can be achieved through traffic calming infrastructure like chicanes and speed bumps. To address concerns of residents about hazardous materials, Menlo Park should **work closely with other oversight agencies to identify and ameliorate legacy pollution**. This matter is urgent: as sea levels rise, the water table will be elevated in some places which can cause hazardous materials to circulate more widely and enter people's homes through water and waste water infrastructure. To alleviate concerns around earthquakes, Menlo Park should **initiate neighborhood specific disaster preparedness planning** and work closely with Community Based Organizations and pre-existing CERT programming.

Promoting Civic Engagement: Residents identified information accessibility, prior knowledge, and time conflicts as key barriers to their civic participation. To address these concerns, residents would like the City of Menlo Park to **make policies to ensure substantial, sustained multilingual outreach** for important city meetings or any policy that will disproportionately affect the Belle Haven neighborhood. The City should **expand its education and capacity building opportunities** for residents so they have the confidence and background knowledge to participate in public forums. To carry this out, the City should partner with CBOs who have high community trust to further lower barriers to participation. Any and all outreach and capacity building workshops should compensate Belle Haven residents for their expertise and participation—barriers to public meetings and the levers of power is partially why current disparities exist. Finally, the City should **revamp existing protocols around the scheduling of public meetings** to ensure they take place outside of work hours and allow residents a wide range of options for participating.



Reducing Pollution: When it comes to opportunities to reduce air pollution in their community, participants identified residential and cut through traffic in the neighborhood, emissions from industrial facilities, and wildfire smoke as top concerns. In addition to changing physical infrastructure to reduce traffic and vehicle presence in the community, the City of Menlo Park should also **further incentivize the use of electric vehicles and pursue micro-mobility alternatives like discounted or subsidized bicycles, electric bicycles, and electric scooters**. To address emissions from industrial

sources, the City should work closely with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and other regulatory partners to find opportunities to **strengthen permitting requirements for polluting facilities and enforce existing laws surrounding the use of Best Available Control Technology (BACT)**. The City should take a proactive stance to wildfire smoke and treat it as the extreme public health crisis it is. The City should create programs to retrofit homes for smoke resilience by providing **funding for weatherization and the distribution of air purifiers for income qualified residents and those with health conditions**. When it comes to water pollution, Belle Haven residents are concerned about the quality and affordability of their water. The City should **conduct regular tap water testing and hold workshops to explain the results** and raise awareness of other potential groundwater threats. The city should **explore options to help families with water expenses**.

Public Facilities: When it comes to public facility provision, residents wanted greater access to community centers, healthcare facilities, and transportation upgrades that foster alternative modes of transit. To that end, the community recommends the City **reexamine administrative policies governing community centers to encourage affordable and accessible programming and look to expand existing facilities**. The City should consider policies incentivizing the **creation of a community health clinic in Belle Haven**. Currently, residents either have to cross Highway 101 to receive care, or travel several miles to the Ravenswood Clinic in East Palo Alto. Finally, as mentioned previously, major infrastructure investment is required to facilitate active and alternative modes of transportation.

Food Access: Residents are concerned about the community's access to healthy and affordable food. While a grocery store space is currently planned for the Willow Village development site, the City of Menlo Park **should ensure that the eventual occupant offer high quality, affordable food and be required to take food assistance vouchers and contain a pharmacy**. The city should look to CBO partnerships and find spaces to **sponsor a farmer's market** and expand access to Facebook's Mobile Market by requiring them to alter ordering processes to make them accessible to those without smart phones.

Ensuring Safe and Sanitary Homes: Residents want to see programs that help homeowners address issues with pests, mold, and toxics like lead and asbestos. They also want to see housing affordability and reduced displacement and gentrification. To that end, the community recommends the City **begin investing in programs that offer homeowners and renters vital home safety repairs**. These types of programs already exist through other funding sources and CBOs like El Concilio of San Mateo County, but additional resources could greatly expand access and awareness of these repair programs. Additionally, the City should urgently **enact Rent Control ordinances** and other measures to prevent displacement. The City should further coordinate with state housing authorities and other sources of funds to **expand the development of affordable housing throughout the city, and not force Belle Haven to bear the brunt of nearly all new development**.

Physical Activity: There are significant barriers to physical activity in the Belle Haven neighborhood. Among them are a lack of streetlights, unsafe or inaccessible sidewalks, and other infrastructure challenges. To address these concerns, residents would like to see the City **install streetlights along major residential corridors and conduct an assessment to ensure all are functional**. Further, the City should **assess the prevalence, accessibility, and ADA compliance of sidewalks in the neighborhood and look to add additional sidewalks where feasible**. Finally, it is clear that the

prevalence of traffic, speed of vehicles, and lack of infrastructure for alternative modes of transportation are a profound problem for many aspects of life in Belle Haven. **A systematic assessment of neighborhood infrastructure should be undertaken and a major re-envisioning of the infrastructure is necessary** to address resident concerns, achieve climate goals, and create a more equitable Menlo Park.

Addressing Unique or Compounded Difficulties: Several unique or compounded issues were identified by residents. Among them are a lack of trees, high noise pollution, and low building resilience. The community saw opportunities to address these issues by **creating programs to give residents free trees and redouble urban forestry efforts on public property by setting yearly urban canopy expansion goals**. Many studies suggest at least 40% Canopy coverage is necessary to alleviate the Urban Heat Island Effect—the City should set goals to achieve that level by 2045. Prior recommendations address building resilience and traffic reduction, these traffic calming measures will do a lot to reduce noise pollution. Many participants voiced in comments that they felt their reports to the City and requests for maintenance were never responded to, making them feel they weren't valued by the City. This could be addressed by **creating a publicly accessible ticketing system for requesting maintenance and repairs to public property**. The City should communicate to residents where in the queue a resident's request is and regularly report progress on addressing community member complaints. Many residents also expressed their concern with parking regulations and enforcement. To this end, residents recommend conducting **a community driven process to find a solution to residential parking** as it impacts air quality, quality of life, and a lack of parking could lead people to expanding their driveways, worsening extreme heat events.

