



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Environmental Justice (2024)

City Council

Drew Combs, Vice Mayor
Maria Doerr, Councilmember
Ray Mueller, Councilmember (former)
Betsy Nash, Councilmember
Cecilia Taylor, Mayor
Jen Wolosin, Councilmember

Planning Commission

Andrew Barnes (former)	Camille Kennedy (former)
Katie Behroози	Henry Riggs (former)
Chris DeCardy (former)	Jennifer Schindler, Chair
Linh Dan Do	Misha Silin
Michael Doran (former)	Ross Silverstein
Andrew Ehrich, Vice Chair	Michele Tate (former)
Katie Ferrick	David Thomas (former)
Cynthia Harris (former)	

City Staff

Deanna Chow, Community Development Director
Tom Smith, Principal Planner
Calvin Chan, Senior Planner
Chris Turner, Senior Planner
Matthew Pruter, Associate Planner
Justin Murphy, City Manager
Nira Doherty, City Attorney
Mary Wagner, Assistant City Attorney
Ed Shaffer, Assistant City Attorney

Consultant Assistance

Metropolitan Planning Group (M-Group)
Environmental Science Associates (ESA)
Climate Resilient Communities (CRC)
ChangeLab Solutions

Prepared by:
M-Group





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ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT

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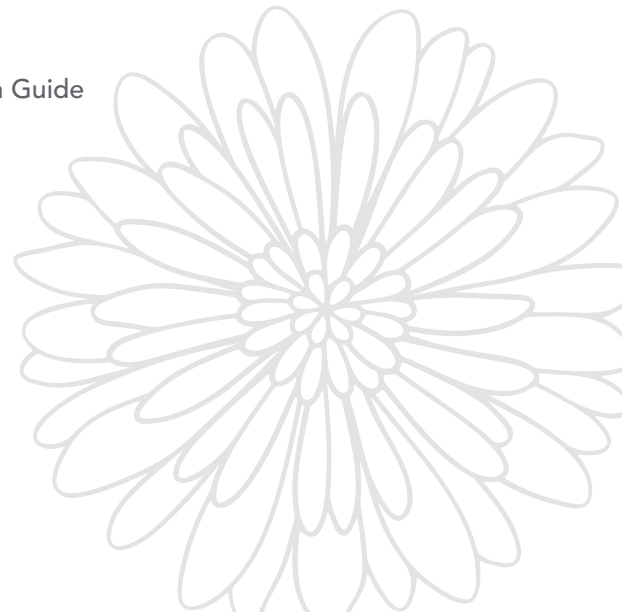




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INTRODUCTION

In 2016, the State of California passed Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000), which requires the adoption or review of an Environmental Justice (EJ) Element (or environmental justice goals, policies, and programs in other elements) in cities and counties that have a disadvantaged community upon the adoption or revision of two or more General Plan elements. The development of Menlo Park's Environmental Justice Element took place alongside updates to the Housing Element and Safety Element. This SB 1000 recognizes 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

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- 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/>.

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:

- **Existing Setting:** This section identifies neighborhoods in Menlo Park that have concentrations of poverty and pollution that led 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

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.

Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

"Help and give our youth the opportunity to stay in the community!"

— Belle Haven resident

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>.

Element Organization and Relationship to General Plan

SB 1000 (2016), which amended Government Code Section 65302, 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 adopted the 2023-2031 Housing Element in January 2023 and is developing the Environmental Justice Element while concurrently updating the Safety Element. Prior to beginning the analysis to determine whether or not there are underserved communities in Menlo Park, the City decided to pursue the preparation of an Environmental Justice Element 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.

Environmental Justice Element Action Guide

The Environmental Justice Element is accompanied by an Environmental Justice Element Action Guide. This separate, complementary document is guided by the goals, policies, and programs of the Environmental Justice Element and the Guiding

Principles of the Menlo Park General Plan, however, the Action Guide lies outside of the General Plan itself. The Action Guide is a tool to be used to manage and coordinate City efforts to accomplish the goals, policies, and programs outlined in the Environmental Justice Element. This dual document approach allows for more frequent updating of the Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach – particularly input from Menlo Park’s underserved communities – without requiring a General Plan Amendment.

The Action Guide includes action items that will be pursued by the City to improve environmental justice. The action items are similar to Environmental Justice Element programs, and are assigned a lead department/division and time frame similar to these programs. Each action item in the Action Guide is organized under an Environmental Justice Element program, with the intention to provide additional direction and community-based feedback to City staff on desirable methods to fulfill the programs laid out in the Environmental Justice Element.

Many of the action items in the Action Guide were developed from outreach in Menlo Park’s underserved communities, described in detail in the “Environmental Justice Outreach” section below. The Action Guide is included as Appendix EJ-F. The Action Guide will be maintained on the City’s website and is intended to improve accountability by being more adaptable and responsive to community needs and opportunities.

Per Program EJ7.K, the City will update the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide annually to indicate progress, especially in meeting community-identified priorities. Revisions to existing action items and/or community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities, and include a public process with City Council consideration. Outreach to further environmental justice will be ongoing.

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



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 improve 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.

Table EJ-1: Environmental Justice Policies in Other Elements

Element	Topic Area	Policy Number
Land Use	Safe, Sanitary, and Stable 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
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, S-1.11, S-1.40, and S-1.41
	Safe, Stable, and Sanitary Homes	S-1.17 and S-1.19
Housing (6 th Cycle: 2023-2031)*	Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Homes	H2.1, H2.4, H2.7, H3.8, H3.9,
	Promote Civic Engagement	H5.2, H5.3, H5.5
	Reduce Pollution Exposure	H6.4, H6.6

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

*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
- Assembly Bill 1628 (AB 1628) – 2019

SB 1000

SB 1000 was signed into law in 2016 and requires local governments to identify disadvantaged 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 defines the term “disadvantaged communities” as areas identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 39711 (described below) or 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.

This statutory requirement can be divided into seven topic areas. The Environmental Justice Element goals, policies, and programs are categorized by the following topic areas:

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.*

Throughout this element, “goals” will be used to remain consistent with the structure of other elements of the Menlo Park’s General Plan, but the term is meant to be analogous to “objectives” as used in Government Code Section 65302(h)(1).

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

⁶ Gov. Code § 65302(h)(4)(A)

GOALS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS

The Environmental Justice Element 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, Sanitary, and Stable 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.

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

⁸ Gov. Code § 65040.12(e)(1).

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."⁸ 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.

AB 1628

AB 1628 (2019) enhanced the previous definition of environmental justice to include meaningful involvement and national origins to the prior language of Gov. Code Section 65040.12(e). The law also elaborates on the prior language to describe additional forms of distributive and procedural justice, including, but not limited to:

- The availability of a healthy environment for all people.
- The deterrence, reduction, and elimination of pollution burdens for populations and communities experiencing the adverse effects of that pollution, so that the effects of the pollution are not disproportionately borne by those populations and communities.
- Governmental entities engaging and providing technical assistance to

populations and communities most impacted by pollution to promote their meaningful participation in all phases of the environmental and land use decisionmaking process.

- At a minimum, the meaningful consideration of recommendations from populations and communities most impacted by pollution into environmental and land use decisions.

Health and Safety Code Section 39711

Section 39711 of the California Health and Safety 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 definition in Health and Safety Code Section 39711 (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.*

Relationship to the Capital Improvement Plan

The City of Menlo Park adopted the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2023-2028 to outline the City's short and long term vision for development, maintenance, improvement, and building of new infrastructure assets to benefit residents, businesses, property owners, and visitors. Although the CIP is updated annually, it allows the reader to review projects planned over the five-

year timeframe and provides an overview of works in progress. The Environmental Justice Element is required under Government Code 65302 (h)(1) to "identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities." The goals, policies, and programs developed for the Environmental Justice Element are closely tied to the projects and vision of the Five-Year CIP due to its impact for reducing pollution exposure, improving access to public facilities, promoting physical activity, and encouraging civic engagement.

The Five-Year CIP includes projects that reduce exposure to negative environmental conditions and improve environmental justice, such as:

- **Urban Forest:** Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park: The development and implementation of an urban forest management plan would focus on community outreach and preserving and expanding tree cover within the city to reduce pollution exposure and promote physical activity. Urban tree canopies additionally mitigate impacts of climate change including rising temperatures and increased flooding. This plan would serve as a long-term roadmap for the City to proactively and effectively maintain long-term benefits from the community's tree canopy.
- **Willow Road Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements:** The development of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements along Willow Road through the Belle Haven neighborhood would promote physical activity and prioritize the needs of underserved communities.
- **Belle Haven Traffic Calming Plan:** The development and implementation of a plan to reduce vehicle speeds on roadways within the Belle Haven neighborhood would reduce pollution exposure, promote physical activity, and prioritize the needs of underserved communities.
- **Belle Haven Community Campus:** The establishment and growth of the new community center in the Belle Haven



neighborhood improves access to public facilities and supports the development of community programs promoting physical activity, civic engagement, and prioritizing the needs of underserved communities.

- **SAFER Bay:** The series of infrastructure improvements would protect critical infrastructure, provide community resilience to current tidal flooding and projected sea level rise, and improve recreational access, using both engineered structures and nature-based flood protection.
- **Chilco Streetscape and Sidewalk Installation:** The development of pedestrian and bicycle supporting infrastructure on Chilco Street through the Belle Haven and Bayfront neighborhoods would reduce pollution exposure, promote physical activity, and prioritize the needs of underserved communities.

The Environmental Justice Element informs the CIP by elevating the needs of underserved communities and prioritizing projects that mitigate unique and compounding health risks present within the community.

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)⁹



⁹ 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.

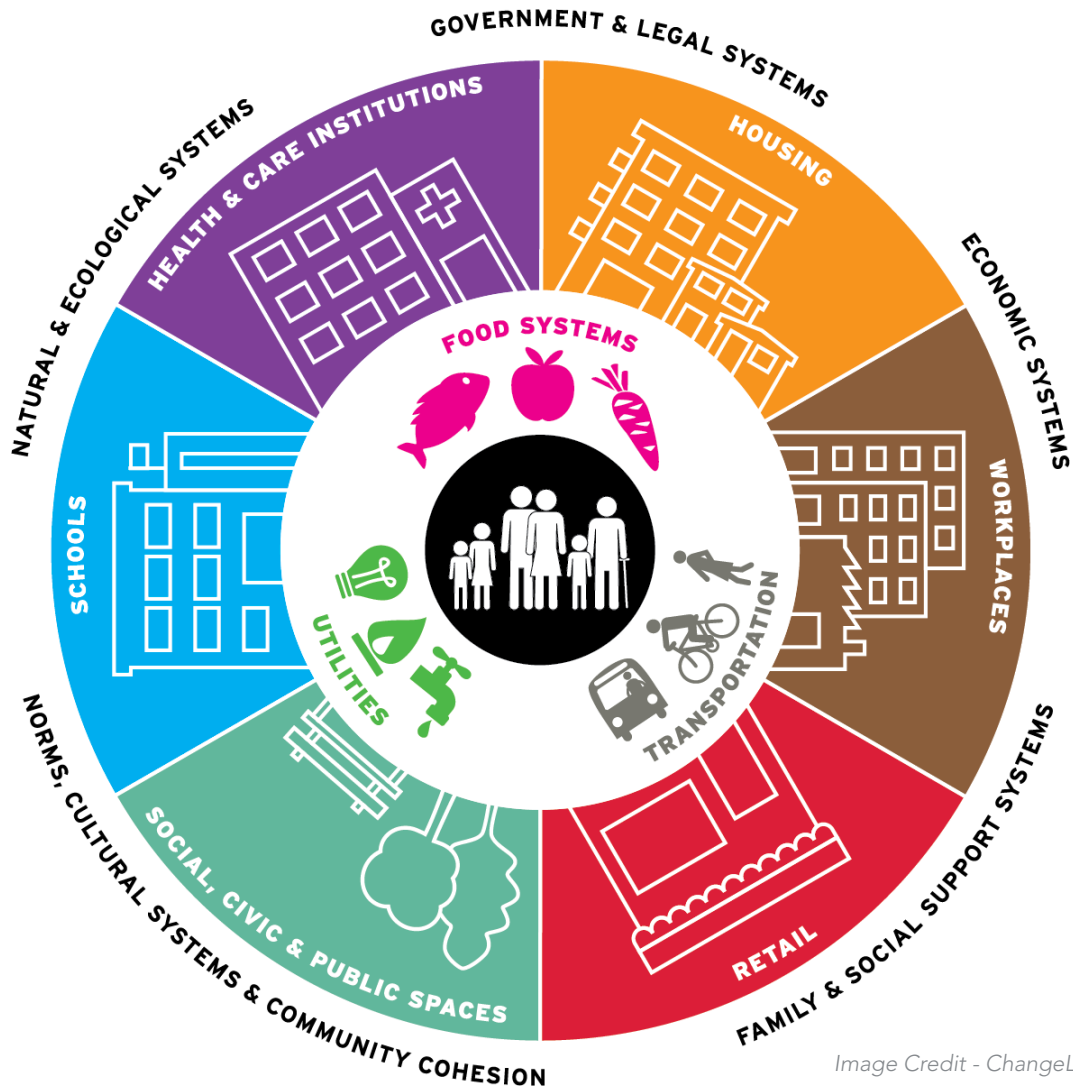
Figure EJ-1: Social Determinants of Health¹⁰

Image Credit - ChangeLab Solutions

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 safe housing, and availability of nutritious food. On the other hand, relatively less healthy neighborhoods have a combination of physical, social, and economic conditions that can create significant barriers to health such as unstable 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

¹⁰ 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>

country.¹¹ 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 racialized¹² 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.

Unique and Compounding Health Risks

Underserved communities are more likely to “experience greater underlying health inequities from the myriad of health, economic, social, and place-based factors that have been present for

many generations, such as inequities in wealth, neighborhood disinvestment, disparities in neighborhood conditions, and lack of access to opportunities and needed services and resources.”¹³ This combination of exposure to negative externalities and limited opportunities for mediation result in “unique and compounding health risks” that greatly impact the health and wellbeing of the members of the community.

Unique and compounding health risks are the result of the cumulative impacts of governmental neglect, systemic discrimination, and limited access to resources that lead to a situation where low income communities and communities of color face elevated rates of exposure to environmental hazards and have increased sensitivity to such hazards as a result of compounding inequities in the prevalence of chronic diseases, cumulative environmental exposures, and limited access to mitigative and protective resources to adequately cope with hazards experienced in the community.¹⁴

Cities and counties are required by State Government Code 65302(h) to “identify objectives and policies to reduce unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities” within their jurisdiction. Identification of unique and compounding health risks requires recognition of issues that are specific to their community and are collected through analysis of community needs, local climate vulnerability, cost of living, local industries, and other additional factors that impact the health and wellbeing of the community.

11 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>.

12 “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>.

13 Gregory Miao, Kate Hannon Michel, and Tina Yuen “A Health Justice Agenda for Local Governments to Address Environmental Health Inequities” (*Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*, March 2023), available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/journal-of-law-medicine-and-ethics/article/health-justice-agenda-for-local-governments-to-address-environmental-health-inequities/9DF64519B9A1806228B2914E79D4A480?utm_campaign=shareaholic&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=bookmark.

14 See, Anjum Hajat, Charlene Hsia, and Marie S. O’Neill: “Socioeconomic Disparities and Air Pollution Exposure: a Global Review” (*Current Environmental Health Report*, September 2015), available at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40572-015-0069-5>.



EXISTING SETTING

Menlo Park is one of the wealthiest cities in the San Francisco Bay Area.¹⁵ 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.

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,¹⁶ to face greater health risks,¹⁷ and to have more difficulties in making their voices heard.¹⁸ This contributes to a pattern where minority and low-income community members are more susceptible to displacement¹⁹ and at the greatest risk to move into other

¹⁵ See MTC's *Vital Signs* website describing income, available at <https://vitalsigns.mtc.ca.gov/indicators/income>

¹⁶ 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*.

¹⁷ 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>.

¹⁸ 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/>.

¹⁹ See, Urban Displacement Project "SF Bay Area – Gentrification and Displacement" (2021), available at <https://www.urbandisplacement.org/maps/sf-bay-area-gentrification-and-displacement/>

jurisdictions with fewer high-quality jobs and lower-performing schools.²⁰

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) and a small portion south of US-101 but north of the Dumbarton Corridor (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-101.²¹ Even today, Belle Haven and the Bayfront are within school districts separate from the districts that serve the majority of the city. Belle Haven and the Bayfront are also racialized communities: with 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.



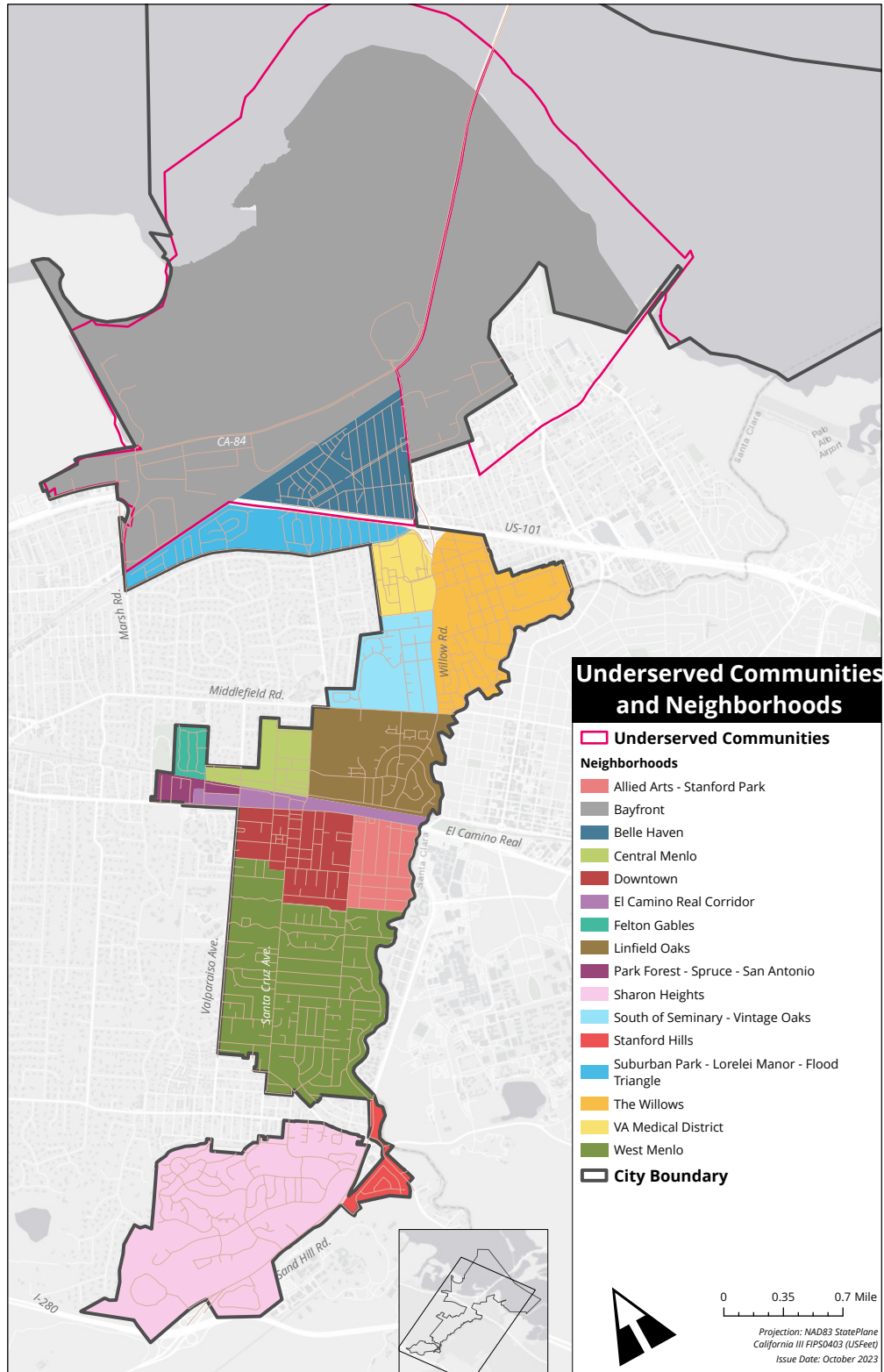
"The most effective form of outreach was through existing relationships."

— CRC Outreach Report: Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

²⁰ "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>

²¹ See <https://www.menlotgether.org/2019/11/27/the-color-of-law-menlo-park-edition-overcoming-systemic-segregation/>

Figure EJ-2: Map of Underserved Community Census Tracts²²



²² Census tracts do not align precisely with City limits as depicted in Figure EJ-2. More information is available in Appendix EJ-C: Neighborhood Profiles

State Criteria

Belle Haven and the Bayfront are identified as underserved communities because they are in census tracts²³ designated as low income (80% or less of area median income) by the Department of Housing and Community Development's list of state income limits (median incomes of less than \$146,350 for a four-person San Mateo County household in 2021 and \$186,600 in 2024);²⁴ they are historically underserved areas separated from the rest of the city by US-101 and included within school districts 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 (50% or less of area median income – less than \$91,350 for a four-person San Mateo County household in 2021 and \$97,900 in 2024), 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 observation in detail.

OPR has developed Environmental Justice Element guidelines²⁵ 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 precisely with Menlo Park's city boundaries and neighborhood boundaries (see Figure EJ-3).

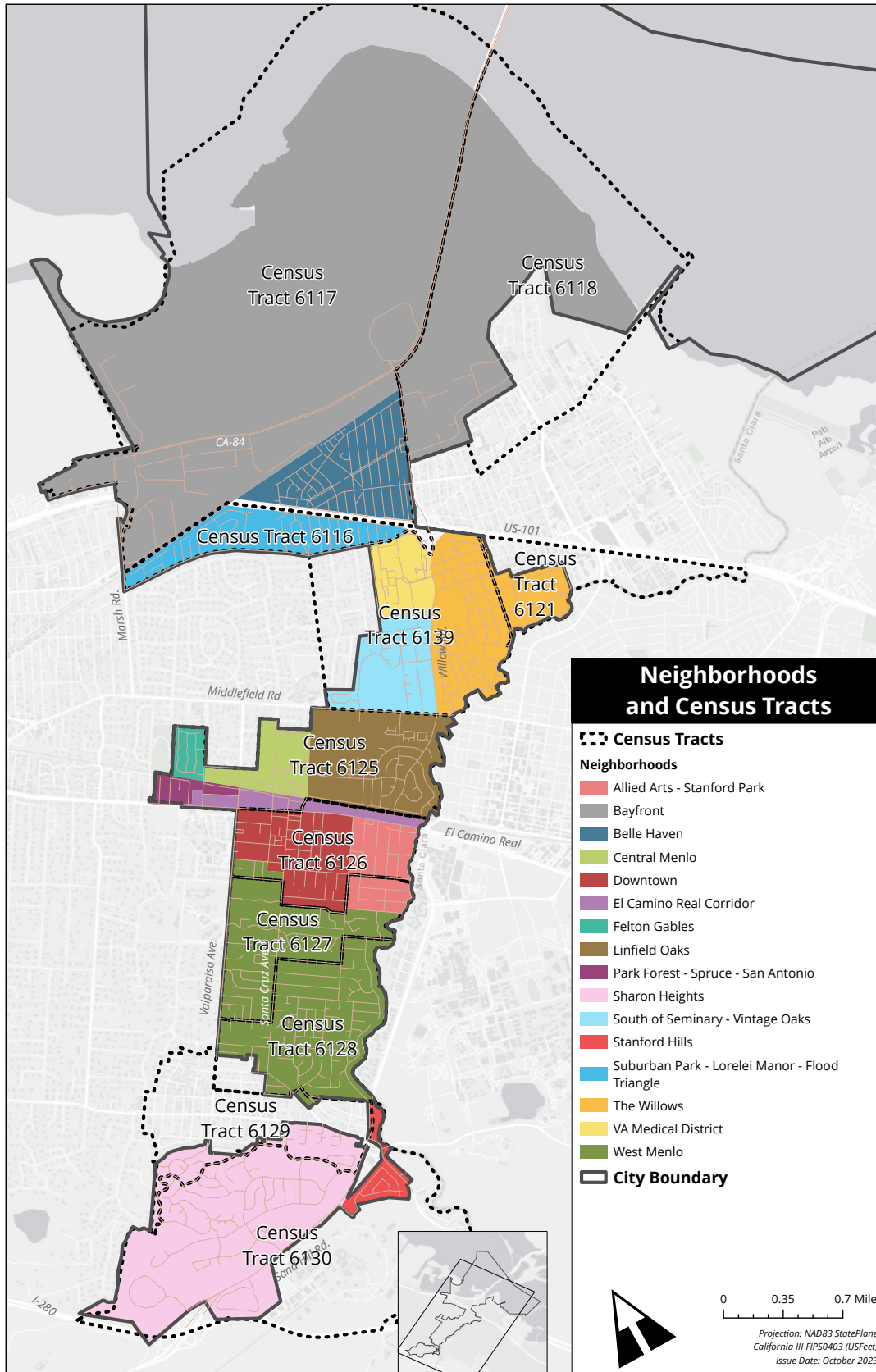
²³ Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county.

²⁴ Current and historic (dating back to 2016) state income limits can be found on HCD's website, see *State and Federal Income, Rent, and Loan/Value Limits*. The data in the adopted Environmental Justice Element dates to 2021, when the Neighborhood Profiles were developed (see Appendix EJ-A). Updated income limits are located at the HCD website.

²⁵ See 2020 Updated Environmental Justice Element General Plan Guidelines



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)
Citywide Household Median Income*		\$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; Linfield 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

The data in Table EJ-2 dates to the publication of the Environmental Justice Element's Neighborhood Profiles (see Appendix EJ-A).

*= 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.

**= There are no residential units within Menlo Park in Tract 6118. This Median Income figure includes only East Palo Alto.

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

"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."

— CRC Outreach Report: Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

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
Citywide Average	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.

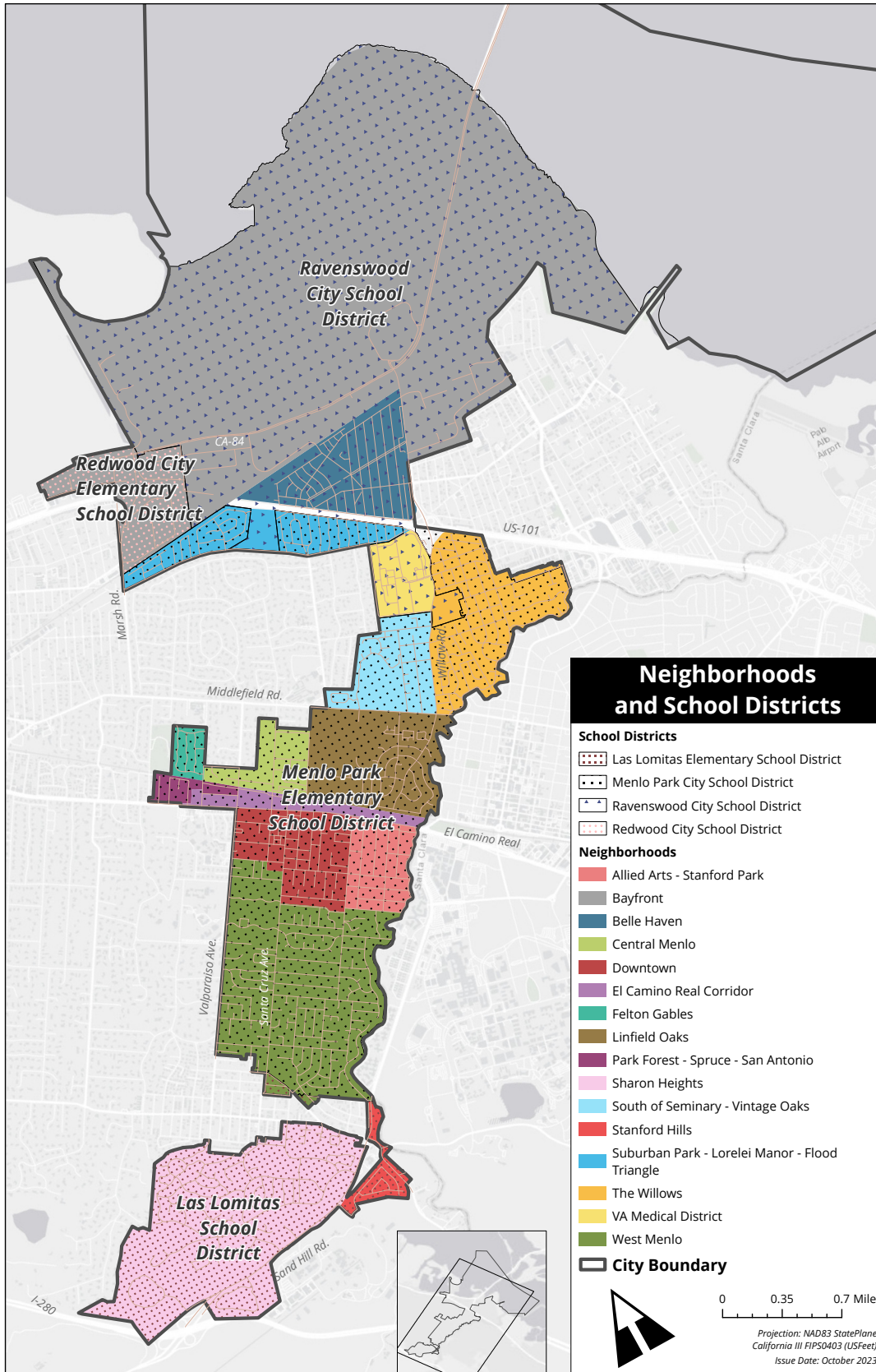
School Districts

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).

"Maintain a local community center. Kelly Park & Pool activities should be affordable, with more basketball, soccer and other activities."

— Belle Haven resident

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 Ravenswood High School, founded in 1958 and subject to a 1970 desegregation order. It was eventually shut down due to declining enrollment in 1975.²⁶ 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):

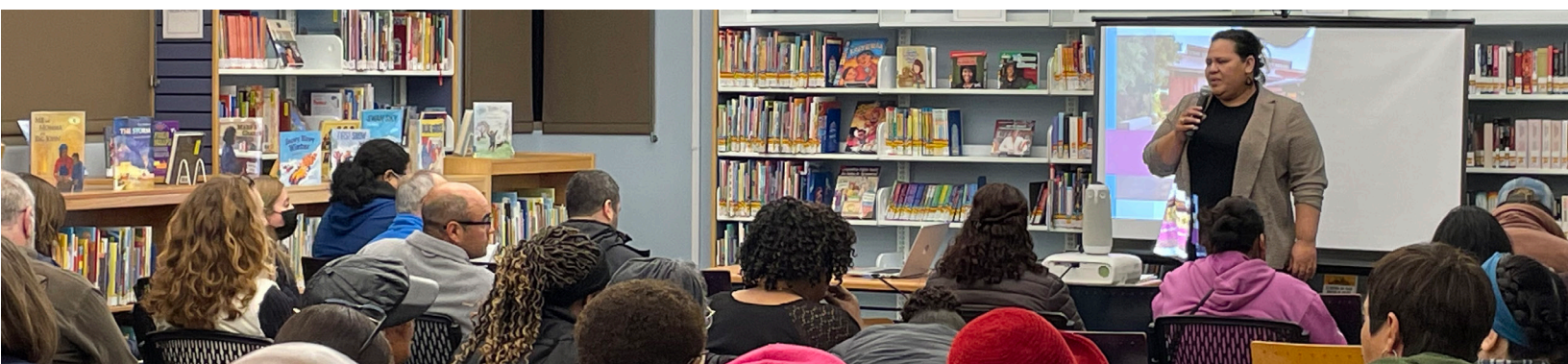
Table EJ-4: Test Scores in Menlo Park School Districts²⁷

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

Land Use

The City's Zoning Ordinance currently allows industrial uses in the Bayfront in the Life Sciences (LS), General Industrial (M-2), and Office (O) zoning districts (see Figure EJ-5, below). Historically, in and around this portion of the city, there have been a number of light industrial, manufacturing, and warehouse facilities. These land use types

are historically correlated to worse health outcomes in neighboring communities.²⁸ 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.²⁹



26 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.

