



Redwood Shores Redwood City Public Library

Building Community



- Introduction
- Vision
- Public Places
- Trails and Connections
- Recreation and Human Services
- Health and Environmental Justice
- Lifelong Learning, Libraries, Schools
- Seniors
- Child Care
- Culture and the Arts
- Governance

Community. The word means much more than buildings and infrastructure. Community means the people who live and work in Redwood City. Community means neighborhoods. Community means the virtual community and social networking. Community means organizations that provide services to Redwood City residents and then share their energy and passions to improve and enrich the lives of others. Community means inclusive and open local governance, where all who would be affected participate in the decisions that affect daily life in the city. This Element recognizes Redwood City’s history of focus on improving the quality of life for all, and sets forth policies to guide the decisions of future leaders

regarding issues that influence physical and social interactions community-wide.

Introduction

Integral to Redwood City's way of doing business as a City is creating places and supporting programs that focus on improving the quality of life for all residents. The physical and social characteristics that build community in Redwood City reflect the long-established and ongoing efforts of City leaders to respond to the city's changing demographics and ways of life.

In the mid-20th century, Redwood City was a suburban place with a predominant white population, where households frequently had a single-wage earner, families tended to have children, and those children walked home after school. Today, the demographic composition of Redwood City is much different. Now persons of Hispanic or Asian descent comprise almost half of the population. Many households today have two or more people who head to work every morning, sometimes due to economic necessity but also because women have become a significant workforce presence. This trend has created greater demand for child care, education, and youth services. About one-third of Redwood City households have children, and many people who commute to jobs in Redwood City are working parents who also have child care needs. Over the years, children and adults have become much more involved in organized sports and enrichment activities, which has placed significant demands on City libraries, parks, and community facilities. Likewise, those of limited income seek social and medical services at an increasing rate.

The trend toward more active lifestyles is encouraging, as healthy people generally require less medical care, and interactions among residents of all backgrounds creates stronger community ties. This is because our health is shaped by the cultural, social, political, economic, ecological, and physical settings and circumstances where we live, work, and play. These "social determinants of health" (SDoH) determine our daily experiences, our physical and emotional well-being, how long we live, and our ability to change the quality and course of our lives. However, several neighborhoods in Redwood City disproportionately have conditions that create barriers to healthy living such as a lack of ready access to recreation facilities and to businesses that meet residents' everyday shopping and service needs, particularly food stores.

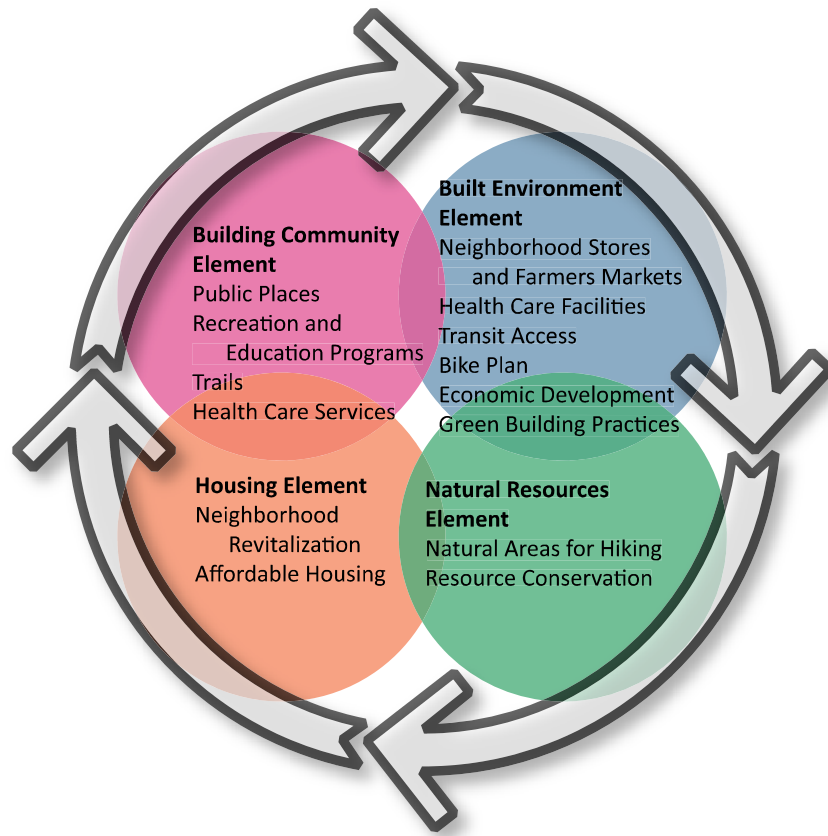
Issues Important to Building Community

Physical:

- Public Places
- Urban and Natural Trails and Connections

Social:

- Recreation and Human Services
- Health
- Lifelong Learning, Libraries, and Schools
- Seniors
- Child Care
- Culture and the Arts
- Governance



Healthy community components can be found throughout the General Plan.

The Healthy Community movement that began to evolve in the mid-2000s clearly establishes a link between land use planning and community health.¹ Redwood City’s commitment is to build a healthier community, recognizing the benefits resulting from more compact urban forms; ready access to jobs, transit, and parks; housing choices for all income groups; and respect for diminishing environmental resources. According to *How to Create and Implement Healthy General Plans*, a healthy community is one that:

- Provides access to parks and other areas for physical activity (*Building Community Element – Public Places, Urban and Natural Trails and Connections*)
- Facilitates access to healthful food (*Building Community Element - Health*)
- Facilitates access to health services (*Built Environment Element - Centers*)

¹ Key sources to consult for additional information include those available from the San Mateo County Health System, the Federal Center for Disease Control, and PolicyLink, a nonprofit organization focused on advancing economic and social equity objectives.

- Has land use patterns that allow residents to have easy access to goods and services (*Built Environment Element - Urban Form and Land Use*)
- Provides access to reliable, safe transit options (*Built Environment Element - Circulation*)
- Maintains environmental quality, promulgates green and sustainable building practices, and establishes climate resiliency (*All General Plan Elements*)
- Has safe neighborhoods and public places (*Building Community Element - Public Places and Public Safety Element*)
- Creates opportunities for affordable housing development (*Housing Element*)
- Creates opportunities for job growth for all skills and education levels (*Built Environment Element - Economic Development*)
- Facilitates walking and bike riding (*Built Environment Element - Circulation*)
- Has safe and attractive outdoor gathering places (*Built Community - Public Places*)

Redwood City's vision of a healthy community includes one that supports families' needs for recreation, quality child care, provides opportunities for lifelong education and learning, celebrates diverse cultures through activities and art, and includes all residents in local governance.