Conclusion

The outreach process for this project has been extremely successful and validates CRC's accessibility methodology. A lack of access to public discussions and decision-making processes for low income communities and communities of color is a major reason for the existing disparities between Belle Haven and other neighborhoods of Menlo Park. That is why equitable participation in decision-making practices is a cornerstone of the environmental justice movement. Through a just outreach process and strong meeting facilitation mechanics we were able to clearly hear the voices of residents in the Belle Haven Community. CRC is incredibly thankful for our community partners for their leadership throughout this process. Decades of systemic racism and disinvestment have hurt the community's faith in governmental processes, but once people have the opportunity to participate meaningfully in a public process, advocate to see their suggestions implemented, and see the resulting improvement in their lives, their faith in the governmental structures can begin to be restored. The residents of Belle Haven are eager to participate and will do so when the barriers to doing so are removed. If the City is serious about its commitments to environmental justice and reducing inequalities within their city, they will listen to the voices of Belle Haven residents and move quickly to address the history of neglect in this community. Belle Haven residents have created an extraordinary community and are thriving in the face of the adversity they've had to overcome. It is beyond time to act on the demands of justice and create better living conditions that provide support for a neighborhood that enriches the City and region.

Appendix

To read the full report from each of our partner organizations, click the links below:

[Focus Group 1: Belle Haven Community Development Fund](#)

[Focus Group 2: El Comite de Vecinos](#)

[Focus Group 3: Community Leaders](#)

Menlo Park EJ+Safety Survey Final Report
July 12, 2022
Climate Resilient Communities

Executive Summary

A coalition of community-based organizations conducted a survey for the City of Menlo Park's Environmental Justice and Safety Element. From May 20 through July 12, 2022, online and in-person surveys were deployed throughout the city, with a focus on Belle Haven. 420 total responses were collected. This report summarizes the survey design and results. Along with overall distributions of participant responses, given sufficient sample sizes of the subgroups Belle Haven residents (328) vs. non-Belle Haven residents (92) and Latinx households (171) and Black households (72) compared to White households (88), we were able to make claims of statistical significance disaggregating by neighborhood and race and ethnicity¹. Of particular note are the following key findings:

1. **A majority of respondents experienced poor air quality, traffic congestion, and dust and noise from construction as adverse environmental impacts within their households in the last ten years. Belle Haven households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of adverse environmental impacts than other Menlo Park households. Non-White households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of adverse environmental impacts than their White counterparts.**
 - a. The next most common environmental impacts (experienced by at least a quarter of respondents) were extreme heat both indoors and outdoors, lack of working air conditioning, poor tap water quality, and presence of mold in the home.
 - b. Particularly notable disparities between Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households: extreme heat indoors (51% vs. 34%) and outdoors (34% vs. 20%), poor tap water quality (31% vs. 12%), presence of mold (29% vs. 13%), poor soil quality (27% vs. 12%), flood-related travel disruptions (23% vs. 5%), and home insurance claims related to environmental issues (13% vs. 1%).
 - c. Particularly notable disparities between Latinx and White households: presence of mold (35% vs. 15%) and poor tap water quality (31% vs. 14%). Notably bucking the trend, Latinx households reported less experience of traffic congestion than White households (49% vs. 74%). It's possible that this finding

¹ Pacific Islander households appeared to have statistically significant differences compared to White households across all topics, but the sample size was too small to have confidence in particular quantities. Sample sizes were too small for Native American and Other Race households to report any findings.

reflects prior literature on how minority populations may under-report “nuisance” issues while prioritizing more serious life and safety concerns².

- d. Particularly notable disparities between Black and White households: poor tap water quality (33% vs. 14%).
 - e. Asian households, on the other hand, did not experience statistically significant differences compared to White households.
 - f. Recommendations: Implement air and noise pollution mitigation measures specifically in Belle Haven. Install sensors to measure outcomes before and after pilot interventions. Work with Belle Haven community organizations to scope pilot projects and ensure cultural competency when interventions are conducted at the household level.
- 2. More than a third of respondents experienced stress and anxiety, high blood pressure or cholesterol, COVID-19, and asthma within their households in the last ten years. Belle Haven households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of health issues than other Menlo Park households. Non-White households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of health issues than their White counterparts.**
- a. The next most common health issues (experienced by at least a quarter of respondents) were diabetes and obesity.
 - b. Particularly notable disparities between Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households: high blood pressure or cholesterol (54% vs. 32%), COVID-19 (50% vs. 21%), asthma (45% vs. 13%), diabetes (35% vs. 5%), and disability (21% vs. 8%).
 - c. Particularly notable disparities between Latinx and White households: high blood pressure or cholesterol (51% vs. 33%), COVID-19 (48% vs. 20%), asthma (41% vs. 19%), diabetes (33% vs. 5%), and heat stroke (20% vs. 4%). Notably bucking the trend, Latinx households reported less experience of stress and anxiety than White households (37% vs. 55%) - once again, a potential reflection of “nuisance”-related response bias.
 - d. Particularly notable disparities between Black and White households: Asthma (47% vs. 19%), disability (37% vs. 10%), and diabetes (35% vs. 5%).
 - e. Asian households, on the other hand, did not experience statistically significant differences compared to White households.
 - f. Recommendations: Conduct culturally competent outreach to inform Belle Haven residents of the prevalence of health issues in the neighborhood, environmental risk factors, and opportunities for preventative or supportive action.
- 3. About a third of respondents have spent more than \$100 in the past year on home repairs related to environmental damages or risks. More than a third of respondents have delayed home repairs due to cost, with significant geographic and racial and ethnic disparities. A quarter of respondents, if faced with a \$400**

² Kontokosta & Hong. *Bias in smart city governance: How socio-spatial disparities in 311 complaint behavior impact the fairness of data-driven decisions*. Sustainable Cities and Society, Volume 64, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scs.2020.102503>.

emergency expense, would not be able to immediately pay for it in cash, and would have to pay with a credit card or borrow the money, with significant geographic and racial and ethnic disparities.

