

Environmental Quality Commission



REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Date: 2/21/2024
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: [Zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) – ID# 879 3070 9093 and
City Hall Downtown Conference Room, 1st Floor
701 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

Members of the public can listen to the meeting and participate using the following methods.

- How to participate in the meeting
 - Access the meeting, in-person, at the Downtown Conference Room
 - Access the meeting real-time online at:
[Zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) –Meeting ID 879 3070 9093
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(669) 900-6833
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Press *9 to raise hand to speak

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Regular Session

A. Call To Order

B. Roll Call – Chair Hedley, Kissel, Lin, McKenna, Pelegri-Llopart, Vice Chair Schmidt

C. Public Comment

Under “Public Comment,” the public may address the Commission on any subject not listed on the agenda. Each speaker may address the Commission once under public comment for a limit of three minutes. You are not required to provide your name or City of residence, but it is helpful. The Commission cannot act on items not listed on the agenda and, therefore, the Commission cannot respond to non-agenda issues brought up under public comment other than to provide general information.

D. Regular Business

D1. Approve the January 31, 2024 Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes ([Attachment](#))

D2. Receive an update on the Urban Forest Plan progress ([Presentation](#))

- D3. Review and discuss recommendations from the EV Ad Hoc Subcommittee on the 2025 – 2030 scope of work for CAP strategy No. 2 and No. 3 ([Attachment](#))

E. Reports and Announcements

- E1. Reports and announcements from staff and Commissioners

F. Adjournment

At every Regular Meeting of the Commission, in addition to the Public Comment period where the public shall have the right to address the Commission on any matters of public interest not listed on the agenda, members of the public have the right to directly address the Commission on any item listed on the agenda at a time designated by the Chair, either before or during the Commission's consideration of the item.

At every Special Meeting of the Commission, members of the public have the right to directly address the Commission on any item listed on the agenda at a time designated by the Chair, either before or during consideration of the item.

For appeal hearings, appellant and applicant shall each have 10 minutes for presentations.

If you challenge any of the items listed on this agenda in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park at, or before, the public hearing.

Any writing that is distributed to a majority of the Commission by any person in connection with an agenda item is a public record (subject to any exemption under the Public Records Act) and is available by request by emailing the city clerk at jaherren@menlopark.gov. Persons with disabilities, who require auxiliary aids or services in attending or participating in Commission meetings, may call the City Clerk's Office at 650-330-6620.

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SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT

Date: 1/31/2024
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Teleconference and
City Hall Downtown Conference Room, 1st Floor
701 Laurel St., Menlo Park. CA 94025

A. Call To Order

Chair Hedley called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Hedley, Kissel, Lin, McKenna, Pelegri-Llopart, Schmidt
Absent: None
Staff: Management Analyst II Ori Paz, Management Analyst II Liz Tapia

C. Regular Business

C1. Approve the October 18, 2023 Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes (Attachment)

ACTION: Motion and second (Kissel/ Pelegri-Llopart), to approve the October 18, 2023 Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes, passed unanimously.

C2. Tesla Patrol Pilot update (Presentation)

Chair Hedley introduced the item.

Management Analyst II Ori Paz and Police Chief David Norris made the presentation.

The Commission received clarification on police patrol operations, alternative electric vehicle (EV) options, data collection and sharing methods, and EV charging infrastructure.

- Brian Schmidt spoke in support of police fleet electrification.

The Commission recommended staff explore options for restructuring and sharing presented data, research additional EV options and charging infrastructure, and explore EV maintenance trends.

The Commission took a recess at 7:33 p.m.

The Commission reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

C3. Review and discuss recommendations from the EV Ad Hoc Subcommittee on the 2025 – 2030 scope of work for CAP strategy No. 2 and No. 3 (Presentation)

Chair Hedley introduced the item.

Vice Chair Schmidt and Commissioner Kissel made the presentation.

The Commission received clarification on the focus of the subcommittee's recommendations, costs, and incentive outreach strategies.

The Commission discussed focusing on low-power EV infrastructure, purchasing partners, outreach strategies, and technology.

