

**City of Redwood City General Plan Visioning
Redwood Shores Area Workshop - May 18, 2004**

Group 1 Comments

City Goals and Direction

- De-annex, new city
- S Preserve courthouse
- S Want their own police station, post office, library, and theater
- S Keep the Palo Alto Medical Foundation in Redwood Shores
- S Need more schools, middle school
- S Retain all of the parks
- S Need taxicab service, shuttle bus service similar to S.C.O.O.T., shuttle service to CalTrain stations
- S Weekend, Sunday SamTrans bus service
- S Shuttle bus, continuous service to Redwood Shores Marketplace
- S Birds, different and diverse species (too many geese)

Biggest Challenges

- Traffic
- S Sidewalk maintenance and upkeep
- S voter registration
- S office vacancies
- S more retail diversity; hardware, sporting goods, book store
- S Redevelopment of El Camino Real
- S Redwood Shores is in good shape compared to the rest of Redwood City
- S Bus service, trails
- S Biggest challenge is providing bus service and trails in Redwood Shores vs. Redwood City's needs
- S Limited opportunities for expansion, can't accommodate future growth
- S Develop Bair Island
- S Better bus service
- S More for seniors, disabled

Opportunities

- Redeveloping Downtown like Palo Alto and San Mateo; nightlife, restaurants, entertainment, bookstores, coffee shops (no Starbucks)
- S Broadway is a good street through Downtown
- S Convert office space to manufacturing
- S Redwood City has a stigma; image issues

- S Convert office space to school space or even a college
- S Liven up Broadway
- S Entertainment Palo Alto, Burlingame, Menlo Park, S.F., San Mateo Theater
- S No reason to go downtown, it's hard to find
- S Downtown is ill-defined
- S Restaurants
- S Downtown circulation is confusing street pattern , easy to get lost
- S City Center Plaza Concerts attracts people

El Camino Real

- High Density Housing - Franklin Area Apartments
- S Less traffic
- S Like El Camino Real thru Palo Alto, Burlingame
- S More trees on El Camino Real, bigger trees on El Camino Real
- S Fix up the sidewalks, keep them in better repair
- S More high-end stores
- S Re-zone some of El Camino Real; eliminate porn shops and massage parlours, etc.
- S Bring in larger stores
- S Parks

Redwood Shores Pros

- Safety
- S Clean
- S Quiet
- S Waterways
- S Lots of Parks
- S Shopping Center
- S Light Traffic, street design
- S Good bike and pedestrian access

Redwood Shores Cons

- Isolated, limited access, connections
- S Need a continuous shuttle bus to Redwood Shores
- S Improvement District not paid off

Group 2 Comments

City Goals and Direction

- Redwood City should be in leading position re: housing, business, traffic
- S Preserve Redwood Shores Lagoon with better connections and better access
- S Preserve Redwood Shores schools and improve and expand
- S Preserve Redwood Shores open space
- S Lack of central gathering space creates traffic problems/access issues. Access opportunities of central gathering/community space
- S Affordable housing for future generations
- S traffic calming for safety
- S Safety within open space. No police and no public "eye" (no people)
- S Library has a lack of money for books.

City Places

- Redwood Shores should have more restaurants, entertainment
- S City main library is good, but have to travel too far
- S El Camino Real is hard to get to, hard to park and get to businesses
- S Go to San Francisco or Foster City for entertainment
- S Greater diversity of restaurants needed in Redwood Shores
- S Looking forward to new Redwood Shores library
- S New Downtown theater will provide choice entertainment
- S Need to better celebrate diversity of city. Need Ranch 99, etc.
- S Avoid Downtown Redwood City, prefer San Carlos and San Mateo due to proximity. Redwood City is harder to access.
- S Go to Downtown for limited reasons, doctor
- S Theater will create too much congestion
- S No place to park in Downtown at main library
- S Need critical mass or unique space to create more diversity of restaurants - i.e. Shores Center (both sides of lagoon)
- S Redwood Shores library is a big positive