- a. Belle Haven households were more likely (43%) to have delayed repairs than non-Belle Haven households (22%), were more likely (31%) to need to rely on credit or borrowing than non-Belle Haven households (2%), and were less likely to consider the costs of housing (29%) and other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare (32%) *easy to cover*, compared to non-Belle Haven households (71% and 73%).
 - b. Latinx households were more likely (44%) to have delayed repairs than White households (25%), were more likely (33%) to need to rely on credit or borrowing than White households (10%), and were less likely to consider the costs of housing (17%) and other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare (23%) *easy to cover*, compared to White households (70% and 68%).
 - c. Black households were more likely (61%) to have delayed repairs than White households (25%), were more likely (40%) to need to rely on credit or borrowing than White households (10%), and were less likely to consider the costs of housing (20%) and other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare (23%) *easy to cover*, compared to White households (70% and 68%).
 - d. The findings on emergency expenses align with national averages, based on Federal Reserve research³.
 - e. Recommendations: Develop a rapid response program that can assist Belle Haven homeowners with emergency home repairs through a no-interest loan, including volunteer labor and donated materials.
- 4. More than a third of respondents would prioritize spending extra money on air conditioning, air purifiers, home repairs, and earthquake-related upgrades, compared to solar, rainwater capture, home insurance, or electrification.**
- a. There do not appear to be significant differences in priorities based on the presence of elderly household members, with the exception of an increased preference for rainwater capture or water recycling (33% vs. 23%).
 - b. Households that perceive themselves as financially burdened are less likely to prioritize electrification (13% vs. 27%) and more likely to prioritize home insurance (28% vs. 19%) and air conditioning (46% vs. 37%).
 - c. Recommendations: Expand reduced cost home weatherization and retrofit programs, as well as DIY air filter initiatives.
- 5. More than a third of respondents would prioritize public spending on pedestrian safety, road repairs, safer biking routes, street trees, and improved parks or community gardening, compared to public air quality monitoring, stormwater management, code enforcement, and flood barriers.**

3

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/publications/2022-economic-well-being-of-us-households-in-2021-dealing-with-unexpected-expenses.htm>

- a. Recommendations: While continuing to mitigate risk from less frequent climate hazards, deepen prioritization of public transportation and recreation infrastructure in Belle Haven.
- 6. From a safety perspective, Belle Haven households are more exposed to natural hazards like floods, but appear to have and value insurance as a resilience strategy. They also strongly prioritize transportation safety.**
- a. Belle Haven households are more likely to have experienced floods affecting neighborhood travel (23%) than non-Belle Haven households (5%).
 - b. Belle Haven households are more likely to have experienced a home insurance claim related to environmental issues (13%) than non-Belle Haven households (1%).
 - c. Belle Haven households appear to be more likely to carry earthquake insurance (60%) than non-Belle Haven households (45%), and more likely to carry flood insurance (69%) than non-Belle Haven households (35%).
 - d. Belle Haven households appear to place higher priority on home insurance than non-Belle Haven households as an individual household improvement.
 - e. Belle Haven households appear to place higher priority on pedestrian safety and road surface improvement than non-Belle Haven households as a neighborhood-level improvement.
 - f. Recommendations: Further study the prevalence of public and private insurance in Belle Haven to ensure equitable coverage. Ensure that major public investments in flood and earthquake risk mitigation are focused on supporting the most exposed and vulnerable Belle Haven residents.

The survey clarifies the extent of environmental, health, and financial disparities at the intersection of geography and race and ethnicity, with Belle Haven bearing the brunt of exposure to pollution and natural hazards and concentrating social and economic vulnerability. The implications for the City of Menlo Park's Environmental Justice and Safety Elements, as part of the General Plan update, include a clear need to prioritize public investments and policy preferences that support Belle Haven residents above and beyond non-Belle Haven residents in order to close longstanding disparities, shape culturally competent opportunities for Belle Haven residents of color to provide specific, substantive input into policies and programs, and ensure that communities who have felt civically disengaged or ignored receive clear signals of real-world improvements and appreciation for their patience.

Acknowledgements

This survey would not have been possible without the leadership of the Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team, Belle Haven Action, El Comite, and Belle Haven Community Development Fund. The City of Menlo Park and M Group provided useful comments in the survey design process. City Systems prepared survey tools, conducted data analysis, and drafted this report.

Survey Design

Community Input

The survey design was primarily based on feedback from a Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team (BHCCCT) meeting on April 27, 2022. Participants were shown some prior examples of surveys conducted in and around Menlo Park and asked to share their recommendations for what questions should be in the Belle Haven survey. They also emphasized the importance of keeping the survey short, ideally under 10 questions. The resultant draft achieved a minimum question count by leveraging “check all that apply” style questions, which has the effect of combining many individual yes/no questions into one larger thematic bucket. Therefore, the survey was essentially about 50 yes/no questions, and enabled tallying percentages of respondents who responded affirmatively to each statement. Each question had an “Other” option which was cleaned and incorporated into final analysis. The overall thematic buckets were:

1. Adverse experiences of environmental impacts in the last 10 years
2. Adverse experiences of health problems in the last 10 years
3. Adverse experiences of financial stress in the last 10 years
4. Prioritization of personal risk mitigation expenditures
5. Prioritization of public risk mitigation expenditures

The survey also captured a limited set of demographic characteristics of the household:

1. # of household members, by age buckets
2. Races and ethnicities represented in the household

Other household characteristics can be identified using the home address, when provided. Using property data, we are able to identify tenure (renter vs. owner), size of home and number of bedrooms (from which we can identify the degree of overcrowding), age of structure, and estimated housing costs. We can also relate the home location to certain environmental exposures, like proximity to major roadways, amount of tree canopy, etc.

Generally, we expect to find many affirmative statements to be correlated within and across thematic buckets, and document these associations below. We pay particular attention to any significant differences in outcomes across demographic groups. We highlight particular vulnerable segments of the community who appear to have high amounts of pre-existing health risks and financial stress, and have already or have yet to experience environmental impacts, and estimate the total number of people/households who may be in need of assistance. The last two questions enable us to identify and quantify the most desirable resources at the household and community level. This information should directly inform nonprofit programs, grant applications, and longer term urban planning.

Full Questionnaire

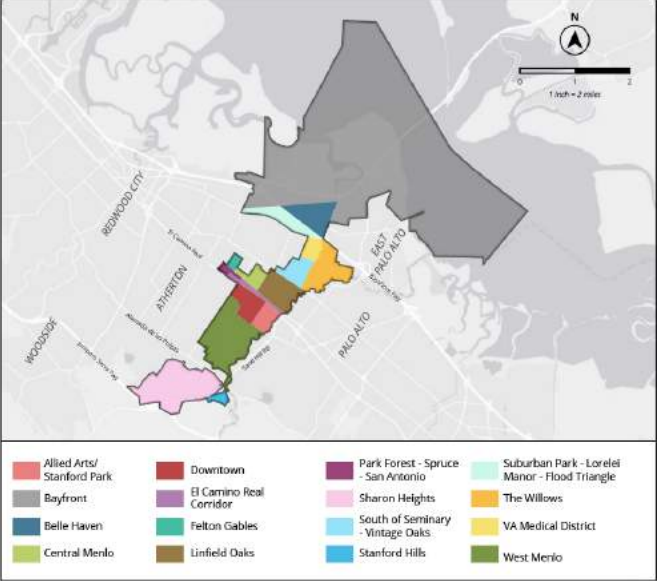
Environmental Justice and Safety Survey

The goal of this survey is to inform action on environmental justice (addressing the disproportionate exposure of marginalized communities to environmental harms) and safety (protecting everyone from natural hazards) in our neighborhood. You will be asked about your direct experience of environmental harms, health challenges, and financial stress, as well as your priorities for household and neighborhood improvements. Thousands of homes are slated to be built within and near Belle Haven in the next decade, which could make some of these issues worse, unless our community speaks up about our concerns and needs. Thank you!