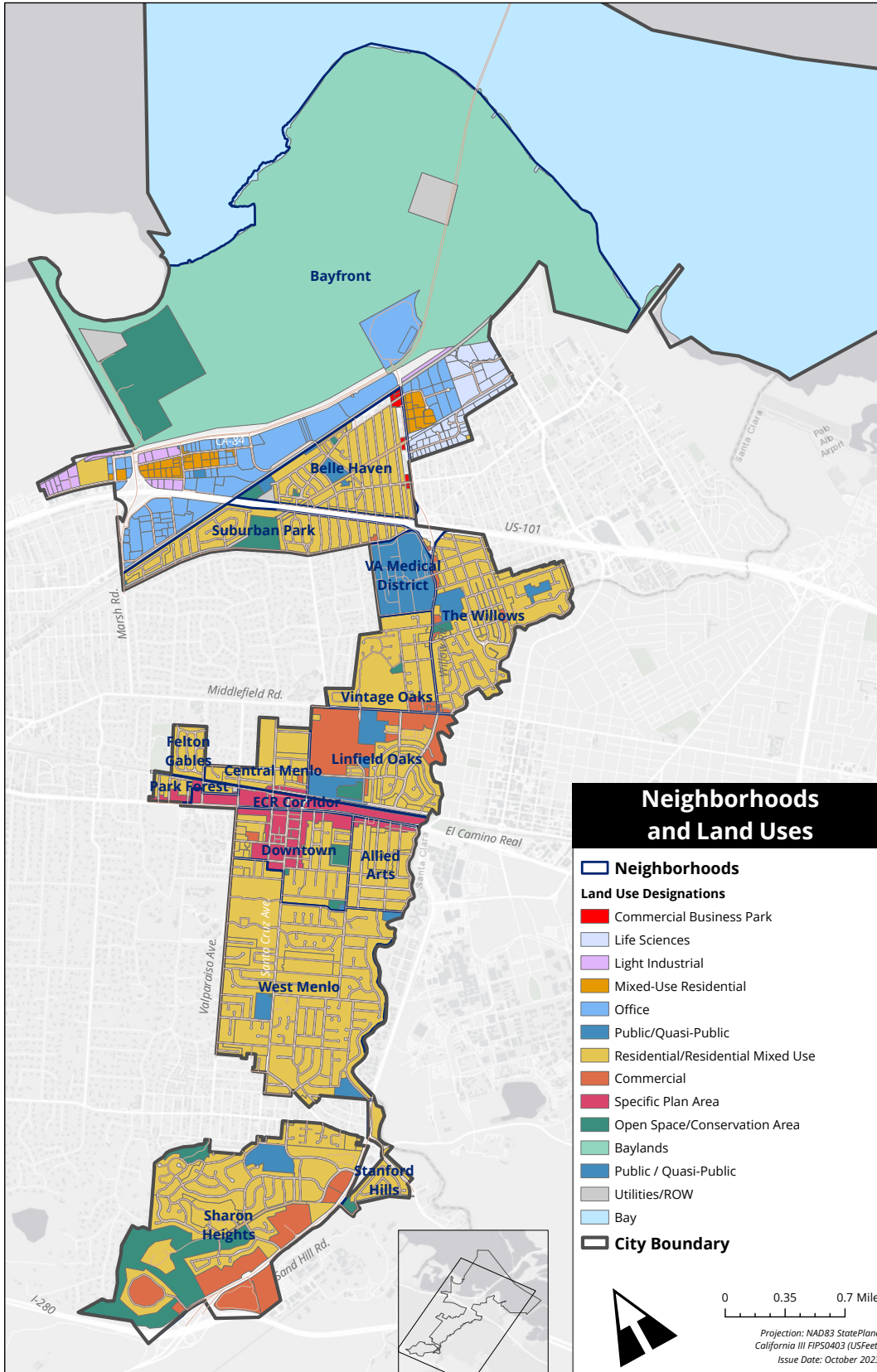
27 Data via California Department of Education, 2019

28 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>

29 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 translation/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.

This work included multiple public study sessions. The Planning Commission and City Council met in a joint study session on June 20, 2023, to discuss initial public review drafts of the Environmental Justice and Safety Elements. They later met separately, on June 3 (Planning Commission) and

COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Through the development of Menlo Park’s first Environmental Justice Element, the community-identified three Environmental Justice Element goals to be prioritized:

- Priority #1:** Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes (Goal EJ5)
- Priority #2:** Promote access to high quality and affordable food (Goal EJ4)
- Priority #3:** Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality (Goal EJ2)

June 18 (City Council), 2024, to discuss revised public review drafts of the Environmental Justice and Safety Elements, prior to public hearings for adoption in fall 2024. Community-identified

priorities may change over time. Highlighted outreach efforts are listed below:

2021

- August 1** – Pop-Up Meeting at the Downtown Farmers Market
- August 7** – Pop-Up Meeting at Mi Tierra Linda
- August 26** – Community Meeting
- August 29** – Pop-Up Meetings at the Downtown Farmers Market and in Belle Haven

2022

- April 5** – Community Meeting
- May 9** – Focus Group in East Palo Alto with El Comité de Vecinos del Lado Oeste
- May 13** – Focus Group with the Belle Haven Community Development Fund
- May 20** – Focus Group with residents of Belle Haven
- May 20 to June 12** – Survey conducted in-person and online

2023

- February 9** – Community Meeting
- February 10** – Community Meeting
- June 20** – Planning Commission and City Council Joint Study Session

2024

- January 18** – Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team Meeting³⁰
- March 21** – Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team Meeting
- April 18** – Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team Meeting
- May 2** – Community Meeting

- May 9** – Community Meeting
- June 3** – Planning Commission Study Session
- June 17** – Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team Meeting
- June 18** – City Council Study Session

Climate Resilient Communities

The City funded work with a community-based organization in order to expand and bolster outreach with underserved communities which are traditionally harder to reach populations. The City partnered with Climate Resilient Communities (CRC), a community-based organization dedicated to serving underserved communities through empowering community voices to implement climate solutions centered around the direct needs of the community that bring about unity and resilience. CRC was selected as a partner because they are a recognized community-based organization in Menlo Park with a history of experience in community outreach efforts, specifically within 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.

Together with the City, the outreach conducted by CRC directly resulted in the content and language of the goals, policies, and programs of the Environmental Justice Element and the action items of the complementary Environmental Justice Element Action Guide. The overall direction of the Environmental Justice Element is based off the important takeaways, findings, and requests from the community expressed during the outreach and community meetings conducted by CRC within underserved communities.

³⁰ The Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team (CCCT) is composed of residents, youth, faith, and business leaders with the aim to identify local vulnerabilities and learn how the community can be better prepared to face the impacts of climate change. The CCCT serves as a vehicle for forming and expressing community preferences for addressing a multitude of climate related issues that vary by local condition. The Belle Haven CCCT comprehensively discussed the Environmental Justice Element and update to the Safety Element in 2024.

Outreach Methodology and Findings

Text and tables describing key findings, recommendations collected and summarized by CRC, 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.

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 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 (2021-2023)

In August 2021, April 2022, and February 2023, the City and CRC held community meetings to share information and gather feedback for preparation of Menlo Park's first Environmental Justice Element.

- Key Findings from Community Meetings Address air quality and safety concerns in Belle Haven
 - Policy EJ2.1, Policy EJ2.4, Program EJ2.A, Program EJ2.B, Program EJ2.C
- Preserve open space and parks
 - Program EJ3.E, Program EJ 4.E
- Use publicly owned land to build affordable housing
 - Considered as part of Menlo Park's 6th Cycle Housing Element
- Distribute new housing throughout the city and in high resource areas
 - Policy EJ5.2
- Reduce Pollution
 - Program EJ1.D, Policy EJ2.1
- Housing insecurity is related to health impacts
 - Considered as part of Menlo Park's 6th Cycle Housing Element, Policy EJ5.2
- Provide more bike/pedestrian infrastructure
 - Program EJ6.A, Policy EJ6.2, Policy EJ6.3
- Give more visibility to Environmental Justice issues
 - Policy EJ7.1, Policy EJ7.2, Program EJ7.A



Focus Groups (2022)

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-5 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-5: 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 EJ2.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 EJ5.1
	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.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary: Upgrade community centers • Secondary: More health care facilities and improved road infrastructure with complete streets 	Help families with water expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program EJ5.B • Existing PG&E CARE program is used by City currently, which provides support for water, garbage, and recycling bills.
	Reexamine administrative polices to encourage affordable and accessible programming in community centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy EJ3.1 • Policy EJ3.2 • Program EJ3.G
	Create a community health clinic in Belle Haven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy EJ3.3 • Program EJ3.D
	Consider transportation infrastructure overhauls that ease walking, bicycling, and public transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy EJ6.2 • Policy EJ6.3 • Program EJ6.A

Key Finding	Recommendations	Policies / Programs
<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 EJ4.1 Program EJ4.A
	Look for opportunities for a new or expanded farmers' market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program EJ4.D
<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"> Policy EJ5.1 Program EJ5.A 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 EJ5.2 Program EJ5.D
<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"> Policy EJ7.1 Policy EJ7.2
	Expand education and capacity-building opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program EJ7.A
	Revamp public meeting scheduling protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy EJ7.2 Program EJ7.B
<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 EJ6.A
	Assess ADA compliance in sidewalks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy EJ6.2 Program EJ6.A
	Systematically assess neighborhood connectivity infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy EJ1.4 Program EJ1.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"> Policy EJ2.3
	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"> Action Item EJ2.I.7 Action Item EJ6.D.1



Survey (2022)

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. The text below 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).

Key Findings from 2022 Environmental Justice Survey

Air Quality, Traffic Congestion, Dust Pollution & Noise

Key Finding: 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. Non-White households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of adverse environmental impacts than their White counterparts.

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.

Programs: EJ2.A (Air quality monitors currently exist in Belle Haven.)

Policies: EJ2.1, EJ2.4

Health Issues

Key Finding: 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.

Non-White households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of health issues than their White counterparts.

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.

Programs: EJ3.3

Environmental Damages and Risks

Key Finding: 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 demonstrate significant geographic and racial and ethnic disparities.

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.

Policies: EJ5.1

Prioritization of Household Spending

Key Finding: 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.

Recommendations: Expand reduced cost home weatherization and retrofit programs, as well as DIY (“Do-It-Yourself”) air filter initiatives.

Policies: EJ5.1 (City offers water conservation rebates, incentives, and free fixtures.³¹)

Prioritization of Public Spending

Key Finding: 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.

Recommendations: While continuing to mitigate risk from less frequent climate hazards, deepen prioritization of public transportation and recreation infrastructure in Belle Haven.

Policies: EJ1.3, EJ1.4

Programs: EJ1.A, EJ2.H

Community Workshops and Study Sessions (2024)

After making revisions to the Environmental Justice Element to reflect the community meetings, focus groups, and survey described above, the document was revised and re-published in April 2024 and discussed at four public meetings:

May 2 – Community Workshop in Belle Haven (in Spanish)

May 9 – Community Workshop in Belle Haven (in English)

June 3 – Planning Commission Study Session (in English)

June 18 – City Council Study Session (in English, with Spanish interpretation)

The full Community Workshops summary report is included as Appendix EJ-E: Prioritization Workshop Summary.

Approximately 80 attendees at the May workshops provided feedback on the relevant elements, regarding recommended policies, programs and their prioritization. This feedback was provided to Planning Commission and City Council at their respective study sessions. At these study sessions, commissioners and councilmembers affirmed the community input and provided additional feedback.

A key finding of these study sessions was the affirmation that the City should move forward with highlighting the top three priorities identified through the community outreach process:

- Priority #1:** Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes (Goal EJ5)
- Priority #2:** Promote access to high quality and affordable food (Goal EJ4)
- Priority #3:** Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality (Goal EJ2)



Photo Credit - Michaela Schulz

³¹ 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>



COMMUNITY OUTREACH SUMMARY

Participants in the community meetings, focus groups, and survey indicated an interest in topics such as air quality/safety, open space and parks, pollution, noise, and construction. Through their participation, it was evident that environmental and sustainability issues are important to Menlo Park residents. Environmental factors impact the whole ecosystem – not only the environment, but also the health and wellbeing of people.

One of the most popular community feedback themes was urban greening. Urban greening is the incorporation of vegetation, landscaping, trees, open space, and gardens in the infrastructure of an urban environment. Examples of this include urban street canopies, drought tolerant and native species landscaping, green roofing, community gardens, and pervious surfaces incorporated into public spaces. At the local level, these interventions can help reduce health and safety risks by mitigating air, water, noise pollution and stress.

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

The prioritized goals will be emphasized in City planning efforts in the years following Environmental Justice Element adoption. In particular, the City Council will incorporate community priorities during its annual priority and goal setting workshop (see Program EJ7.L). Any revisions to community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities (see Program EJ7.K). The intent of the process is to remain responsive and not require a General Plan amendment.

"The community wants to be better informed."

— Belle Haven resident



Photo Credit - Michaela Schulz

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.

Many of the policies and programs call for direct investment in less resourced 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.

Environmental Justice Element Action Guide

The Environmental Justice Element is accompanied by an Environmental Justice Element Action Guide. This separate, complementary document is guided by the goals, policies, and programs of the Environmental Justice Element and the Guiding Principles of the Menlo Park General Plan, however, the Action Guide lies outside of the General Plan itself. The Action Guide is a tool to be used to manage and coordinate City efforts to accomplish the goals, policies, and programs outlined in the Environmental Justice Element. This dual document approach allows for more frequent updating of the Action Guide in response to changing community

needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach – particularly input from Menlo Park’s underserved communities – without requiring a General Plan Amendment. Table EJ-6 shows

where one can view goals, policies, and programs, as well as action items which support program implementation.

Table EJ-6: Environmental Justice Element Organization

Environmental Justice Element	Document	Action Guide
<p>GOALS: Broad actions Menlo Park will pursue to work toward environmental justice. <i>(These goals are synonymous with “objectives” as used in Gov. Code Section 65302(h))</i></p>	✓	✓
<p>POLICIES: Focused principles to guide decision-making that Menlo Park is adopting in order to achieve goals.</p>	✓	✓
<p>PROGRAMS: Precise steps that Menlo Park will take in furtherance of policies and goals.</p>	✓	✓
<p>ACTION ITEMS: Tasks that Menlo Park will pursue to improve environmental justice in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach.</p>		✓










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 and Gov. Code Section 65302(h) (see Table EJ-7):

Table EJ-7: Goals of the Menlo Park Environmental Justice Element

Required Topic Area	Environmental Justice Element Goal
 Prioritize the Needs of Underserved Communities	Goal EJ1: Address unique and compounded health risks
 Reduce Pollution Exposure	Goal EJ2: Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality
 Improve Access to Public Facilities	Goal EJ3: Equitably provide appropriate public facilities to individuals and communities
 Promote Food Access	Goal EJ4: Promote access to high quality and affordable food
 Promote Safe and Sanitary Homes	Goal EJ5: Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes
 Promote Physical Activity	Goal EJ6: Encourage physical activity and active transportation
 Promote Civic Engagement	Goal EJ7: 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 2023-2031 Housing Element. The policies and programs in the 2023-2031 Housing Element support the Environmental Justice Element's goal to provide safe, sanitary, and stable 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.

The Environmental Justice Element goals, policies, and programs are below in Table EJ-8. Complementary action items are separately contained within the Action Guide. Policies, programs, and action items are organized by the seven overarching Environmental Justice Element goals and include descriptive information about current progress (if applicable), responsible parties, potential funding sources, and delivery timeframe.





Photo Credit - Michaela Schulz



Table EJ-8: Environmental Justice Goals, Policies, and Programs



GOAL EJ1

ADDRESS UNIQUE AND COMPOUNDED HEALTH RISKS

POLICY EJ1.1 Prioritize programs that address the unique and compounded health risks present in underserved communities currently and in the future.

POLICY EJ1.2 Reduce climate vulnerability in underserved communities.

POLICY EJ1.3 Strengthen collaboration efforts with residents in underserved communities, particularly on public improvement projects.

POLICY EJ1.4 Prioritize active transportation (e.g., walking, bicycling, wheelchair) improvements, transit incentives, and neighborhood connectivity in underserved communities.

PROGRAM EJ1.A Prioritize public/capital improvements needed in underserved communities with priority allocation of funding, available to the City locally and from regional, statewide, and federal entities, for such projects, and to address climate change.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: City Manager’s Office, Public Works. Supporting: Community Development, Sustainability Division

Funding Sources: General Fund, General Capital Fund, Countywide Transportation Sales Tax Funds (Measure A & W), State and Federal Gas Taxes

Timeframe: Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Long Term

PROGRAM EJ1.B Prepare publicly available reports annually to describe how underserved communities are considered and prioritized in capital improvement plans, departmental work plans, and budgets within four years after the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: All City Departments

Funding Source: General Fund

Timeframe: Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation



PROGRAM EJ1.C Develop and publicize annual or every-other-year reports that measure progress and outcomes of the implementation of the Environmental Justice Element programs within six years after the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.

In Progress: N/A
Responsibility: Lead: Community Development. Supporting: All City Departments
Funding Source: General Fund
Timeframe: Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

PROGRAM EJ1.D Review CalEnviroScreen to support evaluation of Environmental Justice Element policies and programs.

In Progress: N/A
Responsibility: Lead: Community Development. Supporting: California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, All City Departments
Funding Source: General Fund
Timeframe: Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation



GOAL EJ2 REDUCE POLLUTION EXPOSURE AND IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

POLICY EJ2.1 Prioritize pollution reduction, air quality (both indoor and outdoor), and water quality programs to reduce inequitable exposure in underserved communities.

POLICY EJ2.2 Implement regenerative and nature-based land management practices at the city scale, as well as collaborate on countywide and regional efforts. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve watershed and human health.

POLICY EJ2.3 Use Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park to promote and encourage urban greening on public and private projects (e.g., bioswales, raingardens, habitat restoration) in areas with relatively less tree canopy or other greenery to provide health and safety benefits to underserved communities residents.

POLICY EJ2.4 Collaborate with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and other agencies to continuously monitor air quality and seek opportunities to minimize exposure to air pollution and other hazards and maximize air quality (both indoor and outdoor) in underserved communities.

POLICY EJ2.5 Work with Caltrans on improvements on State-owned rights of way.

POLICY EJ2.6 When updating or installing transportation infrastructure, consider factors such as stormwater management, Universal Design Principles and attractive green roadway design.

PROGRAM EJ2.A Work with any identified significant stationary pollutant generators to the extent it is within the City’s jurisdiction (e.g., gas stations, automobile repair, dry cleaners, and/or diesel generators) to minimize the generation of pollution through best available control technologies.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: Community Development. Supporting: Peninsula Clean Energy, Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), Westbay Sanitary District, San Mateo County Environmental Health, San Mateo County Fire, Sustainability Division

Funding Source: Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program)

Timeframe: Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

PROGRAM EJ2.B Implement and periodically update the City’s Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In Progress: The Climate Action Plan is subject to annual progress reports as a standalone document are scheduled for 2028 update. Starting in 2024, the City will implement a zero emission landscaping equipment rule to improve air quality and reduce emissions.

Responsibility: Lead: Sustainability Division

Funding Sources: General Fund, grants (e.g., California Energy Commission, PG&E, Peninsula Clean Energy, and CALFIRE)

Timeframe: Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Long Term

PROGRAM EJ2.C Conduct proactive education and outreach about indoor and outdoor air quality and protective actions that can be taken to both improve air quality inside one’s home and to minimize exposure to poor air quality index days.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), Sustainability Division, Peninsula Clean Energy, San Mateo County Sustainability Department

Funding Source: Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program)

Timeframe: Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation



PROGRAM EJ2.D Minimize and mitigate illegal solid waste dumping (as defined in 7.04.030 of the Municipal Code), potentially through minimizing fees for disposal at landfills in collaboration with South Bayside Waste Management Authority (SBWMA).

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Communications and Public Engagement

Funding Source: Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities PLANNING Grant)

Timeframe: Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

PROGRAM EJ2.E Review the City’s Green Infrastructure Plan and update, as necessary, to incorporate environmental justice. Focus on underserved communities and implement programs in this Element, in coordination with related regional efforts.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Community Development

Funding Source: General Fund

Timeframe: Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

PROGRAM EJ2.F Increase community outreach and awareness of the City’s participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, including the Community Rating System, and the potential benefits to homeowners (e.g., reduced insurance premiums)

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: Communications and Public Engagement Division. Supporting: Public Works

Funding Source: Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program’s Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)

Timeframe: Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

PROGRAM EJ2.G Develop incentives to encourage shared commute programs and alternative methods of travel for city events, meetings, and official business.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: City Manager’s Office, Public Works. Supporting: SamTrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g. Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition), Public Works, Sustainability Division, Library and Community Services

Funding Source: Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 PLANNING Grant)

Timeframe: Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Long Term

PROGRAM EJ2.H Collaborate with SamTrans and Ravenswood City School District, as well as Meta and other large employers to leverage transportation electrification initiatives to prioritize bus electrification in underserved communities.

In Progress: SamTrans anticipated being fully electric by 2034, in compliance with State law requiring transit fleets be all electric by 2040.

Responsibility: Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Sustainability Division; SamTrans, Ravenswood City School District, Large Local Businesses (over 50 employees, e.g. Meta, SRI International, Grail, others)

Funding Source: Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 PLANNING Grant)

Timeframe: Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Medium Term

PROGRAM EJ2.I Consider revisions to applicable City regulations that will reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life in underserved communities.

In Progress: Zero Emission Landscaping Ordinance, Municipal Code Chapter 7.30 (Smoking Regulated or Prohibited)

Responsibility: Lead: All City Departments. Supporting: All City Departments

Funding Source: Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 PLANNING Grant)

Timeframe: Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Medium Term

PROGRAM EJ2.J Develop Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park within four years of the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.

In Progress: The City applied for the 2024 cycle of the CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Grant for Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park. Awards to be announced in Fall 2024. This grant requires projects to be completed by March 31, 2028. The City has budgeted \$250,000 in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) as matching funds.

Responsibility: Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Sustainability Division, Canopy

Funding Sources: Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Round 1 PLANNING Grant), United States Department of Agricultural (USDA) Grants, CAL FIRE grants. City of Menlo Park Heritage Tree in-lieu fee program

Timeframe: Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Medium Term



PROGRAM EJ2.K Prioritize relief from extreme heat (Safety Element Program S1.T) in underserved communities. Information on these resources shall be provided at community facilities (e.g., BHCC).

In Progress: The City currently operates three cooling centers at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, Belle Haven Community Campus, and the Menlo Park Library. The facilities are air-conditioned and open to the public.

Responsibility: Lead: Library and Community Services. Supporting: Communications and Public Engagement

Funding Source: General Fund

Timeframe: Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Ongoing from Initiation



GOAL EJ3 EQUITABLY PROVIDE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC FACILITIES TO INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES

POLICY EJ3.1 Prioritize providing public facilities and programming for underserved communities.

POLICY EJ3.2 Ensure accessibility of public facilities for all community members, especially those in underserved communities.

POLICY EJ3.3 Support programs that increase access to public and private health resources for underserved communities in locations that are convenient and accessible.

POLICY EJ3.4 Coordinate with local school districts, transit operators, and other public agencies to provide adequate public facilities, improvements, and programs in underserved communities.

PROGRAM EJ3.A Identify, renovate, and retrofit candidate public buildings in underserved communities to serve as Climate Resilience Centers as outlined by the California Strategic Growth Council. These buildings should be places where the community already regularly gathers, such as libraries, community centers, or the Belle Haven neighborhood substation.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Sustainability Division, Library and Community Services Department

Funding Source: Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers PLANNING Grant)

Timeframe: Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Medium Term

PROGRAM EJ3.B Work with relevant departments to install infrastructure allowing for easy disposal of pet and animal waste at parks and along highly trafficked streets.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: Public Works. Supporting: City Manager’s Office

Funding Source: General Fund

Timeframe: Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Medium Term

PROGRAM EJ3.C Work with internet service providers to support affordable access for low-income households, potentially in partnership with neighboring jurisdictions or state agencies. Inform the community of existing or future partnerships through community workshops that also serve to improve internet literacy and technological skills. In addition, expand outreach and community access to the City Library’s laptop and wireless hotspot, or similar, borrowing programs.

In Progress: The City currently offers laptop lending and wi-fi hotspots free to residents at the library with their library card.

Responsibility: Lead: Library and Community Services. Supporting: Local Internet Providers (e.g. AT&T, Xfinity, Spectrum), San Mateo County Public Works, California Public Utilities Commission, Administrative Services Department/Information Technology Department

Funding Source: California Advanced Services Fund: Broadband Public Housing Account

Timeframe: Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Medium Term

PROGRAM EJ3.D Seek to form partnerships, particularly with community based organizations and businesses, and consider option for the use of City facilities to promote and support access to health care for underserved communities.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: City Manager’s Office. Supporting: Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)

Funding Sources: Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers PLANNING Grant), Department of Health and Human Services (Service Area Competition Grant)

Timeframe: Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

PROGRAM EJ3.E Coordinate with schools and other local organizations (e.g., Boys and Girls Club) to support after-school activities and related outreach/communications generally.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: Library and Community Services. Supporting: Ravenswood City School District

Funding Source: Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers PLANNING Grant)

Timeframe: Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term



PROGRAM EJ3.F **Seek to form partnerships or other agreements with a banking specialist and other identified partners to provide a community bank or banking services in the underserved communities.**

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: City Manager’s Office. Supporting: Local banks

Funding Source: Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities PLANNING Grant)

Timeframe: Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

PROGRAM EJ3.G **Ensure delivery on the needs of underserved communities through the City's programming plans currently in place and continue to adapt programming based on community feedback through regular community surveys and outreach.**

In Progress: City staff, with input from the community, Belle Haven Community Campus subcommittee and working group, Library Commission, and Parks and Recreation Commission, have developed robust programming plans for Belle Haven Community Campus. City will continue to adapt programming to community needs through regular community surveys and outreach that solicit community feedback.

Responsibility: Lead: Library and Community Services

Funding Sources: Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program’s Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)

Timeframe: Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Long Term

PROGRAM EJ3.H **Ensure that recreational facilities throughout Menlo Park provide all residents of all ages, income levels, genders, and lifestyles, with access to parks, community centers, sports fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities.**

In Progress: City prioritizes access for all residents of all ages, income levels, genders, and lifestyles.

Responsibility: Lead: Library and Community Services. Supporting: Public Works; Community Development

Funding Source: General Fund

Timeframe: Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Long Term

**GOAL EJ4****PROMOTE ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE FOOD****POLICY EJ4.1**

Encourage adequate food access to fresh and healthy foods for all residents, particularly those in underserved communities.

PROGRAM EJ4.A

Work with grocery stores and online food service delivery and meal providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food (e.g., reduced or waived delivery service fees). Encourage and support the acceptance of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), CalFresh, and other governmental food assistance programs that increase food security.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: Community Development. Supporting: Local Grocery Stores (e.g., Safeway, Trader Joe's), Local Grocery Delivery Services (e.g., Uber Eats, GrubHub, DoorDash), CalFresh

Funding Source: Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)

Timeframe: Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

PROGRAM EJ4.B

Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual fliers, community events, information at shelters and food banks, as well as other appropriate outreach methods.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: Community Development. Supporting: Communications and Public Engagement Division; Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, Homeless Outreach Team, San Mateo County Human Services Agency

Funding Source: Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

Timeframe: Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

PROGRAM EJ4.C

Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at municipal buildings and City-participating events Encourage sourcing food from local small businesses.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: All City Departments

Funding Source: General Fund

Timeframe: Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Long Term



PROGRAM EJ4.D Encourage and facilitate the establishment and operation of a farmer’s market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets in underserved communities. Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: City Manager’s Office. Supporting: Community Development, Second Harvest Food Bank

Funding Source: Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

Timeframe: Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Long Term

PROGRAM EJ4.E Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens within or adjacent to neighborhoods and housing development sites. Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years of Environmental Justice Element adoption.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: Community Development. Supporting: Library and Community Services; Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g. Rotary Club of Menlo Park)

Funding Source: Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Round 1 PLANNING Grant)

Timeframe: Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term



GOAL EJ5 *PROVIDE SAFE, SANITARY, AND STABLE HOMES*

POLICY EJ5.1 Prioritize housing programs that provide and maintain safe, sanitary and stable housing, particularly in underserved communities.

POLICY EJ5.2 Maintain and develop safe, and sanitary and stable homes across all locations and affordability ranges, particularly in underserved communities.

POLICY EJ5.3 Support housing development distribution throughout the city and not concentrated within Menlo Park’s underserved communities.

PROGRAM EJ5.A The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) tracks cleanup, permitting, enforcement and investigation efforts at hazardous waste facilities and sites with known contamination or sites where there may be reasons to investigate further. The Safety Element (Table S-4) includes a list of sites along with their current status of evaluation or remediation.

In Progress: The 2015 San Mateo County Vulnerability Assessment inventoried sites with contamination and no sites were identified in residential developments. County continues to update Vulnerability Assessments.

Responsibility: Lead: Community Development. Supporting: San Mateo County Environmental Health Services, Planning, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

Funding Source: Department of Food and Agriculture (Healthy Soils Demonstration Program)

Timeframe: Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Short Term

PROGRAM EJ5.B Conduct outreach to potentially eligible households regarding programs that support safe, sanitary, and stable homes.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: Community Development. Supporting: California Department of Community Services and Development; City Manager's Office

Funding Source: Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

Timeframe: Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

PROGRAM EJ5.C Create or partner with providers to provide a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters with questions. If such resources already exist, conduct proactive outreach and education to inform the community of available resources. Hold culturally competent, in-language outreach workshops.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: Community Development. Supporting: Local Tenant Protection Services (e.g. Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (HomeSavers Project), Project Sentinel by San Mateo County)

Funding Source: Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

Timeframe: Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

PROGRAM EJ5.D Identify opportunities to support a Community Land trust or other fiscal vehicle to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: Community Development. Supporting: City Manager's Office, Community Development Department, MidPen Housing Community Land Trust

Funding Source: BMR Housing Fund

Timeframe: Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Long Term



PROGRAM EJ5.E Conduct community outreach to help prospective first-time homeowners navigate the process. This includes 6th Cycle Housing Element Program H5.F, (regarding collaborating with the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust of San Mateo County (HEART)) and helping to facilitate first-time homeowner workshops for residents in underserved communities.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: Community Development. Supporting: City Manager’s Office, Local Community Based Outreach Organizations (e.g. Menlo Together)

Funding Source: Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

Timeframe: Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

PROGRAM EJ5.F Promote funds and subsidies that minimize the passing through of any upfront investment costs of building electrification on to tenants.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: Community Development. Supporting: City Manager's Office, Public Works Department, PG&E, Peninsula Clean Energy

Funding Source: Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)

Timeframe: Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Medium Term

PROGRAM EJ5.G Ensure that City’s Anti-Displacement Strategy (Housing Element Program H2.E) supports households and neighborhoods in underserved communities. This will include consideration, at a minimum, the following:

- Rental inventory of all dwelling units
- Updated or expanded rent control laws
- Rent increase mitigations, such as longer noticing requirements
- Community and tenant opportunity to purchase
- Revised BMR guidelines allowing for deeper affordability (e.g., subsidies)
- Expand relocation assistance for tenants
- Just Cause Eviction protections regardless of tenant duration
- Strengthened tenant anti-harassment ordinances
- An examination of opportunities to limit additional fees passed to tenants like laundry, parking, and utility costs

In Progress: Sixth Cycle Housing Element includes Program H2.E focusing on developing an Anti-Displacement Strategy

Responsibility: Lead: Community Development. Supporting: City Manager’s Office, Public Works Department

Funding Source: General Fund

Timeframe: Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Long Term

PROGRAM EJ5.H As part of an anti-displacement program and to ensure stable housing, support increasing access to legal counsel for tenants facing eviction by conducting community outreach, education, and engagement to ensure renters are aware of this resource. Include progress reports on usage annually.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: Community Development. Supporting: City Manager’s Office, Local Tenant Protection Services (e.g., Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (HomeSavers Project), Project Sentinel by San Mateo County)

Funding Source: Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

Timeframe: Initiation: Short Term. Ongoing from Initiation.



GOAL EJ6 ENCOURAGE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

POLICY EJ6.1 Prioritize programs that encourage physical activity in underserved communities.

POLICY EJ6.2 Support physically active lifestyles through investment in complete streets and active transportation (e.g., walking, bicycling, wheelchair) and safety in underserved communities

POLICY EJ6.3 Prioritize the implementation of traffic and transit improvements in underserved communities to reduce excessive speed, limit cut through traffic, and make streets comfortable and accessible places for all users and abilities.

PROGRAM EJ6.A Identify and eliminate, 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.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Community Development, Sustainability Division

Funding Source: Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and Non-Metropolitan Transportation Planning)

Timeframe: Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term



PROGRAM EJ6.B In concurrence with the City’s Vision Zero Action Plan, 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.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, SamTrans

Funding Source: Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and Non-Metropolitan Transportation Planning)

Timeframe: Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

PROGRAM EJ6.C Coordinate with Ravenswood City School District to expand the Safe Routes to School program, including potential for increased crossing guards at key intersections.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Ravenswood City School District

Funding Source: Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and Non-Metropolitan Transportation Planning)

Timeframe: Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

PROGRAM EJ6.D Prepare to update and adopt the City’s Transportation Master Plan (best practice is to update every 10-15 years) to improve environmental justice.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Caltrans, Community-Based Outreach Organizations (e.g. Menlo Together, Climate Resilient Communities), Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g. Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)

Funding Sources: Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 PLANNING Grant), Department of Transportation Grants (Safe Streets and Roads for All, Sustainable Transportation Planning)

Timeframe: Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Long Term

**GOAL EJ7****CREATE EQUITABLE CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

POLICY EJ7.1 Prioritize civic and community engagement programs that enhance the participation and inclusion of underserved communities.

POLICY EJ7.2 Keep residents informed about governmental meetings and actions by ensuring transparency and accessibility in government and decision making.

POLICY EJ7.3 Treat all members of the community fairly and promote equity and capacity building toward creating a healthy environment and just community.