ACTION: Motion and second (Hedley/ McKenna) to recommend the EV Ad Hoc subcommittee take the feedback and merge with the recommendations from the August 2023 Environment Quality Commission meeting and return to the February 2024 Environment Quality Commission meeting with an updated recommendation on the 2025 – 2030 scope of work for CAP strategy Nos. 2 and 3, passed unanimously.

C4. Consider appointing additional commissioners to the building decarbonization ad hoc subcommittee

Chair Hedley introduced the item.

The Commission received clarification on filling vacancies on the Environmental Quality Commission and ad hoc subcommittees.

ACTION: Motion and second (Kissel/ Hedley) to appoint Commissioner Pelegri-Llopart to the building decarbonization ad hoc subcommittee, passed unanimously.

D. Reports and Announcements

D1. Reports and announcements from staff and Commissioners

Management Analyst II Liz Tapia provided updates on work with zero emission landscaping equipment incentive program, building permit streamlining, and CAP strategy No. 6.

Ori Paz provided an update on the Sustainability Manager recruitment, building permit streamlining and outreach, the Peninsula Clean Energy partnership program for the awarded \$4.5 million in state funds, CAP strategy No. 5 work on EV infrastructure, and Peninsula Clean Energy solar installations for public buildings program.

Commissioner McKenna shared information on the upcoming Love our Earth festival on April 13.

Vice Chair Jeff Schmidt reported out on the Urban Forest Plan, Stanford's Haas Center for Public Service distinguished visitor program event with Mayor Taylor and Violet Saena, and Menlo Park City School District work on creating a Climate Action Plan.

E. Adjournment

Chair Hedley adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Liz Tapia, Management Analyst II

Menlo Park Urban Forest Plan


Overview and Community Coalition Update

Agenda

- What is an Urban Forest Plan?
- Rationale for the Project
- Formation of the Community Coalition
- Structured Approach to Project Management
- UFP Focus is Consistently Planting and Maintaining Trees
- Elements of the Menlo Park UFP
- Next Steps

What is an Urban Forest Plan?

- 40-year plan with short- and long-term strategies to achieve canopy coverage goals
- Delivers a measurable, multi-year strategy and action plan
- Provides decades-long guidance for trees and the city's urban canopy
- Outlasts multiple city councils and staffs who bring various priorities
- Ensures consistent focus on equitable distribution of plantings, resources, community outreach, and reducing canopy gaps over time
- Belle Haven focus as main area for plantings