<p>1. Have you or your family been affected by any of the following in the last 10 years? Check all that apply.</p> <p><i>We want to make sure the survey captures the full range of environmental issues you've experienced.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Poor air quality <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic congestion</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Poor soil quality <input type="checkbox"/> Poor tap water quality</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dust and noise from construction</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Presence of mold in my home</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Extreme heat in my home</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lack of working air conditioning</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Extreme heat affecting neighborhood travel</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rain or weather-related flood damage to my home</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Floods affecting neighborhood travel</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Home insurance claim due to environmental issues</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other environmental issues: _____</p>
<p>2. Have any of the following health issues affected your household in the last 10 years? Check all that apply.</p> <p><i>Environmental issues can cause health problems or make them worse. Local public health authorities</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Asthma <input type="checkbox"/> Heat stroke</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cancer <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Obesity <input type="checkbox"/> High blood pressure or cholesterol</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> COVID-19 <input type="checkbox"/> Reproductive/birth challenges</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Migraines <input type="checkbox"/> Stress and anxiety</p>

<p><i>may not know how often health problems happen in your neighborhood. Sometimes not all health problems are addressed by healthcare.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health problems</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other health issues: _____</p>
<p>3. Which of the following applies to your household? Check all that apply.</p> <p><i>Environmental issues can also cause financial stress, such as flood-related damage that needs repair. We want to make sure the survey identifies the level of financial insecurity in the community.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> My household can easily cover the cost of housing.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My household can easily cover other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My household has spent more than \$100 in the past year on repairing damages caused by the environment or reducing potential impacts.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We have delayed repairs we want to do to our home (like roof, windows, mold) because of cost.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We do not have or need flood insurance.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We do not have earthquake insurance.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> If my household faced a \$400 emergency expense, we would not be able to immediately pay for it in cash.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In order to pay a \$400 emergency expense, my household would have to pay with a credit card or borrow the money.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other financial challenges: _____</p>
<p>4. Which of the following would you prioritize if you had extra money to spend on your household's environmental health and safety? Write "1" in the box next to your first choice, "2" for your second choice, "3" for your third choice, as many choices as you'd like.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Products to improve indoor air quality (air purifiers)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Products to reduce extreme heat (air conditioning)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Home repairs (roof, windows, mold)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Replace gas appliances</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Solar panels or battery storage</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Earthquake-related upgrades or emergency kit</p>

	<input type="checkbox"/> Rainwater capture or water recycling <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy food (including gardening) <input type="checkbox"/> Home insurance <input type="checkbox"/> Other personal expenses: _____
<p>5. Which of the following would you prioritize for neighborhood improvements? Write “1” in the box next to your first choice, “2” for your second choice, “3” for your third choice, as many choices as you’d like.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian safety (sidewalks, crosswalks, speed bumps) <input type="checkbox"/> Safer biking routes <input type="checkbox"/> Improved transit infrastructure (bus stops, signs, benches) <input type="checkbox"/> Improved roads (potholes) <input type="checkbox"/> Improved parks or community gardening <input type="checkbox"/> More street trees <input type="checkbox"/> Cool and clean air shelters (community center) <input type="checkbox"/> Flood barriers along rivers or bayfront <input type="checkbox"/> Improved storm drainage <input type="checkbox"/> Improved water supply (safe drinking, firefighting) <input type="checkbox"/> Air quality monitoring sensors in public spaces <input type="checkbox"/> Improved code enforcement (illegal parking) <input type="checkbox"/> Security cameras for safety and dumping <input type="checkbox"/> Other public investments: _____
<p>6. How many people live in your home? Provide a number for each age range.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> # of Children 0-17 <input type="checkbox"/> # of Adults 18-29 <input type="checkbox"/> # of Adults 30-59 <input type="checkbox"/> # of Adults 60+

<p>7. What is your household race or ethnicity? Check all that apply.</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Latino/Latinx</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> White</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Black</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Asian</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Native American</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Latino/Latinx	<input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> Black	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> Native American	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
<input type="checkbox"/> Latino/Latinx	<input type="checkbox"/> White									
<input type="checkbox"/> Black	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian									
<input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> Native American									
<input type="checkbox"/> Other										
<p>8. Email (to be entered into raffle for \$100 gift card)</p>										
<p>9. Neighborhood</p>	 <table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Allied Arts - Stanford Park</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Bayfront</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Belle Haven</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Centro Menlo</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Downtown</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> El Camino Real Corridor</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Felton Gables</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Linfield Oaks</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Allied Arts - Stanford Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Bayfront	<input type="checkbox"/> Belle Haven	<input type="checkbox"/> Centro Menlo	<input type="checkbox"/> Downtown	<input type="checkbox"/> El Camino Real Corridor	<input type="checkbox"/> Felton Gables	<input type="checkbox"/> Linfield Oaks	<input type="checkbox"/> Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio
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<input type="checkbox"/> Linfield Oaks										
<input type="checkbox"/> Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio										

	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharon Heights <input type="checkbox"/> South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks <input type="checkbox"/> Stanford Hills <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle <input type="checkbox"/> The Willows <input type="checkbox"/> VA Medical District <input type="checkbox"/> West Menlo
10. Address (optional)	

Canvassing Strategy

The existing race and ethnicity distribution of Menlo Park and Belle Haven, according to the 2020 Decennial Census, are shown below.