PROGRAM EJ7.A Promote and evaluate capacity-building efforts to educate and involve traditionally underrepresented populations, including underserved communities, in the public decision-making process.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: City Manager's Office. Supporting: Belle Haven Action

Funding Source: General Fund

Timeframe: Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

PROGRAM EJ7.B All meetings with an agenda item located in an underserved community should take place in a location easily accessible to the underserved community and/or by means that facilitate such access, such as satellite meeting centers, simulcasting, and/or remote participation. Consider hardcopy materials for outreach, particularly door-to-door outreach.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: City Manager's Office. Supporting: Library and Community Services

Funding Source: General Fund

Timeframe: Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

PROGRAM EJ7.C Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation (such as food and refreshments, stipends, on-site child care) at community outreach events in underserved communities.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: City Manager's Office

Funding Source: General Fund

Timeframe: Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation



PROGRAM EJ7.D Pursue equitable civic and community engagement.

In Progress: N/A
Responsibility: Lead: City Manager's Office
Funding Source: General Fund
Timeframe: Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

PROGRAM EJ7.E Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the BHCC as a community hub for learning and engagement opportunities strengthened with partner organizations. These will connect residents in underserved communities with pre-existing city and state resources as well as encourage resident participation in public meetings, events, and decision making.

In Progress: N/A
Responsibility: Lead: City Manager's Office. Supporting: All City Departments
Funding Source: General Fund
Timeframe: Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

PROGRAM EJ7.F Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating City Councilmembers and appointed commissioners for the time they spend in their positions to make the positions more accessible to residents of underserved communities.

In Progress: A Planning Commission stipend pilot program was added in the 2023-2024 budget.
Responsibility: Lead: City Manager's Office.
Funding Source: General Fund
Timeframe: Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Short Term

PROGRAM EJ7.G Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions.

In Progress: SamTrans currently operates a countywide paratransit service.
Responsibility: Lead: Library and Community Services. Supporting: SamTrans, Public Works
Funding Source: Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 PLANNING Grant)
Timeframe: Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Medium Term

PROGRAM EJ7.H Ensure that disaster preparedness planning as described in the Safety Element includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Menlo Park’s underserved communities. Upon adoption of the Environmental Justice Element, conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that may include participation and information dissemination at public event and/or fairs in underserved communities with proactive encouragement and opportunity for the residents to sign up for emergency alert systems.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: City Manager’s Office. Supporting: Menlo Park Fire Protection District

Funding Source: Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program’s Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)

Timeframe: Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

PROGRAM EJ7.I Encourage the sustained engagement and involvement of underserved communities in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea-level rise and coastal flooding. Maintain membership and partnership with the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority during their oversight of levee installations and expansions protecting underserved communities.

In Progress: The SAFER Bay Citizens Advisory Committee was formed in 2022 and provides engagement and involvement opportunities.

Responsibility: Lead: Public Works. Supporting: City Manager’s Office; San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

Funding Source: Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program’s Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)

Timeframe: Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Long Term

PROGRAM EJ7.J Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach. Annual reporting, at a minimum, should be presented to the City Council and made available on the City website.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: Community Development. Supporting: All City Departments

Funding Source: General Fund

Timeframe: Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation



PROGRAM EJ7.K The City will update the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide annually to indicate progress, especially in meeting community-identified priorities. Revisions to existing action items and/or community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities, and include a public process with City Council consideration. Outreach to further environmental justice will be ongoing. The Environmental Justice Element Action Guide does not require a General Plan amendment to be updated.

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: Community Development. Supporting: All City Departments

Funding Sources: Bayfront Mitigation Fund; General Fund

Timeframe: Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

PROGRAM EJ7.L The City Council shall consider the community-identified environmental justice priorities during its annual priority and goal setting workshop.

Note: The 2024 adoption of the EJ Element identified the following top three priorities:

- Priority #1: Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes (Goal EJ5)
- Priority #2: Promote access to high quality and affordable food (Goal EJ4)
- Priority #3: Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality (Goal EJ2)

In Progress: N/A

Responsibility: Lead: City Manager's Office. Supporting: All City Departments

Funding Sources: Bayfront Mitigation Fund; General Fund

Timeframe: Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation



Photo Credit - Michaela Schulz

APPENDICES

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- Appendix EJ-B — Additional Methodology
- Appendix EJ-C — Outreach Report: Safety and Environmental Justice Elements
- Appendix EJ-D — Menlo Park Survey Final Report
- Appendix EJ-E — Prioritization Workshop Summary
- Appendix EJ-F — Menlo Park Environmental Justice Element Action Guide

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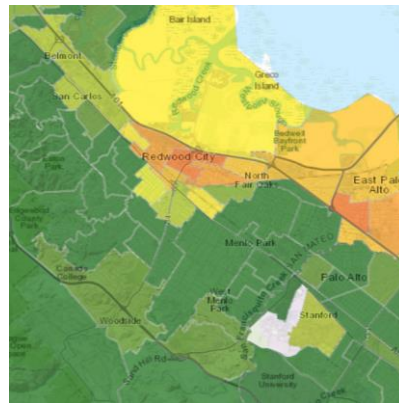
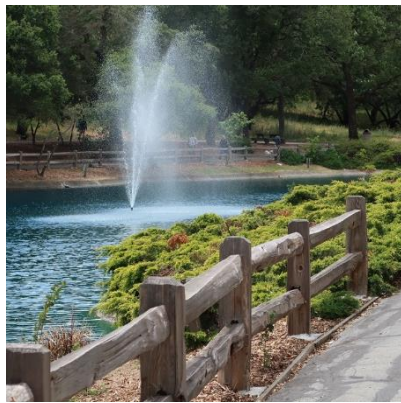
701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT APPENDICES

City of Menlo Park

Neighborhood Profiles of Environmental Justice Considerations



Published October 2022
Updated August 2024

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).

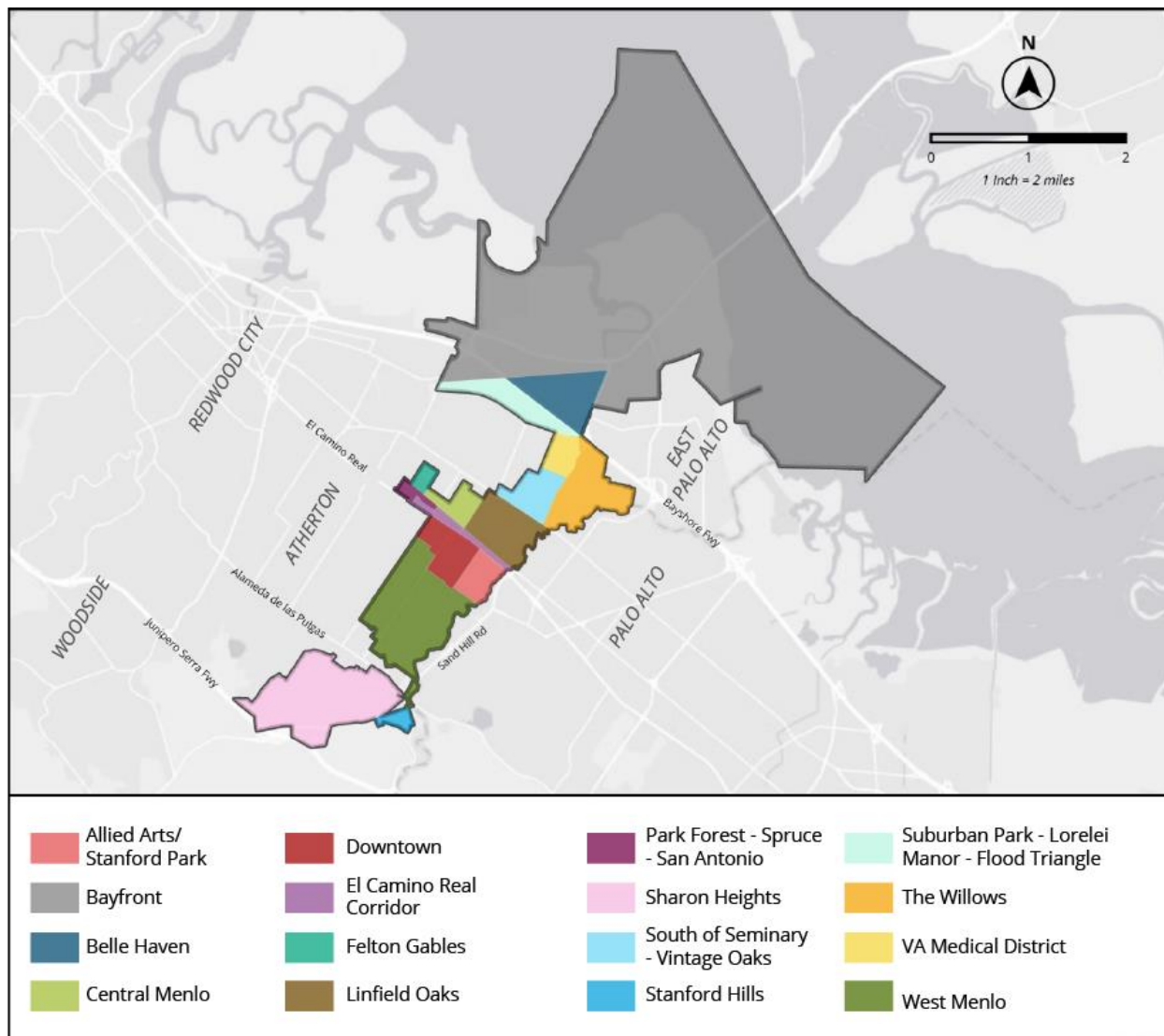
- The jurisdiction contains “Disadvantaged Communities” as defined by State law.

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

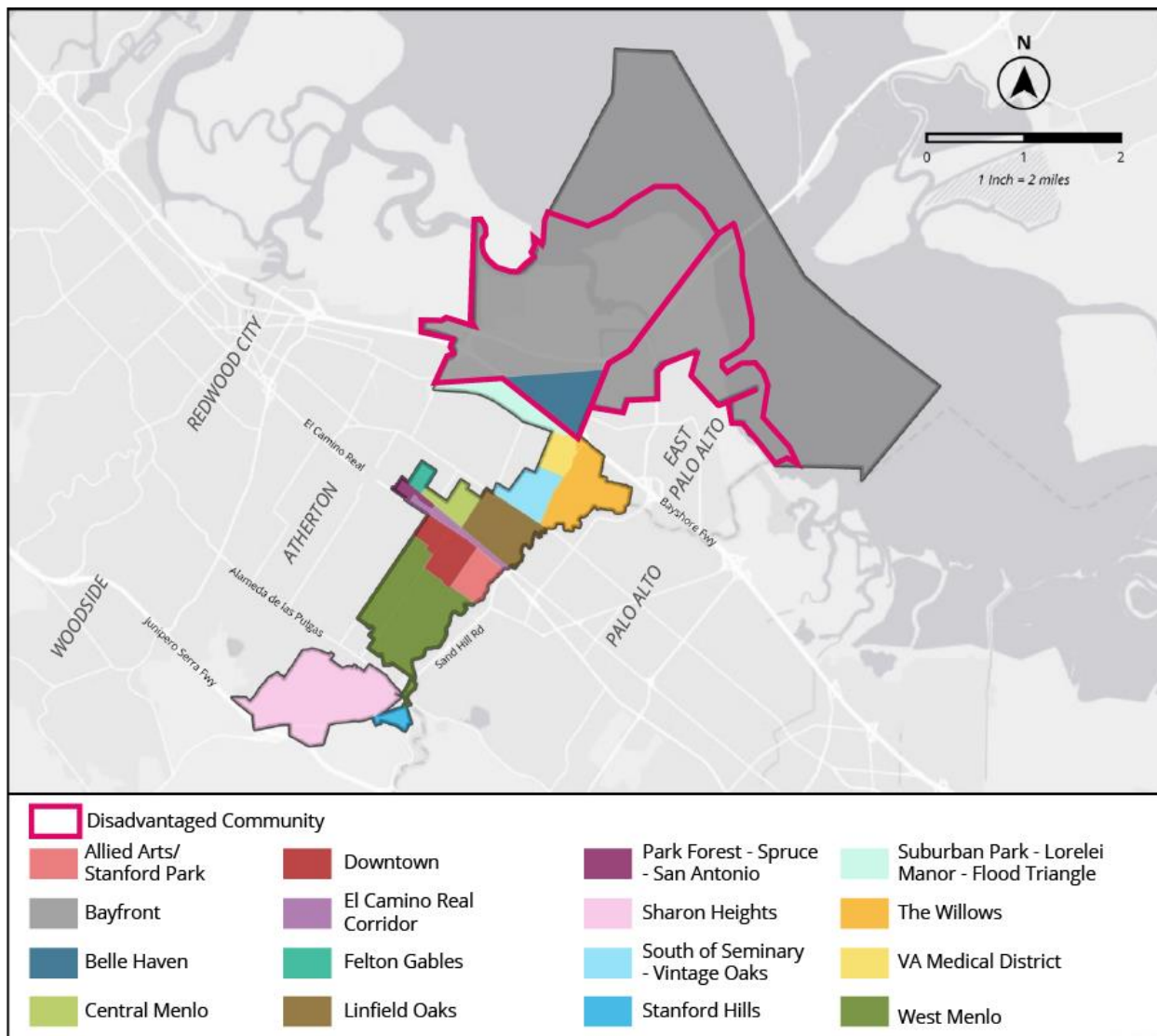


In this document, we look at Menlo Park through the lens of 16 neighborhoods as shown in the above map. The neighborhood boundaries displayed are for reference and informational purposes only, with the intent of contributing to more area-specific analysis of the city as there are differences among the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

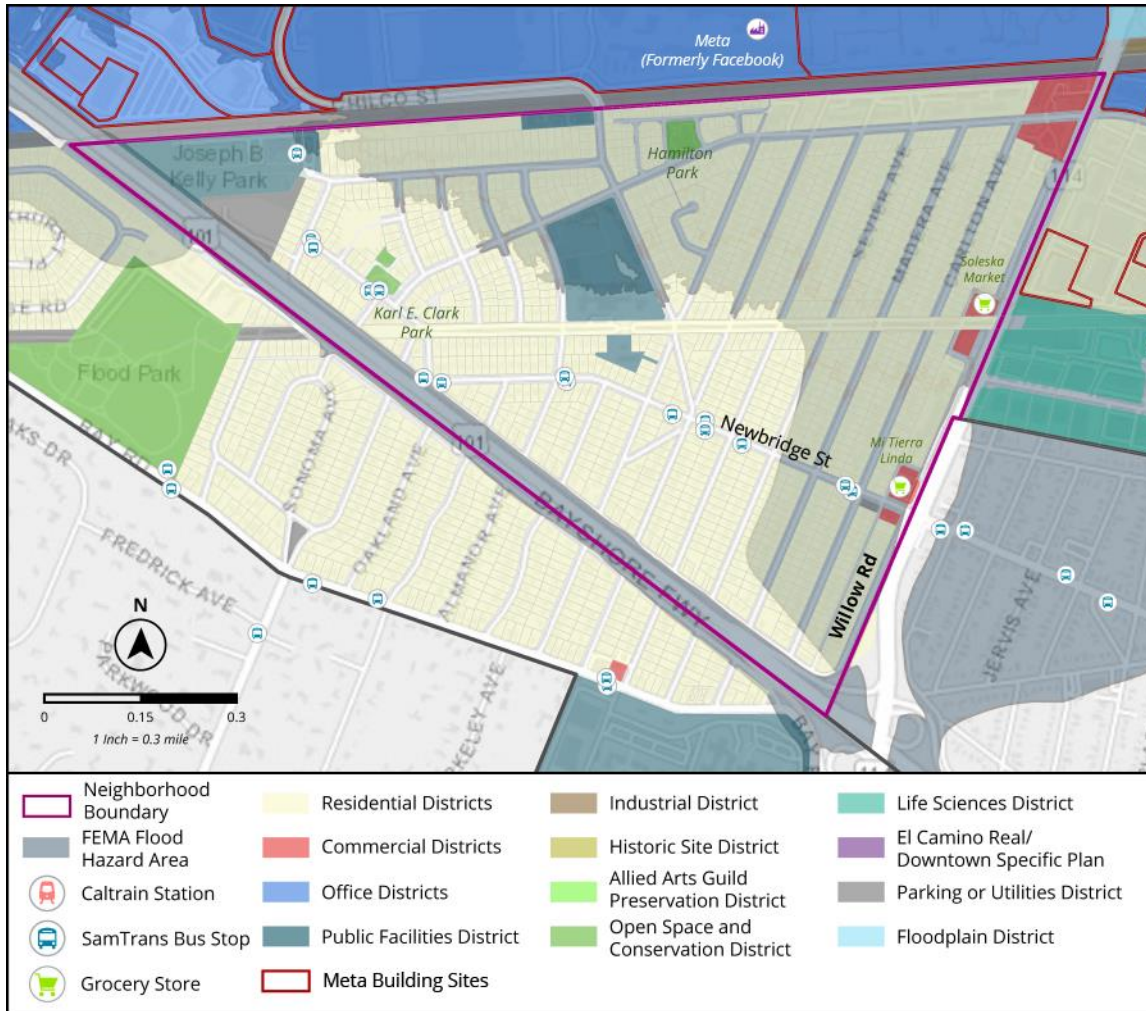
Bayfront has overall Population Characteristics scores of 49 both West and East of Willow/CA-84, ranking 6th (30 points more than the citywide average).

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

Belle Haven



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

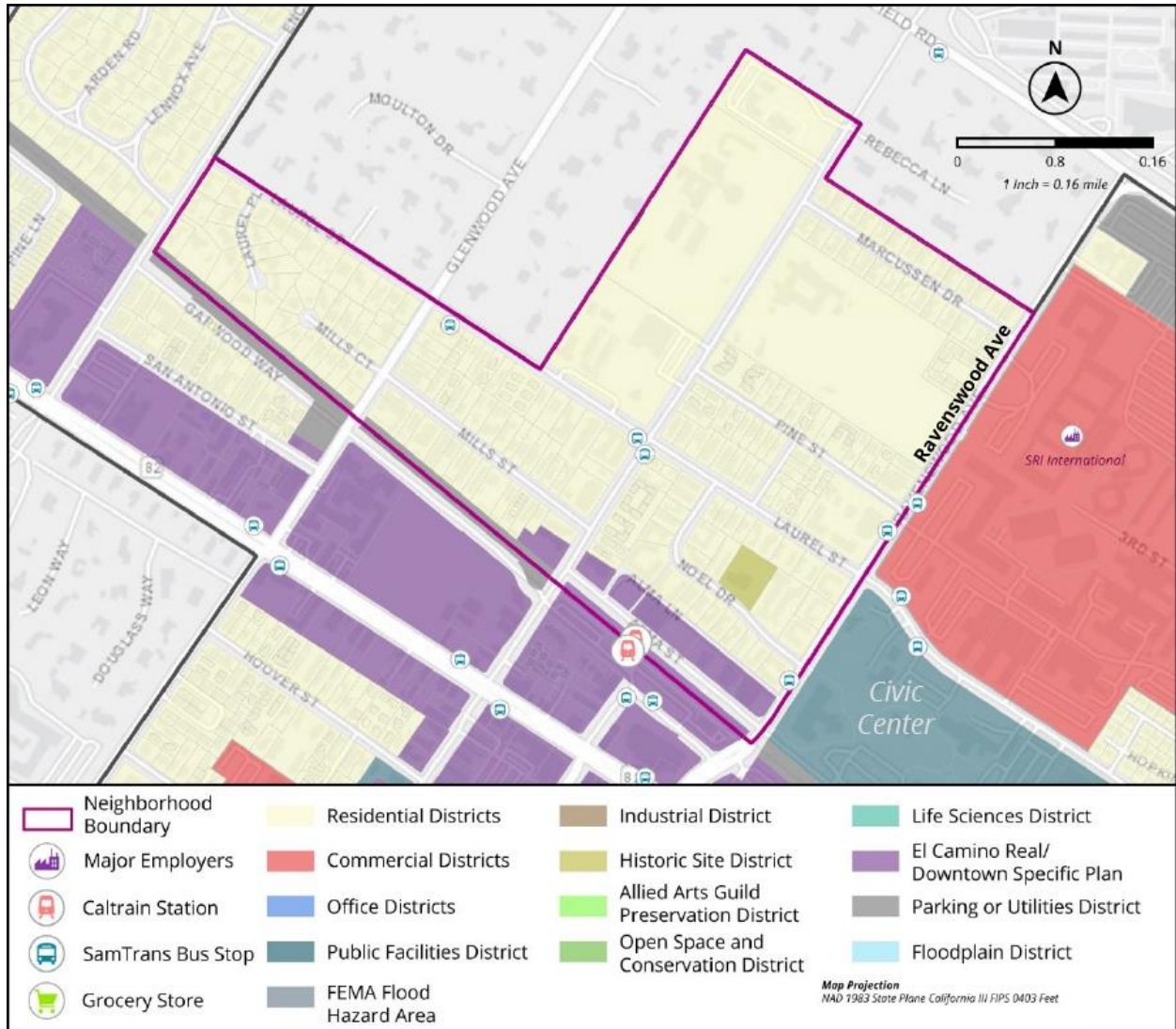
Belle Haven has an overall Population Characteristics score of 49, ranking 6th (30 points more than the citywide average).

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	Score¹		
	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

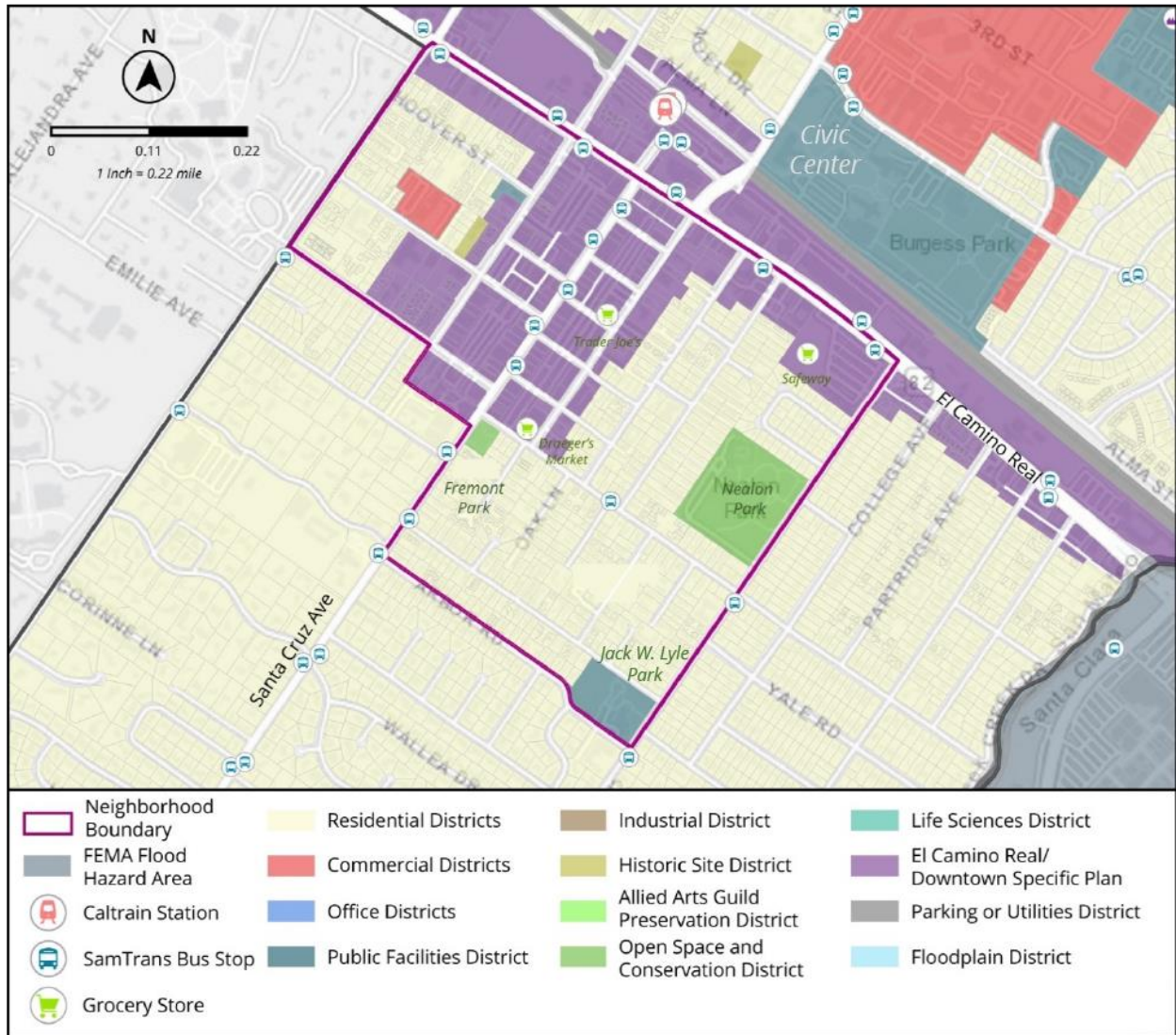
Central Menlo has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2nd (17 points less than the citywide average).

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	Score¹		
	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

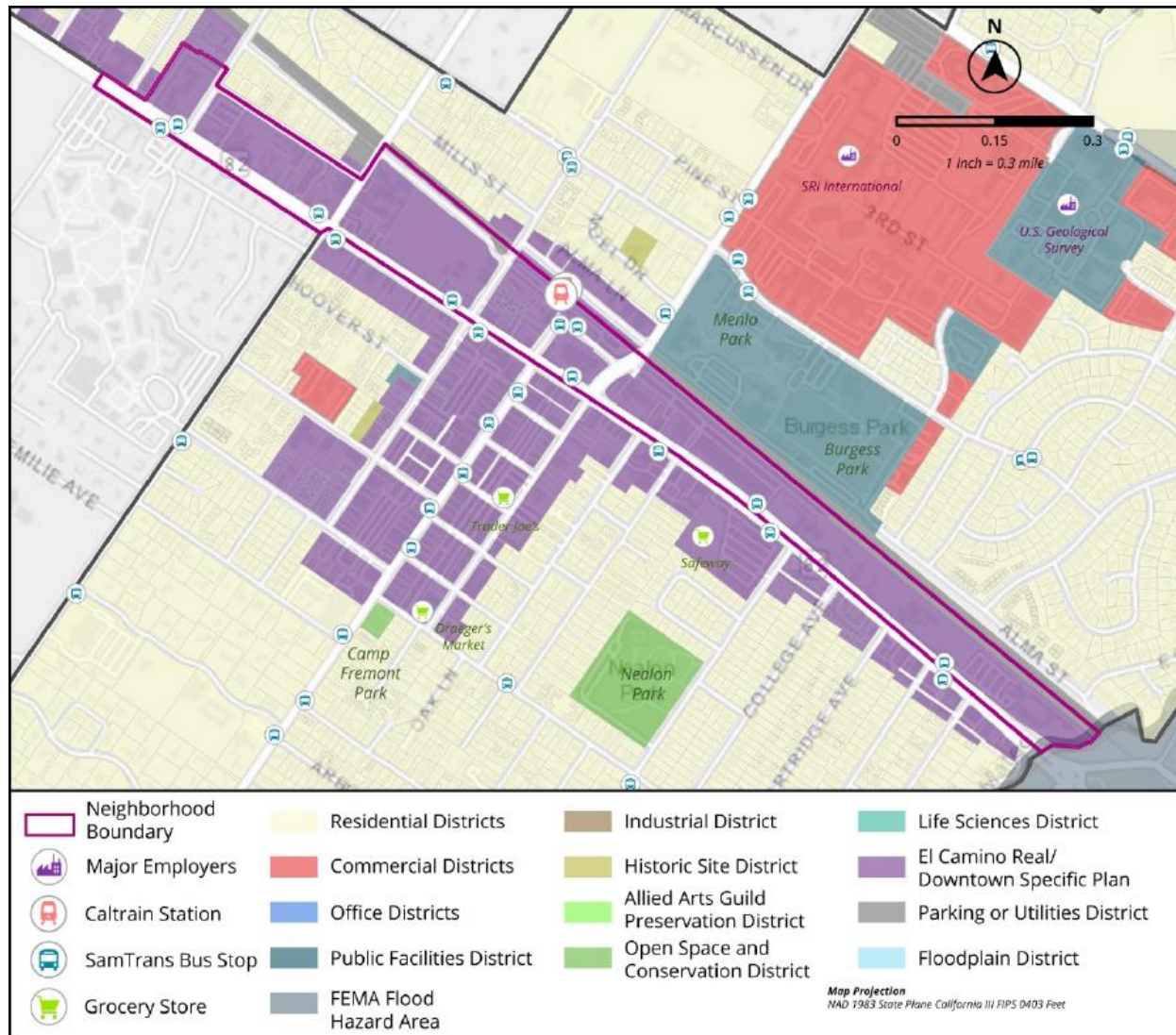
Downtown has an overall Population Characteristics score of 4, ranking 3rd (15 points less than the citywide average).

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	Score¹		
	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

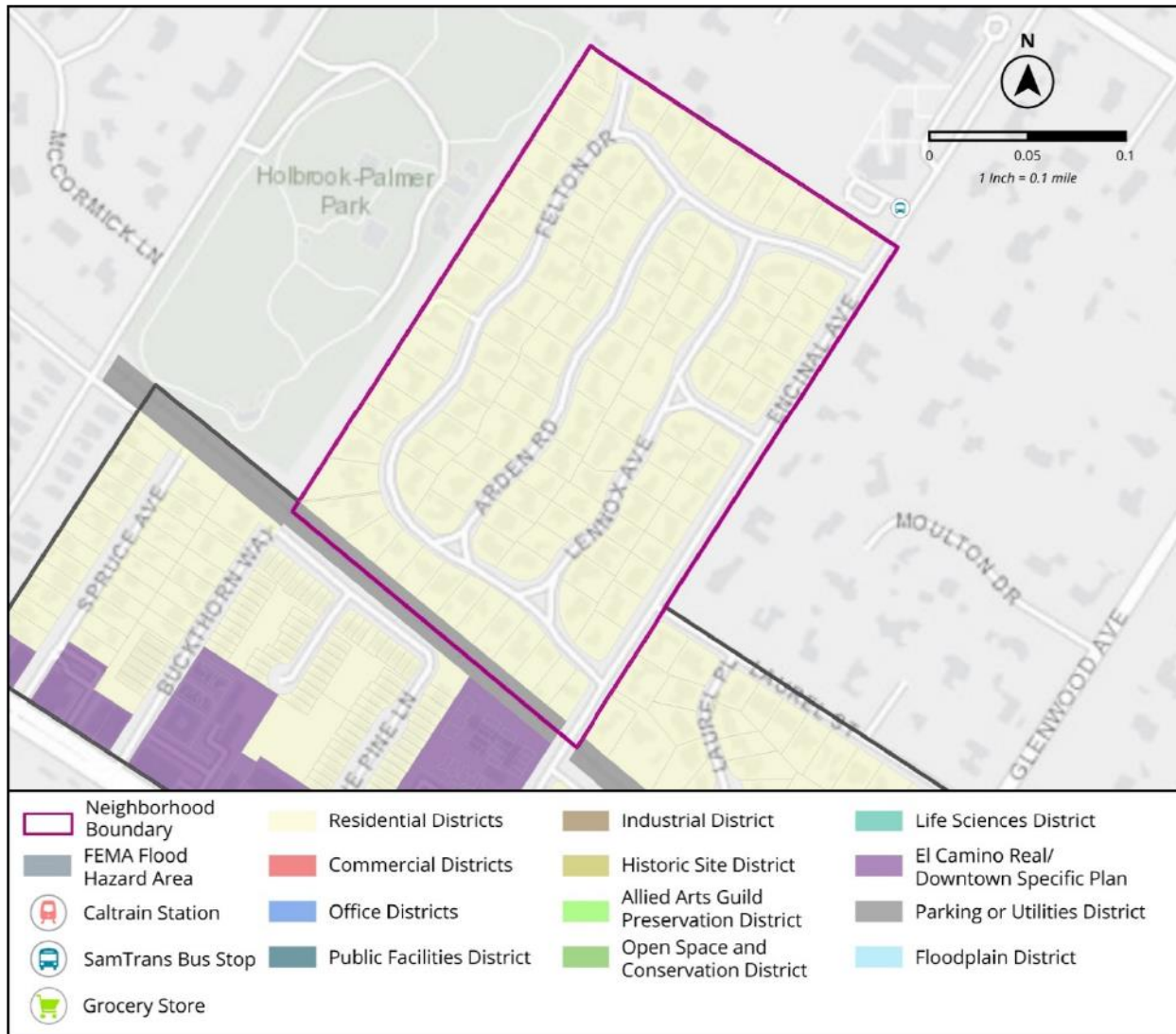
El Camino Real Corridor has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2nd (17 points less than the citywide average).