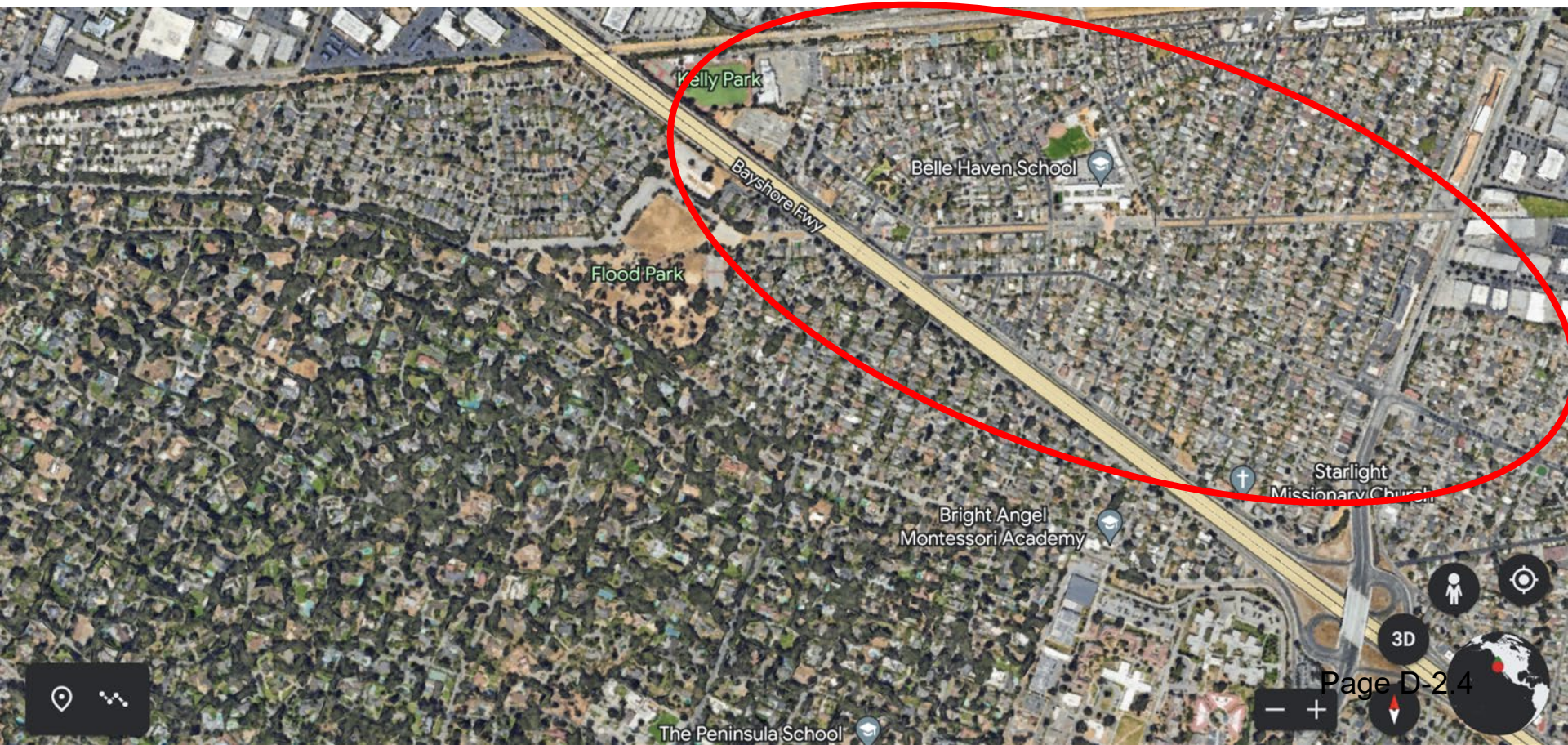


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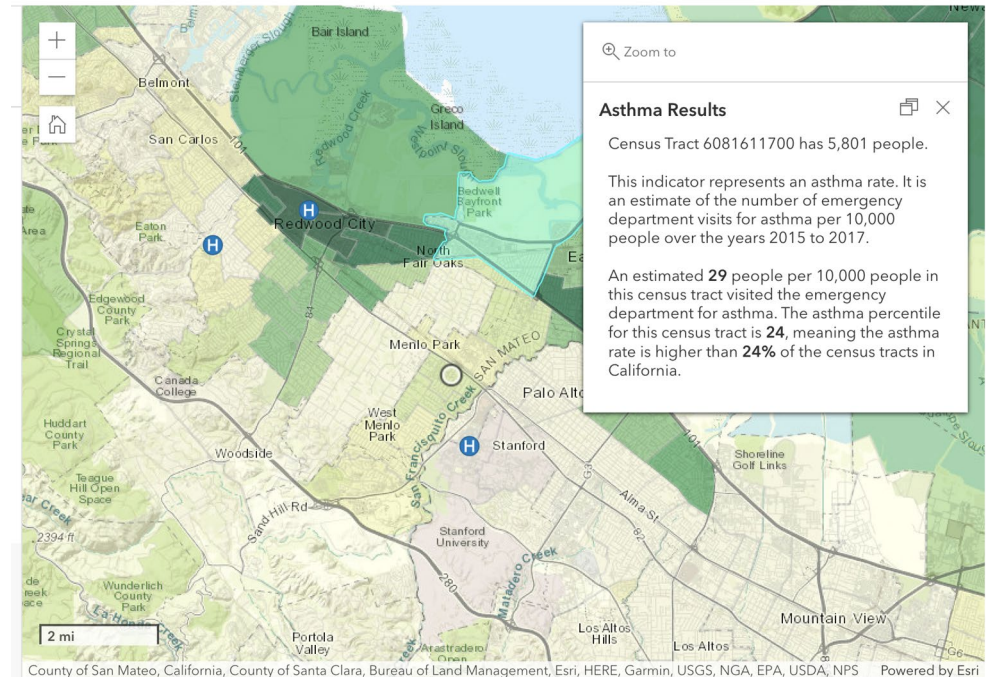
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UFP Rationale #1 - Google Earth - Belle Haven