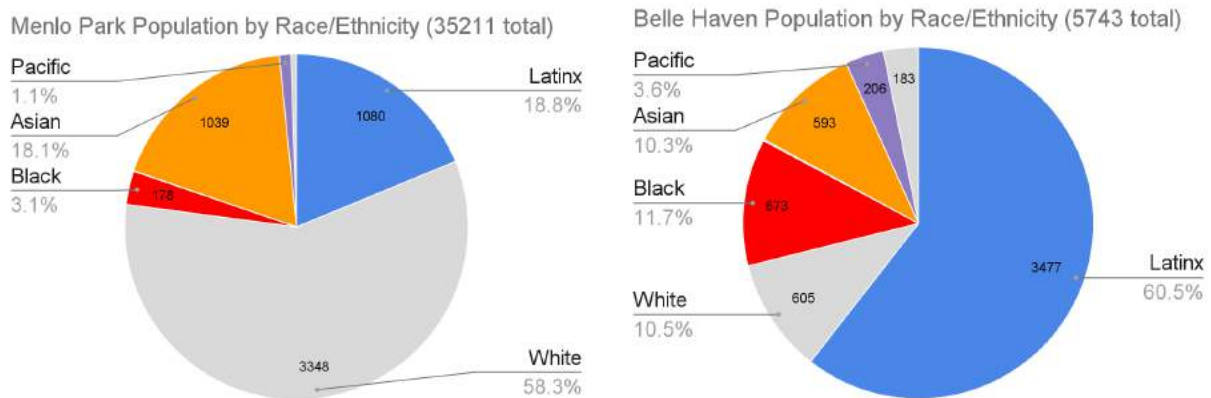


Figure 1. Menlo Park and Belle Haven population by race and ethnicity, 2020 Decennial Census.

Our chosen sampling strategy was to strive to survey equal proportions of Latinx, White, Black, and Asian respondents (i.e., 50 each). Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander, American Indian & Alaska Native, and Other Race were expected to reach insufficient sample size. With these sample sizes, if we see differences on any one yes/no question of about 27 percentage points, those would be statistically significant findings. This same reasoning can be used to compare groups of respondents categorized by the presence of youth or elderly, or by renter vs. owner.

We trained canvassing teams from local community-based organizations to walk specified blocks in pairs, with a focus on Belle Haven given their local knowledge. Because the distribution of race and ethnicity is quite heterogeneous in Belle Haven (see maps below), we assigned specific blocks through random simulation that were expected to yield the most equal proportions of Latinx, White, Black, and Asian respondents. Canvassing teams received a list of addresses going around the block in one direction, and were asked to record whether they attempted to knock, talked to someone, and/or got a survey. We evaluated progress towards demographic targets midway through the survey period and used this progress to reassign blocks for the canvassing teams.



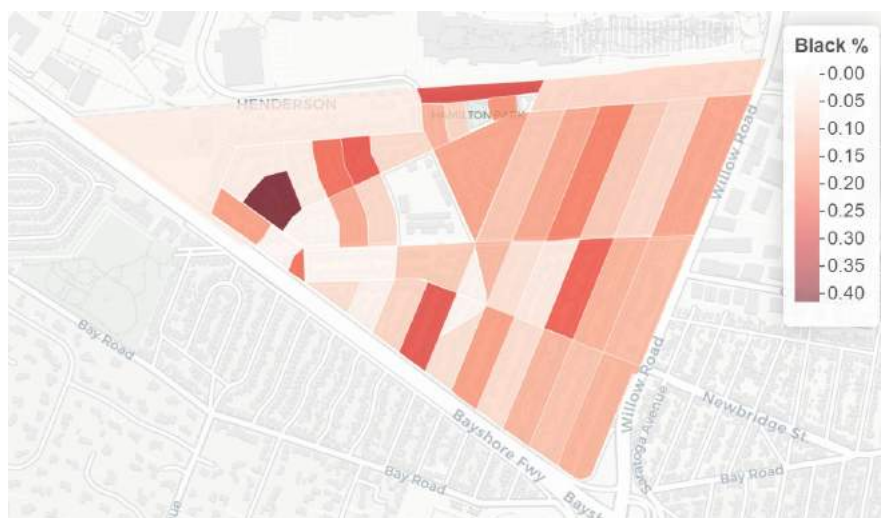


Figure 2. Belle Haven total population, % Latinx, and % Black by block, 2020 Decennial Census.

Results

As of July 12, we had access to 420 total survey responses. 303 were paper responses collected from focus groups or door-to-door surveying. 117 were online form responses.

Menlo Park Neighborhoods

Participants were asked to select one of the Housing Element designated neighborhoods on the online survey. Almost all paper surveys were completed by Belle Haven residents.

Table 1. Distribution of survey participants by neighborhood.

Neighborhood	# Survey Participants	% Survey Participants
Belle Haven	328	78.1
West Menlo	17	4
The Willows	15	3.6
Centro Menlo	13	3.1
Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle	13	3.1
Sharon Heights	9	2.1
Downtown	7	1.7
Linfield Oaks	6	1.4
Allied Arts - Stanford Park	4	1

South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks	3	0.7
El Camino Real Corridor	2	0.5
Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio	2	0.5
Bayfront	1	0.2

Race and Ethnicity

Participants were asked to check all races/ethnicities that applied to their household. 18 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 402, treating multiple options as fractions of a whole household, we observe the following distribution.

Table 2. Distribution of survey participant households by race and ethnicity.

Race/Ethnicity	# Households	% Survey Participants	% Menlo Park HHs, 2020 Census
Latino/Latinx	171	42.5	18.8
White	88	22	58.3
Black	72	17.8	3.1
Pacific Islander	35	8.7	1.1
Asian	27	6.8	18.1
Other	8	2	0.5
Native American	1	0.3	0.1

Table 3. Belle Haven distribution of survey participant households by race and ethnicity.

Race/Ethnicity	# Households	% Survey Participants	% Belle Haven HHs, 2020 Census
Latino/Latinx	167	53.9	60.5
Black	70	22.7	11.7
Pacific Islander	35	11.3	3.6
White	23	7.3	10.5
Asian	11	3.5	10.3
Other	3	1	3.2
Native American	1	0.3	0.1

Overall, the current distribution of participants somewhat resembles the real Belle Haven population, with overrepresentation of Black and Pacific Islander populations.

Age

The # of household members of different ages represented within the participant pool are below. Some respondents mistakenly checked boxes instead of filling in numbers; these were conservatively converted to 1. 4+ responses were converted to 4.

Table 4. Distribution of survey participant household members by age.