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	Score¹		
	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

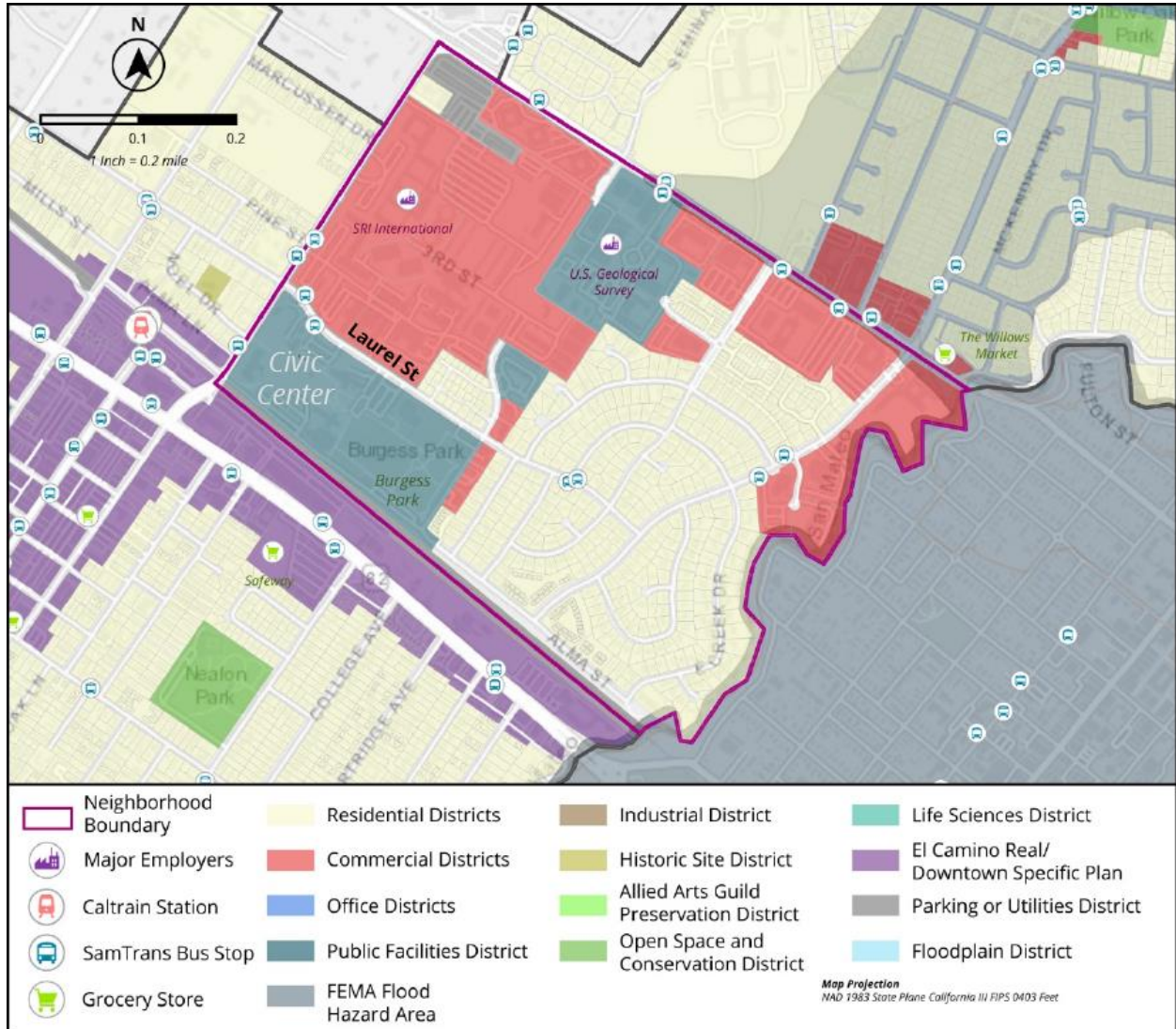
Felton Gables has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2nd (17 points less than the citywide average).

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	Score¹		
	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

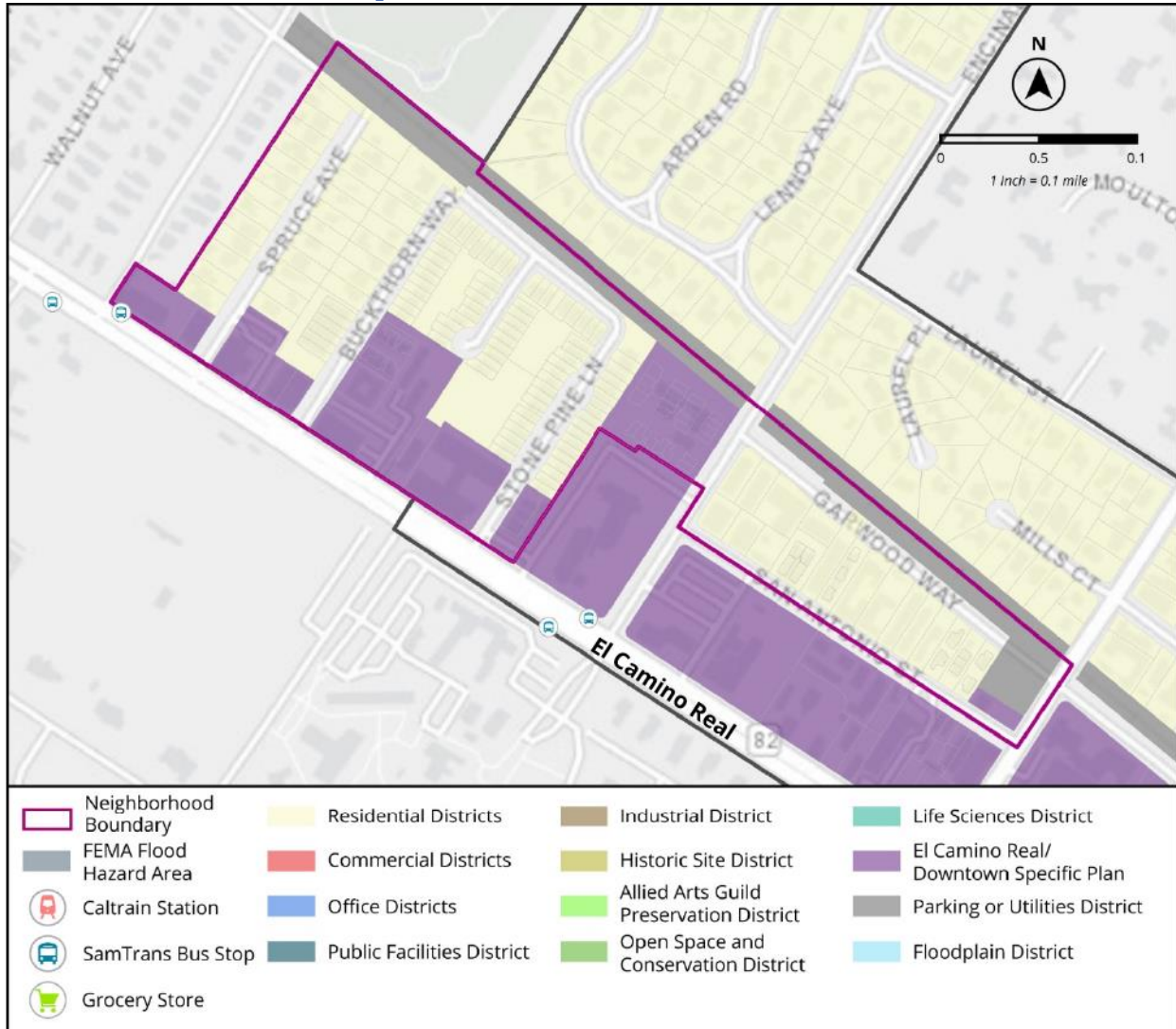
Linfield Oaks has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2nd (17 points less than the citywide average).

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

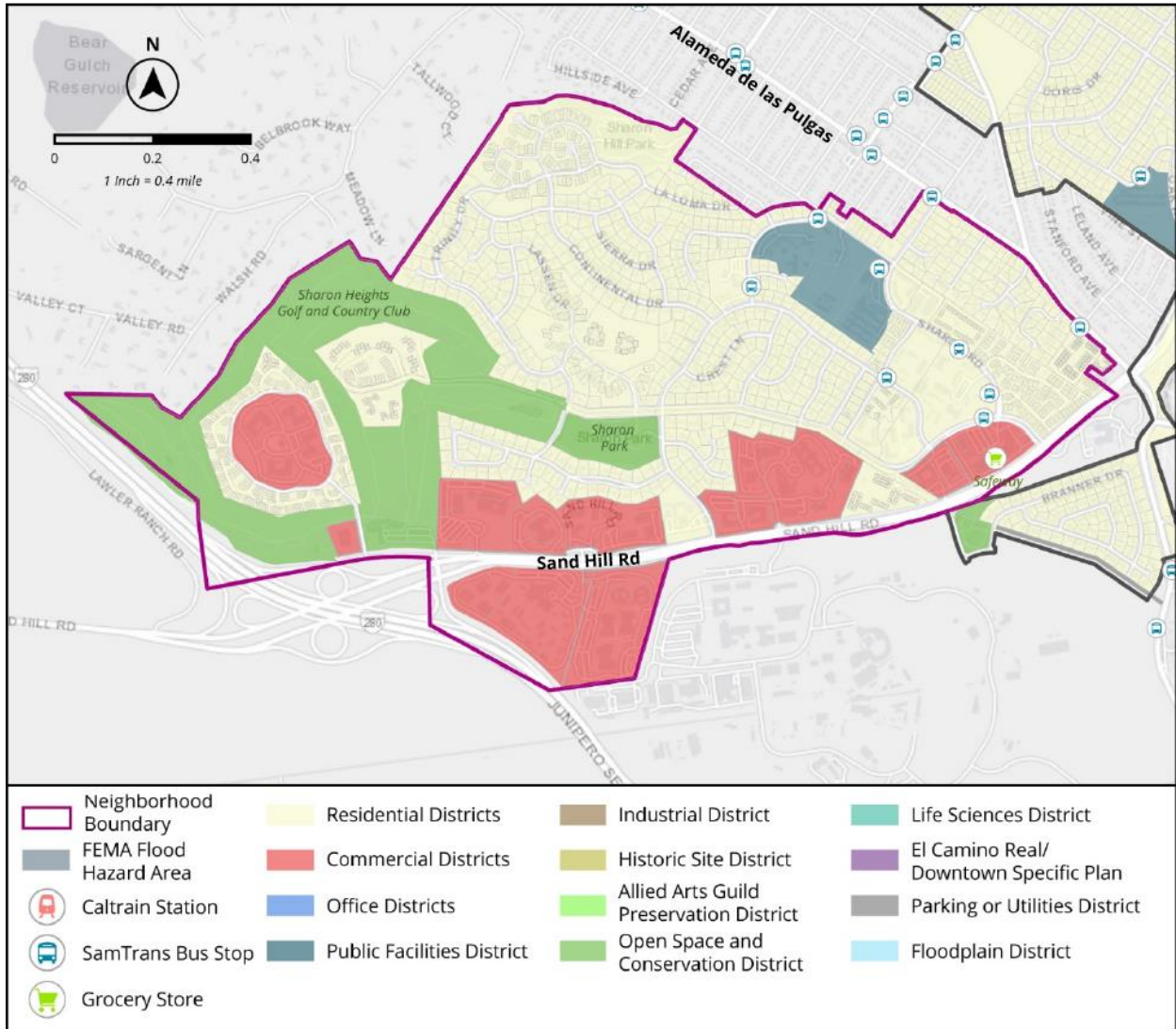
Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2nd (17 points less than the citywide average).

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	Score¹		
	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

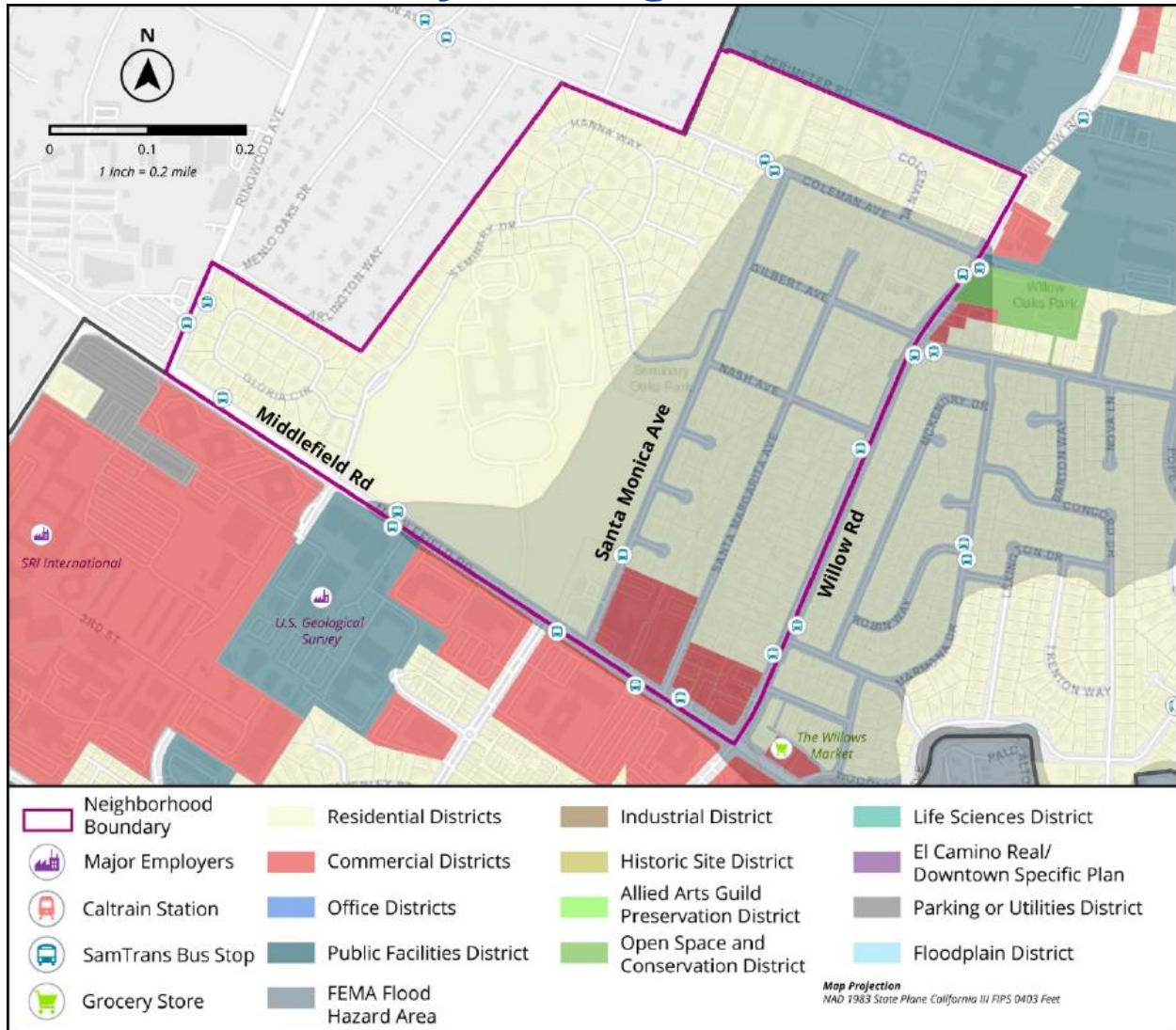
Sharon Heights has an overall Population Characteristics score of 11, ranking 5th (8 points less than the citywide average).

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	Score¹		
	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

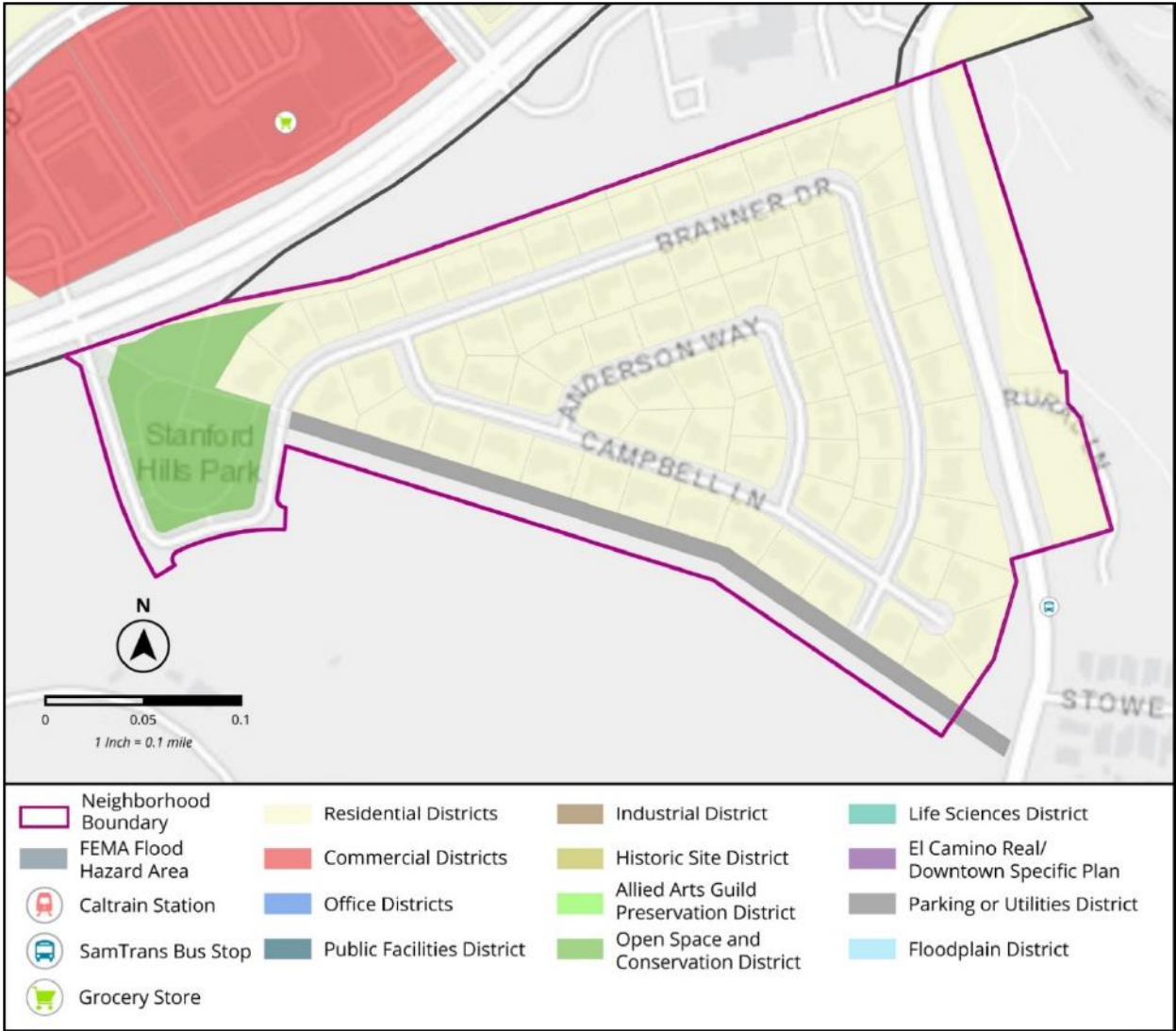
South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks has an overall Population Characteristics score of 5, ranking 4th (14 points less than the citywide average).

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	Score¹		
	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

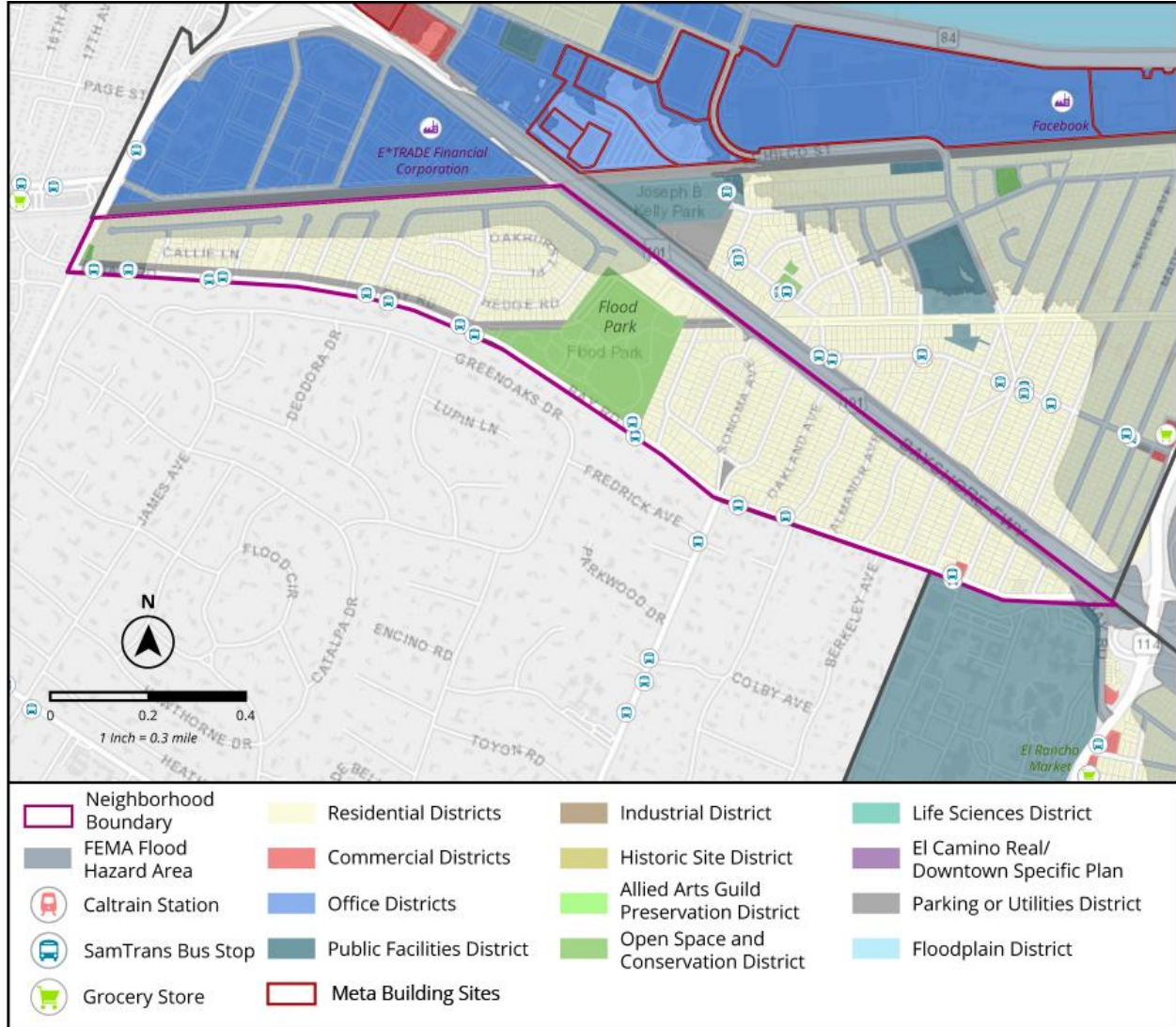
Stanford Hills has an overall Population Characteristics score of 11, ranking 5th (8 points less than the citywide average).

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	Score¹		
	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

U.S. Highway 101 closes off the north side of Suburban Park and this results in residents from Suburban Park, Lorelei Manor, and Flood Triangle exiting only from Bay Road, the southern boundary of the neighborhood. SamTrans operates three school-oriented bus routes along Bay Road that may also be used by members of the general public. School-oriented bus routes generally have limited hours of operation timed with school bell schedules and pause operations on weekends and during the summer months.

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

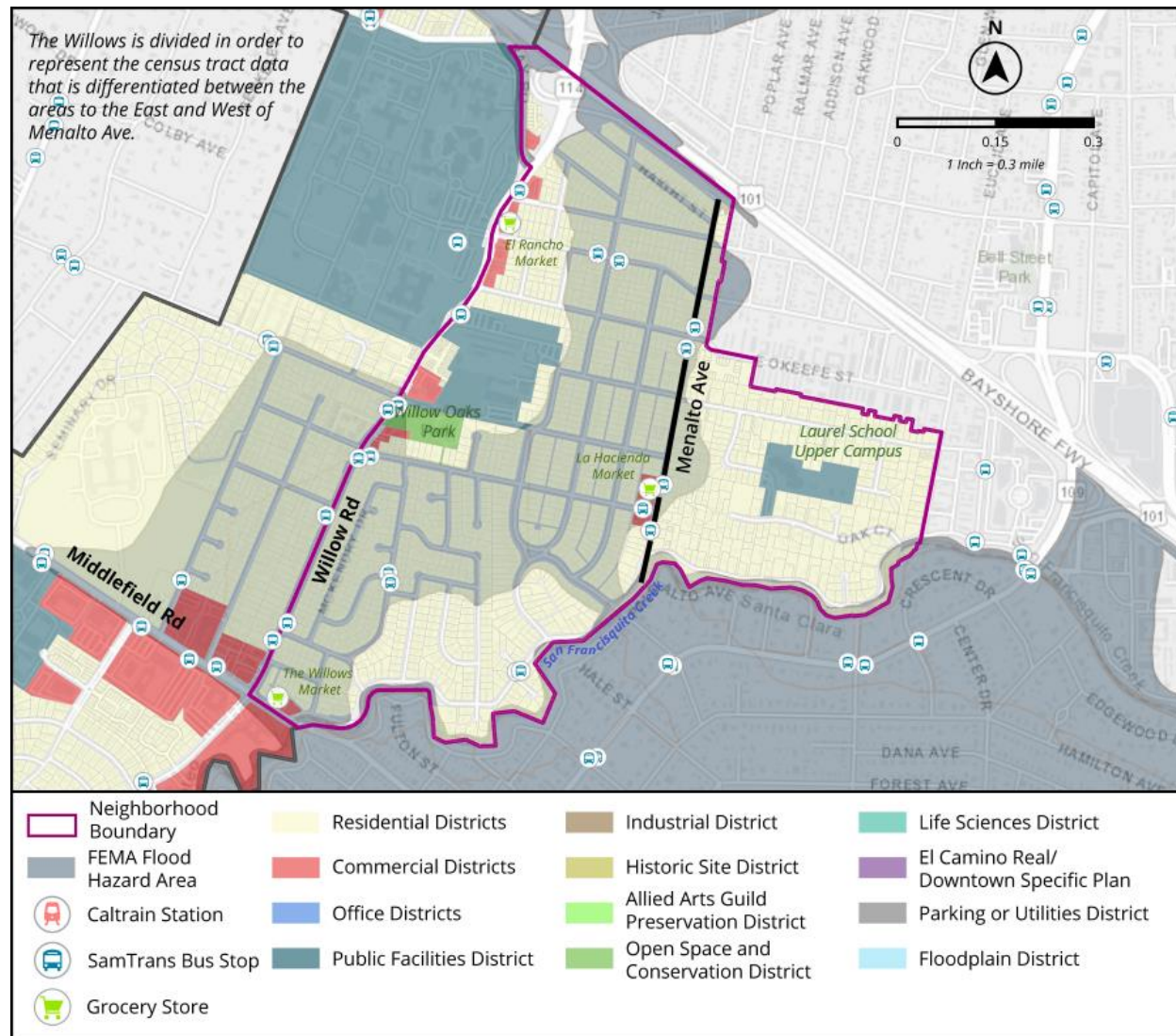
Suburban Park – Lorelei Manor – Flood Triangle has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2nd (17 points less than the citywide average).

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	Score¹		
	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

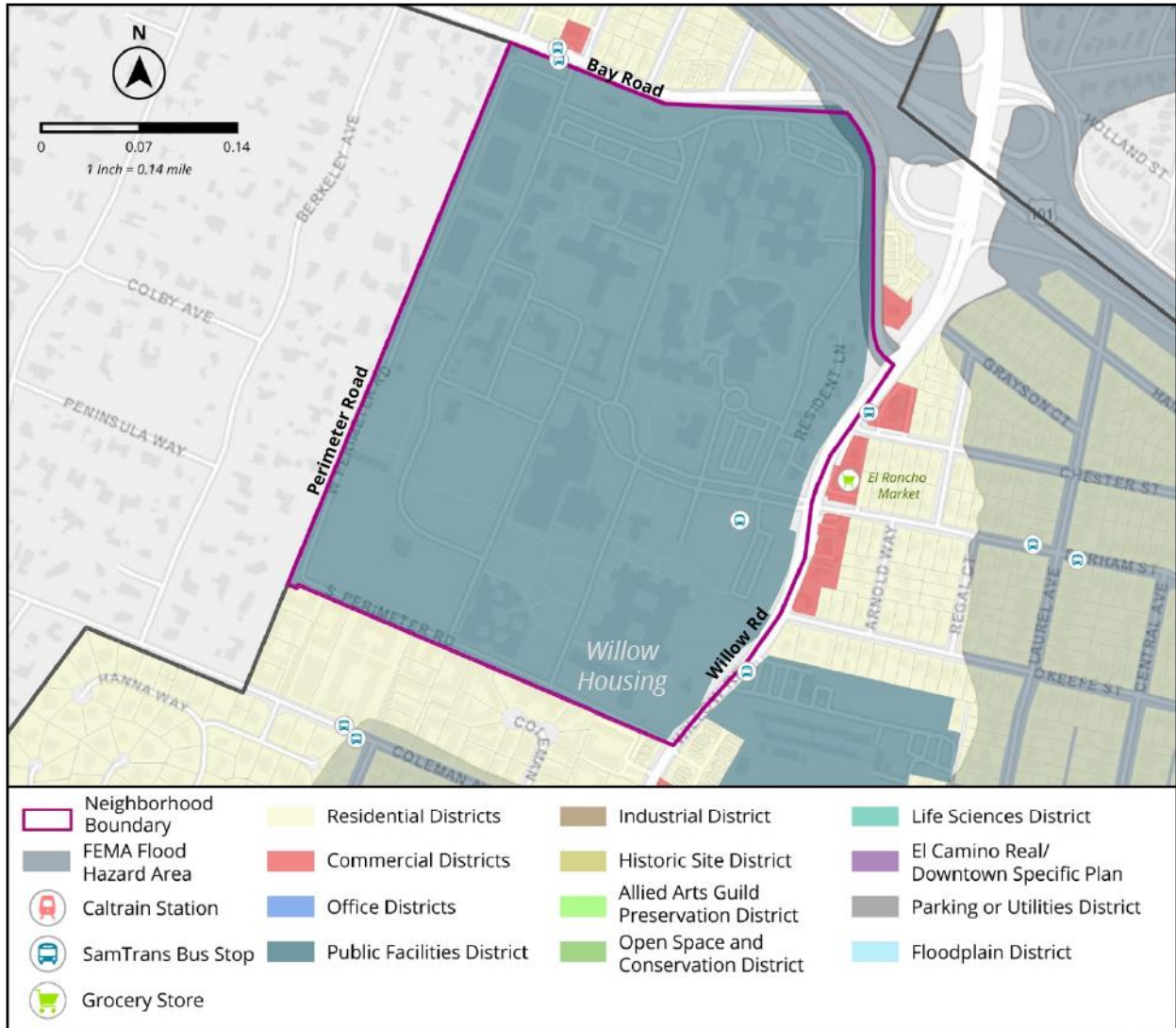
The Willows has overall Population Characteristics scores of 5 (West of Menalto Avenue) and 58 (East of Menalto Avenue), ranking 4th (14 points less than the citywide average) and 7th (39 points more than the citywide average), respectively.

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

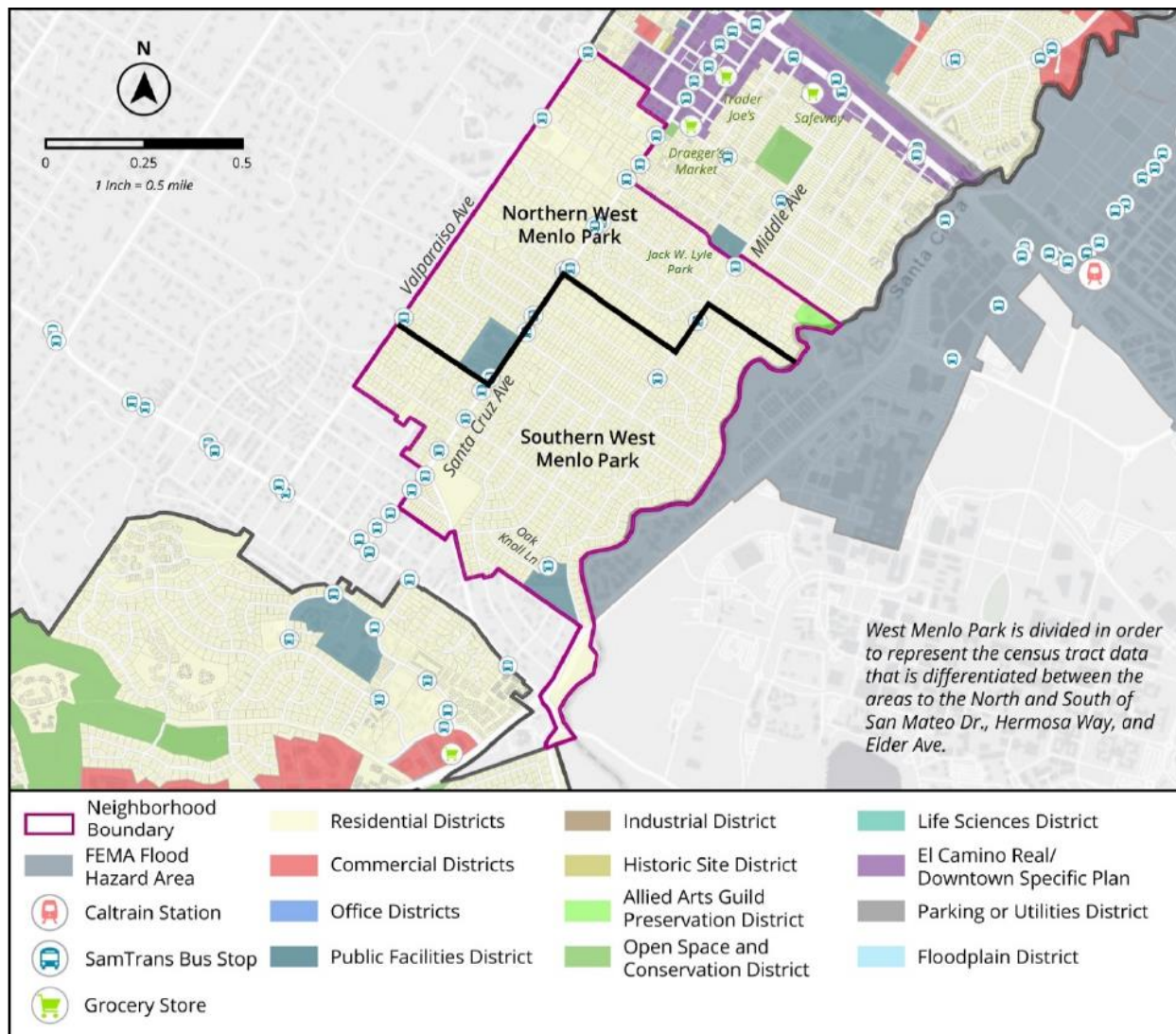
VA Medical District has an overall Population Characteristics score of 5, ranking 4th (14 points less than the citywide average).