Open Space and Recreation

- Redwood Shores lagoon is very unique, boats, views
- S Redwood Shores neighborhood open space nice but no museums for kids, no unique park with entertainment for kids; train rides, etc.
- S Area "H" perfect for public golf course
- S Community center needs more activities to stimulate business from outside, community ball room
- S Library should be two stories for better use of land
- S Multiple activity center like Red Morton needed. Single use community center has less draw, no activity for teens; i.e. judo, basketball, cooking
- S Mariners Park has an opportunity for greater activity area, make more user friendly

- S Redwood City has good city
- S Community pool needed
- S Edge of Area "H" near Shearwater Parkway opportunity for park, Interpretive museum

Circulation and Transportation

- Continuous bike path needed at Redwood Shores lacks good connections
- S More public transit need between Redwood Shores and Caltrain
- S Difficult bike connection at 101, Ralston and Holly Street
- S Downtown streets have funny angles, hard to get around
- S Open up to Redwood Creek
- S Off ramp/freeway access to airport - better access
- S Bike connections up and down Bayfront to connect to Redwood City, Foster City, etc.

Redwood Shores Assets and Issues

- Lagoon open space and quiet - good
- S More schools in Redwood Shores and school capacity, need high school
- S Change San Carlos air traffic pattern - noise issue

Group 3 Comments

- Traffic congestion (freeway from Whipple to San Mateo)
- S Congestion into Redwood Shores from Holly Street
- S Great open space and trails
- S Clean and safe
- S Historic Downtown - cinema/retail project
- S Beauty of lagoon system (tranquil)
- S National retailers in Downtown, restaurants as well
- S City walk, perhaps down Broadway (mini Santana Row)
- S Shuttle system to and from Downtown to Redwood Shores and within the Shores
- S Skate park and recreation center and community center
- S Night life/entertainment in Downtown
- S Pedestrian/bicycle access to Downtown Redwood City across 101
- S Bike lanes on the streets
- S Keep parks clean, a park similar to Stafford Park
- S More pocket parks
- S Community pool, tennis club, YMCA
- S A place just to sit, possibly shopping center
- S Consider a school in Area "H"
- S Public use facility on lagoon, boat house
- S Address liability issues on lagoon
- S Senior center

- S Strip of El Camino Real from Atherton to San Carlos should be beautified
- S Technology center for kids (vacant office space)
- S Curfew on take offs and landings at San Carlos airport work with local pilots association
- S Exiting plan/emergency plan in case of earthquake (amongst neighbors/neighborhoods)
- S More amenities along the trails (benches, trash cans, etc.)
- S No more residential or commercial development, preserve green space
- S Neighborhood markets, walkable
- S Nature trail through Area "H"
- S Maintain levees
- S Childcare
- S Improve on transit transfers/connections
- S A sign/monument for the Shores (one at each entry/exit point)

Group 4 Comments

Redwood Shores Assets

- Location
- S Water feature
- S Safety
- S Walkability
- S Scenery
- S Newness, modern architecture
- S Quiet
- S Connection to natural environment
- S Overall "image"

Issues and Concerns

- Marina Shores development in site
- S Part of corridor growth
- S Need middle and high school for community feel
- S Need government representation, incorporation too costly
- S Re-open Levee
- S Only one entry/exit
- S Connection to Foster City. Fear cut-through traffic
- S Corridor growth from SF to San Jose; don't want to lose Redwood Shores quality of life
- S Redwood Shores residents feel they are being heavily taxed without fair representation on City Council and services/facility to Shores

- S Marina Shores is not a good place for very, very dense housing - not connected to transit, isolated, too much development
- S Would like a fire station, market, elementary school, better access 20 years ago, good rate of growth

Community Feel/Identity

-Realize city is trying to reach out, but residents of the Shores don't feel a part of Redwood City