Age	# Household Members	% Participant Household Members	% Menlo Park Population, 2016-2020 ACS
Children 0-17	397	25.8	24.6
Adults 18-29	283	18.4	14.6
Adults 30-59	528	34.3	39.5
Adults 60+	331	21.5	21.2

Table 5. Belle Haven distribution of survey participant household members by age.

Age	# Household Members	% Participant Household Members	% Belle Haven Population, 2016-2020 ACS
Children 0-17	345	27	26.2
Adults 18-29	246	19.2	17.4
Adults 30-59	433	33.9	44.6
Adults 60+	254	19.9	11.8

Overall, the current distribution of participants by age somewhat represents the real Belle Haven and Menlo Park age distribution, with overrepresentation of elderly residents.

Tenure

Using public Secured Property Tax data from San Mateo County⁴, we were able to match 243 responses to specific parcels by address. On balance, the subset that provided addresses appears comparable to the full cohort, with some underrepresentation of White respondents.

⁴ <https://datahub.smcgov.org/Government/Secured-Property-Taxes/pmvw-bs84>

Table 6. Distribution of survey participants that provided a matchable address by race and ethnicity.

Race/Ethnicity	# Households	% Survey Participants, with Address	% Survey Participants, Full
Latino/Latinx	102	43.8	42.5
Black	46	19.6	17.8
White	37	15.9	22
Pacific Islander	31	13.3	8.7
Asian	16	6.8	6.8
Other	1	0.4	2
Native American	0	0.2	0.3

Based on this subset, it appears that the survey overrepresented renter households significantly, as seen in the table below.

Table 7. Distribution of survey participants by tenure.

Tenure	# Households	% Survey Participants	% Belle Haven HHs, 2016-2020 ACS	% Menlo Park HHs, 2016-2020 ACS
Owner	93	38.3	0.52	0.6
Renter	150	61.7	0.48	0.4

Overcrowding

Using Assessor data from San Mateo County⁵, we were able to match 223 responses to residential parcels with recorded information about the number of rooms. Using the U.S. Census Bureau's definition of overcrowding, we found that the respondents experienced degrees of overcrowding that were comparable to Belle Haven per the American Community Survey, though this result should be considered an underestimate because of the way we rounded the household size responses. In fact, all of the surveyed households experiencing overcrowding were from Belle Haven.

Table 8. Distribution of survey participants by degree of overcrowding.

Condition	# Households	% Survey Participants	% Belle Haven HHs, 2016-2020 ACS	% Menlo Park HHs, 2016-2020 ACS
Overcrowding (> 1 persons/room)	45	0.20	0.18	0.04

⁵ Provided with permission for nonprofit use by the San Mateo County Housing Department and Office of Sustainability.

Severe Overcrowding (> 1.5persons/room)	11	0.05	0.05	0.03
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Environmental Impact

Respondents were asked: “Have you or your family been affected by any of the following in the last 10 years? Check all that apply.” 5 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 415, we observe the following distribution. The asterisks denote a statistically significant difference between households in Belle Haven and not in Belle Haven: a single asterisk reflects 90% confidence, two asterisks reflect 95% confidence, and three asterisks reflect 99% confidence. Statistical significance is a function of the difference between the proportions of the two groups, as well as the number of respondents in each group. The larger the difference and the larger both samples, the greater our confidence in a true population-level difference.

*Table 9. % of survey participant households by environmental impacts experienced. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households. *P < 0.10, **P < 0.05, ***P < 0.01.*

Environmental Impact	All Households	Households not in Belle Haven	Households in Belle Haven
Poor air quality	73.3	72.8	73.5
Traffic congestion	65.5	72.8	63.4
Dust and noise from construction	52.9	45.7	54.9
Extreme heat in my home	46.9	33.7	50.6 ***
Extreme heat affecting neighborhood travel	30.7	19.6	33.8 **
Lack of working air conditioning	30	26.1	31.1
Poor tap water quality	26.9	12	31.1 ***
Presence of mold in my home	25.2	13	28.7 ***
Poor soil quality	23.3	12	26.5 ***
Floods affecting neighborhood travel	18.8	5.4	22.6 ***
Rain or weather-related flood damage to my home	15	8.7	16.8 *
Home insurance claim related to environmental issues	10	1.1	12.5 ***

The following table disaggregates the key results by race and ethnicity. The racial categories Native American and Other were excluded due to insufficient sample size. The asterisks denote a statistically significant difference between the given group and the White population.

*Table 10. % of survey participant households that experienced environmental impacts, by race and ethnicity. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of White and other groups. *P < 0.10, **P < 0.05, ***P < 0.01.*

Environmental Impact	White	Latino/Latinx	Black	Asian	Pacific
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					Islander
Traffic congestion	74.4	49.1 ***	68.8	79.9	94.3 **
Poor air quality	69.1	71.3	66.2	78.7	97.1 ***
Dust and noise from construction	51.3	41.7	62.7	38.4	82.9 ***
Extreme heat in my home	38	54.8 **	45	38.4	28.6
Lack of working air conditioning	24.2	41 **	25.4	22	17.1
Extreme heat affecting neighborhood travel	18.1	27.7	28	16.5	74.3 ***
Poor soil quality	14.7	21.8	28.4 *	20.1	20
Presence of mold in my home	14.7	35.3 ***	30.5 **	12.8	5.7
Poor tap water quality	14.1	31.4 ***	33.3 ***	14.6	25.7
Rain or weather-related flood damage to my home	7.8	17.7 *	16.6	5.5	20
Floods affecting neighborhood travel	7.4	16.1 *	7	7.3	82.9 ***
Home insurance claim related to environmental issues	3.4	12.3 **	12.6 *	3.7	2.9

The findings for Pacific Islander households include notably high proportions across many result areas. These may be inflated due to a considerably lower sample size (35) than we had for Latinx households (174), White households (87), and Black households (72). However, our Asian sample was also considerably lower (27), but without statistically significant differences compared to White households. Therefore, we interpret the Pacific Islander findings to reflect a true difference compared to White households, though perhaps not to the degree observed.

Other responses included:

- Noise from cars, trains, and planes (7)
- Litter or smell (4)
- Tree cover loss (3)
- Parking or traffic congestion (3)
- Noise from neighbor air conditioning, lawn work (3)
- Fire risk (2)
- Animal pests (2)
- Road safety
- High energy costs
- Sea level rise
- Lack of food access outside of business hours
- Lack of public water fountains
- Roof damage

Health Issues

Respondents were asked: “Have any of the following health issues affected your household in the last 10 years? Check all that apply.” 44 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 376, we observe the following distribution.