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	Score¹		
	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

CENSUS TRACT AND NEIGHBORHOODS												
INDICATOR	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	CITYWIDE AVERAGES	
	Overall Percentile CalEnviroScreen	67	66	68	10	18	10	8	8	5		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	

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:

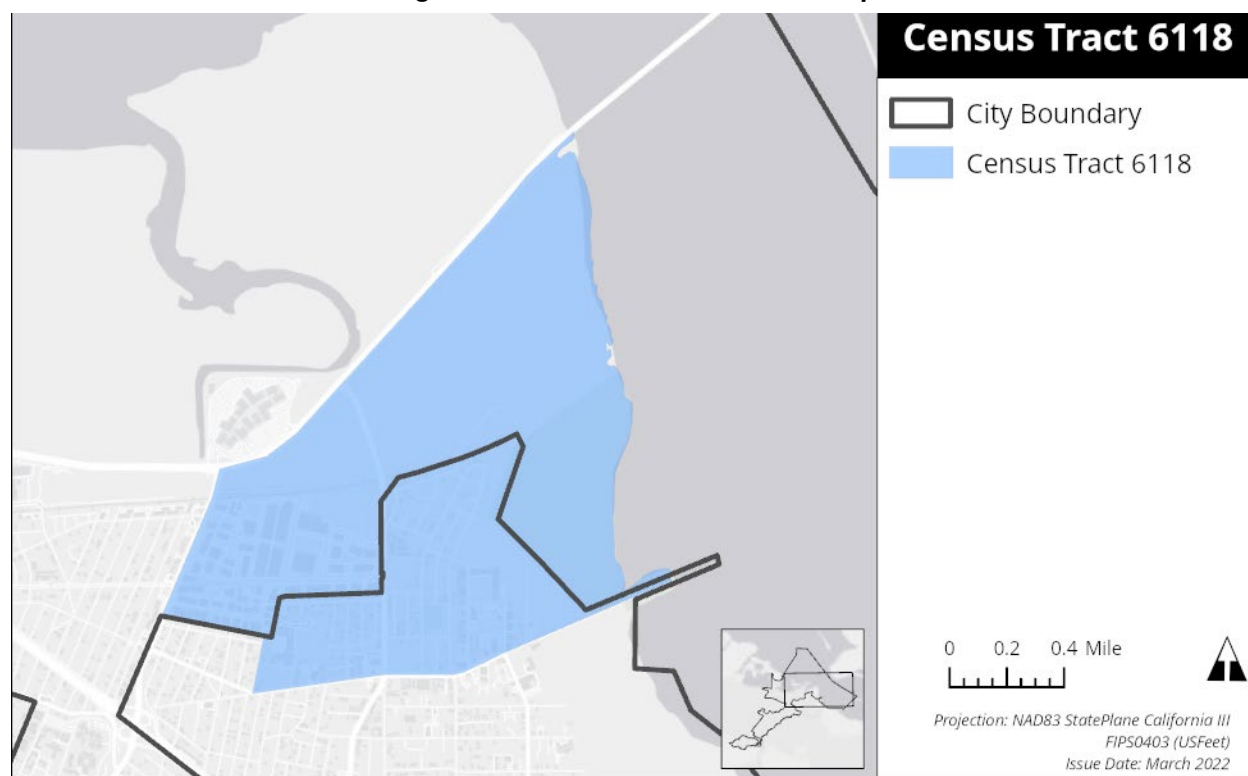
- Tract 6117 (Belle Haven and Bayfront)
- Tract 6118 (Bayfront)
- Tract 6121 (The Willows)

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

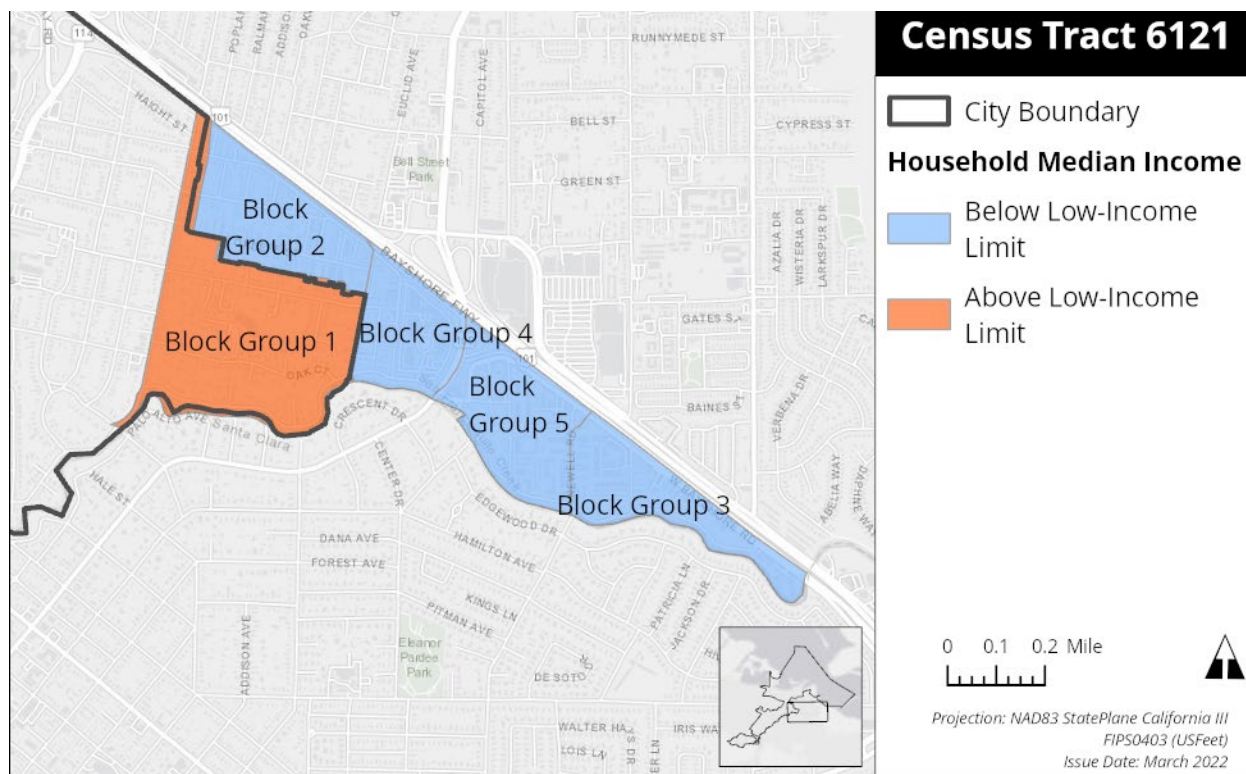


Table EJ-B-1: Median Household Income by Block Group in Census Tract 6121

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, share, 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:

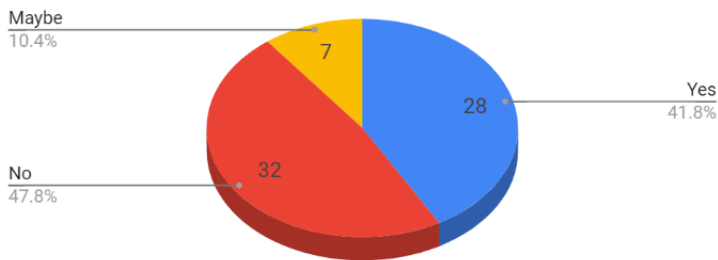
- The extreme chemical sewage smell that flows from Marsh Road and the Belle Haven community in the evening & 2:30 am from Facebook area
- Bad sewage smell and taste of drinking water
- Need speed bumps on streets to stop vehicle racing (1)
- Drainage outside have lots of rodents and insects that come 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.

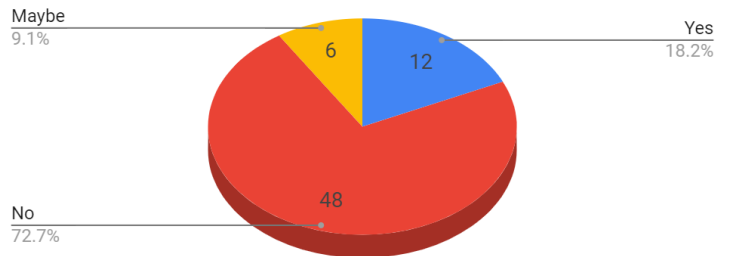
Before you came to this discussion, did you know much about Belle Haven's history?

(count = 67)



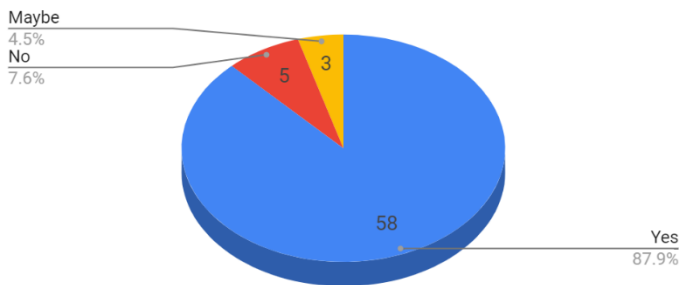
Before you came, did you know much about the Environmental Justice Element?

(count = 66)



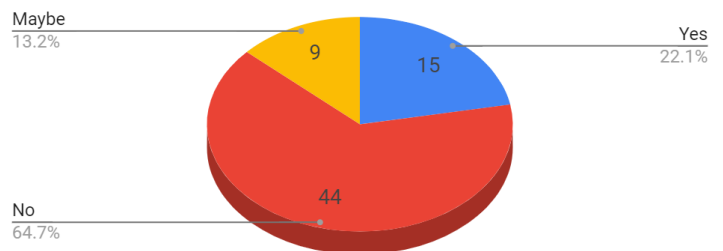
Are the topics discussed important to you?

(count = 66)



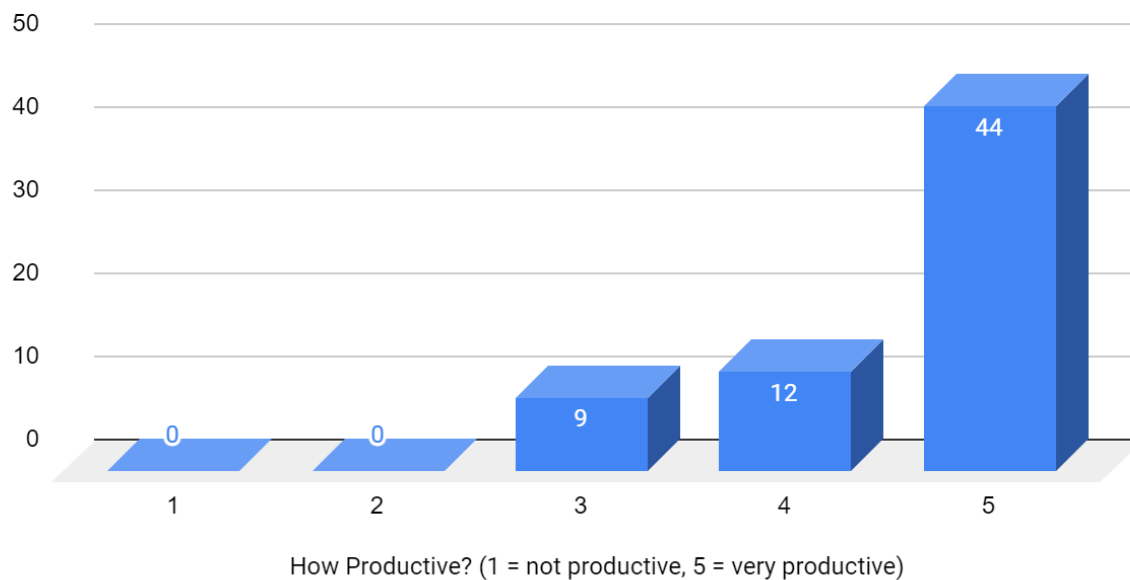
Before you came, did you know much about the Safety Element?

(count = 68)



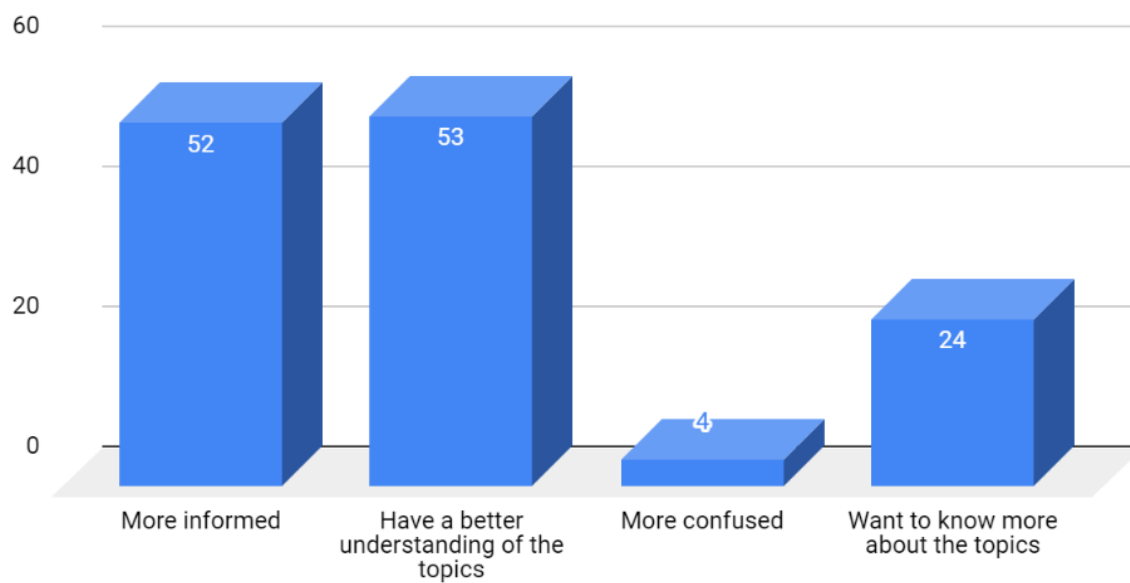
Did you find the breakout activities productive?

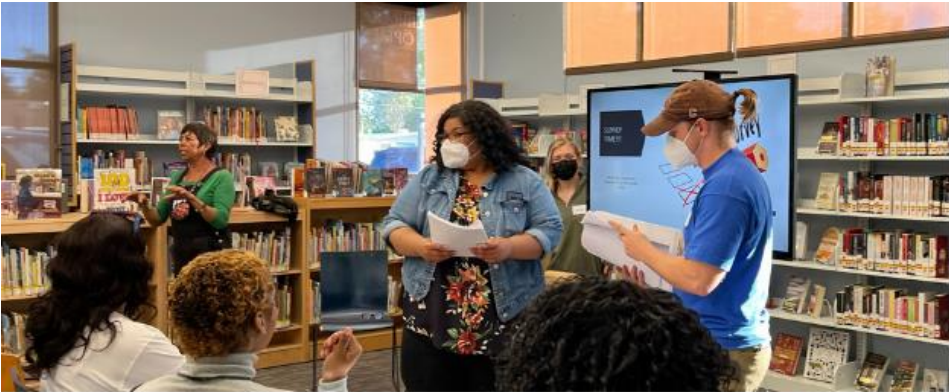
(count = 65)



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

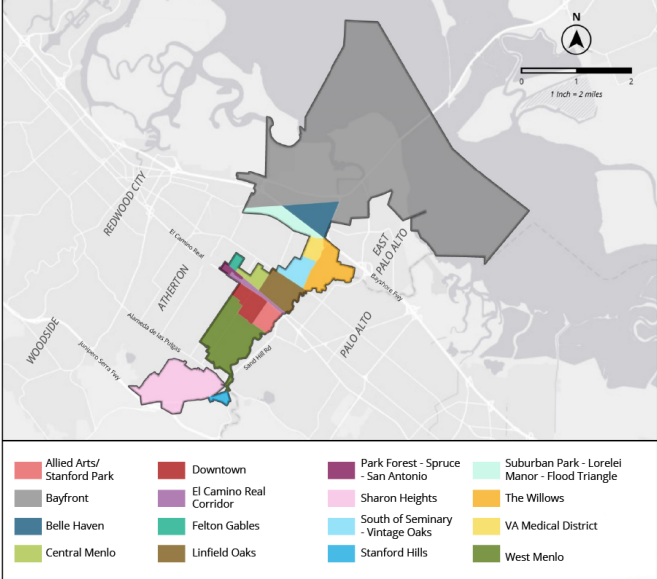
Environmental Justice and Safety Survey

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"/> 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										

	<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.

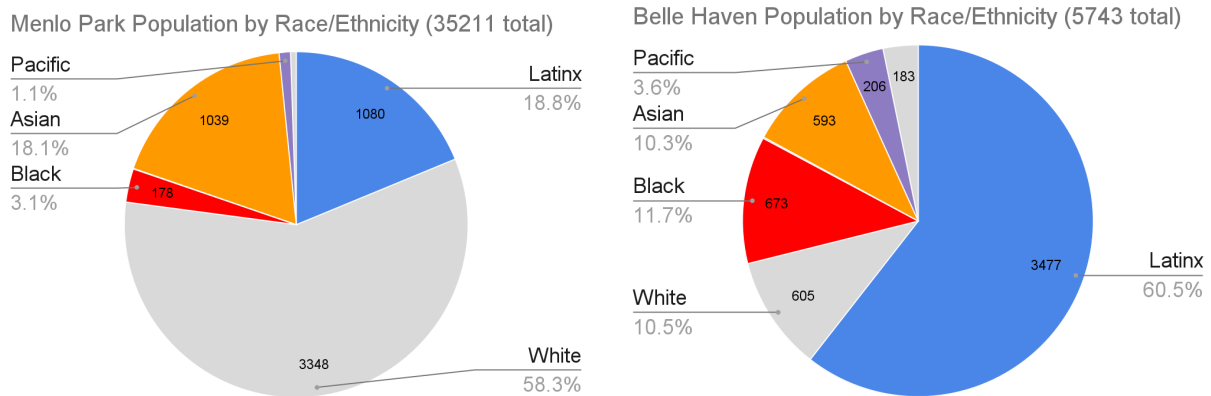
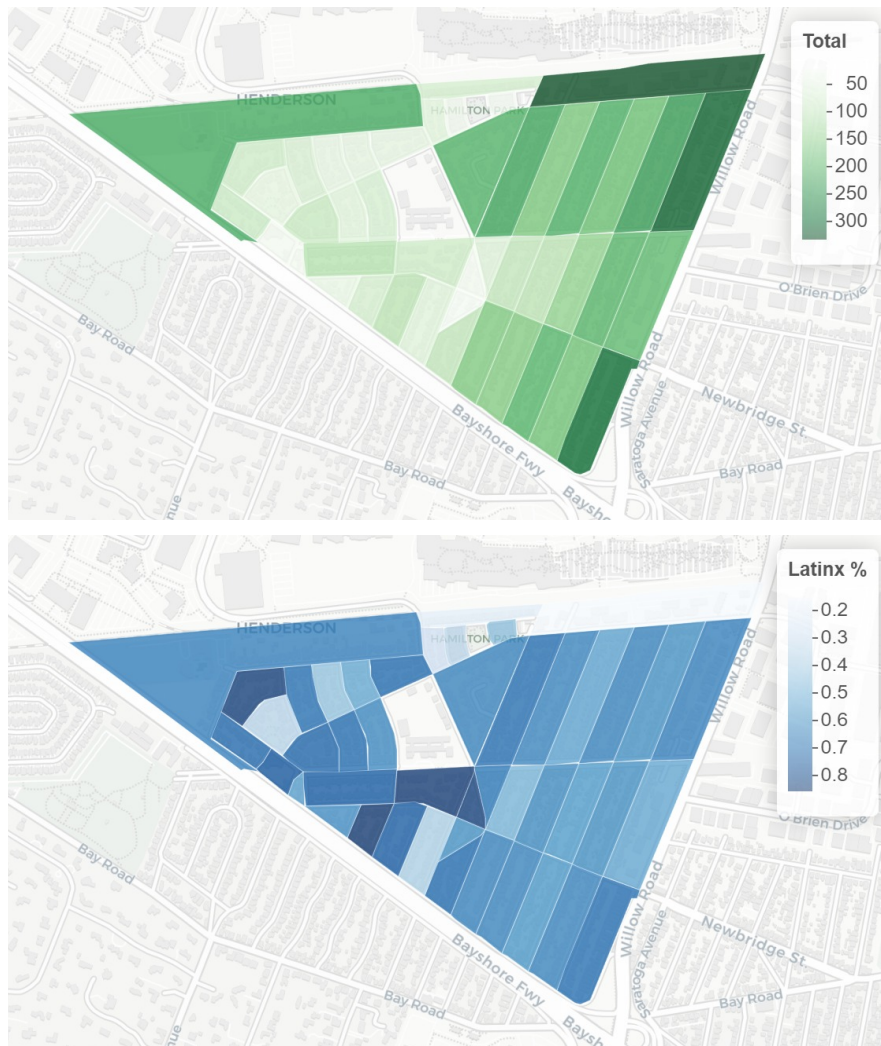


Figure 1. Menlo Park and Belle Haven population by race and ethnicity, 2020 Decennial Census.

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.



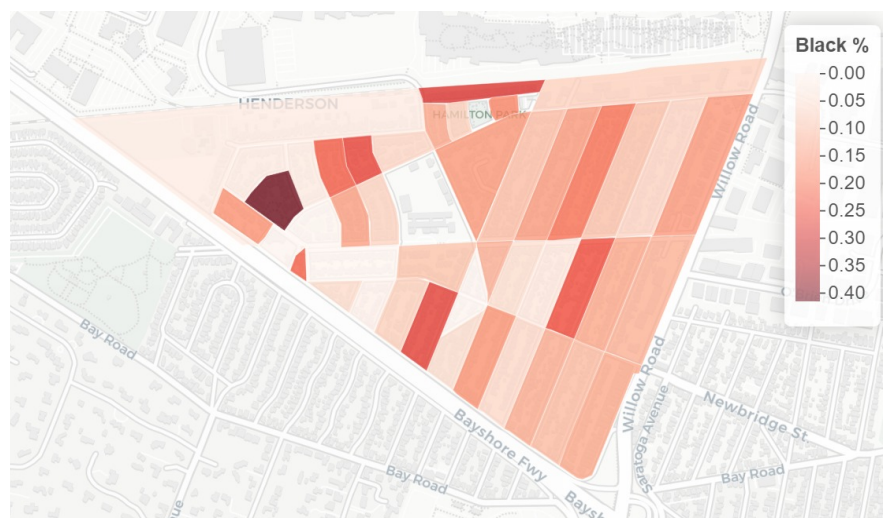


Figure 2. Belle Haven total population, % Latinx, and % Black by block, 2020 Decennial Census.

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

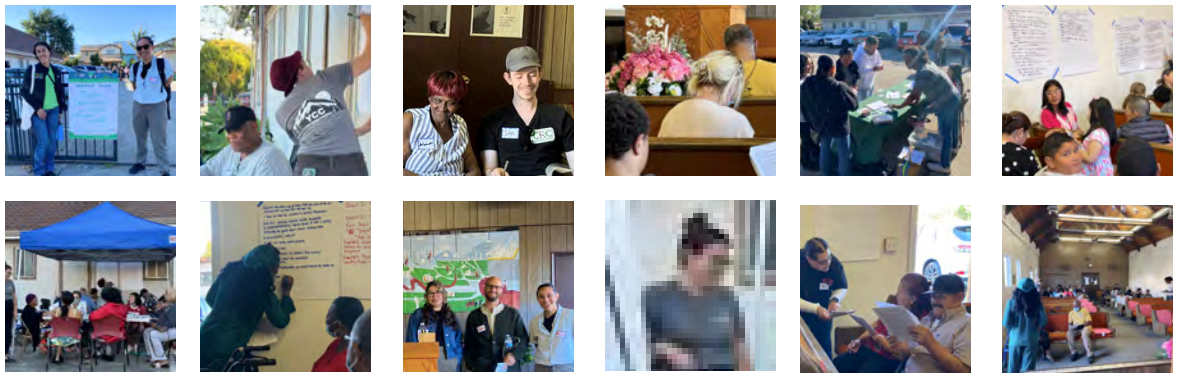
Other responses included:

- 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

City of Menlo Park

Climate Resilient Communities Prioritization Workshop Summary



May 2024

Empowering community voices to
implement equitable climate solutions
for unity, resilience, & justice

Prepared For:
City of Menlo Park



Climate Resilient Communities

May 2nd & 9th, 2024

567 Hamilton Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025

Description: This report summarizes the outcomes of two workshops on the Environmental Justice (“EJ”) and Safety Element Update for the City of Menlo Park’s General Plan. It was organized by Climate Resilient Communities (“CRC”) for Spanish-speaking residents and members of the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park, on May 2nd and May 9th, 2024. The primary facilitators were CRC Staff representatives and members of the identified Underserved Communities which includes Belle Haven and Bayfront residents of Menlo Park.

Participant Demographics

- The May 2 Spanish workshop was attended by 33 individuals.
- The May 9 English workshop was attended by 48 individuals.
- Nearly all participants were members of the Belle Haven Community.
- Cumulative participants engaged throughout the EJ Element process totals approximately 1,800 residents, which represents more than 25% of Belle Haven residents.

Key Take-Aways

1 The top priorities of Belle Haven residents are Safe, Sanitary, and Stable homes and Access to Healthy and Affordable food. This demonstrated the financial precarity of the community through their clear emphasis on access to basic needs and services. The EJ Element should offer clear paths to addressing these concerns.

2 There are massive disparities between the Belle Haven neighborhood and the South side of Menlo Park, separated by the 101 Freeway. Several participants in the workshop indicated they lacked the literacy to participate in the worksheet activity without facilitator help, something entirely absent from many perceptions of Menlo Park.

3 Accountability remains a top concern for residents. They have little trust that their participation will result in meaningful change and are reluctant to believe that the programs and policies will be implemented. Many residents are feeling acute stress and want to see improvements made in their community while seeing the displacement pressure alleviated. Many environmental concerns take a back seat to the more immediate concerns about displacement, gentrification, and access to healthy food and living environments.



Key Quotes from Worksheet Comments:



"Living here is expensive and many times we have to pay rent no matter what and our health is affected because we can't afford quality food."

"Housing is a human rights issue, addressing the displacement and ensuring residents that make up this community can stay in the community is the top priority."



"Rent control is #1 because it can allow people time to save to purchase a house in the future."

"Rent is so expensive! We need better rent control laws for low income families!"

"There are a lot of residents who've had to move away because of rent hikes and discriminatory home buying practices. There are renter-to-owner issues that need to be addressed by laws."



"My number 1 is increasing the number of trees in the community which will help with significant air pollutants and overall health."

"Environmental justice is essential for the growth of the community."

"We need to have banks and grocery stores in this area because there are lots of seniors who don't have vehicles and have to wait at the bus stops for long periods and some are afraid of being onboard."



"As I age, after I retired I am unable to afford to live."

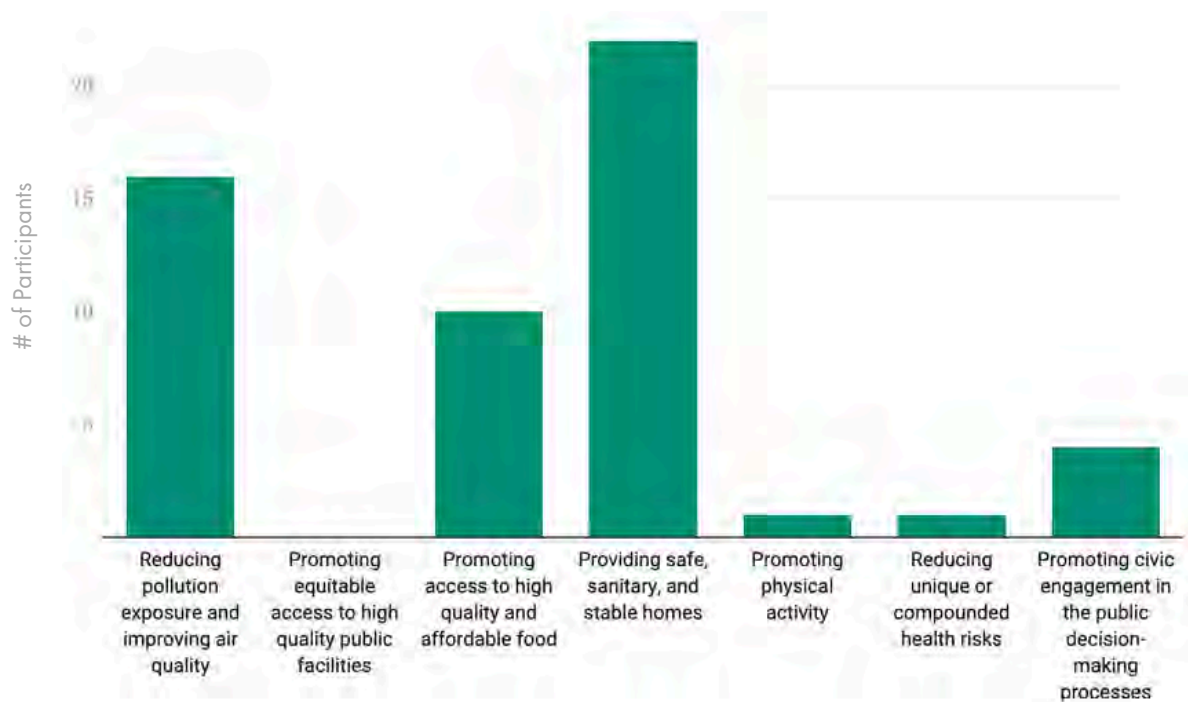
Summary of Worksheet Exercise

Prioritization Workshop Summary



Key Statistics

- Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Homes was the top priority, receiving a plurality of first place rankings. 41% of residents stated it was their top concern.
- The #2 priority was Healthy and Affordable Food. 30% of residents stated it was their top concern. The #3 priority was Reducing Pollution Exposure, as 18% of residents placed this at the top.
- Among the seven programs in the Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Homes, 48% of residents placed anti-displacement as their top priority, while 21% of others stated down-payment assistance as their top priority.



Recommendations

01

EJ Element Reporting Requirements & Accountability

Increase opportunities for accountability through strict reporting requirements on EJ Element Programs and Policies. Identify a primary and secondary department and/or staff person responsible for implementation and, as appropriate, at least two potential funding sources in the implementation guide.

02

Goal 5 Language Towards “Safety, Sanitary, and Stable”

Ensure "Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Housing" is used in Goal 5 language and throughout the document, replacing "Safe and Sanitary Homes."

03

Strengthening in Policy Language

Strengthen program and policy language throughout the EJ Element, for example by changing encourage to ensure or could to should/shall.

04

Anti-Displacement Actions

Elevate Anti-Displacement Actions into the EJ Element, accelerate timelines for creation and implement interim steps as soon as possible:

- Specifically, move 7.J.3 from the Implementation Guide to the Environmental Justice Element itself, retaining it as a program under Goal 5
- Modify 5.G to say “Ensure that the City’s Anti-Displacement Strategy (Housing Element Program H2.E supports households and neighborhoods in Underserved Communities. This will include studying at a minimum the following:
 - the creation of a rental inventory of all homes
 - updated or expanded rent control laws
 - rent increase mitigations such as longer noticing requirements
 - community and tenant opportunity to purchase policies
 - revised BMR guidelines allowing for deeper subsidies
 - relocation assistance for tenants
 - just cause eviction protections regardless of tenant duration
 - strengthened tenant harassment ordinances
 - examination of opportunities to limit additional fees passed to tenants like laundry, parking, and utility costs.