Building Community Vision - 2030

Public Places

Parks, libraries, and other public places are important physical sites where people congregate, recreate, learn, and participate in the greater community. These places create focal points in residential neighborhoods and business centers, and are a critical component of a "complete" neighborhood. They provide areas where residents of all ages engage in physical activity. By 2030, every Redwood City neighborhood and center is made complete with a park or public space for residents' use.

Urban and Natural Trails and Connections

All Redwood City residents have ready access to an expansive network of urban and natural trails, sidewalks, bikeways, and navigable waterways that connect their neighborhoods to parks, schools, libraries, local shopping, business centers, and other places that make a neighborhood complete. These connections provide viable options to using motorized travel for short local trips and offer people places to exercise and enjoy being outdoors.

Recreation and Human Services

Redwood City's recreation and human services programs are tailored to meet the diverse and changing needs of Redwood City residents. Based on demographics and prioritized financial resources, the City responds to the varied interests and needs of all residents. We consult with other agencies to ensure that the programs provided by the City and by other agencies respond to varied interests and ages and ensure the most efficient use of finite resources.

Health and Environmental Justice

People of all incomes and backgrounds have the fundamental right to good health. Access to high-quality medical care, healthful foods, exercise, and health education make it easier for residents to make lifestyle choices that enhance their quality of life and reduce medical costs for all.

Redwood City provides a positive environment where all residents, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, are treated fairly and receive equal protection from environmental health hazards. As a City, in efforts to address environmental health disparities, we partner with community organizations to improve community health and ensure inclusion of affected communities. Redwood City actively works to reduce pollution burdens and improve population characteristics such as health conditions, unemployment, and poverty to sustain and provide healthy living opportunities.

Lifelong Learning, Libraries, and Schools

Education leads to community success. Our City libraries, through partnerships with local public and private schools and colleges, and in

response to expressed community desires, offer everyone the opportunity to pursue intellectual interests, to gain knowledge, and learn new skills that help with individuals' professional growth. Community schools provide education for children and adults and additional services for community members.

Seniors

Redwood City fosters livability for our seniors to thrive through safe, affordable, and accessible housing; pedestrian connections to walk about Redwood City; and shuttle services, buses, and rail opportunities to travel further distances. Our active seniors readily enjoy interesting educational, vocational, recreational, and health and wellness services, classes, and programs. Our seniors remain a vital asset and share their significant life experience and knowledge with the larger community as volunteers in our schools and libraries, and our civic and city organizations.

Child Care

Every family in Redwood City has access to quality, convenient, and affordable child care by 2030. Innovative City programs and streamlined regulations help fund, locate, and expand child care/preschool opportunities that support workforce participation and children's optimal development and readiness for school success.

Culture and the Arts

Redwood City is the place on the Peninsula to experience and enjoy visual and performing arts and cultural events in 2030. Culture and the arts inspire civic pride, provide opportunities for expression and sharing, and serve as a catalytic component of the Downtown economy.

Governance

In 2030, our government continues to be open and participatory. We develop new information models to ensure participation, inclusion, and accountability. Our approach to governance continues to recognize and involve individuals of diverse ages and ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, and brings people together in meaningful and substantive ways.

Public Places

Public places include parks, plazas, community centers, libraries, and similar community gathering places. Public places can also be informal places such as benches or available seating at the Farmers' Market. They provide areas where people engage in recreational activities, enjoy the outdoors, interact with others, and participate in community events. Public places create neighborhood focal points; they help define the character and quality of city neighborhoods and centers. In unique places like the Union Cemetery, they remind of us of our heritage. Redwood City's overarching goal with regard to public places is to provide diverse recreation and community places and facilities that respond to community needs, and that can be adapted over time in response to changing demands and priorities.

Public events like "Hometown Holidays" and the farmers' market draw many people to Downtown.



Park Facilities

Parks accommodate active and passive recreational activities. Active park spaces include sports fields, game courts, and playgrounds. Passive parks consist generally of green space with walking paths, sitting and picnic areas, and natural, undeveloped areas. Redwood City's parks frequently contain both types of park spaces, with park size, location, and primary function influencing the level of improvements. Parks range in size from small mini-parks designed primarily for neighborhood children (such as Jardin de Niños Park) or large community parks that attract people from throughout the city (Red Morton Community Park).

Park Classification

Redwood City parks include mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, special use parks, and sports fields on public school property, identified in Table BC-1 and shown on Figure BC-1.²

Mini-Parks

Mini-parks (sometimes referred to as pocket parks) serve the immediate neighborhood and typically occupy infill parcels. Mini-parks are generally no larger than one acre, address limited recreation needs, and offer limited amenities. As of 2009, there were 12 mini-parks located throughout the city totaling 8.5 acres.

Parklets

Parklets are very small parks typically evident in urbanized downtown areas. Typically parklets can accommodate planters, bench, café tables/chairs, art installations, etc.

Neighborhood Parks

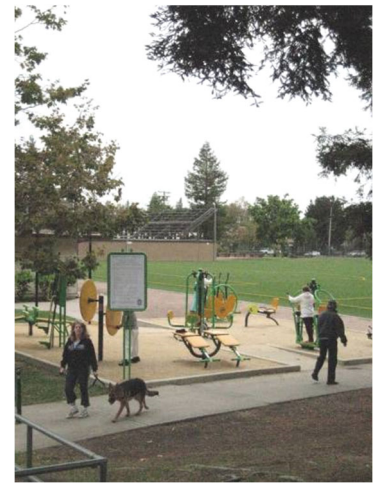
Neighborhood parks range in size from one to 10 acres and generally accommodate informal activities and active recreation. Neighborhood parks have both playgrounds and grassy areas for non-organized activities. The City's 11 neighborhood parks total approximately 26 acres.

Community Parks

Community parks serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks, and meet recreation needs for more formal and highly programmed activities. Redwood City has four community parks totaling over 94 acres: Hoover Park, Marlin Park, Red Morton Park, and Stulsaft Park.