*Table 11. Distribution of survey participant households by health issues experienced. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households. *P < 0.10, **P < 0.05, ***P < 0.01.*

Health Issue	All Households	Households not in Belle Haven	Households in Belle Haven
Stress and anxiety	49.8	58.7	47.3 *
High blood pressure or cholesterol	49	31.5	54 ***
COVID-19	43.3	20.7	49.7 ***
Asthma	37.6	13	44.5 ***
Diabetes	28.8	5.4	35.4 ***
Obesity	26.2	16.3	29 **
Mental health problems	23.8	27.2	22.9
Migraines	22.1	20.7	22.6
Disability	18.3	7.6	21.3 ***
Cancer	17.9	12	19.5
Heat stroke	14	7.6	15.9 *
Reproductive/birth challenges	3.6	4.3	3.4

*Table 12. % of survey participant households that experienced health issues, by race and ethnicity. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of White and other groups. *P < 0.10, **P < 0.05, ***P < 0.01.*

Health Issue	White	Latino/Latinx	Black	Asian	Pacific Islander
Stress and anxiety	56.1	37.1 ***	49.2	67.1	71.4
High blood pressure or cholesterol	33	50.9 ***	50.3 **	36.6	74.3 ***
Mental health problems	26.7	26.8	22.8	14.6	2.9 ***
Migraines	23.5	24	19.3	26.8	5.7 **
COVID-19	19.8	47.9 ***	39.6 **	32.9	91.4 ***
Asthma	18.5	41.3 ***	47.1 ***	15.9	71.4 ***
Cancer	15.8	19.2	15.4	3.7	17.1
Obesity	14.5	29.6 **	22.8	14	51.4 ***
Disability	9.5	16.5	36.8 ***	3.7	8.6

Diabetes	5.2	32.5 ***	35 ***	12.8	65.7 ***
Heat stroke	3.8	20.1 ***	10.5	12.8	14.3 *
Reproductive/birth challenges	3.8	4.6	0.7	7.3	NA

Other responses included:

- Allergies (10)
- Lung/sinus infection (2)
- Aging, dementia
- Food poisoning
- Learning disability

Financial Stress

Respondents were asked: “Which of the following applies to your household? Check all that apply.” 36 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 384, we observe the following distribution.

*Table 13. Distribution of survey participant households by financial stresses experienced. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households. * $P < 0.10$, ** $P < 0.05$, *** $P < 0.01$.*

Financial Stress	All Households	Households not in Belle Haven	Households in Belle Haven
We do not have earthquake insurance.	43.1	55.4	39.6 ***
My household can easily cover other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare.	41.2	72.8	32.3 ***
We do not have or need flood insurance.	38.3	65.2	30.8 ***
We have delayed repairs we want to do to our home (like roof windows mold) because of cost.	38.3	21.7	43 ***
My household can easily cover the cost of housing.	38.1	70.7	29 ***
My household has spent more than \$100 in the past year on repairing damages caused by the environment or reducing potential impacts.	31.2	31.5	31.1
In order to pay a \$400 emergency expense my household would have to pay with a credit card or borrow the money.	25	2.2	31.4 ***
If my household faced a \$400 emergency expense we would not be able to immediately pay for it in cash.	24.8	6.5	29.9 ***

Table 14. % of survey participant households that experienced financial stresses, by race and ethnicity. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of White and other groups. * $P < 0.10$, ** $P < 0.05$, *** $P < 0.01$.

Financial Stress	White	Latino/Latinx	Black	Asian	Pacific Islander
My household can easily cover the cost of housing.	70.2	16.7 ***	19.8 ***	50.6 *	91.4 **
My household can easily cover other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare.	67.9	23.1 ***	22.6 ***	50.6	94.3 ***
We do not have or need flood insurance.	66	31.5 ***	31.9 ***	47.6	8.6 ***
We do not have earthquake insurance.	55.7	42.5 *	42	51.2	8.6 ***
My household has spent more than \$100 in the past year on repairing damages caused by the environment or reducing potential impacts.	29.6	30	35.4	31.1	40
We have delayed repairs we want to do to our home (like roof windows mold) because of cost.	24.5	44.2 ***	61.1 ***	36.6	2.9 **
In order to pay a \$400 emergency expense my household would have to pay with a credit card or borrow the money.	9.6	33.1 ***	39.9 ***	12.8	2.9
If my household faced a \$400 emergency expense we would not be able to immediately pay for it in cash.	9.4	30.1 ***	43.4 ***	4.9	5.7

Other responses included:

- Unemployment (2)
- High property taxes (2)

Household Improvement

Respondents were asked: “Which of the following would you prioritize if you had extra money to spend on your household’s environmental health and safety? Select only one bubble for each column.” 25 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 395, we observe the following distribution of top #1 and #2 choices. Note that Belle Haven respondents were more likely to fill out the survey with more than one #1 choice, which is likely to have led to an overestimate of the degree of statistical significance in comparisons across groups.

Table 15. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred household improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households. * $P < 0.10$, ** $P < 0.05$, *** $P < 0.01$.

Household Improvement	All Households	Households not in Belle Haven	Households in Belle Haven
Products to reduce extreme heat (air conditioning)	41.2	27.2	45.1 ***
Products to improve indoor air quality (air purifiers)	39.3	18.5	45.1 ***
Home repairs (roof, windows, mold)	38.3	27.2	41.5 **
Earthquake-related upgrades or emergency kit	34.8	13	40.9 ***
Healthy food (including gardening)	31.7	13	36.9 ***
Solar panels or battery storage	29.5	37	27.4
Rainwater capture or water recycling	27.9	23.9	29
Home insurance	23.1	4.3	28.4 ***
Replace gas appliances	19.3	19.6	19.2
Other	3.6	3.3	3.7

Table 16. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred household improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of White and other groups. * $P < 0.10$, ** $P < 0.05$, *** $P < 0.01$.