- S Residents of the Shores younger, intellectual
- S Park; neighborhood gatherings (annual) few neighbors know each other
- S Would like to see Area "H" remain open space
- S Maybe a small Nob Hill annex
- S Better water access, out through slough, improve conditions for sailors, those with water access would like full access

Traffic

-Rush hour traffic getting in and out 7-9:30 am, 4-7 pm

- S Bike circulation might be solution - bridge to Redwood City (Whipple)
- S Bus to San Carlos (shopping destination)
- S Whipple should be raised to improve connection
- S El Camino Real need to be cleaned up, sleazy stores
- S El Camino not attractive from Whipple South
- S EL Camino could have more density; two stories with retail on ground floor w/office above
- S El Camino could consolidate lots to form blocks and reduce driveway cuts

Downtown Redwood City

-Personal safety is an issue

- S Downtown hard to get to (inconvenient), 2-3 miles on freeway
- S Cinema/retail project will lead to more congestion, will parking be sufficient?
- S Easy to get lost in Downtown
- S Putting housing Downtown near transit adds to vitality and "heart" of Downtown; Franklin, step in right direction

Future Growth in the Shores

-Older versus newer neighborhood

- S 6-8 month for City approval to modify home is too long
- S Could the Shores support another market/grocery store, other retail?

Group 5 Comments

Goals

- Surplus of office, shortage of houses
- S Lack of middle school
- S More elementary school space
- S Preserve wetlands, other open space
- S Billboards
- S Lack of restaurants, bars and other services
- S How to have economic development and preserve what we like?
- S Ferry?
- S Express bus to SF has been cut, need transit connection
- S Bike connections over 101
- S More bike lanes in Redwood City proper
- S Library
- S Traffic signal synchronization
- S BART
- S Keep peace and quiet

Entertainment

- S San Carlos and San Mateo are major entertainment destinations
- S Not enough in Downtown Redwood City yet
- S Not enough entertainment option in Redwood Shores
- S Like to be able to park once and walk in SC and SM
- S Good restaurants and boutiques in SC and SM
- S Mom and Pop is better than chains

Downtown Needs

- Transit to Downtown
- S Clear boundaries and geographic identity
- S Wayfinding

Open Space

- Geese are a big problem (by products)
- S Amount in Shores is good, should be maintained
- S Need access to levees or not?
- S good parks, enclosed playgrounds are nice
- S Need parking at parkings
- S Need restrooms at parks

- S Accessibility to Bair Island (get rid of billboards)

Redwood Shores Assets

- Flatness
- S Beauty
- S Bay
- S Landscaping, very green
- S Good schools
- S Good dog park
- S Great location
- S Low crime, safe
- S Health center

Redwood Shores Issues

- Need police substation in the future
- S Need P.O. in future
- S Missing teen facilities
- S Need senior center
- S Need a "drive-in"
- S Airport noise
- S Treatment plant
- S Radio tower (RFI)
- S Need gathering place by the water
- S Internet/cable TV monopoly
- S Need more shops at shopping center
- S Access to Foster City without 101
- S Potential traffic problems when office market picks up
- S Need to provide for alternate transportation modes such as scooters, etc.
- S How to better integrate into Redwood City?
- S Road connection to Redwood City proper is needed
- S Even out the differences between Redwood Shores and the rest of Redwood City

El Camino Real

- S Needs smoother flow
- S Better design; consistent configuration, beautification
- S Has run down areas that need help
- S Land use plan
- S Caltrain signage and accessibility