Objectives & Methodology

Objectives

- Identify community priorities within Environmental Justice topic areas
- Prioritize programs within goal areas to identify most pressing stressors and opportunities
- Engage residents in civic processes and receive feedback to structure general plan
- Provide update on Safety Element revisions document based on community feedback

Methodology



Outreach

- Reached out to resident contacts via email, text and phone calls to our network
- Contacted other Belle Haven nonprofits (Belle Haven Action, Belle Haven Empowered, Belle Haven Community Development Fund), distributing online registration form
- Collaborated with Belle Haven Climate Change Community Teams (CCCTs) to promote event and reach further networks
- Distributed flyers door to door and at 3 tabling events



Facilitation

Our attached agenda (see appendix) explains the general outline of the meeting, which was the same for both discussions. It began with a presentation before attendees participated in a guided worksheet and small group exercise. This consisted of filling out worksheets asking residents to rank their priorities on a list and then discuss why they ranked things the way they did. Participants ranked all options relative to one another and had an area to provide written comments. Every 10 minutes the topic changed, with two minutes to work on the ranking and 8 minutes to discuss the results with facilitators taking notes and asking questions. After completing their worksheets and offering comments, people returned their completed worksheets and received their participant compensation.

Agenda & Summary of Discussions

Time	Agenda
5:30pm	Participants Arrive and Begin Dinner
6:10pm	People Directed to the Sanctuary for the Presentation
6:15pm	Presentation Began from M-Group Explaining Work Done-to-Date
6:30pm	Breakout Activity: Guided Worksheet Exercise
7:45pm	Reconvene/Close: Collect Worksheets & Distribute Compensation

Summary of Discussions (Spanish):

(Facilitator 1 - Chase) The residents of Menlo Park spoke on the various concerns that they have about their community. One of the larger concerns is the air quality around the neighborhoods in Belle Haven due to the highway being close in proximity and the construction going on at the elementary school. Residents with breathing issues or asthma are greatly affected by the dust and other pollutants in the air. Residents also mentioned that Resilience Hubs are also of importance and it would be within the best interest of the community to outfit public buildings with things to relieve community members during times of climate events such as heat waves, atmospheric rivers, etc.

A lack of affordable housing and resources for lower income families were also a huge concern. Residents talked about how many lower income residents did not have many options when it comes to homes and them having sufficient space for the pricing.

In addition to this, there is not enough low income housing within the community. Transportation was a concern as well, bus routes and general public or group transportation either did not live up to the community standards or did not meet them at all. SamTrans was either not entirely reliable or didn't fulfill the needs of the community and although it uses an electric vehicle, it was deemed to do more harm than good.

(Facilitator 2 - Najiha) For comments about the workshop itself, participants needed to be assured that their feedback would be heard and distributed to the city. There is a great mistrust between city officials and the residents. Major concerns were for air quality, housing stability, and results. They don't want reporting in and of itself, but to see the tangible results throughout the community. Some participants weren't able to read at all so facilitators stepped in to help interpret the worksheet activity, allowing them to select their top

priority. This wasn't very effective and resulted in some skewed results because some residents resorted to just answering in sequential order. It was difficult for them to remember all the options as they were read aloud - some options were wordy. Primary feedback centered around distrust, not really thinking their concerns were going to yield any results, or that any actions would be taken as a direct result of voicing their concerns.

(Facilitator 3 - Alba) Air quality, health and affordable housing were very important overall. The community members connected with other topics like, SamTrans and the special project to provide transport, but the system to get it was not serving the community members as planned. Others pointed out that one of the Programs in the EJ Element were focused on reducing water bills, but residents asked about electricity as a greater expense.

Community members mentioned as top priority owning land as a community to then being able to regulate it and share it to have affordable housing. Another community member did not prioritize the internet to avoid it leading to youth becoming more sedentary as they surf the net or play games or stream. All mentioned food and housing as top priorities.

“Housing is a human rights issue, addressing the displacement and ensuring residents that make up this community can stay in the community is the top priority.”

-- Belle Haven Resident

Summary of Discussions (English):

The discussions held in English were very similar. The top three priorities were Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Housing, Healthy and Affordable Food, and Reducing Pollution Exposure. Many justified the focus on housing and displacement prevention as being the foundation of a community—what is the use in cleaning the environment if they're ultimately forced to live elsewhere? Residents pointed to the role housing plays in overall health and the high degree of their neighbors that live in unsafe or unstable conditions. They saw healthy and affordable foods as vital and pointed out the lack of a grocery store in the community as something that degrades health and contributes to other problems like traffic and air quality as people are forced to drive elsewhere to access basic services like food, banking, and medical care.

Many residents placed civic engagement as their lowest priority. They felt that decisions have always been made without them and didn't see how participating in any of the processes would change their lives. Many residents voiced that they had tried to participate in the past, many for decades and have not seen their action result in anything meaningful. This demonstrates the importance of tangible improvements made in the community as a result of this process—failure to do so risks further disenfranchisement and disengagement.



Appendix & Attachments

Attachments (all included as separate documents):



Appendix 1 - English Menlo Park EJE Feedback: Contains a transcription of notes written by facilitators and all written comments on worksheets collected from participants, both organized by subject area.



Appendix 2 - Spanish Menlo Park EJE Feedback: Contains a transcription of notes written by facilitators and all written comments on worksheets collected from participants, both organized by subject area.



Appendix 3 - An excel workbook with raw data from the prioritization worksheet. This is the data used to generate the graphs above.



Climate Resilient Communities is immensely grateful for the collaboration and support of both M-Group and the Belle Haven Community for being able to make this research and prioritization efforts possible.


At its inception in 2016, Climate Resilient Communities was a volunteer-driven commitment to helping residents reduce their energy costs, improve home health, and gain access to local resources like subsidized solar panels and home energy audits, and weatherization upgrades.

Through the support of our funders, our growth has allowed CRC to expand community-based solutions that center local voices in order to increase capacity to adapt to climate change threats like extreme heat, flooding, and water, food, and energy security, alongside environmental justice education.

We thank you for your review on the prioritization progress & our research towards and for the communities we serve.

Contact

Cade Cannedy
Program Director
Climate Resilient Communities
3921 East Bayshore Road, Suite 208
Palo Alto, CA, 94303

www.crcommunities.org 

cade.cannedy@crcommunities.org 

@crc-climate 



English Menlo Park EJE Feedback

Large Post It Comments:

Overall:

Top:

- Homes - stable homes are foundation, apartments aren't habitable and that creates significant health problems
- Affordable food - people need to be fed
- Physical Activity - more holistic solutions come from a healthy start with our kids. If they are not active in their youth, that will negative shape the rest of their lives
- Our biggest priority is to provide safe, sanitary and stable homes
- We also want to make sure that we are a part of promoting access to high quality and affordable food

Bottom:

- Engagement - we know that the City will make decisions without us anyways, like they always do

Goal 1:

- Public infrastructure, wants to see progress reported on, need to see results
- Seeing same problems - 40/50 years down the line
- Public infrastructure demonstrates that it is getting done and it is clearly a start to what needs to happen next
- Annual reports help create evidence and a track record
 - Written progress makes me feel like it is getting done and they are actively assessing what has been done and what is working
 - Does "annual" mean at the beginning, middle or end of the year? We would prefer to have all three
- Prioritize Belle Haven, shows up progress - annually!
- Infrastructure - everything is old and the new Community Center is the only new building
 - We need to start now because we know that it is going to take a while
- Most important is air pollution
- We do not think it is important to prioritize public infrastructure because work with people first and then get to this
- We want to see that "reporting" is accessible
- The other side of Menlo Park has state of the art infrastructure, but there isn't one nearby. The infrastructure we are thinking of are hubs for children to develop themselves and build community.
- We need to prioritize public infrastructure so that people in Belle Haven feel safe and supported in enhancing their community
- We want to access how well the EJ policies and programs address health risks

Goal 2:

- Buses aren't being used
- Education and outreach are essential
- Significant polluters should be held accountable. They would rather pay a fine than do something about it
- More knowledge about how to legally dump and it should be free to use the dump
- Got to be made aware of issues and how to act pinned between pollution points
- Choices are being made to install EV charging by SamTrans without community input
- We want more education and awareness on what "green infrastructure" is
- We know the problems with air quality but we want to see action and data-driven results that demonstrate advancement and justice
- Solar panels are BEYOND CRITICAL but I hesitate because I don't trust PG&E's grid capacity in Belle Haven. I have only heard horrible things from folks who have spent a lot of money and time installing solar panels just to have PG&E not be there to support the installation by turning over the energy
- It is important to hold major polluters accountable for SURE
- Do you only need flood insurance if you have a loan on your home as a homeowner? More research is needed
 - Despite this question, people who live in the flood zones/low lying areas need to have real and tangible protections too
- I believe most of us would take care of our public spaces if it was more convenient and affordable to legally dump
- We really like and have had positive experiences with the garbage company doing bulky pick ups!
- The garbage company needs to remove the charge/cost on the size of my curbside bin
- WE NEED MORE TREES!!! The difference in air quality, more pollinators/diversity, more shade BUT I don't want to have those trees damage my plumbing or mess with my allergies
- Work with polluters to mitigate and stop, they can go electric much more easily than we can
- It is important to stop illegal dumping because of the health hazards, fire risk and rodents
- We recommend that you revise the City rules so that the City can act to protect health
- Urban greening and carpooling can wait
- It isn't just us here in Belle Haven or just me as one person, we know the City can do more than us alone
- Most important is to revise regulations in the City to reduce pollution because we need to address this program in our community
- It is not important to to develop urban forest because we don't know if there is a need for the trees in our community
- We want a better understanding for how to work with "significant polluters"
- There should be a fee reduction at waste sites
- Pollution impacts the already problematic and systemic health disparities based on racial demographics. It disproportionately impacts people of color (Zoning/redlining.
- Educating the youth about climate resilience will address: accessibility, info spread, better advocacy for our roads/streets

- Important to think about how to diversify ethnic food options
- Why haven't all stores implemented EBT? Do they lose profit when EBT is used at their store?
- Grocery stores are limited in Belle Haven and results in food scarcity
- Want similar resources to Berkeley High School that has nutritional meals for students
- Electrical modifications are needed because the homes are old
- Double panel windows will help to condense sound too and cuts down on PG&E bills
- Bus system is getting better, they pick up/drop off more often than what I remember from before
- Small drug stores like CVS and Trader Joe's would be so great to have in our neighborhood too
- We need to develop an UFMP
- It is also important to minimize/mitigate illegal dumping

Goal 3:

- Amenities closed at the times communities need them
- Improving financial access to healthcare without insurance barrier, with the expectation that there will be quality healthcare provided despite no cost and no insurance
- Fire dept open all the time, why not the amenities?
- My home must be safe and reliable for power during a natural disaster. I feel like it is more important to me to upgrade my home so I know I am safe and can invite people over when things get tough.
- Very important to identify PRIVATE locations for Resilience Hubs too
 - Resilience Hubs need to be accessible to folks in motorized wheelchairs
 - The new community center will be dangerous to drive to in an extreme storm. I don't feel comfortable using that space as a Resilient Hub in the future
- Have programs for kids and facilities to understand the steps in green infrastructure
- We want to see our public facilities kept clean and the waste is properly disposed
- Housing for low income seniors is important
- We want more communication and transparency between Belle Haven residents and the City to talk about existing programs
- Want to see more bank connections so that there are loans for the community. We want to feel the sufficiency of keeping money here in our community specifically
- PG&E is going crazy with all the rate discrepancies, hikes and extra charges. We feel absolutely brutalized when it comes to making sure the lights are on in our homes. What is going on with this and how is PCE or the City looking to intervene?
- It is not important to identify and improve buildings because we do not understand what a Resilience Hub is and do not find that term relevant or engaging as a community
- It is very important to make sure there is Internet for all so that kids can have access along with every single other community member
- Support affordable Internet access to learn more about community programs. That connection is essential for understanding the digital resources and educational campaigns that are happening by the City
- Public buildings should be identified as our resilience hubs

- We want to ensure that our recreational facilities provide residents with access to parks, community centers and other safe places to gather and connect

Goal 4:

- Resources like SNAP available - provide access and more information is needed
- We want high quality resources and in collaboration with local stores
- SNAP access to essential care materials
- What does and does not count towards EBT
- Increase knowledge and signage (ads) for food access - we need more information and access points
- Encouraging health and clean eating with fresh food locally like at a Farmer's Market is important
- Misinformation and lots of questions about if farmer's markets were still happening in Belle Haven and where they are at currently
- Gardening in general is really important, especially teaching people and a community garden how to take it home
- I want to lump the farmers market initiatives with community gardens and use those spaces as a hub for teaching, eating and spending time in my community
- Is groundwater a part of this? I want to see more trends, see more research because what I have observed now is very concerning in my own backyard
- Everyone needs to know about food assistance programs, not just some folks
- Grocery stores need to be closer to the community because seniors do not have cars and have to take the bus to get anywhere. The transportation system is not reliable enough for that to be the way they get their food.
- Most important to address the price of food because it is so expensive. We recommend prioritizing SNAP grocery stores, promoting farmer markings and identifying how to promote deeper accessibility in Belle Haven
- The City must tell people about existing programs
- Everyone will accept benefits, increased access and an increase in affordability
- Community gardens can help share resources
- We voted for encouragement of the community at the bottom because the current programs people already know about are not working. We clearly need new programs that make more sense for this community.
- Proximity matters in providing healthy food - it must be walkable! Other ways to make it more accessible include smaller businesses, accessibility, universal SNAP and food delivery to seniors
- Inform low-income households and make sure the information makes sense to them
- ENCourage healthy food options

Goal 5:

- Education prevention for youth to not become houseless - prepare in advance through financial education pathways
- Noticing a ballooning interest on loans
- Down payment and first-time homeowners assistance
- Properties are being sold with toxic releases present

- Toxic building materials in houses
- Nonchalance of government to address these issues is so, so frustrating
- Rent control is necessary, we recommend \$6000 for 2 bed, 2 bath
- Anti-displacement sounds intriguing, we all in this group want to see that because we continue to see more and more folks living in their cars but wanting to stay in the community despite not being able to afford to live here
- We have NO rent control laws, that is easily the most important because it doesn't exist at all and hasn't been piloted at all in the area
- So much traffic because people can't afford to live here, they have to pass through to get to more affordable housing on the other side of the Bay
- It has taken a while for Belle Haven residents to see and feel the impacts of gentrification but it is very clear at this point in time
- Multilingual resources need to also be plainly worded so that you do not need to be highly education to understand and feel like you are included in that resource
- Most important to Identify and resolve rent control issues and housing issues for renters
- We do not feel it is a priority now to ensure that the City has an anti-displacement policy or initiative
- Down payments help a lot and we want more classes for homebuyers
- Displacement is a major issue!! The rent to own model is not working in our community
- There is a major problem with soil quality in Belle Haven. It is critical to have a clean foundation and if it is contaminated, people will have to move
- Housing needs to be fair and affordable
- Multilingual tenant information is really important
 - Students are transferring from different countries and are having issues assimilating because of the language barriers
- Speeding by Mt. Eden Seboral is unsafe for crossing children
- Ensure the City's Anti-Displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven specifically and in particular
- Electrification of homes and the water quality in the home are very important to us

Goal 6:

- Zoning parking issues, we continue to move our cars to avoid tickets
- ID barriers to physical education, safe routes to school
- Kids spend a lot of time navigating through traffic
- Lighting is terrible in the neighborhood and diminishes safety of those using active transportation after the sun goes down
- We know and deeply care about physical activity - we have known and felt that priority our whole lives and that makes this section easier to rank and visualize in the community
- Lots of people like to walk in the neighborhood. Are there more natural trails that we can use that connect to the Bay? What types of trails already exist and are they used regularly now?
- Crossing guards are very important with how much traffic there is in Belle Haven
- There are too many crossing guards, clearly there are plenty of those folks doing the work
- Seeing the assessment and development of safer routes to school is really important

- Speeding is a huge problem on Hamilton Ave - speed bumps or other slowing impediments are necessary
- Sideshows, or reckless driving and tricks, are getting out of hand. We know the police are trying but it is still a major issue that needs to be addressed.
- Our priority is to update the master plan because I want to improve the environment
- It is less important to implement education campaigns because it was the last option on the list but I got to the bottom of my ballot and only have that left
- More comprehensive and ongoing educational campaigns would help a lot in our community!
- Identify and eliminate barrier to our door physical activities are essential
- We want to see increased safety as a result of educational campaigns

Goal 7:

- Stipends for council and stipends for commissioners too - we like what is going on and look forward to more
- Want to group all the civic engagement initiatives into one priority project/campaign
- Educational opportunities are really important to keeping everyone involved and continuing to be thoughtfully involved longer term
- We really need more often and relevant disaster preparedness resources that are TANGIBLE and make sense with how to use
- Need more clarity on what “maintaining EJ Element” means in context. How is the City asking the community to be involved with this?
- It is really important to promote/evaluate educational workshops because people want to know how to get involved and want to stay involved longer term
- We do not think it is important to maintaining the EJE because the community is already not consider at all so what is the point?
- We need more disaster preparedness resources in Belle Haven
- We need to encourage more resources are leveraged for in person outreach because that is how this community connects and shares information

Other:

- Example
- Example

Worksheet Comments:

Overall:

- Safe and stable homes, food and reducing health risks top priority because they are the most important to living day to day. Reducing pollution and improving air quality is also very important as well as promoting civic engagement in public decision making to make the neighborhood population feel like they have a voice and that they become more involved.
- Housing is not only a major issue in the state but especially in the disadvantaged communities, that is the most important. The less important on this is physical activity because that is much more of an individual’s discipline.
- With all of the traffic air quality is a must, food is next on my list followed by housing.

- Everything can be improved but physical activity and high quality facilities are mostly taken care of.
- It is very important to have good housing and food.
- Stable homes are the foundation of a good community. Lowest priority is civic engagement, it looks good here today.
- Clean air is most important for your health.
- We need to be able to nourish ourselves with quality food. Air quality is important and preventing displacement is as well. If we take care of those we'll address unique and compounded health problems, facilities is lowest on my list.
- Air quality is very important, East Menlo Park has worse air than the rest of Menlo.
- All are important but promoting physical activity is most important for the environment so there is less pollution.
- I ranked safe sanitary and stable homes as the top priority because there isn't enough nice living spaces on this side of Menlo Park.
- Living in unsafe spaces, unstable or uninhabitable conditions creates many health health issues, you need security to thrive. Decisions are often made without citizen input all the time.
- We ranked safe, sanitary, and stable homes number one because it is better to live in a clean safe home than outdoors in poor air quality.
- We ranked providing safe sanitary and stable homes because our priorities should lie in homes so they can be safe for our families and future generations.
- We rate providing safe sanctuary and stable homes number 1.
- My priority is homes, health care and physical/health risks.
- *Living here is expensive and many times we have to pay rent no matter what and our health is affected because we can't afford quality food.*
- More support for elderly folks, improve air quality.
- Top priority is housing and food.
- Air quality is a top priority due to all the construction work that is going on.
- Affordable and safe housing is crucial, civic engagement gives people a voice and opinions. Air quality can cause health risks and reducing health risks is key to living a long life.
- Promoting physical activity for our youth early in life will help decrease health risks. Improving air quality will also help reduce health issues.
- People in underserved areas are obese, this needs to be addresses. Air pollution creates asthma and lung issues. Safe and sanitary homes is anti-displacement.
- Physical activity is lower bodily health can be improved through individual actions. Outreach and education is important, knowing is half the battle.
- The cost of living is so high and is insane. People can make the best decisions about physical activity.
- If we want to tackle the air pollution, stop building in Belle Haven. That is the reason we have air pollution and stop tearing down 40 foot trees.
- If we can't keep the community we have here, what is it all for? We have to make things better for the people who have been here and fighting for a long time, so homes is a top

priority. We have to improve health, there is more than enough food to go around, it is about getting it to the people who need it.

- *Housing is a human rights issue, addressing the displacement and ensuring residents that make up this community can stay in the community is the top priority.*
- Impacts from the state highway are extreme, we should learn lessons about food insecurity from the pandemic food insecurity nutrition and health. People need to be able to easily voice their issues and concerns to governments.
- Housing is the top concern, we need to keep our current community housed and create opportunities. The community is surrounded by highways so air quality is also a top priority.
- Everything ties together.
- We need to make sure everyone is healthy.
- Having a safe and stable home is the most important because it all comes down to needing a roof over your head that way you aren't as exposed to air pollution.

Goal 1:

- The other side of Menlo Park has very good infrastructure. Look!
- traffic
- *Environmental justice is essential for the growth of the community.*
- We need infrastructure investment, we are last in our needs.
- If you prioritize you can assess what is needed and then can check annually on the progress.
- *As I age, after I retired I am unable to afford to live.*
- I live in Belle Haven so to me personally infrastructure improvements are very important to be done and health risks be addressed.
- Public infrastructure is most important because the community can see the impacts, less important is annual reporting because we'll see the progress.
- We need to know about the outcomes of the EJE and see how well it is working. Follow up in the community on progress.
- Working on the improvements in the community is needed to make real progress.
- Top priority is roads, potholes, making buildings disaster ready. Then give an account of what has been done.
- Infrastructure improvements will take the longest so they should be prioritized first. Reporting on progress can wait till things are actually being accomplished.
- We need to be informed on the plans for development.
- We need to prioritize infrastructure so that it is better for the children.
- Address health risks is most important because we face those risks every day.
- *The priority should be fixing the community because there's been a lot of neglect—buildings, schools and street are not updated. There is more congestion in the community as well so public works needs to address that.*
- Providing better infrastructure is our #1 because better spaces for children allow them to grow in their school. If you put time and effort into your childrens school they'll feel more willing to learn because youre putting time into them. As a student it makes you feel cared about that makes you want to learn.

- Children's lives matter so we need to make sure they have safe spaces.
- Actionable improvements will help everyone even when not all people are in the loop with reports and assessments.
- Prioritizing investment in Belle Haven is vital, reporting yearly is also vital.
- It is important for infrastructure to be improved quickly and reported annually to make sure there is progress.

Goal 2:

- I have to study more on this.
- Reduce pollution produces health.
- Reducing pollution exposure is essential for good health.
- Car pooling is great and we need to know if we really need flood insurance or not.
- Top priorities to me is that we need to reduce pollution by educating people on better and more ethical ways to dump things.
- Most important is educational outreach and least important is improving the number of trees.
- Education is the key for tomorrow and the least important is the electrification, there's issues that haven't been resolved.
- Working with the best technology is important to minimize air pollution.
- Bus electrification would cut down pollution, informing the public is important.
- Reducing fees at landfills will reduce illegal dumping, the legal options have to be easiest.
- Increase outreach and awareness of flood insurance it is important to prepare for the unexpected.
- The city needs to follow through on the laws put in place to protect residents.
- If people are dumping frequently more affordable fees might make them less likely to do so.
- Illegal dumping affects us and makes its way into the ocean.
- My number 1 is increasing the number of trees in the community which will help with significant air pollutants and overall health.
- Improve quality of life by opening a drugstore. Carpooling to events is already happening.

Goal 3:

- We need support for low income people, programs have to be affordable!
- Belle Haven needs more support from the city.
- Community local businesses should be preferred.
- We need a restroom at the park on Ivy Drive.
- Most important is health least is community bank.
- Provide all residents with access regardless of their economic situation. Internet is important.
- Banks are essential to a thriving community in California otherwise where will people bank and get loans? Internet can wait because many people already have it on their phones.

- *We need to have banks and grocery stores in this area because there are lots of seniors who don't have vehicles and have to wait at the bus stops for long periods and some are afraid of being onboard.*
- The internet is important because we communicate with each other and the world/generations.
- New center needs to be accessible to everyone.
- In order to thrive and be self-sufficient we need our own financial institutions. If we have strong banking relationships we can fund many of the things we need in the community.
- Internet is our top priority because the internet is how we communicate and learn on topics like Belle Haven's infrastructure.
- Waste disposal will keep the environment clean and reduce air pollution.
- More accountability to the city, we need a dental clinic over the counter prescriptions.
-

Goal 4:

- We need more grocery stores for the elderly and the community to walk to for safety.
- Homeless people need housing and food.
- Affordable and healthy food is a great idea but in California it is hard.
- We have plenty of programs for food but none for vegan or vegetarian options.
- Home and community gardens will help support residents who live in apartments, organic gardens for year round crops. We can grow enough to support families and a farmers market.
- Now that I am retired it is more difficult to access food from home. Local small markets do not carry healthy foods period.
- Walkable stores is a huge factor.
- Least important is SNAP because it is already available most important is to inform low income people about the resources that are already available.
- SNAP is a lifesaver in this area.
- Encouraging community gardens will encourage residents to share their wealth with each other.
- We need access to high quality and affordable food. Vegan and vegetarian don't really matter unless those people are allergic to some stuff.
- Create new community gardens to provide more access to plants, fruit, soil, and gardening supplies.
- We need more stores that have clean food options. It takes transportation and more money to access more nutritious and clean food.
- A lot of stores don't offer an EBT option which shouldn't be normalized. We should have an option available to people who need SNAP or EBT. A lot of nutritious stores like trader joes or whole foods or high end stores don't have SNAP or EBT eligibility.
- Everyone should have the opportunity to shop for affordable foods.
- We need more affordable healthy and high quality foods.

Goal 5:

- I rank the highest due to the lack of rent control in our community. First time home buyers need to know what the qualifications and requirements are.
- Reduce water bills! We need help, bad! The bill is too high!
- Downpayment assistance is good, but the monthly payment will still be a problem!
- Housing affordability is very important.
- PG&E bills are higher than water bills, that should be addressed first.
- We have enough apartments here we don't need a land trust to make more of them.
- *Rent control is #1 because it can allow people time to save to purchase a house in the future.*
- Education about existing programs is important for all in regards to homes.
- Toxic soil has to be alleviated, you need to start from a clean and healthy foundation then build.
- It is better for people who come in to learn other languages to communicate with others.
- Ensuring anti-displacement is focused in Belle Haven is important and community land trust for affordable new housing.
- *There are a lot of residents who've had to move away because of rent hikes and discriminatory home buying practices. There are renter-to-owner issues that need to be addressed by laws.*
- Educational workshops would give everyone a chance to make our community more inclusive and opportunities to be heard by people who can relate.
- *Rent is so expensive! We need better rent control laws for low income families!*
- Pass rent control! And offer down payment assistance for first time buyers.
- Rent control is #1 and soil contamination is last.

Goal 6:

- We need crossing guards at key intersections because of extreme traffic in the evening.
- Flashing lights near the playgrounds are needed.
- Excessive speeding and insufficient lighting.
- We have a safe routes, it needs to be followed.
- My top priority is the safe routes to school because I have young children who are not safe.
- Most important is eliminating barriers for physical activity least important is updated the plans because that is not tangible work.
- We should have these plans drawn out in advance so safety can be reviewed and prioritized.
- Children need to be able to go to school safely.
- Sidewalks need to be accessible, how can we be active without them.
- Safe street crossing would reduce jay walking and unnecessary risks.
- Physical activity is big, encouraging more bike riding and walking will decrease the pollution.
- Implement education campaigns to help people feel safe and confident walking biking and taking transit.

Goal 7:

- We need workshops at least once a month in Belle Haven for the residents to know what is available.
- We need insurance we can afford.
- Anything to do with Belle Haven should always have Belle Haven involved!
- Language justice applies to everything.
- Belle Haven voices need to be heard.
- Regular meetings are very important.
- Outreach will help people decide what they want to do with their communities.
- We want everyone to be educated about their decisions and want everyone to be educated about them.
- Alert systems would help keep everyone safe and connected.
- Promote and evaluate educational workshops and feasibly compensate. Encourage resources for in-person outreach at the community hub.

Spanish Menlo Park EJE Feedback

Large Post It Comments:

Overall:

- Reduce the exposure to contamination and to better air quality
- Promote access to high quality food and high quality public facilities

Goal 1:

- Prioritize bettering the public infrastructure necessary in Belle Haven
- Inform yearly how to consider and prioritize Belle Haven in the planes to better the infrastructure

Goal 2:

- Work with the prime contaminators to minimize their contamination through the use of the best technology available
- Implement and update the Climate Action Plan of the City to better the quality of air and reduce the emissions of greenhouse gasses

Goal 3:

- Identify and better the public buildings in Belle Haven to serve as Resilience Hubs
- Install infrastructure that permits easy elimination of waste in parks and streets

Goal 4:

- Support the availability of agricultural markets, agricultural positions, ethnic markets, and healthy food mobile markets. Carry out an ample divulgation and participation to publicize these markets
- Foment and simplify the development process of community gardens. Facilitate the creation or betterment of a community garden in a timeframe of 3 years

Goal 5:

- Guarantee that the Anti-Displacement Strategy of the city supports homes in Belle Haven
- Identify and resolve, in the manner that is possible, whatever possible toxic contamination of the soil in developed residential communities, particularly in Belle Haven

Goal 6:

- Identify and eliminate barriers to physical activity including sidewalks, bike lanes, and lack of safe crosswalks. Reduce the speed limit, provide sufficient street lighting, and lack of gardens or trees that provide shade in Belle Haven
- Implement educative campaigns to increase the security and commodity of people that walk, ride bikes, and use public transit

Goal 7:

- Promote and evaluate educational workshops that encourage the residents of Belle Haven in the processes of making public decisions
- Foment Resources for divulgation in person, better the community campus of Belle Haven like community centers for learning and opportunities to connect the residents with resources and foment the participation in public meetings, events and making decisions

Worksheet Comments:

Overall:

- Wanting to better air quality due to having issues with asthma
- Want to promote physical activity
- Reduce contamination
- All are very important to improve the city
- All are top priorities and for the children as well.
- For me, contamination and bettering the air quality because contaminated air can bring many health problems.
- We need more clean air for the health of people, pets, and elders.
- Air is important for health.
- Air is important for health. Free transportation is convenient for people.
- Air is important for health
- It's good to have a good environment. I picked 7 because all the options are important.
- Air is important for health. Free transportation is convenient for those who use it.
- Unite for the community.
- I think it's important to improve the air to be healthy.
- We need clean air for the elderly, pets, kids, and adults.

Goal 1:

- Yearly updates over the progress and the monthly results of the EJ Element
- The streets need to be improved to increase safety on the roads
- To have more information about the food (what's healthy vs. what's unhealthy)
- Very important to prioritize climate change.
- Keep the community informed.
- Flooding causes trees to fall, more communication
- Trees fall when it floods. We need more communication.
- Flooding causes trees to fall.
- It's necessary that they inform us about the progress and results.
- Flooding causes trees to fall. Inform people about environmental justice.
- Air is important for health and the community.
- To be informed about the progress happening in the city.

Goal 2:

- To clean the air, but it's difficult to assign one number to order the prioritize the issues because they are all important
- We have to educate people about the importance of air quality
- Contamination is very important
- All are priorities for a better city.
- What's important for me is clean air that's uncontaminated.
- Talk with the companies, reduce contamination
- Talk with companies to reduce contamination x 3
- Work with the people to reduce contamination.
- It's good for our lives to improve the environment even though all options are important.
- Reduce exposure to homes.
- It's important to improve the environmental air for the community.

Goal 3:

- Belle Haven needs resilience hubs
- Very good idea to work with the schools
- Working with schools is a very good option to implement with the kids.
- We need more community spaces for the community
- Kids programs and success in schools
- There isn't a community space where there are programs.
- There aren't any community spaces where there are programs
- Fix the potholes in the street.
- There isn't a community space. X 2
- Support access to internet affordability. Work with the schools to support.
-

Goal 4:

- Promote access to healthy food because Belle Haven is a food desert
- All are priorities with this topic of food.
- All are priority
- *Mobile farmers markets * Spanish- English programs.
- Improve the quality of foods.
- More mobile farmers markets, more EBT money for more
- More money for EBT each month.
- It'd be great to have a community garden.
- More mobile farmers markets. More money for EBT for more.
- There are no community spaces, more programs, and there are homeless people.
- Example

Goal 5:

- To help the renters have rent control
- There is a need to reduce the cost of water
- Help renters to keep rent control.
- Workshops for kids to support them

- Clean the streets after fireworks.
- The buildings are empty for many years. X2
- Lots of support, programming and places to live.

Goal 6:

- Implement educational campaigns
- Belle Haven needs more streets lights, sidewalks, crosswalks, and bike lanes for safety
- Take care of pedestrians. Bike ways.
- Implement secure walkways for kids to cross over to schools.
- You can't see the lines for bicycles on the street.
- Workshops for kids to learn about bike safety.
- You can't see the bike lanes. X2
- Safety is important for people walking and biking.
- Lots and more transportation. Workshops for kids.

Goal 7:

- The community needs prepared for disasters
- The residents of the community need to know what is happening in the community to be better prepared
- English classes
- Provide Emergency kits before composting.
- Emergency kits, implement shelters for safe places during disasters.
- Protect the kids.
- Good communication between the city and community.
- More all-spanish workshops.
- Good communication with the community and the city. X2
- Lots of participation and support thank you.