Household Improvement	White	Latino/Latinx	Black	Asian	Pacific Islander
Solar panels or battery storage	36.2	34.6	21 *	31.1	14.3 **
Products to reduce extreme heat (air conditioning)	28.9	54.1 ***	43.6 *	28.7	11.4 *
Rainwater capture or water recycling	28.3	30.7	25.6	20.1	14.3
Home repairs (roof, windows, mold)	25.1	44.8 ***	49.9 ***	34.8	34.3
Earthquake-related upgrades or emergency kit	23.8	42.4 ***	27	25.6	57.1 ***
Products to improve indoor air quality (air purifiers)	20.8	51.1 ***	40.3 **	37.8	17.1
Replace gas appliances	18.7	19.9	16.1	16.5	22.9
Healthy food (including gardening)	15.3	38 ***	32.6 **	20.1	45.7 ***
Home insurance	9.6	35.1 ***	26.3 ***	3.7	5.7
Other	2.3	5.6	4.9	NA	NA

We also investigated whether there was any difference in household improvement priorities across households with (195) or without (225) elderly members. There do not appear to be

statistically significant differences, with the exception of preferences for rainwater capture or water recycling.

*Table 17. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred household improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of households with or without elderly members. * $P < 0.10$, ** $P < 0.05$, *** $P < 0.01$.*

Household Improvement	All Households	Households without Elderly	Households with Elderly
Products to reduce extreme heat (air conditioning)	41.2	38.7	44.1
Products to improve indoor air quality (air purifiers)	39.3	37.3	41.5
Home repairs (roof, windows, mold)	38.3	41.3	34.9
Earthquake-related upgrades or emergency kit	34.8	35.1	34.4
Healthy food (including gardening)	31.7	31.1	32.3
Solar panels or battery storage	29.5	30.7	28.2
Rainwater capture or water recycling	27.9	23.1	33.3 **
Home insurance	23.1	24	22.1
Replace gas appliances	19.3	17.8	21
Other	3.6	2.7	4.6

We also investigated whether there was any difference in household improvement priorities across households with (220) or without (200) financial burden, based on affirming either of the statements from the survey question on financial stress: “My household can easily cover the cost of housing”; “My household can easily cover other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare”. Households that perceive themselves as financially burdened are less likely to prioritize electrification and more likely to prioritize home insurance and air conditioning.

*Table 18. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred household improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of households financially burdened or not. * $P < 0.10$, ** $P < 0.05$, *** $P < 0.01$.*

Household Improvement	All Households	Households not Financially Burdened	Households Financially Burdened
Products to reduce extreme heat (air conditioning)	41.2	36.5	45.5 *
Products to improve indoor air quality (air purifiers)	39.3	35	43.2
Home repairs (roof, windows, mold)	38.3	34	42.3
Earthquake-related upgrades or emergency kit	34.8	36	33.6

Healthy food (including gardening)	31.7	33	30.5
Solar panels or battery storage	29.5	31	28.2
Rainwater capture or water recycling	27.9	27.5	28.2
Home insurance	23.1	18.5	27.3 **
Replace gas appliances	19.3	26.5	12.7 ***
Other	3.6	3	4.1

Other responses included:

- Products to reduce extreme cold (2)
- Drought-tolerant landscaping (2)
- Lead paint abatement
- Electric vehicles
- Gas for gas vehicles
- Construction of accessory dwelling unit
- Private schooling
- Renter's insurance
- Outdoor shading

Neighborhood Improvement

Respondents were asked: "Which of the following would you prioritize for neighborhood improvements? Select only one bubble for each column." 9 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 411, we observe the following distribution of top #1 and #2 choices. Note that Belle Haven respondents were more likely to fill out the survey with more than one #1 choice, which is likely to have led to an overestimate of the degree of statistical significance in comparisons across groups.

*Table 19. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred neighborhood improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households. * $P < 0.10$, ** $P < 0.05$, *** $P < 0.01$.*

Neighborhood Improvement	All Households	Households not in Belle Haven	Households in Belle Haven
Pedestrian safety (sidewalks, crosswalks, speed bumps)	45	28.3	49.7 ***
Improved roads (potholes)	42.1	18.5	48.8 ***
Safer biking routes	38.1	30.4	40.2
More street trees	35.2	15.2	40.9 ***
Improved parks or community gardening	33.8	14.1	39.3 ***
Improved water supply (safe drinking, firefighting)	32.1	13	37.5 ***
Security cameras for safety and dumping	31.9	13	37.2 ***

Cool and clean air shelters (community center)	29.5	4.3	36.6 ***
Improved transit infrastructure (bus stops, signs, benches)	29.3	16.3	32.9 ***
Air quality monitoring sensors in public spaces	25.7	13	29.3 ***
Improved storm drainage	23.3	6.5	28 ***
Improved code enforcement (illegal parking)	21.2	5.4	25.6 ***
Flood barriers along rivers or bayfront	20.7	5.4	25 ***
Other	6	6.5	5.8

Table 20. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred neighborhood improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of White and other groups. * $P < 0.10$, ** $P < 0.05$, *** $P < 0.01$.

Neighborhood Improvement	White	Latino/Latinx	Black	Asian	Pacific Islander
Safer biking routes	35.3	49.6 **	35.2	27.4	5.7 ***
Pedestrian safety (sidewalks, crosswalks, speed bumps)	30.4	57.2 ***	41.5	36.6	22.9
More street trees	25.3	48.5 ***	30.8	7.3 *	25.7
Improved roads (potholes)	24.3	44.8 ***	44.8 **	12.8	71.4 ***
Improved transit infrastructure (bus stops, signs, benches)	22.1	35.4 **	30.8	23.8	14.3
Improved parks or community gardening	20.9	48.9 ***	28	16.5	8.6
Improved water supply (safe drinking, firefighting)	16.2	40.2 ***	32.6 **	16.5	37.1 **
Security cameras for safety and dumping	15.8	37.8 ***	36.4 ***	36.6 **	20
Air quality monitoring sensors in public spaces	14.5	32.7 ***	28.7 **	21.3	11.4
Improved storm drainage	11.9	32.8 ***	19.6	1.8	17.1
Flood barriers along rivers or bayfront	11.3	27.8 ***	21.7	3.7	14.3
Improved code enforcement (illegal parking)	10.2	27 ***	28.7 ***	7.3	5.7
Cool and clean air shelters (community center)	7.7	45 ***	32.9 ***	6.7	8.6
Other	5.1	7.3	6.3	3.7	NA

Other responses included:

- Reduce crime (3)
- Reduce noise pollution from trains (3)
- Electrification of trains
- Landscape freeway interchange at Willow Rd
- Transit service on Dumbarton Rail corridor

- Supermarket access near Dumbarton Rail corridor
- Undergrounding of power lines
- Dog park
- Tennis courts
- Reduce parking fees
- Cutting down of very large trees
- School crossing guards