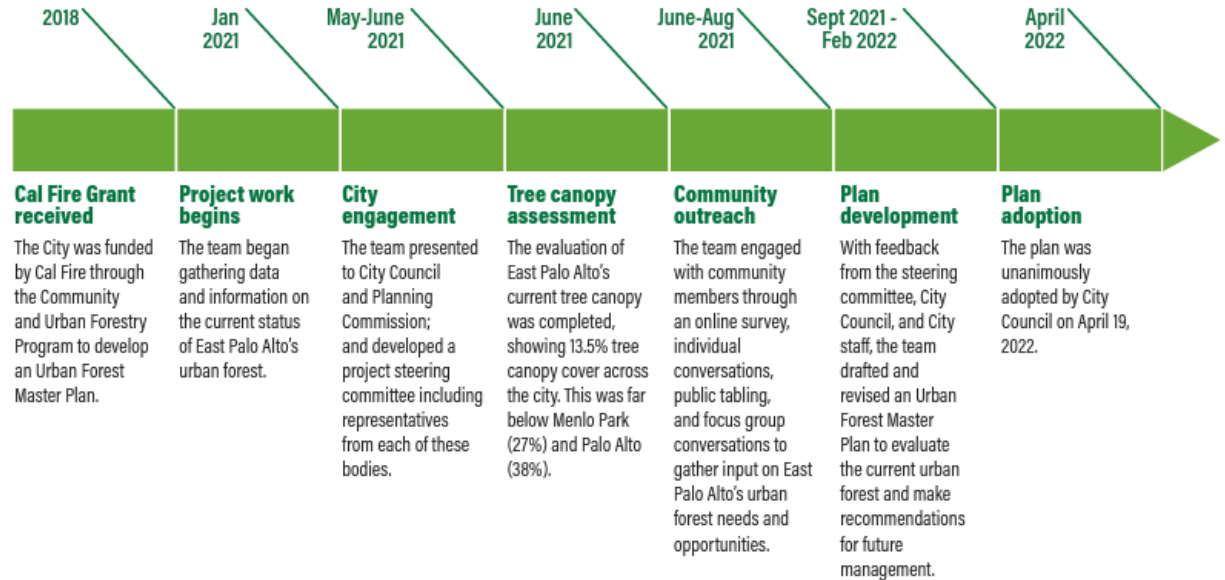
Health Impacts in Belle Haven

- Asthma rate: Number of emergency department visits for asthma per 10,000 people over the years 2015 to 2017
- An estimated **29** people per 10,000 people in this census tract visited the emergency department for asthma. The asthma percentile for this census tract is **24**, meaning the asthma rate is higher than **24%** of the census tracts in California
- This is a higher rate than any other census tract in Menlo Park