Group 6 Comments

General Comments

- Preserve water front; access and views
- S Easy to communicate with City staff
- S Sense of security; kids bike to school, safe in houses
- S Friendly neighbors
- S Care in making the area more dense
- S Need far more affordable housing
- S MSV if it happens - more traffic; may no the right place?
- S Sense of community - safety
- S Look at what services neighborhoods need to be communities, small commercial centers
- S 101 is a barrier, go to San Carlos downtown
- S Some go to Redwood City library, others to Belmont and San Carlos
- S Preserve the lagoons
- S Open up the levees, would tie it into the rest of the City
- S What will be the use of the lagoons in 20 years
- S Should it be more active or less?
- S Rowers OK, no motors, no boat house
- S Small shuttle, internal and ties into Caltrans
- S Businesses use TDM to control the amount of people's driving
- S No one is group used the taxi service
- S Might use a bus to go to store
- S Focus TDM on ideas that work
- S Connected bike lanes in Redwood Shores
- S Asphalt the levee trail
- S Attract more businesses
- S Better use of space
- S No connection to Redwood City, more connection to San Carlos and Belmont
- S Hard to park Downtown
- S Bad neighborhoods adjacent to Downtown
- S Person who volunteers feel more connected to rest of the city
- S Like Downtown but...
- S One resident did not know about the main library
- S Kids know how to use buses, parents don't
- S Improve neighborhoods adjacent to Downtown
- S Will use the cinema
- S More density Downtown makes sense, not on the waterfront
- S Like Franklin Street apartments, good that its rental
- S Hard to see the businesses
- S Priorities to people who live and work
- S Additional school sites needed

- S Community swimming pool
- S Wildlife is a big attractant
- S They have contact with neighbors
- S East to get to SF

Parks

-Use bike paths, parks are “beautiful” but do not use them

- S Need facilities on the trails
- S Parks are used with children, go to Stafford Park
- S Mariner Park is just open space, doesn't get much use
- S Projects have their own play structures
- S Some interested in active park space, others passive
- S Important to understand how city systems work
- S Interpretive center, like Coyote Point

Group 7 Comments

Preserve

-Open space and parks

- S Historical assets
- S Unique features; e.g. cultural diversity, east-west continuum, mixture old and new
- S Waterfront
- S Accessibility shores
- S e.g. airport
- S Shores = V/Pleasant; infrastructure - boulevards
- S Shores = destination
- S Shores = large master planned community
- S Likes preserving Shore identity
- S Area “H” except explore development of south edge to solve

Challenges

-Redwood City image needs improvement; Shores separate

- S Shores schools (concept of using vacant office space)
- S Shores does not feel like a part of Redwood City
- S 94065 = Redwood Shores postal designaion
- S Shores ties; social, education, economic, all ties to San Carlos and Belmont
- S Geographic challenge
- S New school site
- S Another school K-8 public or private

- S Inadequate infrastructure to support growth

Places

-San Carlos closer: there is a “there” there

- S Downtown Redwood City problem with accessibility and orientation; best - ambiance, worst - vacant, unkempt buildings, entry points e.g. Whipple/WS
- S Redwood Shores; would like an entry feature
- S Prefer other Downtown choices; San Mateo, Burlingame, San Carlos
- S Shores has limited but high quality services
- S Santana Row seems complete, need “full program” in Redwood City

El Camino Real

-Significant improvement in landscaping

- S Remove A-frames, deal with signage
- S Traffic reduced, can't synchronize with lights
- S More destination locations e.g. Stacks
- S El Camino access
- S Moderate/low income housing; increase density housing on El Camino over retail, mixed-use

Open Space

-Levee - open

- S Goose poop
- S Water ways underutilized; public dock was removed; should explore use - private vs. public use
- S Open space; levees, parks, natural environment, great Redwood Shores asset
- S Sidewalks on one side of street in Shores
- S Keep Redwood City neighborhood parks
- S Keep Bay Trail happening

Transportation

-Accessible - Shores - “Heaven” here

- S Some neighborhoods including Downtown not safe, Downtown confusing
- S No lights in residential areas
- S Speeding = people problem
- S Bus stops; need more shelters
- S Sidewalks on one side of street

Best

-Neighbors

- S Overall park like setting
- S Limited access protected
- S Shores not in traffic pattern
- S Central location
- S Like mixed residential types
- S School good

Worst

-Comment - wind

- S Poor traffic planning
- S San Carlos Airport - teaching planes
- S School; need more