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	7	7	2	5	5	5	2	2	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	3	6	2	2	3	3	5
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	3	4	7	3	4	4	1	2
Promoting physical activity	4	4	5	4	6	3	5	7	7
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	5	6	2	4	7	6	6	3
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	6	7	3	7	6	7	4	6

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	6	2	2	7	2	2	1	2	1
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	5	7	4	6	7	7	2	6	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	3	1	4	3	3	7	4	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	1	1	3	5	1	1	4	1	4
Promoting physical activity	7	6	6	3	6	6	3	7	6
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	3	5	5	2	5	5	5	3	3
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	4	4	7	1	4	4	6	5	5

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	7	6	3	5	1	6	6	4	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	5	6	3	2	3	7	6	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	1	5	4	4	1	1	2	1
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	3	4	2	3	4	2	1	4
Promoting physical activity	6	2	1	7	5	7	3	5	2
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	4	2	6	6	5	4	3	5
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	1	7	7	1	7	2	5	7	6

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	5	5	5	4	4	1	5	3	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	4	4	2	6	7	6	4	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	1	1	1	3	2	4	2	2	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	2	2	2	1	1	6	1	1	1
Promoting physical activity	3	3	3	5	7	5	4	5	5
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	7	7	7	6	3	2	3	6	6
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	6	6	7	5	3	7	7	7

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	3	3	2	4	1	2	1	4	4
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	6	4	3	4	7	7	5	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	1	2	2	1	4	2	3
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	1	1	5	1	6	3	5	1	2
Promoting physical activity	5	5	3	6	7	5	3	6	6
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	6	4	6	7	3	6	2	3	5
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	7	7	7	5	5	4	6	7	1

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	1	4	4	4	1	6	2	5	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	7	6	6	6	5	5	7	6	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	2	2	6	2	3	2	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	1	1	5	3	1	1	1	1
Promoting physical activity	4	7	7	3	7	4	4	3	5
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	3	3	1	4	3	5	4	6
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	5	5	7	2	7	6	7	7

Overall	Total	Average	Top Ranked
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	168	3.1111	16
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	273	5.0556	0
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	138	2.5556	10
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	137	2.537	22
Promoting physical activity	263	4.8704	1
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	243	4.5	1
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	290	5.3704	4

Overall	Total	Average	Top Ranks
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	168	3.05	16
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	273	4.96	0
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	138	2.51	10
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	137	2.49	22
Promoting physical activity	263	4.78	1
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	243	4.42	1
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	290	5.27	4

Overall	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	7	7	2	5	5	5	2	2	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	3	6	2	2	3	3	5
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	3	4	7	3	4	4	1	2
Promoting physical activity	4	4	5	4	6	3	5	7	7
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	5	6	2	4	7	6	6	3
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	6	7	3	7	6	7	4	6

Overall	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	6	2	2	7	2	2	1	2	1
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	5	7	4	6	7	7	2	6	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	3	1	4	3	3	7	4	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	1	1	3	5	1	1	4	1	4
Promoting physical activity	7	6	6	3	6	6	3	7	6
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	3	5	5	2	5	5	5	3	3
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	4	4	7	1	4	4	6	5	5

Overall	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	7	6	3	5	1	6	6	4	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	5	6	3	2	3	7	6	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	1	5	4	4	1	1	2	1
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	3	4	2	3	4	2	1	4
Promoting physical activity	6	2	1	7	5	7	3	5	2
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	4	2	6	6	5	4	3	5
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	1	7	7	1	7	2	5	7	6

Overall	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	5	5	5	4	4	1	5	3	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	4	4	2	6	7	6	4	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	1	1	1	3	2	4	2	2	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	2	2	2	1	1	6	1	1	1
Promoting physical activity	3	3	3	5	7	5	4	5	5
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	7	7	7	6	3	2	3	6	6
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	6	6	7	5	3	7	7	7

Overall	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	3	3	2	4	1	2	1	4	4
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	6	4	3	4	7	7	5	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	1	2	2	1	4	2	3
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	1	1	5	1	6	3	5	1	2
Promoting physical activity	5	5	3	6	7	5	3	6	6
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	6	4	6	7	3	6	2	3	5
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	7	7	7	5	5	4	6	7	1

Overall	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	1	4	4	4	1	6	2	5	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	7	6	6	6	5	5	7	6	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	2	2	6	2	3	2	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	1	1	5	3	1	1	1	1
Promoting physical activity	4	7	7	3	7	4	4	3	5
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	3	3	1	4	3	5	4	6
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	5	5	7	2	7	6	7	7

Overall	Total	Average	Top Ranks
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	355.1	3.11	16
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	551	5.06	0
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	288.5	2.56	10
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	298.5	2.54	22
Promoting physical activity	531.8	4.87	1
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	491.4	4.50	1
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	589.3	5.37	4

Goal 1	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Prioritize public infrastructure improvements needed in Belle Haven	1	1	3	2	2	2	3	2	1	1
Report annually how Belle Haven is considered and prioritized in infrastructure improvement plans	3	2	1	1	3	4	2	1	4	3
Report annually on measurable progress and outcomes of the Environmental Justice Element	2	3	2	3	1	1	1	3	2	2
Assess how well Environmental Justice policies and programs are addressing unique and compounded health risks	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	4

Goal 1	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Prioritize public infrastructure improvements needed in Belle Haven	3	3	2	1	3	1	1	4	1	1
Report annually how Belle Haven is considered and prioritized in infrastructure improvement plans	1	2	4	3	1	2	4	3	3	3
Report annually on measurable progress and outcomes of the Environmental Justice Element	2	4	3	2	2	3	2	1	4	2
Assess how well Environmental Justice policies and programs are addressing unique and compounded health risks	4	1	1	4	4	4	3	2	2	4

Goal 1	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Prioritize public infrastructure improvements needed in Belle Haven	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Report annually how Belle Haven is considered and prioritized in infrastructure improvement plans	3	1	2	2	4	4	4	2	2	2
Report annually on measurable progress and outcomes of the Environmental Justice Element	4	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
Assess how well Environmental Justice policies and programs are addressing unique and compounded health risks	2	4	3	4	2	2	1	4	3	3

Goal 1	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Total
Prioritize public infrastructure improvements needed in Belle Haven	1	1	4	1	1	1	59
Report annually how Belle Haven is considered and prioritized in infrastructure improvement plans	2	3	2	3	4	2	92
Report annually on measurable progress and outcomes of the Environmental Justice Element	4	2	3	2	2	3	95
Assess how well Environmental Justice policies and programs are addressing unique and compounded health risks	3	4	1	4	3	4	114

Goal 2	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with significant polluters to minimize their pollution by using the best available technologies	3	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	4
Implement and update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	1	2	4	2	9	4	4	2	3
Promote education and outreach about air quality and protective actions to minimize exposure	2	3	5	3	6	5	5	3	2
Minimize and mitigate illegal dumping and reduce fees at landfills	5	4	1	5	8	1	1	5	1
Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan with focus on environmental justice	4	6	6	4	2	6	6	4	5
Increase community outreach on and awareness of Flood Insurance Program	6	5	3	6	3	3	3	6	7
Encourage carpooling and alternative methods of travel for City events	7	7	9	8	4	7	10	8	6
Collaborate with SamTrans and large employers to prioritize bus electrification in	8	8	10	9	5	9	9	9	9
Revise City regulations to reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life	9	10	7	7	7	10	7	7	8
Develop an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) for the City of Menlo Park to improve the number of trees	10	9	8	10	10	8	8	10	10

Goal 2	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with significant polluters to minimize their pollution by using the best available technologies	4	1	4	5	3	1	7	2	2
Implement and update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	2	7	5	6	5	3	8	3	3
Promote education and outreach about air quality and protective actions to minimize exposure	1	5	3	1	4	4	6	1	1
Minimize and mitigate illegal dumping and reduce fees at landfills	3	3	8	2	7	2	4	4	4
Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan with focus on environmental justice	7	8	7	10	10	6	9	9	9
Increase community outreach on and awareness of Flood Insurance Program	6	2	2	4	8	5	10	5	5
Encourage carpooling and alternative methods of travel for City events	10	9	9	9	6	9	1	7	8
Collaborate with SamTrans and large employers to prioritize bus electrification in	9	10	6	8	9	7	3	8	10
Revise City regulations to reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life	5	1	1	3	2	8	5	6	6
Develop an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) for the City of Menlo Park to improve the number of trees	8	4	10	7	4	10	2	10	7

Goal 2	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with significant polluters to minimize their pollution by using the best available technologies	1	7	4	1	4	5	2	2	6
Implement and update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	4	6	10	4	5	3	4	10	1
Promote education and outreach about air quality and protective actions to minimize exposure	2	2	5	2	2	4	7	3	2
Minimize and mitigate illegal dumping and reduce fees at landfills	6	5	1	7	1	8	3	1	5
Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan with focus on environmental justice	5	4	6	8	10	9	10	9	3
Increase community outreach on and awareness of Flood Insurance Program	8	3	7	3	9	7	5	7	9
Encourage carpooling and alternative methods of travel for City events	7	8	8	10	3	1	9	6	7
Collaborate with SamTrans and large employers to prioritize bus electrification in	10	1	2	5	8	2	8	8	10
Revise City regulations to reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life	3	9	9	6	6	10	1	5	4
Develop an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) for the City of Menlo Park to improve the number of trees	9	10	3	9	7	6	6	4	8

Goal 2	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with significant polluters to minimize their pollution by using the best available technologies	4	5	2	3	4	1	7	6	110
Implement and update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	5	10	3	5	7	3	6	7	166
Promote education and outreach about air quality and protective actions to minimize exposure	2	2	7	4	3	4	2	5	118
Minimize and mitigate illegal dumping and reduce fees at landfills	1	1	4	7	5	2	3	4	132
Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan with focus on environmental justice	10	10	5	10	2	7	10	9	245
Increase community outreach on and awareness of Flood Insurance Program	9	10	10	8	9	9	4	3	209
Encourage carpooling and alternative methods of travel for City events	3	3	6	6	6	6	5	2	230
Collaborate with SamTrans and large employers to prioritize bus electrification in Belle Haven	8	10	9	9	8	8	8	6	266
Revise City regulations to reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life	6	10	1	2	1	5	1	1	189
Develop an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) for the City of Menlo Park to improve the number of trees	7	10	8	1	10	10	9	8	270

Goal 3	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and improve public buildings in Belle Haven to serve as Climate Resilience Hubs	1	8	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	6
Install infrastructure allowing for easy waste disposal at parks and along streets	2	2	7	2	4	7	7	2	3	5
Support affordable internet access for low-income households and improve internet literacy and technological skills	3	3	2	4	1	2	2	4	4	7
Use City facilities to promote and support access to health care for Belle Haven residents	4	4	3	5	5	3	3	5	2	4
Work with local schools to enhance use of their facilities for affordable after-school care and recreational facilities	8	5	8	3	6	8	8	3	5	3
Form partnerships to provide a community bank or banking services in Belle Haven	5	6	6	7	8	6	6	7	7	8
Ensure City's Community Center Programming meets Belle Haven residents' needs adapting programming based on community feedback	6	7	4	6	3	4	4	6	6	1
Ensure recreational facilities provide all residents with access to parks, community centers, fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities	7	8	5	8	7	5	5	8	8	2

Goal 3	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and improve public buildings in Belle Haven to serve as Climate Resilience Hubs	1	8	4	7	5	6	4	4	5	5
Install infrastructure allowing for easy waste disposal at parks and along streets	5	7	3	1	7	7	3	5	2	1
Support affordable internet access for low-income households and improve internet literacy and technological skills	3	5	5	3	1	2	2	8	4	4
Use City facilities to promote and support access to health care for Belle Haven residents	4	1	1	5	2	1	6	7	1	2
Work with local schools to enhance use of their facilities for affordable after-school care and recreational facilities	6	4	8	4	6	5	5	6	6	3
Form partnerships to provide a community bank or banking services in Belle Haven	8	6	7	8	3	4	8	3	8	6
Ensure City's Community Center Programming meets Belle Haven residents' needs adapting programming based on community feedback	2	2	2	6	4	3	7	2	7	7
Ensure recreational facilities provide all residents with access to parks, community centers, fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities	7	3	6	2	8	8	1	1	3	8

Goal 3	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and improve public buildings in Belle Haven to serve as Climate Resilience Hubs	7	7	6	3	6	7	4	8	8	7
Install infrastructure allowing for easy waste disposal at parks and along streets	5	8	4	2	7	8	8	7	6	1
Support affordable internet access for low-income households and improve internet literacy and technological skills	8	6	1	4	8	1	1	1	4	3
Use City facilities to promote and support access to health care for Belle Haven residents	4	5	2	7	2	5	2	2	1	5
Work with local schools to enhance use of their facilities for affordable after-school care and recreational facilities	3	4	3	6	5	2	7	3	5	4
Form partnerships to provide a community bank or banking services in Belle Haven	1	1	5	5	1	6	6	6	2	8
Ensure City's Community Center Programming meets Belle Haven residents' needs adapting programming based on community feedback	2	2	7	1	3	3	5	5	3	6
Ensure recreational facilities provide all residents with access to parks, community centers, fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities	6	3	8	8	4	4	3	4	7	2

Goal 3	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Total
Identify and improve public buildings in Belle Haven to serve as Climate Resilience Hubs	8	3	2	7	155
Install infrastructure allowing for easy waste disposal at parks and along streets	7	6	1	8	160
Support affordable internet access for low-income households and improve internet literacy and technological skills	1	4	8	3	122
Use City facilities to promote and support access to health care for Belle Haven residents	2	2	4	2	113
Work with local schools to enhance use of their facilities for affordable after-school care and recreational facilities	3	1	6	5	167
Form partnerships to provide a community bank or banking services in Belle Haven	4	8	3	4	187
Ensure City's Community Center Programming meets Belle Haven residents' needs adapting programming based on community feedback	5	5	7	1	144
Ensure recreational facilities provide all residents with access to parks, community centers, fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities	6	3	5	6	179

Goal 4	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with grocery stores and other food providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food, encouraging the acceptance of SNAP, CalFresh, and food assistance programs.	1	1	3	1	3	3	3	1	2	2
Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual outreach and community organizations	2	2	4	2	2	4	4	2	5	1
Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at City-participating events and source food from local small businesses	3	3	1	3	5	1	1	3	1	4
Support the availability of farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets	4	4	5	4	4	5	5	5	3	5
Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years	5	5	2	5	1	2	2	4	4	3

Goal 4	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with grocery stores and other food providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food, encouraging the acceptance of SNAP, CalFresh, and food assistance programs.	4	3	2	2	1	5	3	5	1	4
Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual outreach and community organizations	3	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	2	3
Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at City-participating events and source food from local small businesses	2	4	5	5	4	1	4	2	3	1
Support the availability of farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets	1	2	3	3	3	2	2	4	5	2
Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years	1	5	4	4	5	4	5	3	4	5

Goal 4	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with grocery stores and other food providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food, encouraging the acceptance of SNAP, CalFresh, and food assistance programs.	4	2	1	1	5	1	4	4	1	1
Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual outreach and community organizations	3	3	2	2	1	5	5	3	2	2
Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at City-participating events and source food from local small businesses	2	5	4	5	3	4	3	5	4	4
Support the availability of farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets	1	4	3	3	2	2	1	2	3	3
Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years	5	1	5	4	4	3	2	1	5	5

Goal 4	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Total
Work with grocery stores and other food providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food, encouraging the acceptance of SNAP, CalFresh, and food assistance programs.	1	2	3	1	1	2	84
Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual outreach and community organizations	2	1	4	2	5	1	89
Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at City-participating events and source food from local small businesses	3	5	2	4	4	3	116
Support the availability of farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets	4	3	1	3	2	4	112
Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years	5	4	5	5	3	5	135

Goal 5	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments, particularly in Belle Haven	1	1	7	2	2	7	7	2	6	4
Help enroll eligible households in programs that reduce water bills	2	2	6	4	5	6	6	4	4	3
Create a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters Conduct outreach and education to inform Belle Haven tenants of available resources including culturally competent, in-language educational workshops.	3	3	2	1	7	2	2	1	2	7
Identify opportunities to support a Community Land Trust to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing	4	4	3	3	1	3	3	3	3	6
Conduct community outreach to help first-time homebuyers navigate the process <i>Offer down payment assistance for homebuyers</i>	5	5	4	6	3	4	4	6	5	1
Promote home electrification programs that minimize passing costs through to tenants	6	6	5	7	4	5	5	7	7	2
Ensure that City's Anti-displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven Strategies can include a rental inventory, updated rent control	7	7	1	5	6	1	1	5	1	5

Goal 5	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments, particularly in Belle Haven	5	7	6	7	2	7	4	2	1	7
Help enroll eligible households in programs that reduce water bills	6	3	5	5	6	4	6	5	4	3
Create a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters Conduct outreach and education to inform Belle Haven tenants of available resources including culturally competent, in-language educational workshops.	3	5	3	6	3	3	7	7	6	6
Identify opportunities to support a Community Land Trust to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing	2	4	7	4	7	6	2	6	7	2
Conduct community outreach to help first-time homebuyers navigate the process <i>Offer down payment assistance for homebuyers</i>	4	6	4	3	1	1	3	1	5	4
Promote home electrification programs that minimize passing costs through to tenants	7	2	2	2	4	5	5	3	3	5
Ensure that City's Anti-displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven Strategies can include a rental inventory, updated rent control	1	1	1	1	5	2	1	4	2	1

Goal 5	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments, particularly in Belle Haven	1	6	7	1	4	7	4	5	3	7
Help enroll eligible households in programs that reduce water bills	4	2	2	6	3	6	7	4	6	6
Create a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters Conduct outreach and education to inform Belle Haven tenants of available resources including culturally competent, in-language educational workshops.	5	5	1	5	7	2	6	6	5	4
Identify opportunities to support a Community Land Trust to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing	6	7	4	2	6	3	3	1	4	3
Conduct community outreach to help first-time homebuyers navigate the process <i>Offer down payment assistance for homebuyers</i>	2	1	3	7	2	4	2	2	2	2
Promote home electrification programs that minimize passing costs through to tenants	7	3	5	3	5	5	5	7	7	5
Ensure that City's Anti-displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven Strategies can include a rental inventory, updated rent control	3	1	6	4	1	1	1	3	1	1

Goal 5	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments, particularly in Belle Haven	7	7	3	4	3	1	7	6	7	5
Help enroll eligible households in programs that reduce water bills	6	2	6	3	4	4	5	2	2	4
Create a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters Conduct outreach and education to inform Belle Haven tenants of available resources including culturally competent, in-language educational workshops.	3	4	7	1	1	5	6	5	5	6
Identify opportunities to support a Community Land Trust to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing	2	3	4	2	2	6	4	4	3	3
Conduct community outreach to help first-time homebuyers navigate the process <i>Offer down payment assistance for homebuyers</i>	1	1	2	5	5	7	3	1	1	2
Promote home electrification programs that minimize passing costs through to tenants	4	6	5	6	6	3	2	3	4	7
Ensure that City's Anti-displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven Strategies can include a rental inventory, updated rent control	5	5	1	7	7	2	1	7	6	1

Goal 5	Ranking	Total	Top Ranks
Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments, particularly in Belle Haven	7	189	6
Help enroll eligible households in programs that reduce water bills	6	179	0
Create a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters Conduct outreach and education to inform Belle Haven tenants of available resources including culturally competent, in-language educational workshops.	5	173	5
Identify opportunities to support a Community Land Trust to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing	2	154	2
Conduct community outreach to help first-time homebuyers navigate the process <i>Offer down payment assistance for homebuyers</i>	3	133	9
Promote home electrification programs that minimize passing costs through to tenants	4	194	0
Ensure that City's Anti-displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven Strategies can include a rental inventory, updated rent control	1	123	20

Goal 6	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and eliminate barriers to outdoor physical activity including sidewalks, bike paths, and lack of safe street crossings, Reduce excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping or shade trees in Belle Haven	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	2
Implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling, and taking transit	2	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	4	1
Expand the Safe Routes to School program, including increased crossing guards at key intersections	3	4	4	3	2	3	3	3	2	3
Update and adopt the City's Transportation Master Plan to improve environmental justice	4	2	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	4

Goal 6	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and eliminate barriers to outdoor physical activity including sidewalks, bike paths, and lack of safe street crossings, Reduce excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping or shade trees in Belle Haven	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	3	3	1
Implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling, and taking transit	2	4	2	3	2	2	2	4	2	2
Expand the Safe Routes to School program, including increased crossing guards at key intersections	4	2	3	2	3	1	3	1	1	3
Update and adopt the City's Transportation Master Plan to improve environmental justice	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	2	4	4

Goal 6	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and eliminate barriers to outdoor physical activity including sidewalks, bike paths, and lack of safe street crossings, Reduce excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping or shade trees in Belle Haven	3	1	3	1	1	1	4	2	1	1
Implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling, and taking transit	4	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	2
Expand the Safe Routes to School program, including increased crossing guards at key intersections	1	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	3
Update and adopt the City's Transportation Master Plan to improve environmental justice	2	4	2	3	4	4	2	4	3	4

Goal 6	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Total
Identify and eliminate barriers to outdoor physical activity including sidewalks, bike paths, and lack of safe street crossings, Reduce excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping or shade trees in Belle Haven	3	1	1	2	55
Implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling, and taking transit	4	3	2	1	75
Expand the Safe Routes to School program, including increased crossing guards at key intersections	2	2	4	3	95
Update and adopt the City's Transportation Master Plan to improve environmental justice	1	4	3	4	116

Goal 7	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Promote and evaluate educational workshops that involve Belle Haven residents in public decision-making processes	1	1	2	5	4	2	2	7	3	1
All meetings with an item in Belle Haven should take place in a location or manner easily accessible to Belle Haven residents	2	2	4	7	3	4	4	10	9	2
Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation at community outreach events in Belle Haven	3	3	3	10		3	3	5	7	5
Pursue equitable civic and community engagement	4	4	10	9	6	10	10	9	8	3
Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the Belle Haven Community Campus as a community hub for learning and opportunities to connect residents with resources and encourage participation in public meetings, events, and decision making	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	4
Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating all City Councilors and appointed commissioners to make the positions more accessible to residents of Belle Haven	6	6	5	8	2	5	5	8	5	6
Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions	7	7	6	6	10	6	6	6	4	7
Ensure disaster preparedness planning includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Belle Haven	8	8	7	2	9	7	7	2	1	9
Conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that includes Belle Haven and encourage signing up for emergency alert systems.										
Encourage involvement of Belle Haven in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea level rise and coastal flooding	9	9	8	3	8	8	8	3	10	10
Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Implementation Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach	10	10	9	4	7	9	9	4	2	8

Goal 7	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Promote and evaluate educational workshops that involve Belle Haven residents in public decision-making processes	5	4	4	2	3	4	1	8	6	1
All meetings with an item in Belle Haven should take place in a location or manner easily accessible to Belle Haven residents	4	8	10	3	2	1	2	1	5	2
Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation at community outreach events in Belle Haven	6	5	3	4	9	9	4	5	4	5
Pursue equitable civic and community engagement	3	3	9	9	5	7	3	9	3	3
Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the Belle Haven Community Campus as a community hub for learning and opportunities to connect residents with resources and encourage participation in public meetings, events, and decision making	2	2	2	7	1	2	9	2	1	4
Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating all City Councilors and appointed commissioners to make the positions more accessible to residents of Belle Haven	1	7	8	6	7	10	6	6	2	6
Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions	10	6	6	5	8	3	8	3	10	7
Ensure disaster preparedness planning includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Belle Haven	7	1	1	1	4	5	7	7	7	8
Conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that includes Belle Haven and encourage signing up for emergency alert systems.										
Encourage involvement of Belle Haven in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea level rise and coastal flooding	8	9	5	8	10	6	10	10	8	9
Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Implementation Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach	9	10	7	9	6	8	5	4	9	10

Goal 7	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Promote and evaluate educational workshops that involve Belle Haven residents in public decision-making processes	10	1	1	4	1	1	1	2	5	1
All meetings with an item in Belle Haven should take place in a location or manner easily accessible to Belle Haven residents	1	10	6	5	6	2	2	1	1	3
Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation at community outreach events in Belle Haven	9	2	5	8	10	9	4	3	4	4
Pursue equitable civic and community engagement	2	3	2	10	8	8	3	4	10	9
Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the Belle Haven Community Campus as a community hub for learning and opportunities to connect residents with resources and encourage participation in public meetings, events, and decision making	6	6	3	1	7	7	6	5	3	2
Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating all City Councilors and appointed commissioners to make the positions more accessible to residents of Belle Haven	3	7	4	3	5	3	5	6	6	6
Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions	8	9	10	9	4	10	7	7	7	5
Ensure disaster preparedness planning includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Belle Haven	4	4	9	7	2	4	9	8	2	1
Conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that includes Belle Haven and encourage signing up for emergency alert systems.										
Encourage involvement of Belle Haven in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea level rise and coastal flooding	5	8	7	2	3	5	8	9	9	8
Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Implementation Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach	1	5	8	6	9	6	10	10	8	9

Goal 7	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Total
Promote and evaluate educational workshops that involve Belle Haven residents in public decision-making processes	6	1	2	1	103
All meetings with an item in Belle Haven should take place in a location or manner easily accessible to Belle Haven residents	9	8	3	2	144
Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation at community outreach events in Belle Haven	5	2	1	3	165
Pursue equitable civic and community engagement	4	3	8	4	205
Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the Belle Haven Community Campus as a community hub for learning and opportunities to connect residents with resources and encourage participation in public meetings, events, and decision making	7	4	6	5	126
Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating all City Councilors and appointed commissioners to make the positions more accessible to residents of Belle Haven	2	9	5	8	187
Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions	8	6	10	6	237
Ensure disaster preparedness planning includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Belle Haven	3	5	4	10	180
Conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that includes Belle Haven and encourage signing up for emergency alert systems.					
Encourage involvement of Belle Haven in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea level rise and coastal flooding	10	7	7	7	254
Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Implementation Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach	1	10	9	9	250

City of Menlo Park

Environmental Justice Element Action Guide

The Environmental Justice Element is accompanied by an Environmental Justice Element Action Guide. The Action Guide is a tool to be used to manage and coordinate City efforts to accomplish the goals, policies, and programs outlined in the Environmental Justice Element. This dual document approach allows for more frequent updating of the Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach – particularly input from Menlo Park’s underserved communities – without requiring a General Plan Amendment.

The Action Guide lists Environmental Justice Element goals, policies, programs, and action items. The community-prioritized goals lead the Action Guide, followed by the other goals in sequential order.

Policies and programs are under the goals in sequential order, while action items are under the program they implement. The organizing structure and color scheme, demonstrated below, allows for easy reference:

Item	Structure	Example
Goal	EJ#	EJ1
<i>Policy</i>	<i>EJ#.#</i>	<i>EJ1.1</i>
Program	EJ#.X	EJ1.A
Action Item	EJ#.X.#	EJ1.A.1

The Action Guide includes details on programs and action items, organized under three groups: Descriptive Information, Implementation, and Time Frame. The structure and presentation style of the Action Guide may evolve over time.

Descriptive Information

Column A: ID

Identification of the policy, program, or action item corresponding to the goal they support (e.g., EJ4):

- Policies are given a number (e.g., EJ4.1)
- Programs are given a letter (e.g., EJ4.D)
- Action items are given a letter and a number (e.g., EJ4.D.1)

Column B: Policy / Program / Action Item Text

Text of the policy, program, or action item.

Column C: Classification

Identification of whether the row is a policy, program, or action item.

Column D: In Progress?

If City and/or partners are currently conducting a process that would accomplish the objective of the program or action item, this column includes a brief description. As the City fulfills programs and action items, and initiates activity on additional programs and action items, this column may be updated.

Implementation

Implementation data describes who would likely lead carrying out the program or action item and what funding is potentially available to fulfill it. Also included in this section are supporting City departments and partners outside City government, such as County authorities or non-governmental organizations.

Column E: Lead Role

The City department or division who would likely lead the implementation of the program or action item.

Column F: Supporting Role

City departments or divisions, as well as partner organizations, that may support implementation of the program or action item.

Column G: Funding Source(s)

Potential sources of funding that may support program or action item implementation.

Time Frame

The estimated time frame for programs and action items is arranged into two components: initiation (when work will begin) and completion (when work will be finished).

Column H: Initiation

The programs and action items are sorted into four categories: those that can be started in a short-term time frame, a medium-term time frame, a long-term time frame, and those that are in progress. As the City fulfills programs and action items, and initiates action on additional programs and action items, this column may be updated. For the purposes of the Environmental Justice Element, the time frames are defined accordingly:

- **In Progress:** Already in progress. These are highlighted in gold in the Action Guide.
- **Short-Term:** Zero to three years from Element adoption, estimated
- **Medium-Term:** More than three and less than six years from Element adoption, estimated
- **Long-Term:** Six years or more from Element adoption, estimated

Column I: Completion

The programs and action items are sorted into four categories: those that can be accomplished in a short-term time frame, a medium-term time frame, a long-term time frame, and those that are ongoing from initiation of work. For the purposes of the Environmental Justice Element, the time frames are defined accordingly:

- **Ongoing from Initiation:** Estimated to be worked on indefinitely
- **Short-Term:** Zero to three years from beginning of work on the item, estimated
- **Medium-Term:** More than three and less than six years from beginning of work on the item, estimated
- **Long-Term:** Six years or more from beginning of work on the item, estimated

Menlo Park Environmental Justice Element Action Guide								
DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
Community Priority #1: Goal EJ5. Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes								
<i>EJ5.1</i>	<i>Prioritize housing programs that provide and maintain safe, sanitary, and stable homes, particularly in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ5.2</i>	<i>Maintain and develop safe, sanitary, and stable homes across all locations and affordability ranges, particularly in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ5.3</i>	<i>Support housing development distribution throughout the city and not concentrated within Menlo Park's underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ5.A	Identify, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments and work with property owners to resolve issues, particularly in underserved communities.	Program	The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) tracks cleanup, permitting, enforcement and investigation efforts at hazardous waste facilities and sites with known contamination or sites where there may be reasons to investigate further. The Safety Element (Table S-4) includes a list of sites along with their current status of evaluation or remediation.	Community Development	San Mateo County Environmental Health Services, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)	Department of Food and Agriculture (Healthy Soils Demonstration Program)	In Progress	Short Term
EJ5.B	Conduct outreach to potentially eligible households regarding programs that support safe, sanitary, and stable homes.	Program	-	Community Development	California Department of Community Services and Development, City Manager's Office	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ5.C	Create or partner with providers to provide a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters with questions. If such resources already exist, conduct proactive outreach and education to inform the community of available resources. Hold culturally competent, in-language outreach workshops.	Program	-	Community Development	Local Tenant Protection Services (e.g., Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (HomeSavers Project), Project Sentinel by San Mateo County)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ5.D	Identify opportunities to support a Community Land trust or other fiscal vehicle to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing.	Program	-	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Community Development Department, MidPen Housing Community Land Trust	BMR Housing Fund	Long Term	Long Term
EJ5.E	Conduct community outreach to help prospective first-time homeowners navigate the process. This includes 6th Cycle Housing Element Program H5.F (regarding collaborating with the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust of San Mateo County (HEART)) and helping to facilitate first-time homeowner workshops for residents in underserved communities.	Program	-	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Local Community Based Outreach Organizations (e.g., Menlo Together)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ5.F	Promote funds and subsidies that minimize the passing through of any upfront investment costs of building electrification on to tenants.	Program	-	Sustainability Division	City Manager's Office, Public Works Department, PG&E, Peninsula Clean Energy	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Medium Term
EJ5.G	Ensure that City's Anti-Displacement Strategy (Housing Element Program H2.E) supports households and neighborhoods in underserved communities. This will include consideration, at a minimum, the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rental inventory of all dwelling units - Updated or expanded rent control laws - Rent increase mitigations, such as longer noticing requirements - Community and tenant opportunity to purchase - Revised BMR guidelines allowing for deeper affordability (e.g., subsidies) - Expand relocation assistance for tenants - Just Cause Eviction protections regardless of tenant duration - Strengthened anti-tenant harassment ordinances - An examination of opportunities to limit additional fees passed to tenants like laundry, parking, and utility costs 	Program	Sixth Cycle Housing Element includes Program H2.E focusing on developing an Anti-Displacement Strategy	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Public Works Department	General Fund	Short Term	Long Term
EJ5.H	As part of an anti-displacement program and to ensure stable housing, support increasing access to legal counsel for tenants facing eviction by conducting community outreach, education, and engagement to ensure renters are aware of this resource. Include progress reports on usage annually.	Program	-	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Local Tenant Protection Services (e.g., Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (HomeSavers Project), Project Sentinel by San Mateo County)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
Community Priority #2: Goal EJ4. Promote access to high quality and affordable food								