Special Use Parks

Special use parks consist of parks and public places with a focused function, such as a skate park, dog park, or an historic place such as Courthouse Square. Redwood City has nine special use parks totaling 52 acres. Special use parks may also include linear parks, which consist of enhanced and widened public rights-of-way improved with walking paths, benches, interpretative signage, and similar amenities.

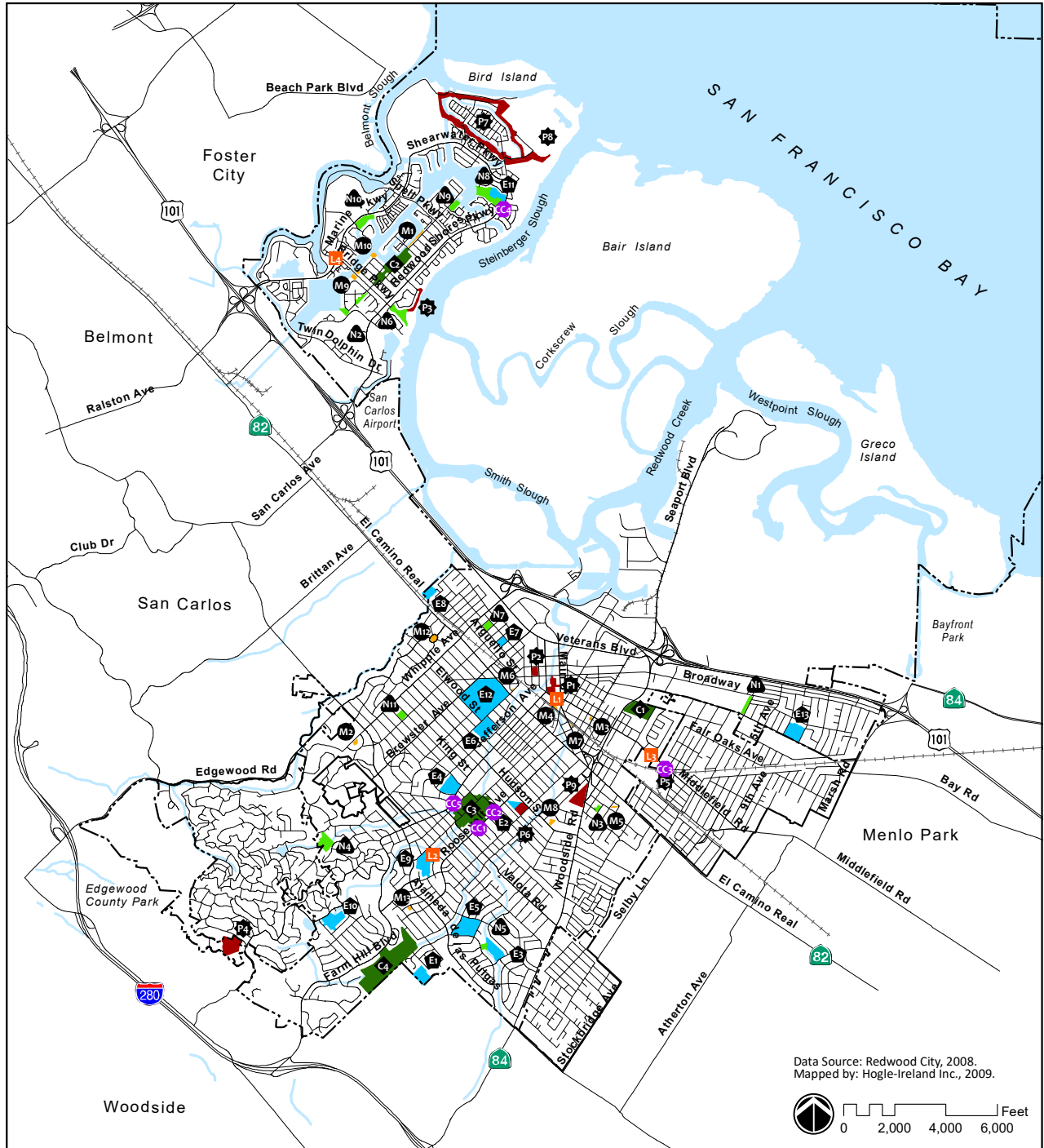


Red Morton Community Park

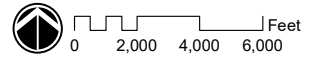
² The descriptions of park facilities reflect conditions existing in 2009.

Table BC-1: Park Facilities

Mini Parks			Special Parks		
Map Key	Park Facility Name	Acres	Map Key	Park Facility Name	Acres
M1	Davit Lane	1.2	P1	City Center Plaza	0.2
M2	Dove Beeger Park	0.7	P2	Courthouse Square	0.7
M3	Jardin de Niños Park	0.3	P3	Cringle Park	1.2
M4	John S. Roselli Memorial	0.6	P4	Easter Bowl	8.9
M5	Linden Park	0.4	P5	Fair Oaks Community Center	2.4
M6	Little River Park	0.1	P6	Hawes Park	2.7
M7	Main Street Park	0.1	P7	Lido Assessment District	29.8
M8	Palm Park	1.0	P8	Shores Dog Park	1.1
M9	Portside Park	0.8	P9	Union Cemetery	5.7
M10	Sandpiper Point Park	0.8	Total Special Park Acres		52.5
M11	Starboard Park	0.6	School Parks		
M12	Wellesley Crescent	1.4	E1	Adelante Elementary School	1.5
M13	Westwood Park	0.4	E2	Hawes Elementary School	0.7
Total Mini Park Acres		8.5	E3	Henry Ford Elementary School	2.8
Neighborhood Parks			E4	John Gill Elementary School	1.5
N1	Andrew Spinas Park	1.8	E5	Kennedy Middle School	5.2
N2	Dolphin Park	2.6	E6	McKinley Middle School	3.9
N3	Fleishman Park	0.6	E7	Orion Elementary School	0.6
N4	Garrett Park	6.3	E8	Redwood High School	0.5
N5	Maddux Park	0.9	E9	Roosevelt High School	2.4
N6	Mariner Park	4.0	E10	Roy Cloud Elementary School	2.6
N7	Mezes Park	1.4	E11	Sandpiper Elementary School	0.9
N8	Sandpiper Park	2.1	E12	Sequoia High School	17.6
N9	Shannon Park	1.8	E13	Taft Elementary School	3.0
N10	Shorebird Park	3.7	Total School Park Acres		43.0
N11	Stafford Park	1.6	Total Park Facilities		
Total Neighborhood Park Acres		26.7	Mini Parks		8.5
Community Parks			Neighborhood Parks		26.7
C1	Hoover Park	10.5	Community Parks		94.7
C2	Marlin Park	10.9	Special Use Parks		52.5
C3	Red Morton Park	30.9	Active parkland on public school property		43.0
C4	Stulsaft Park	42.4	Total Parks Acres		225.4
Total Community Park Acres		94.7			



Data Source: Redwood City, 2008.
 Mapped by: Hogle-Ireland Inc., 2009.