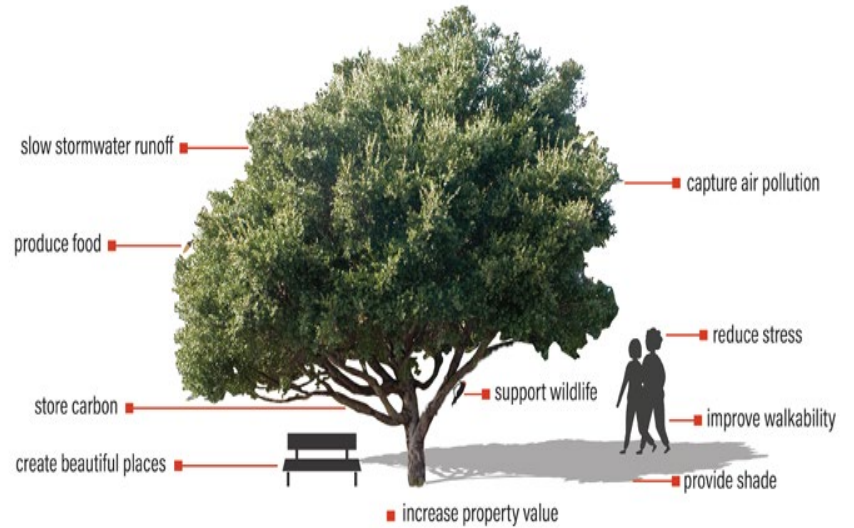
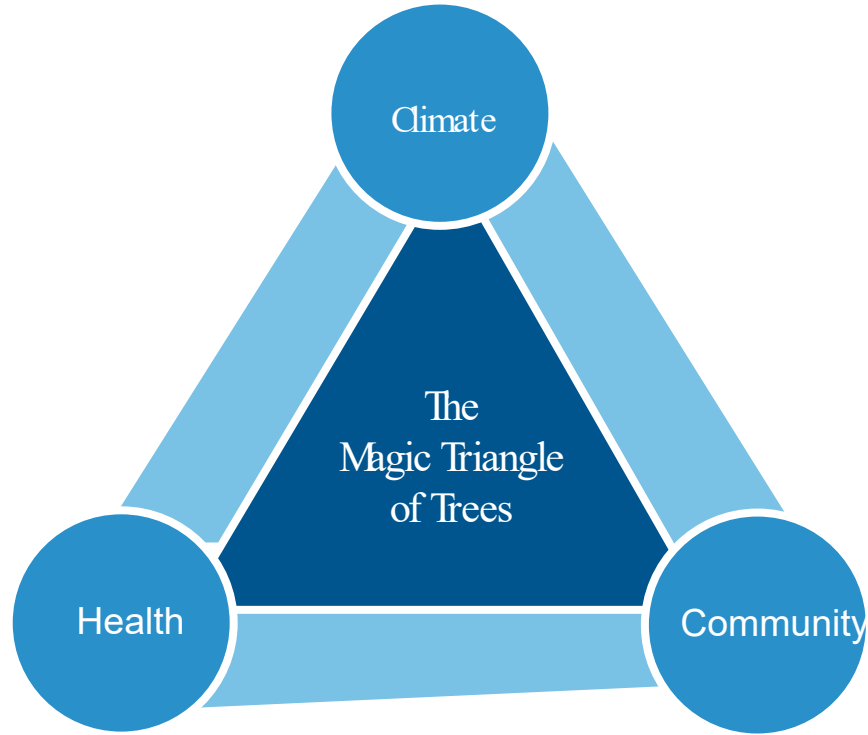


UFP Rationale #2 - The East Palo Alto Plan and “Roadmap”

- Adopted April 19, 2022
- Partnership between City, citizens, nonprofits, and consulting teams, including tree plantings with Canopy
- CAL FIRE grant to fund the work
- Clear set of goals, objectives, actions
- Updated their tree ordinances



UFP Rationale #3 - The “Magic Triangle” of Trees



Formation of the Community Coalition

- A group of stakeholders interested in advancing the tree canopy work in Belle Haven (and Menlo Park as a whole)
- Leadership, guidance, and participation from Canopy exec director(s) and staff
- “Starts and stops” from Sept 2022
- Focus on one collective project plan and program management structure across the community
- A mix of subject-matter experts, city staff, and community leaders who share the work, ideas, research, and resources



Structured Approach to Project Management

Kickoff call in late August with larger group, including Mayor Taylor and Fire Chief Lorenzen

Strong participation from the City

Monthly workstream leads check in call

Workstreams meet regularly

Working on allocating \$250,000 in City's FY23-24 CIP budget. If funds are not expended this FY, amount rolls over into FY24-25