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ4.1	<i>Encourage adequate food access to fresh and healthy foods for all residents, particularly those in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ4.A	Work with grocery stores and online food service delivery and meal providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food (e.g., reduced or waived delivery service fees). Encourage and support the acceptance of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), CalFresh, and other governmental food assistance programs that increase food security.	Program	-	Community Development	Local Grocery Stores (e.g., Safeway, Trader Joe's), Local Grocery Delivery Services (e.g., Uber Eats, GrubHub, DoorDash), CalFresh	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ4.B	Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual fliers, community events, information at shelters and food banks, as well as other appropriate outreach methods.	Program	-	Community Development	Communications and Public Engagement Division, Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, Homeless Outreach Team, San Mateo County Human Services Agency	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ4.C	Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at municipal buildings and City-participating events. Encourage sourcing food from local small businesses.	Program	-	All City Departments	Sustainability Division	General Fund	Long Term	Long Term
EJ4.D	Encourage and facilitate the establishment and operation of a farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets in underserved communities. Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Community Development, Second Harvest Food Bank	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ4.D.1	At existing and future farmer's markets, or similar events, offer free or subsidized space for vendors who provide healthy, fresh, and affordable food for underserved communities.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Community Development, Second Harvest Food Bank	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ4.E	Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens within or adjacent to neighborhoods and housing development sites. Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years of Environmental Justice Element adoption.	Program	-	Community Development	Library and Community Services, Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Round 1 Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ4.E.1	Explore identifying unused City-owned property to support community gardens. Encourage community gardens as an amenity in required open space areas of new multifamily and mixed-use development projects.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Short Term	Short Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ4.E.2	Identify private properties suitable for community gardens on vacant or undeveloped lots, or other opportunities for community-supported agriculture within the community. Encourage community gardens as an amenity in required open space areas of new multifamily and mixed-use development projects.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Short Term	Short Term
EJ4.E.3	Facilitate the installation of community gardens at senior centers and senior housing facilities.	Action Item	-	Library and Community Services	Community Development, Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g. Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ4.E.4	Develop programs and encourage developments that make smaller planter boxes or garden beds accessible for apartment dwellers.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
Community Priority #3: Goal EJ2. Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality								
<i>EJ2.1</i>	<i>Prioritize pollution reduction, air quality (both indoor and outdoor), and water quality programs to reduce inequitable exposure in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ2.2</i>	<i>Implement regenerative and nature-based land management practices at the city scale, as well as collaborate on countywide and regional efforts. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve watershed and human health.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ2.3</i>	<i>Use Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park to promote and encourage urban greening on public and private projects (e.g., bioswales, raingardens, habitat restoration) in areas with relatively less tree canopy or other greenery to provide health and safety benefits to underserved communities residents.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ2.4</i>	<i>Collaborate with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and other agencies to continuously monitor air quality and seek opportunities to minimize exposure to air pollution and other hazards and maximize air quality (both indoor and outdoor) in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ2.5</i>	<i>Work with Caltrans on improvements on State-owned rights of way.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ2.6</i>	<i>When updating or installing transportation infrastructure, consider factors such as stormwater management, Universal Design Principles and attractive green roadway design.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.A	Work with any identified significant stationary pollutant generators to the extent it is within the City's jurisdiction (e.g., gas stations, automobile repair, dry cleaners, and/or diesel generators) to minimize the generation of pollution through best available control technologies.	Program	-	Community Development	Peninsula Clean Energy, Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), Westbay Sanitary District, San Mateo County Environmental Health, San Mateo County Fire, Sustainability Division	Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program)	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.B	Implement and periodically update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	Program	The Climate Action Plan is subject to annual progress reports as a standalone document are scheduled for 2028 update .Starting in 2024, the City will implement a zero emission landscaping equipment rule to improve air quality and reduce emissions.	Sustainability Division	City Manager's Office	General Fund, grants (e.g., California Energy Commission, PG&E, Peninsula Clean Energy, and CALFIRE)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.C	Conduct proactive education and outreach about indoor and outdoor air quality and protective actions that can be taken to both improve air quality inside one's home and to minimize exposure to poor air quality index days.	Program	-	Sustainability Division	Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), City Manager's Office, Peninsula Clean Energy, County Office of Sustainability	Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program)	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.C.1	Identify and implement methods and avenues for public education and outreach about air quality issues in the community.	Action Item	-	All City Departments	Public Works, Communications and Public Engagement Division, Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), City Manager's Office, Peninsula Clean Energy, San Mateo County Sustainability Department	-	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.C.2	Support the distribution of air purifiers and/or other air cleaning devices within underserved communities, especially for sensitive populations.	Action Item	-	Sustainability Division	Police, Sustainability Division, San Mateo County Sustainability Department	General Fund	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.D	Minimize and mitigate illegal solid waste dumping (as defined in 7.04.030 of the Municipal Code), potentially through minimizing fees for disposal at landfills in collaboration with South Bayside Waste Management Authority (SBWMA).	Program	-	Public Works	Communications and Public Engagement	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.D.1	Conduct proactive outreach in underserved communities to inform households of free trash pickup days and solid waste disposal opportunities and programs, including the ACT Menlo Park reporting app. Outreach can include signage about ACT Menlo Park along Pierce Road.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Communications and Public Engagement, Recology, Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.D.2	Explore ways to subsidize or eliminate fees for disposal at landfills and implement for underserved communities	Action Item	-	Public Works	Communications and Public Engagement, Recology, Public Works	Clean California (Local Grants)	Long Term	Ongoing upon commencement
EJ2.E	Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan and update, as necessary, to incorporate environmental justice. Focus on underserved communities and implement programs in this Element, in coordination with related regional efforts.	Program	-	Public Works	Community Development	General Fund	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ2.E.1	Support efforts by other agencies to abate hazardous, polluted, or toxic sites. Encourage incorporating sea-level rise and groundwater rise in their remediation decisions.	Action Item	-	If on private property then Community development, if for public projects then Public Works	San Mateo County Health, Department of Water Resources, OneShoreline	Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program)	Short Term	Long Term
EJ2.E.2	Prioritize comprehensive undergrounding of utilities in underserved communities on private and public property to promote resilience.	Action Item	The Menlo Park Municipal Code requires the undergrounding of electric and communication service connections on private property under certain circumstances. Some categories of private development in Office (O), Life Sciences (LS) and Residential Mixed Use (R-MU) Zoning Districts require undergrounding of overhead electric distribution lines of less than sixty (60) kilovolts and communication lines along the property frontage. The specified zoning districts are adjacent to and serve underserved communities.	Public Works	Community Development, City Manager's Office, utilities (e.g., PG&E)	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), PG&E Rule 20 Program, Community Amenities Fund, Bonds per project specific deferred frontage agreements	In Progress	Medium Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.E.3	Focus green stormwater improvements for areas at risk of flooding with an emphasis on underserved communities.	Action Item	Public Works evaluates all opportunities to plan for and incorporate green stormwater improvements, including areas at risk of flooding and within underserved communities, per the City's 2019 Green Infrastructure Plan.	Public Works	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.E.4	Support West Bay Sanitary District, the respective responsible agency, in their efforts to prevent sewage discharges during large stormwater events. In the event of occurrence, coordinate with the responsible agency in conducting proactive, extensive, and prolonged community outreach and education to inform underserved communities of protective actions and risks. The City can coordinate with agencies to promptly share their information with the City Council and community after storms.	Action Item	-	Public Works	City Manager's Office, West Bay Sanitary District, East Palo Alto Sanitary District, Fair Oaks Sewer Maintenance District	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning and Project Development Grant)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ2.E.5	Collaborate with landowners to decrease the risk of flooding by advancing watershed management projects that reduce and/or store runoff during rainfall events, including the installation of green infrastructure and Low Impact Development (LID) practices, and improve the condition in the floodplain, for example through floodplain restoration or improvement.	Action Item	The City coordinates the incorporation of Low Impact Development (LID) and green infrastructure elements into project stormwater management designs.	Public Works	OneShoreline, Department of Water Resources, City Manager's Office, Community Development	Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (Infrastructure State Revolving Fund (ISRF) Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.E.6	Encourage green infrastructure in future developments, including using green infrastructure as preferred alternative.	Action Item	Green infrastructure, including Low Impact Development (LID), is currently utilized for stormwater management and treatment in development projects.	Public Works	Community Development, City Manager's Office, Sustainability Division	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.E.7	Establish requirements for major development and redevelopment projects to construct and maintain urban greening projects in the adjacent public right of way. Community benefits for such projects could include shade trees for pedestrian and biking routes.	Action Item	The existing heritage tree ordinance has requirements for tree planting on private properties and replacement of trees in the public right of way. The City is currently updating administrative guidelines.	Public Works	Caltrans, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, Canopy	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Grants	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.E.8	Restore and enhance parks, natural lands and large open spaces and explore expansion of the City's natural areas preservation system through land transfers and acquisitions of undeveloped/unprotected private and public lands.	Action Item	-	Library and Community Services	City Manager's Office, Community Development, Public Works, Save The Bay, California Department of Conservation	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ2.F	Increase community outreach and awareness of the City's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, including the Community Rating System, and the potential benefits to homeowners (e.g., reduced insurance premiums)	Program	-	Communications and Public Engagement Division	Public Works	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.G	Develop incentives to encourage shared commute programs and alternative methods of travel for city events, meetings, and official business.	Program	-	City Manager's Office, Public Works	SamTrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition), Public Works, Sustainability Division, Library and Community Services	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Long Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.H	Collaborate with SamTrans and Ravenswood City School District, as well as Meta and other large employers to leverage transportation electrification initiatives to prioritize bus electrification in underserved communities.	Program	SamTrans anticipated being fully electric by 2034, in compliance with State law requiring transit fleets be all electric by 2040.	Public Works	Sustainability Division, SamTrans, Ravenswood City School District, Large Local Businesses (over 50 employees, e.g., Meta, SRI International, Grail, others)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.I	Consider revisions to applicable City regulations that will reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life in underserved communities.	Program	Zero Emission Landscaping Ordinance, Municipal Code Chapter 7.30 (Smoking Regulated or Prohibited), Building Code amendments.	All City Departments	-	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.I.1	Review truck routes and/or identify and pursue measures for reductions to diesel emissions in underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ2.I.2	Identify, evaluate and implement potential mitigation measures that support Caltrans mitigation efforts to reduce noise and air quality impacts from adjacent freeways and highways, particularly those impacting underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ2.I.3	Install improved vegetative buffers between freeways and highways and adjacent land uses to reduce noise and air quality impacts, upon identification of the roadway segments for such installations.	Action Item	Landscaping work on the Willow/US-101 interchange is in the design phase as of early 2024.	Public Works	Caltrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning) Community Amenities Fund	In Progress	Long Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.1.4	Review and update the Transportation Toolkit (Appendix I to the Transportation Master Plan) and the City's standard design details to incorporate Universal Design principles to enhance access for all people.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Long Term	Medium Term
EJ2.1.5	Support roadway design that integrates green stormwater infrastructure into traffic calming (where appropriate) and includes trees, landscape buffer areas, public art, public space, and other visual enhancement.	Action Item	The City is currently integrating green stormwater infrastructure in roadway design, but is limited by the available space/right-of-way where landscape buffers can be incorporated.	Public Works	Caltrans, Library and Community Services	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.1.6	Consider rezoning and limiting the intensity and usage of industrially zoned properties and/or other means such as landscaping to ensure a healthier and safer separation between residential and industrial uses.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ2.1.7	Explore reductions to parking requirements with the intent to encourage balanced live, work, and play environments.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ2.1.8	Inform residents and organizations in underserved communities of the permit application process for temporary street closures for temporary events such as farmers' markets, arts and craft fairs, bicycle and pedestrian events, and other public events. Consider easing the permitting process for temporary street closures in the city.	Action Item	An update to the special event permitting process was made in 2022.	Police	City Manager's Office, City Attorney's Office, Community Development, Public Works.	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Short Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.J	Develop Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park within four years of the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.	Program	The City applied for CalFire Urban and Community Forestry Grant for Urban Forest Management Plan in May 2024. This grant requires projects to be completed by March 31, 2028. The City has budgeted \$250,000 in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) as matching funds.	Public Works	Sustainability Division, Canopy	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Round 1 Planning Grant), United States Department of Agricultural (USDA) Grants, CALFIRE grants. City of Menlo Park Heritage Tree in-lieu fee program	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.J.1	Urban canopy expansion prioritizing underserved communities and areas vulnerable to urban heat effects, using tools such as the Tree Equity Score and Bay Area Greenprint.	Action Item	The City is currently updating administrative guidelines, adding more City approved consulting arborists to the list, and working towards securing grant funds for Urban Forest: Developing a Master Plan for Menlo Park.	Public Works	Canopy	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), Community Amenities Fund	In Progress	Short Term
EJ2.J.2	Implement equitable canopy expansion procedures and promote and maintain healthy and vibrant trees that may require dedicating additional resources within the City Arborist Division, Public Works.	Action Item	The City is working towards the development of an urban forest management plan, updating administrative guidelines, and adding more City approved consulting arborists. One additional employee was added to the Trees maintenance section in 2022-23. In May 2024, the City applied for the CalFire Urban and Community Forestry Grant to develop an Urban Forest Management Plan for Menlo Park.	City Manager's Office, Public Works	Sustainability Division, Public Works	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program),	In Progress	Short Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.J.3	Include trees, landscape buffer areas, public art, public space, and other visual enhancements in roadway projects, emphasizing tree planting and landscaping along all streets.	Action Item	Routine maintenance is conducted every 5 years. Residents may request evaluation of work needs outside of routine maintenance, which is on a 5-year cycle.	Public Works	Community Development, Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), Community Amenities Fund (north of 101 implementation of Action Item 2.N.3)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.J.4	Use Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park to prioritize the retention of mature street trees in public rights of way or City-owned parcels during infrastructure modifications. (e.g., using solutions such as bulb-outs, basin expansion, and sidewalk re-routing.)	Action Item	The City has preservation requirements for heritage and street trees.	Public Works	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ2.J.5	Coordinate with property owners to help preserve mature trees by replacing any that require removal in any redevelopment process. Explore opportunities to transplant trees and vegetation that require removal during construction to other places within underserved communities. Consider requiring multiple new trees be planted for each mature tree removed.	Action Item	The City is updating administrative guidelines and adding more City approved consulting arborists to the list.	Public Works	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.K	Prioritize relief from extreme heat (Safety Element Program S1.T) in underserved communities. Information on these resources shall be provided at community facilities (e.g., BHCC).	Program	The City currently operates three cooling centers at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, Belle Haven Community Campus, and the Menlo Park Library. The facilities are air-conditioned and open to the public.	Library and Community Services	Communications and Public Engagement	General Fund	In Progress	Ongoing From Initiation
Goal EJ1. Address unique and compounded health risks								

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<i>EJ1.1</i>	<i>Prioritize programs that address the unique and compounded health risks present in underserved communities currently and in the future.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ1.2</i>	<i>Reduce climate vulnerability in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ1.3</i>	<i>Strengthen collaboration efforts with residents in underserved communities, particularly on public improvement projects.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ1.4</i>	<i>Prioritize active transportation (e.g., walking, bicycling, wheelchair) improvements, transit incentives, and neighborhood connectivity in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ1.A	Prioritize public/capital improvements needed in underserved communities with priority allocation of funding, available to the City locally and from regional, statewide, and federal entities, for such projects, and to address climate change.	Program	-	City Manager's Office, Public Works	Community Development, Sustainability Division	General Fund, General Capital Fund, Countywide Transportation Sales Tax Funds (Measure A & W), State and Federal Gas Taxes	Short Term	Long Term
EJ1.A.1	Support (to the extent possible and subject to funding limitations) non-governmental agencies' grant applications and projects that will specifically help implement the Environmental Justice Element and address highlighted issues in underserved communities such as safe housing, increased tree coverage, recreational resources, active transportation, environmental concerns, air quality.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	Bayfront Mitigation Fund (project specific) Community Amenities Fund (projects specific)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ1.B	Prepare publicly available reports annually to describe how underserved communities are considered and prioritized in capital improvement plans, departmental work plans, and budgets within four years after the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.	Program	-	All City Departments	-	General Fund	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ1.C	Develop and publicize annual or every-other-year reports that measure progress and outcomes of the implementation of the Environmental Justice Element programs within six years after the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.	Program	-	Community Development	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ1.D	Review CalEnviroScreen to support evaluation of Environmental Justice Element policies and programs.	Program	-	Community Development	California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, All City Departments	General Fund	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
Goal EJ3. Equitably provide appropriate public facilities to individuals and communities								
<i>EJ3.1</i>	<i>Prioritize providing public facilities and programming for underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ3.2</i>	<i>Ensure accessibility of public facilities for all community members, especially those in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ3.3	<i>Support programs that increase access to public and private health resources for underserved communities in locations that are convenient and accessible.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ3.4	<i>Coordinate with local school districts, transit operators, and other public agencies to provide adequate public facilities, improvements, and programs in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ3.A	Identify, renovate, and retrofit candidate public buildings in underserved communities to serve as Climate Resilience Centers as outlined by the California Strategic Growth Council. These buildings should be places where the community already regularly gathers, such as libraries, community centers, or the Belle Haven neighborhood substation.	Program	-	Public Works	Sustainability Division, Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ3.B	Work with relevant departments to install infrastructure allowing for easy disposal of pet and animal waste at parks and along highly trafficked streets.	Program	-	Public Works	City Manager's Office	General Fund	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ3.C	Work with internet service providers to support affordable access for low-income households, potentially in partnership with neighboring jurisdictions or state agencies. Inform the community of existing or future partnerships through community workshops that also serve to improve internet literacy and technological skills. In addition, expand outreach and community access to the City Library's laptop and wireless hotspot, or similar, borrowing programs.	Program	The City currently offers laptop lending and wi-fi hotspots free to residents at the library with their library card.	Library and Community Services	Local Internet Providers (e.g., AT&T, Xfinity, Spectrum), San Mateo County Public Works, California Public Utilities Commission, Administrative Services Department/Information Technology Department	California Advanced Services Fund: Broadband Public Housing Account	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ3.D	Seek to form partnerships, particularly with community based organizations and businesses, and consider option for the use of City facilities to promote and support access to health care for underserved communities.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant), Department of Health and Human Services (Service Area Competition Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ3.D.1	Encourage local transit providers to establish and maintain routes and services that provide underserved communities with convenient access to health service facilities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	SamTrans, Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ3.D.2	Partner with local transit 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.	Action Item	-	Public Works	SamTrans, Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ3.D.3	Identify means of supporting a citywide 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.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Library and Community Services, City Manager's Office, Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant), Department of Health and Human Services (Service Area Competition Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ3.D.4	Identify a partner who can provide a community health clinic in Belle Haven.	Action Item	A Community health clinic has been proposed as part of Belle Haven Elementary School redesign by Ravenswood City School District.	City Manager's Office	Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant), Department of Health and Human Services (Service Area Competition Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ3.E	Coordinate with schools and other local organizations (e.g., Boys and Girls Club) to support after-school activities and related outreach/communications generally.	Program	-	Library and Community Services	Ravenswood City School District	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ3.E.1	Coordinate with the Ravenswood City School District to help publicize affordable after school care options/programs and explore opportunities to enhance transportation options for youth to BHCC.	Action Item	Ravenswood City School District has a number of after school care options/programs and the City can help publicize and enhance usage. City vans provide transportation to BHCC for youth enrolled in the City's after school program, however, there is not transportation for youth interested in going to BHCC after school but are not enrolled in the City's program.	Library and Community Services	Communications and Public Engagement, Ravenswood City School District	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ3.E.2	Encourage joint use of recreational fields.	Action Item	-	Library and Community Services	Public Works, Ravenswood City School District	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ3.F	Seek to form partnerships or other agreements with a banking specialist and other identified partners to provide a community bank or banking services in the underserved communities.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Local banks	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ3.G	Ensure delivery on the needs of underserved communities through the City's Programming Plans currently in place and continue to adapt programming based on community feedback through regular community surveys and outreach.	Program	City staff, with input from the community, Belle Haven Community Campus subcommittee and working group, Library Commission, and Parks and Recreation Commission, have developed robust programming plans for Belle Haven Community Campus. City will continue to adapt programming to community needs through regular community surveys and outreach that solicit community feedback.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ3.G.1	During facility renovations, install distributed solar panels and battery storage over facility parking lots for resiliency and heat reduction.	Action Item	The Belle Haven Community Campus is an all-electric, zero combustion, net zero energy public building with onsite renewable energy generation, battery microgrid, and electric vehicle charging stations. The facility is built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum environmental standards, and its structural design is resilient to serve as an emergency shelter. Construction is complete.	Public Works	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department, Menlo Park Public Works Department, Silicon Valley Clean Energy, Menlo Park Building Division	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Complete	Short Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ3.G.2	Provide equitable access to programs at the Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) through appropriate costs and proactive, multilingual, and multimodal outreach for residents of underserved communities.	Action Item	Programming plans for Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) emphasize equitable access to programs through appropriate costs and proactive, multilingual, and multimodal outreach for residents of underserved communities. Menlo Park residents who live or attend K-12 school within the service area of BHCC are eligible for hyperlocal resident enrollment fees at BHCC.	Library and Community Services	Library and Community Services Department, Community-Based Outreach Organizations (e.g., Menlo Together, Climate Resilient Communities)	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.3	Providing community programming for all age groups, including older teens and older adults not considered seniors.	Action Item	The City provides and is working to develop additional programming for all age groups, including teens and older adults not considered seniors, and will continue to adapt programming to meet community needs and desires as they change over time, with community input.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.4	Provide childcare, potentially with funding support for residents of underserved communities.	Action Item	The City provides childcare with funding support for underserved communities at the Belle Haven Child Development Center (BHCDC) and Belle Haven Youth Center (BHYC). Tuition is subsidized based on income level with grant funding from the State and other sources.	Library and Community Services	Local Childcare Organizations	California Department of Education	In Progress	Medium Term

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EJ3.G.5	Communicate with the Ravenswood City School District to enhance an understanding of preferred amenities and activities that can be included at Belle Haven Community Campus.	Action Item	Communication between the City and the Ravenswood City School District is ongoing. The School District partners with Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula, East Palo Alto Tennis and Tutoring, and City Year to provide before-school and after-school care. These collaborations offer both academic support and enrichment activities and the City continually seeks opportunities to amplify support for youth and families.	Library and Community Services	Ravenswood City School District, Communications and Public Engagement	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.6	Provide safe and highly visible pathways that connect residential areas in underserved communities to the new community center. Safety and visibility features should include adequate lighting.	Action Item	The Vision Zero Action Plan identifies high priority systemic safety issues to be addressed in all neighborhoods, with a focus on underserved communities.	Public Works	Library and Community Services, Community Development	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.7	Support the inclusion of artwork (e.g., murals) that reflects the diversity and culture of underserved communities at community centers and beyond. Include community artifacts and testaments to community history in the community center.	Action Item	Belle Haven Community Campus will include exhibits and displays focused on Belle Haven history, people, and neighborhood stories, rotating exhibits by local artists, interpretive artworks and multimedia.	Library and Community Services	Local Art Initiatives (e.g., Elevate Art Menlo Park, Allied Arts Guild)	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term

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EJ3.G.8	Uplift culturally relevant holiday events at Belle Haven Community Campus to foster a feeling of belonging among all residents.	Action Item	The City is committed to work with community members to create more culturally relevant events is ongoing, including through mini-grants.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Short Term
EJ3.G.9	Facilitate yoga classes and other opportunities for regular community-gathering physical activities, such as walking groups and/or hiking programs for the underserved communities. Plan programs suitable to multiple age groups and abilities.	Action Item	The City currently offers yoga, Zumba, line-dancing and other movement classes for various age groups. Work with the community to develop new opportunities for community-oriented physical activities such as walking and/or hiking programs is ongoing.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Short Term
EJ3.H	Ensure that recreational facilities throughout Menlo Park provide all residents of all ages, income levels, genders, and lifestyles, with access to parks, community centers, sports fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities.	Program	City prioritizes access for all residents of all ages, income levels, genders, and lifestyles.	Library and Community Services	Public Works, Community Development	General Fund	In Progress	Long Term
EJ3.H.1	Provide public facilities that are well designed, energy efficient, maintained, and compatible with adjacent land uses.	Action Item	-	All City Departments	Community Development	General Fund	Medium Term	Long Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ3.H.2	Offer substantially reduced costs for recreation activities, particularly to residents of underserved communities based on economic need.	Action Item	Programming plans for Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) emphasize equitable access to programs through appropriate costs and proactive, multilingual, and multimodal outreach for residents of underserved communities. Menlo Park residents who live or attend K-12 school within the service area of BHCC are eligible for hyperlocal resident enrollment fees at BHCC.	Library and Community Services	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	General Fund	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.H.3	In coordination with the City's Parks and Recreational Facilities Master Plan, provide public restroom facilities at parks in underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department, Menlo Park Public Works Department	General Fund, Recreation In-Lieu Fee Fund	Short Term	Long Term
EJ3.H.4	Expand hours for public recreation facilities to allow working people to take advantage of the facilities. This should include open hours until 9:00 p.m. on weekdays and possibly shortened hours on weekends.	Action Item	-	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	-	General Fund	Short Term	Short Term
Goal EJ6. Encourage physical activity and active transportation								
EJ6.1	<i>Prioritize programs that encourage physical activity in underserved communities.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ6.2	<i>Support physically active lifestyles through investment in complete streets and active transportation (e.g., walking, bicycling, wheelchair) and safety in underserved communities</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ6.3	<i>Prioritize the implementation of traffic and transit improvements in underserved communities to reduce excessive speed, limit cut through traffic, and make streets comfortable and accessible places for all users and abilities.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ6.A	Identify and eliminate, 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	-	Public Works	Community Development, Sustainability Division	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Long Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ6.B	In concurrence with the City's Vision Zero Action Plan, 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.	Program	-	Public Works	Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, SamTrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ6.C	Coordinate with Ravenswood City School District to expand the Safe Routes to School program, including potential for increased crossing guards at key intersections.	Program	-	Public Works	Ravenswood City School District	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ6.D	Prepare to update and adopt the City's Transportation Master Plan (best practice is to update every 10-15 years) to improve environmental justice.	Program	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Outreach Organizations (e.g., Menlo Together, Climate Resilient Communities), Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation Grants (Safe Streets and Roads for All, Sustainable Transportation Planning)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ6.D.1	Consider community solutions for addressing concerns related to parking (e.g., idling and noise, parking availability challenges) in underserved communities and explore the creation of Residential Preferential Parking (RPP) programs.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition), Police	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ6.D.2	Seek opportunities to improve pedestrian safety, at all Willow Road intersections.	Action Item	The City adopted the Vision Zero Action Plan in January 2024. The City is working on a Willow Road bicycle and pedestrian improvement project.	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and Non-Metropolitan Transportation Planning), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Short Term
EJ6.D.3	Consider strategies to reduce excessive speed and cut-through traffic in underserved communities.	Action Item	The Belle Haven Traffic Calming Plan is nearly complete and the City is coordinating with Caltrans to complete signal improvements at Willow and Newbridge	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ6.D.4	Install traffic calming measures to reduce speeds, as well as flashing stop signs in underserved communities, particularly around schools during pick-up and drop-off periods.	Action Item	The Belle Haven Traffic Calming Plan is near completion. The Plan has completed speed humps near Belle Haven Elementary School, and bulbouts along Ivy, Chilco, Terminal and Newbridge.	Public Works	Caltrans, Menlo Park Fire Protection District, Ravenswood City School District, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Short Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ6.D.5	Install bikeways on Ivy Drive, ideally Class I or Class IV.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition), San Francisco Public Utilities Commission	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant), San Francisco Public Utilities Commission	Long Term	Long Term
EJ6.D.6	Expand the network of safe, accessible, and appealing pedestrian and bicycle facilities, including pedestrian connections within and in between neighborhoods. Poles, signs, or other impediments in the center of sidewalks should be modified to improve accessibility and sidewalk safety.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ6.D.7	Install lighting to encourage walking and safe travel at night. This may begin with installation on Ivy Drive, Hamilton Avenue, Chilco Street, Newbridge Street, and at public buildings at parks. It should continue after subsequent community outreach that identifies other streets and locations with inadequate lighting, prioritizing underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Community Development	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Short Term	Long Term
Goal EJ7. Create equitable civic and community engagement								
<i>EJ7.1</i>	<i>Prioritize civic and community engagement programs that enhance the participation and inclusion of underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ7.2</i>	<i>Keep residents informed about governmental meetings and actions by ensuring transparency and accessibility in government and decision making.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ7.3	<i>Treat all members of the community fairly and promote equity and capacity building toward creating a healthy environment and just community.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ7.A	Promote and evaluate capacity-building efforts to educate and involve traditionally underrepresented populations, including underserved communities, in the public decision-making process.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.A.1	Partner with community-based organizations that have relationships, trust and cultural competency with target communities to outreach on local initiatives and issues and allow them the use of space in the Belle Haven Community Campus at no cost.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.A.2	Use culturally appropriate approaches to public participation and involvement in a partnership with community based organization.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.A.3	Deploy educational workshops for City staff to enhance understanding social injustice and housing needs pertaining to diversity, equity, and inclusion.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.A.4	Provide training for decision makers, City staff, applicants, and public on social justice issues that affect community members.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.B	All meetings with an agendized item located in an underserved community should take place in a location easily accessible to the underserved community and/or by means that facilitate such access, such as satellite meeting centers, simulcasting, and/or remote participation. Consider hardcopy materials for outreach, particularly door-to-door outreach.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Library and Community Services	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.C	Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation (such as food and refreshments, stipends, on-site child care) at community outreach events in underserved communities.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D	Pursue equitable civic and community engagement.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.1	Initiate outreach efforts as early as possible in the decision-making process before significant resources have been invested.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.2	Conduct open meetings on issues affecting land use and the environment.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Community Development, Public Works	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.3	At least twice per year, beginning immediately following Environmental Justice Element Adoption, conduct City Council meetings in underserved communities.	Action Item	The Planning Commission and City Council will review and recommend/consider adoption of the Environmental Justice Element at BHCC.	Community Development	-	General Fund	In Progress	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.4	Encourage representation from all districts on City boards and commissions.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation

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EJ7.D.5	Evaluate scheduling of public meetings in order to allow for a wide range of participation options around typical and atypical working hours.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.6	Coordinate outreach efforts between City departments to avoid duplication and encourage that all Menlo Park community stakeholders receive notification and information.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.7	Inform the public on decisions – and seek feedback on decisions – using multiple communication methods, including traditional and online forms of communication.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.8	Incorporate multilingual outreach, announcements and noticing into City procedures for public meetings and hearings and offer interpretation services at all meetings and workshops on environmental issues.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.9	Consider offering childcare at key meetings and workshops on environmental issues affecting entire neighborhoods and the city as a whole.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.10	Distribute contact information (such as phone numbers to call) for various departments, programs and other functions in the City organization in underserved communities and in appropriate languages.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.E	Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the BHCC as a community hub for learning and engagement opportunities strengthened with partner organizations. These will connect residents in underserved communities with pre-existing city and state resources as well as encourage resident participation in public meetings, events, and decision making.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.E.1	Provide resources at BHCC about environmental safety, including flooding, extreme heat, and other issues identified in the Safety Element. Consider having a concierge or dedicated staff/resources to provide outreach on local mitigation efforts in underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Library and Community Services, Public Works, Sustainability Division	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.F	Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating City Councilmembers and appointed commissioners for the time they spend in their positions to make the positions more accessible to residents of underserved communities.	Program	A Planning Commission stipend pilot program was added in the 2023-2024 budget.	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	In Progress	Short Term
EJ7.G	Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions.	Program	SamTrans currently operates a countywide paratransit service.	Library and Community Services	SamTrans, Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ7.H	Ensure that disaster preparedness planning as described in the Safety Element includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Menlo Park’s underserved communities. Upon adoption of the Environmental Justice Element, conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that may include participation and information dissemination at public event and/or fairs in underserved communities with proactive encouragement and opportunity for the residents to sign up for emergency alert systems.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Menlo Park Fire Protection District	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.I	Encourage the sustained engagement and involvement of underserved communities in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea-level rise and coastal flooding. Maintain membership and partnership with the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority during their oversight of levee installations and expansions protecting underserved communities.	Program	The SAFER Bay Citizens Advisory Committee was formed in 2022 and provides engagement and involvement opportunities.	Public Works	City Manager's Office, San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ7.J	Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach. Annual reporting, at a minimum, should be provided to the City Council and made available on the City website.	Program	-	Community Development	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.J.1	Monitoring programming at community centers for usage, popularity, and equitable access, including an annual report on community center programming to Council. The report shall include community outreach and will recommend any updates to programming and outreach methods to address inequitable access.	Action Item	The City currently collects usage data and statistics, and provides monthly usage reports to Library Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission. Annual report to City Council is currently under development.	Library and Community Services	-	General Fund	In Progress	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.J.2	Publish an annual report on the progress of the Transportation Master Plan, beginning a year after adoption of the updated Transportation Master Plan.	Action Item	An online map showing completed projects is published on the City website. Further status/dashboard information about the Transportation Master Plan and Vision Zero Action Plan is under development.	Public Works	Community Development Department, Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Ongoing From Initiation

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ7.J.3	Diligently implement all state laws and mandated bias and sensitivity training requirements for law enforcement officers, current and new upon hire, who may interact with historically discriminated groups. The Police Department shall maintain records as required by state law to show vigilant compliance with all state laws and California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) requirements. The Police Department includes documentation of records generated in compliance with the department's "Bias-Based Policing" policy as well as California's Racial and Identity Profiling Act in its quarterly reporting to the community through City Council.	Action Item	-	Police	City Manager's Office	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.J.4	Prepare and publicize an annual report describing the City's progress on promoting and evaluating capacity-building efforts per Program EJ7.D. This report shall also evaluate outreach methods and recommend adjusting outreach strategies to reflect best practices and results.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.K	The City will update the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide annually to indicate progress, especially in meeting community-identified priorities. Revisions to existing action items and/or community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities, and include a public process with City Council consideration. Outreach to further environmental justice will be ongoing. The Action Guide does not require a General Plan amendment to be updated.	Program	-	Community Development	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.L	The City Council shall consider the community-identified environmental justice priorities during its annual priority and goal setting workshop.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation