

Draft General Plan 2040

Key Themes



Draft General Plan 2040 embodies three key themes which are woven throughout the document:

This table gives examples of how Draft General Plan 2040 incorporates the three themes in each element.






Sustainability. Help ensure that San Mateo can meet its current needs and leave viable resources for future generations.



Environmental Justice. Reduce the unique or compounded health risks in San Mateo's equity priority communities.



Community Engagement. Increase community participation in the planning and development processes.

General Plan Element	 Sustainability Theme	 Environmental Justice Theme	 Community Engagement Theme
Land Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourages future growth near transit. Supports Infill Development Supports efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports affordable housing. Prioritizes City investments that address health and infrastructure disparities in equity priority communities. Increases access to fresh foods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes inclusive outreach methods. Supports early and frequent community engagement. Requires development project sponsors to have early and frequent communication with the community.
Circulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases active transportation modes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Requires new development to reduce motor vehicle trips. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces single-occupant vehicle trips to reduce air pollution that affects equity priority communities. Prioritizes new transportation amenities in equity priority communities. Recommends safety improvements near transit stops for residents who cannot drive or do not have access to a car. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involves the community early in the process so that improvements reflect community input. Engages seniors, students, transit users, community organizations, and residents of equity priority communities to provide input on solutions for different users.
Community Design and Historic Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourages sustainable design features into building design. Supports new development that respects and responds to the natural topography. Supports the preservation of historic resources which reduces the consumption of new construction materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adds climate-adapted trees in neighborhoods with less street tree canopy. Explores funding sources and other support for low-income homeowners to plant and/or replace trees on their properties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborates with Native American representatives to identify locations of importance to Native Americans. Increases public appreciation of historic resources.
Conservation, Open Space, and Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protects the City's natural resources. Affirms all San Mateo residents should be able to breathe safe, clean air. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritizes enhancement of natural landscapes in or near equity priority communities. Requires mitigation for activities that could be a source of toxic air contaminants (TACs). Prioritizes rehabilitation of parks and recreation facilities in equity priority communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fosters appreciation for conservation opportunities through City programs and outreach. Provides opportunities for personal enrichment and lifelong learning.
Public Services and Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manages wastewater and stormwater to protect water quality in our waterways. Maintains the quality of public services as the city grows. Supports solid waste reduction and recycling. Supports plans for water management and conservation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides for the equitable distribution of public services and facilities. Supports efforts to provide better healthcare services in equity priority communities. Commits to code enforcement that advances equity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports community access to public facilities that foster connections and learning opportunities. Informs the community about public services and facilities improvements.
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourages the use of natural systems to protect the community against sea level rise. Ensures the cleanup of hazardous materials contaminated sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focuses emergency readiness in equity priority communities and the most vulnerable areas. Prioritizes locating critical facilities and resilient infrastructure outside of hazard-prone areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informs the community about safe and effective evacuation methods. Ensures inclusive outreach about potential hazards. Supports Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training.
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces noise levels to improve the health and well-being of our community and habitats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimizes and mitigates noise impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informs the community about upcoming land use projects that would contribute to or be affected by a noisy environment.