Advice from CAL FIRE on Urban Forestry grant (RFP pending)

- **Calculations and Data** - Lead: Joanna Chen, with support from city team - Mitchell Supan and Jillian Keller, as well as Lauren Stoneburner (SFEI)
- **Engagement and Partners** - Lead: Jeff Schmidt, with support from Lauren Stoneburner (SFEI) and JP Renaud (Canopy)
- **Funding** - Lead: Beth May (Canopy), with support from Jeff Schmidt
- **Policy** - Lead: Nancy Larocca Hedley, with support from Liz Tapia, Joanna Chen, Mitch Supan, Scott Marshall, Horace Nash, Sally Cole, and Linh Dan Do
- **Project Scope and Mgmt** - Lead: JP Renaud and Maya Briones (Canopy)

UFP Focus - Consistently Planting and Maintaining Trees

- Always want more trees planted!
- Inconsistent - Plantings fluctuate based on city's priorities and budget
- No way to assess accountability for reducing the canopy gap
- Will need to fund ongoing planting, even with an Urban Forest Plan in place
- City arborist and team is very stretched already - tree mgmt, permitting, storms, etc.

City plants trees consistently

2018: 250 trees planted

2019: 185 trees

2020: 203 trees

2021: 232 trees

2022: 159 trees
(tree department busy with storms during planting season)

2023: 228 trees

2024 (to date): 77 trees



Elements of the Menlo Park UFP

- Update 19-year-old city-wide tree canopy assessment (all trees, **including private**). The City consistently updates its inventory of **public trees** as they're planted, cared for, or removed
- Multi-year collaboration plan with community leaders, residents, schools, nonprofits, and faith-based organizations serving the Belle Haven community, and larger engagement with the entire city
 - Greater awareness of trees, the urban canopy, how to care for trees on their property
 - Importance of the urban canopy with impacts on climate, health, and community
 - Students will have tree- and environment-based hands-on activities to get involved and will learn about a variety of sustainability and green/blue jobs as they enter high school
- Best practices for the city and stakeholders in growing and maintaining the canopy, including a recommended funding level, sources, and sustainability strategy
- Protocols for improving communications, consultation, and coordination with developers, the city council, the planning commission, city staff and the city arborist
- Plant 200 trees with the city's nonprofit partner Canopy with a focus on plantings in the Belle Haven community to directly address environmental justice and equity issues

Next Steps

- Submit CAL FIRE grant once the RFP is issued
- Find additional funding sources
- Utilize city funds currently allocated to Urban Forest Plan
- Participate in tree inventory process
- Identifying policies related to large-scale developments to better understand impacts
- Increase outreach and awareness building in Belle Haven community
- Engage additional partners in the work

Thank You

CAP 2 & 3 - Integrated Recommendations

- 1. Focus on increasing EV charging in apartments (especially larger complexes), small businesses, and city-owned buildings through partnerships, policy, and programs**
 - a. Create an inventory of installation opportunities in current buildings and future developments
 - b. Develop dashboard to show progress, including tracking EVs by income and charging availability
 - c. Partner with public agencies and private property owners to install EV charging
 - d. Focus on private residences after completing target group above and utilizing lessons learned
 - e. Explore incentive-based rules (e.g. direct install programs) and reach codes for existing buildings

- 1. Focus on EV charging, not EV purchases**
 - a. Leverage partners who are already promoting EVs widely to prompt resident EV purchases
 - b. Focus on L1 & L2 chargers, not DC Fast Chargers. Evaluate future tech as it evolves / can scale
 - c. Consider removing other fees from city-owned charging and source alternative funding to support operation, maintenance, and additional chargers

- 1. Focus on informing stakeholders of current incentives and benefits**
 - a. Create education and outreach campaign on EVs, affordability, and emphasize current incentives
 - b. Find potential partners for L1 & L2 charging
 - c. Aggregate funding for EV charging and utilize a wider variety of grants from federal, state, local, and utility, especially for low-income housing