Park Facilities

- M** Mini Park
- N** Neighborhood Park
- C** Community Park
- P** Special Park
- E** School Parks

For a list of park names, refer to Table BC-1.

Community Facilities

- L** Libraries
 For a list of libraries, refer to Table BC-4.
- CC** Community Centers
 For a list of community centers, refer to Table BC-3.

Base Features

- City Boundary
- Sphere of Influence
- Freeway/Highway
- Major Roads
- Railroad
- Waterways

Figure BC-1: Public Places

School Parks

School parks are active, joint-use park facilities located on school-owned land. Agreements between the City, school districts and/or college districts result in expanded opportunities for active recreation. As schools generally are located to conveniently serve neighborhoods, school parks provide easily accessible places to play. Thirteen school parks, totaling 43 acres, are distributed throughout the city.

Private Park Facilities

As part of the Pacific Shores Center development on Seaport Boulevard, the original developer constructed 4.6 acres of sports fields and courts as an amenity for tenants. The facilities are available to the City for City-sponsored sports activities on a limited basis.

Park Needs and Standards

The commitment to providing sufficient park and community facilities requires establishing measurable goals. In Redwood City, these goals are:

- Providing active and passive park space at a ratio of 3.0 acres per 1,000 residents
- Creating complete neighborhoods to include some form of park space, public space, or community facility within walking distance to all homes

In 2008, the City prepared a comprehensive *Parks and Facilities Needs Assessment* to identify where the City stands relative to these goals, and to look forward to long-term anticipated needs. The assessment reported that Redwood City provides 2.99 acres of active parkland per 1,000 residents, a figure that includes school parks. Absent the school area contribution, the ratio is 2.42 acres of park per 1,000 persons. With a future population projected to increase by approximately 16,000 residents (within the City and Sphere of Influence area), an additional 49 acres of park space will be needed toward the goal.³

³ The 2008 *Parks and Facilities Needs Assessment* projected park space needs to be an additional 25.53 acres within Redwood City, based on an estimated net population increase of 7,845 residents by year 2020. This estimate used growth assumptions made by the Association of Bay Area Governments, and the analysis preceded work on the General Plan Built Environment Element and the land use plan in particular. More importantly, the projected increase of 16,253 residents includes the entire Redwood City planning area, not just the corporate city limits. The City's goal of 3.0 acres per 1,000 residents applies to any and all lands within its corporate limits, which could change over time if properties are annexed.

Park Needs by Planning Area and Neighborhood

Citywide, Redwood City has nearly met its goal of 3.0 acres of active park space per 1,000 residents. However, at the neighborhood level, some people have easier access to active parks than others. Table BC-2 identifies the neighborhoods—in the non-highlighted areas—that lack sufficient park space and/or access (based on the 2008 assessment).

Other Public Places

Public places also include traditional facilities like community and senior centers and libraries, plus any outdoor plazas, community gardens, courtyards and squares, and wide landscaped sidewalk and parkway areas where people can enjoy time alone or in the company of others.

One of Redwood City's most popular gathering places is Courthouse Square, located in Downtown in front of the historic County Courthouse. This town square, considered a special use park, provides an exceptional gathering and activity space for community events like concerts, dancing, movies, art shows, festivals, and performances. Downtown public sidewalks are also great gathering places. In other areas of the city, neighborhoods may not have public places similar to Courthouse Square, but community centers, libraries, and gardens attract neighbors for events.

Each of the City's community centers provides a different focus to meet the needs of the area and populations served. At Red Morton Park, three separate facilities cater to particular population needs. Ideally, indoor space should be flexible and able to accommodate many uses: fitness and athletic activities, child care, information and referral for human services, space for nonprofit groups, nutrition services, special event rentals, and classrooms.

Veterans Memorial Senior Center

Veterans Memorial Senior Center, located in Red Morton Park, serves as a regional senior center in San Mateo County, attracting many non-Redwood City residents. As of 2009, the facility was the only nationally accredited senior center in the county.

Built in 1957, the Veterans Memorial Senior Center shows signs of age, and programming demands tax its ability to adequately serve everyone. As the baby boomer population ages, user demand is expected to

A concept that people often associate with parks is open space. In the context of this General Plan, open space refers to lands that are generally unimproved and used for resource conservation and the management of resources. Refer to the Built Environment Element and Natural Resources Element for further discussions on open space.

increase. Given its location in Red Morton Park, space is available to expand the facility’s size and reconfigure space to best serve future users.

Table BC-2: Active Park Needs by Planning Area and Neighborhood

Neighborhoods	City-Owned Active Parkland						With School Parks Included		
	Planning Area	Population	Acres Needed for 3.0 Ratio	Park Acres	Acres/ 1,000 people	Acres Needed to Meet 3.0 Acre Ratio	Park and School Acres	Acres/ 1,000 people	Acres Needed to Meet 3.0 Acre Ratio
Redwood Shores	Redwood Shores	10,700	32.1	60.5	5.65	Goal Met ^(b)	61.4	5.73	Goal Met ^(b)
Centennial and Stambaugh- Heller	Downtown	9,842	29.5	3.4	0.34	26.2	4.5	0.45	25.1
Oak Knoll- Edgewood Park	North Redwood City	12,100	36.3	19.0	1.57	17.3	41.9	3.46	Goal Met ^(b)
Roosevelt, Palm Park, Woodside Plaza	Middle Redwood City	26,500	79.5	83.9	3.17	Goal Met ^(b)	99.1	3.73	Goal Met ^(b)
Redwood Oaks	South Redwood City	5,960	17.8	1.1	0.18	16.8	1.1	0.18	16.8
Friendly Acres, Redwood Village, North Fair Oaks	Southeast Redwood City	8,400	25.2	16.6	1.74	10.6	17.6	2.09	7.6
Bayfront	East of 101	1,900	5.7	0.0	0.00	5.7	0.0	0.00	5.7
Totals		75,402	226.2	182.4	2.42^(a)	76.6	225.4	2.99	55.2

Notes: (a) Represents the citywide acres/1,000 persons.

(b) **Goal Met:** Areas that are highlighted indicate they have met the 3.0 acres of parkland per 1,000 persons.

Source: Redwood City Parks and Facilities Needs Assessment, 2008.

Red Morton Community Center

Also located in Red Morton Park, the Red Morton Community Center provides a gym and fitness center, together with multi-functional space for classes and a preschool program. The city’s youth can get together at the teen center.

Community Activities Building

The Community Activities Building at Red Morton Park provides administrative offices for the City's Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department and provides space for recreation classes.

Sandpiper Community Center

The Sandpiper Community Center serves the Redwood Shores neighborhood. As Redwood Shores historically has had a school-age oriented population, bolstered by a new elementary school built in 2009-10, this facility has been configured and programmed heavily toward child care, recreation classes, and after-school activities.

Fair Oaks Community Center

The Fair Oaks Community Center is a multi-service facility offering many services to the broader Redwood City community. It provides extraordinary support to residents of the Fair Oaks neighborhood. A combination of City staff and representatives from public and private nonprofit agencies run multi-lingual programs providing child care and preschool care, crisis intervention, education, emergency food, shelter, holiday food and toy/book programs, housing assistance, immigration and citizenship services, employment and housing legal services, senior services, and translation assistance.

Table BC-3: Community Centers

Map Key	Community Center	Facilities and Amenities
CC1	Community Activities Building Red Morton Park 1400 Roosevelt Ave. Redwood City, CA 94061	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Classrooms ▪ Department Offices ▪ Facility Rentals ▪ Park Information
CC2	Red Morton Community Center Red Morton Park 1120 Roosevelt Ave. Redwood City, CA 94061	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aerobics ▪ Fitness Center ▪ Classrooms ▪ Preschool and Child Care ▪ Gymnasium ▪ Facility Rentals ▪ Teen Program

See Figure BC-1 for a map of community centers in Redwood City.

Table BC-3: Community Centers

Map Key	Community Center	Facilities and Amenities
CC3	Fair Oaks Community Center 2600 Middlefield Rd. Redwood City, CA 94063	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Human Services ▪ Fair Oaks Senior Center Programs ▪ Facility Rentals ▪ Classrooms ▪ Library
CC4	Sandpiper Community Center 797 Redwood Shores Pkwy Redwood City, CA 94065	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aerobics ▪ After-School Program ▪ Classrooms ▪ Facility Rentals ▪ Youth and Teen Center
CC5	Veterans Memorial Senior Center 1455 Madison Ave. Redwood City, CA 94061	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Senior Programs ▪ Fitness Center ▪ Theater ▪ Nutrition Program ▪ Senior Services and Referral ▪ Accessible Recreation ▪ Facility Rentals ▪ Classrooms

Libraries

Libraries provide communities with literary services, support for school success, provide access to technology, and also provide a social setting for community activities. Libraries can be considered “inside parks” with their many learning, cultural, and recreational activities for all ages, incomes, and cultures. The Redwood City Public Library’s mission is to be “the learning center of our community and the place people turn to for the discovery of ideas, the joy of reading, and the power of information.”



Redwood City operates and maintains its own library system within four library sites (Table BC-4). Annually, 70,000 library card holders visit the libraries 800,000 times, borrowing 1.5 million items. The Redwood City Public Library is a member of the Peninsula Library System (PLS), a consortium of the 34 public and community college libraries in San Mateo County. The Redwood City Public Library provides innovative and cost-effective services to the community. The libraries have meeting rooms and adjacent outdoor areas that community groups use for activities and events. The libraries function in part like the other community centers, providing places where residents can take classes and hold meetings. Over 3,000 programs, classes, or meetings are held at the libraries annually.

The Downtown Redwood City Library on Middlefield Road

Table BC-4: Redwood City Libraries

Map Key	Libraries	Address
L1	Main Downtown Library	1044 Middlefield Road Redwood City, CA 94063
L2	Schaberg Library	2140 Euclid Avenue Redwood City, CA 94063
L3	Fair Oaks Library	2510 Middlefield Road Redwood City, CA 94063
L4	Redwood Shores Library	399 Marine Parkway Redwood City, CA 94065

See Figure BC-1 for a map of libraries in Redwood City.

Other Public Places

Public places do not need to be large to fulfill important community functions. As noted above, small mini-parks on infill sites attract local residents looking to spend time outside with friends and children. Almost any small infill parcel in a residential neighborhood or mixed-use district can create an opportunity for small-scale community activities. Importantly, as planning practices look to promote healthy lifestyle choices, these “spaces in between” can be planted with community gardens to produce fruits and vegetables, and to educate children about sustainable practices.

In addition to City-owned parks and public places and joint-use school properties, Redwood City residents have access to many, many acres of improved and unimproved public open space: Cañada College and surrounding campus, Edgewood Park, the Bair Island wildlife preserve, and other lands along San Francisco Bay. The Natural Resources Element

and the Built Environment Element's Urban Form and Land Use Chapter define and establish policies for these passive open spaces.

Key Public Places Considerations

- While some neighborhoods have sufficient active park acreage to meet City goals, other neighborhoods and centers are deficient with respect to park acreage and park access: Downtown, Centennial, Stambaugh-Heller, Oak Knoll-Edgewood Park, Redwood Oaks, Friendly Acres, Redwood Village, Fair Oaks, and the Bayfront neighborhood. Note that addressing park needs in the Downtown may require the use of rooftop gardens and other creative methods to provide additional park space.
- New mixed-use development along the city's corridors will increase population and the associated demands on public places. The increase in population within infill areas and along corridors has the potential to create a demand of up to 49 acres of additional park space within the planning area (including City corporate limits and Sphere of Influence).
- The park fees collected by the City on new residential construction generally do not fully fund parkland acquisition at a rate of 3.0 acres per 1,000 residents. Gap financing will be required to achieve parkland service goals.
- Community center facilities at Red Morton Park serve many populations, but two of the facilities are aging. Any plans for modernization should consider the complementary functions the buildings serve and the possibility of maximizing flexibility in all planned spaces.
- Three of the five traditional community centers are located within Red Morton Park. Other neighborhoods throughout Redwood City do not have convenient access to community centers, although increasingly, non-traditional centers such as public libraries and private facilities (places of worship, service club buildings, banks, and hospitals) have provided community space for classes and meetings.
- Acquiring new park lands may be challenging given limited land availability. As a result, the City may have to look for alternative approaches such as acquiring developed or undeveloped land prone to flooding.

- The use of non-public lands and facilities for City-sponsored public purposes creates liability issues for the City.
- The community has indicated its desire for a multi-use sports complex.
- While the City has very good relations with the school districts and Cañada College regarding shared use of fields and facilities, no formal joint-use agreements have been developed.
- Existing park and community facilities generally were built when public awareness of sustainability issues was limited. With increased interest in and necessity for more focused attention on resource conservation and climate change, the City has transitioned to more environmentally sustainable design and plant materials and will continue to do so.

Public Places Goals, Policies, and Programs


Redwood City residents benefit from the diverse parks and public places in the community. Land use policies in the Built Environment Element provide for new housing that will accommodate additional residents who will look to enjoy the same levels of service the City has historically provided. This may require new parks and other public places and new innovative approaches. Urban infill parks and gardens, enhanced parkways with usable space, and rooftop public gardens and courts are examples of innovations. For any development proposal involving significant new construction, the City will require that developers provide parkland to meet established park standards.

Equally important will be maintaining and improving existing parks and other public recreation facilities.





The goals, policies, and implementing programs in the Public Places Chapter respond to these Guiding Principles:

- ***Partner with and embrace neighborhoods to improve health, safety, and well-being for all.***
- ***Continue to make community participation an important part of achieving a greater city.***
- ***Design for active pedestrian and bicycle-friendly streets and public spaces.***

GOAL BC-1: Provide 3.0 acres of park space for every 1,000 residents.

- Policy BC-1.1:** Require parkland dedications and/or provision of on-site usable public space for significant development projects involving new residential construction.
- Policy BC-1.2:** Maintain development fee programs to accumulate funds for the acquisition and improvement of parks and public/community places and facilities.
- Policy BC-1.3:** Enhance street corridors, parkways, and public property between buildings to serve as functional recreation and green space.
- Policy BC-1.4:** Develop guidelines for non-residential development projects to incorporate accessible plazas, paseos, and other public places.
-  **Policy BC-1.5.:** Consider all opportunities to create and acquire land for parks, community gardens, rooftop gardens, and community gathering places.
- Policy BC-1.6:** Continue to consult with the school districts and Cañada College to supplement City park facilities with those of the districts and college.

GOAL BC-2: Create complete neighborhoods wherein every Redwood City resident lives within easy and safe walking distance of a park or community space.

-   **Policy BC-2.1:** Develop some form of park or usable public green space within the following neighborhoods and centers: Downtown, Centennial, Stambaugh-Heller, Oak Knoll-Edgewood Park, Redwood Oaks, Friendly Acres, Redwood Village, Fair Oaks, the Bayfront, and the Environmental Justice communities.
-  **Policy BC-2.2:** Prioritize acquisition of land for active parks in areas where population is anticipated to grow and/or parkland is deficient.
-  **Policy BC-2.3** Investigate the feasibility of using additional portions of the Hetch Hetchy easement for community gardens and park space.

GOAL BC-3: Ensure that public places evolve to meet the needs of changing city demographics and public interests and are accessible to all members of the community.

**Policy BC-3.1**

Incorporate flexible design characteristics into the renovation of existing and development of new parks and community facilities. Consider incorporating education with recreation opportunities.

**Policy BC-3.2:**

Continue to build, renovate, and maintain parks and community facilities in a manner that is environmentally responsible.

Goal BC-4:

Provide state-of-the-art community facilities that support established programs, accommodate future needs, and are accessible to all members of the community.

Policy BC-4.1:

Maintain multi-functional, flexible, and complementary space at Redwood City's community buildings and centers.

Policy BC-4.2:

Maximize public facility use by sharing with nonprofit organizations, school districts, and community organizations.

Policy BC-4.3:

Include in the City's Capital Improvement Program programming and funds for timely community facility improvements.

Policy BC-4.4:

Locate new community facilities in neighborhoods and centers where they will serve populations of the greatest needs. Look for opportunities to create joint-use community space at facilities owned by private organizations such as faith-based groups, service clubs, banks, and hospitals.

Policy BC-4.5:

Continue to maintain or improve open hours at all libraries.

Implementation Programs**Procedures, Permits, Agreements, Ordinances****Program BC-1:**

Redwood City Parks and Facilities Needs Assessment. Pursue all programs set forth in the 2008 *Redwood City Parks and Facilities Needs Assessment* including replacing the Red Morton Park's Senior Center with an age-inclusive Wellness Center.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department

Funding Sources: Development fees, General Fund, Redevelopment funds, grants, possible bonds



Program BC-2: Transit and Public Places Integration. Integrate public places with transit stops and major transit hubs (SamTrans bus stops, Caltrain station, and ferry terminal).

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Community Development; Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department

Funding Sources: Transit Agency funds, Redevelopment funds

Program BC-3: Land Dedication and In-Lieu Fees. Continue to implement the land dedication program and in-lieu fees program to assist in the funding and development of new parks. Actively seek alternative funding sources such as State bonds and grants to supplement gaps in financing parkland acquisition and development.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Community Development; Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department

Funding Sources: Developer fees, grants, possible bonds

Program BC-4: Urban Beautification. Develop an urban beautification program for the design/redesign and landscaping of parkways that includes provisions for linear parks. Also, consider the inclusion of public art as part of the urban beautification program.

Timeframe: Mid Range

Responsible Party: Community Development; Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department

Funding Sources: General Fund, grants

Special Programs/Projects

Program BC-5: Park and Public Facility Impact Fee. Investigate the feasibility of adopting a park and public facility impact fee for non-residential development. Adopt such a requirement if demonstrated to be achievable and practical.

Timeframe: Immediate

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department

Funding Sources: General Fund

Program BC-6: Public Use of Private and Quasi-Private Properties Liability Issues.

- Comprehensively address any liability issues associated with public use of private and quasi-public properties, and determine whether the City could or should be a partner in such endeavors.
- Consult with the property owners and other interested persons early in the process.
- Provide grants for the development of small, infill public places on public or private lands, including for such uses as community gardens, neighborhood participation activity, or other projects that bring people together and build community.

Timeframe: Mid Range, Ongoing

Responsible Party: City Manager Office/Economic Development; Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department

Funding Sources: Grants



Program BC-7:

Creative Parkland Options. Actively pursue alternative parkland options to create new parkland opportunities. Such options can include acquiring flood zone property, undergrounding parking lots and using “at grade” parking lot surfaces for parks, creating rooftop gardens and parks, etc.

Timeframe: Ongoing

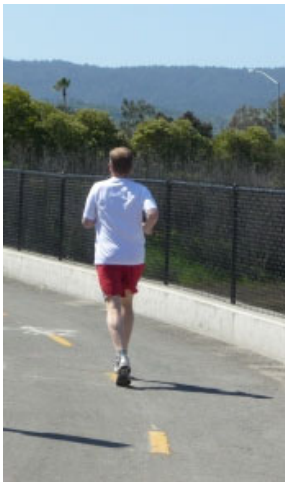
Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department

Funding Sources: General Fund, grants

Urban and Natural Trails and Connections

Redwood City's climate and terrain—combined with its relative compact urban form in the flatlands—create ideal conditions for moving about town on foot or bicycle. Redwood City's proximate location to water allows for other types of connection via the San Francisco Bay and its tributary creeks. In addition to providing enjoyment and health benefits, walking, biking, and boating increase mobility and provide better connections to schools, parks, places of work, and shopping.

Trails in the hillsides and Bay land preserves allow access into open space areas, where users can enjoy the natural environment. Urban trails—consisting of sidewalks and paths within linear parks—increase connectivity by providing shortcuts and direct access from and among neighborhoods and destinations. Downtown and the city's commercial centers become stronger and livelier places with an increased people presence.



In Redwood City, the only formal non-urban trail systems exist along the Bay and in Edgewood and Stulsaft Parks. Most connectivity citywide is provided by sidewalks and Class II and III bike routes.⁴ Redwood Shores has off-street trails that meander along the sloughs, as well as parkways/sidewalks that create a linear park appearance. With regard to water routes, these are used for recreation, with boaters navigating the sloughs and channels to access the Bay; the historic channel connections to Downtown, beneath U.S. 101, disappeared long ago.

City residents have expressed clear desires to increase local mobility options and have new pedestrian, bike, and boat travel ways to support recreation activities and destination-driven trips. Also, Peninsula residents in other communities are eager for regional planning efforts to provide linkages among regional destinations, with a complete Bay Trail through Redwood City representing a significant desired amenity.

Two key features in Redwood City present opportunities to establish connections and provide recreation opportunities via off-street trails:

⁴ Class II and III bike routes consist of pavement within the right-of-way of City streets. Refer to the Circulation Chapter of the Built Environment Element for a complete discussion.

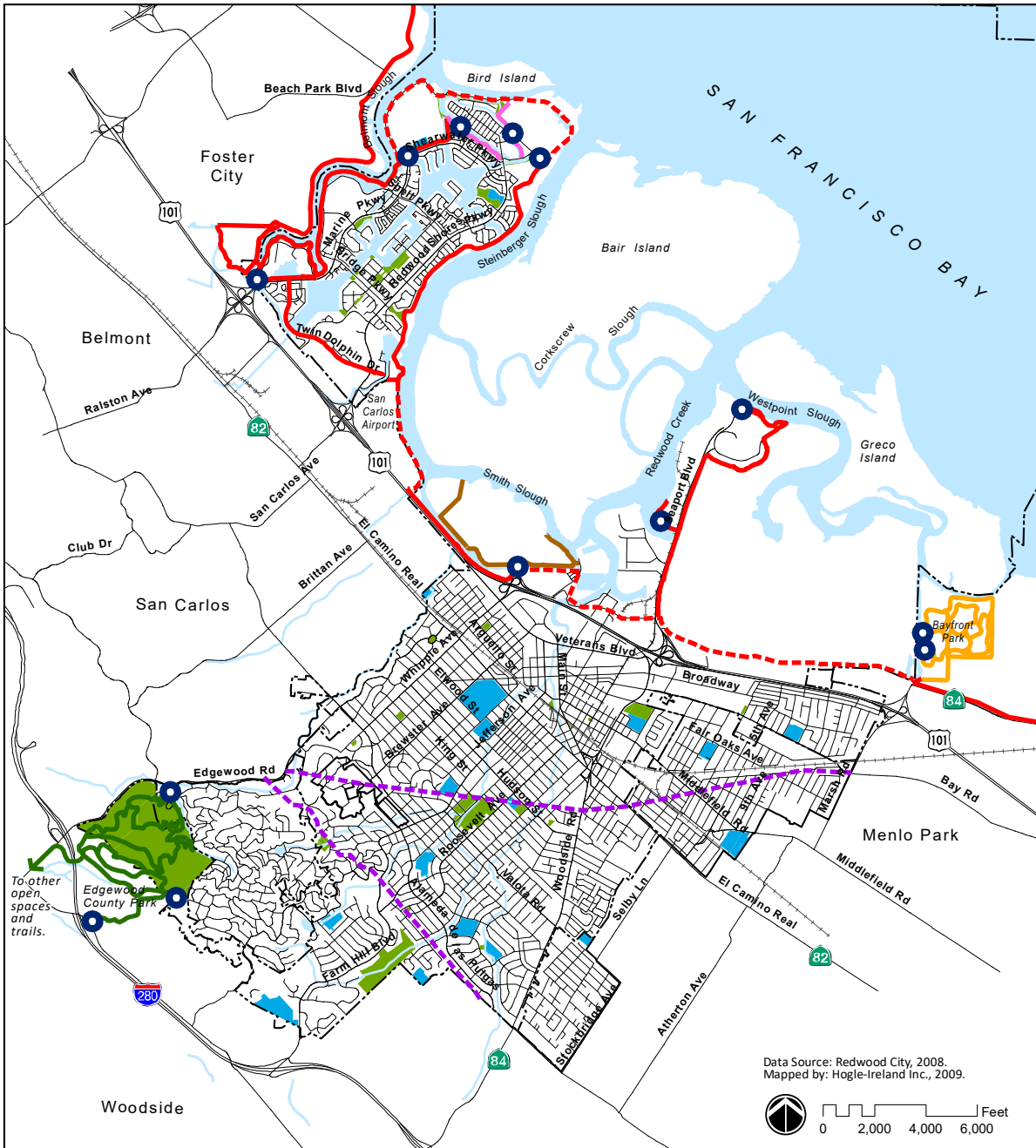
Redwood Creek and the Hetch Hetchy transmission easement. In addition, re-introducing boating access to Downtown is distinctly possible. Figure BC-2 identifies a comprehensive system of trails and waterway connections that will allow people to move about Redwood City without their cars, and to enjoy the natural features that contribute to the city's character.

Non-urban Trails

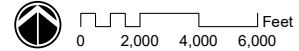
Bay Trail

The Bay Trail is a multi-use regional trail planned to circle the entire San Francisco Bay. This trail provides nearly 400 miles of noncontiguous paved and natural surface trails for walkers, skaters, hikers, bicyclists, and wildlife watchers. Within Redwood City, the trail provides connections to Seaport Center, Inner Bair Island, and Redwood Shores. In the southeast, it connects to Menlo Park's Bayfront Park and to Foster City in the northwest. A major local gap in the Bay Trail exists in the vicinity of the Cargill property, through the bay-side industrial area, and to and from the bridge across Redwood Creek.





Data Source: Redwood City, 2008.
 Mapped by: Hogle-Ireland Inc., 2009.



- | | |
|--|--|
| Trails | Parks and Schools |
| — Bay Trail | Parks |
| — Bay Trail (Planned) | Public Schools |
| — Bair Island Trail | Base Features |
| — Edgewood Park Trails | City Boundary |
| — Redwood Shores Trails | Sphere of Influence |
| — Bay Front Park Trails (Menlo Park) | Railroad |
| — Hetch Hetchy Trail (Planned) | Waterways |
| ● Trail Heads | |

Notes:
 Illustrated trail alignments are conceptual.
 Actual trail alignments may vary with further
 study and future conditions.

Figure BC-2: Trails and Connections

Bair Island Trail

The Bair Island Trail is a natural pathway that circumferences nearly three-fourths of Inner Bair Island. This trail provides access to open spaces along the Bay. Bair Island is under the stewardship of the Don Edward San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge, which is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Edgewood County Park and Preserve Trails

Edgewood County Park and Preserve was established by San Mateo County to include many natural areas, with these trails for hikers to enjoy the quiet and green of the hillsides:

- Edgewood Trail
- Serpentine Loop Trail
- Sylvan Loop Trail
- Ridgeview Loop
- Clarkia Trail

Edgewood Trail is nearly two miles long and connects Edgewood County Park and Preserve to Crystal Springs Trail and other San Mateo County open space areas and San Francisco watershed lands. Two key trailheads in the park provide parking areas to allow users to access the trails: Old Stage Trailhead at the northeastern area of park and Clarkia Trailhead in the southwestern portion. The park and trails are maintained by San Mateo County.



Redwood Shores Trails

The Redwood Shores master-planned community has a comprehensive network of urban and nature trails that link neighborhoods. Several multi-use (walking and bicycle) trails loop around Redwood Shores and Marine Parkways. Other trails connect neighborhoods to parks and schools. The trails along Steinberger Slough and Belmont Channel offer views of San Francisco Bay.

Proposed Trails

The two key opportunities for new non-urban trails are the Hetch Hetchy easement⁵ and Redwood Creek. Stulsaft Park also can support new nature trails.

Two Hetch Hetchy easements, each approximately 60 feet wide, traverse many of Redwood City's neighborhoods (Figure BC-2). The San Mateo County Trails Master Plan indicates a possible trail along this route to connect Edgewood County Park and Preserve to East Palo Alto's Ravenswood Open Space Preserve, and Redwood City residents have long lobbied for a trail as well. While possible improvements would be limited, given the need for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to have access for pipeline maintenance, the City will pursue—at a minimum—establishment of an all-weather trail surface, convenient and well-marked trail access points, and amenities such as benches and interpretative signage.

Redwood Creek once flowed through the city as a natural waterway, but much of it has been covered or confined within concrete channels. The creek's route through the city traverses several neighborhoods, providing the possibility of trail segments and the opportunity to re-establish Redwood Creek as a natural water course. Where not covered by structures, the creek could be "daylighted." Where contained within a channel, improvements could be removed. This substantial effort will require addressing the flood control functions Redwood Creek provides while allowing for a significant natural resource to provide recreational, educational, and ecological benefits. Priority areas will be on public lands, such as along James Street near Sequoia High School.

Important considerations in establishing these new trails include providing connections to sidewalk and street pedestrian and bike routes,

⁵ The City of San Francisco Public Utilities Commission owns the Hetch Hetchy water transmission line that lies within the easement. The line conveys municipal water supplies from the Tuolumne River to Crystal Springs Reservoir.

ensuring convenient access for both the hardy and less mobile, the safety of trail users, any safety concerns of residents whose properties abut the trails, and City liability.

Boat Ways

From the western higher elevations, Redwood Creek flows beneath most of Downtown, daylights at Bradford Street, and then passes under U.S. 101 and between Greco and Bair Islands before outletting into the San Francisco Bay. The Bay attracts recreational boaters who use several marinas to row, sail, or motor into the Bay.

In the city's past, boaters could use Redwood Creek to head toward Downtown as well, but this movement is hindered today by low clearance beneath the freeway. Vegetation in the water and along the creek banks creates difficult boating conditions. Also, without docks in the Downtown, few boaters have reason to travel this direction. Note that Docketown residents currently reside on Redwood Creek.

Any comprehensive plan to restore Redwood Creek will include extending its usable reach beneath U.S. 101 and to the waterfront neighborhoods northeast of U.S. 101. Envisioned improvements include:

- Establishing and maintaining sufficient clearance beneath the U.S. 101 bridge crossing for kayaks, canoes, and similar small boats
- Re-establishing and maintaining native vegetation along the creek banks
- Developing docks and accommodations for boaters southwest of U.S. 101
- Providing interpretative signage and exhibits

Key Urban and Natural Trails and Connections Considerations

- While completing and connecting unfinished or incomplete trails may be a priority, limited funding may make completion of these trails difficult. Specifically, the Bay Trail is discontinuous through Redwood City, and use of the Hetch Hetchy easement will require extensive negotiations with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

- Redwood Shores is the only neighborhood with a dedicated trail system separate from roadways. While sidewalks provide connections in other areas, trails for non-motorized uses would provide significant and nearby recreational benefits to residents.
- The Redwood Shores Lagoon is owned by the City, and provides opportunities for small watercraft recreation and bird watching. Over 500 homes front the lagoon with many having their own docks. While the waterway offers an excellent environment for rowing, paddling, and sailing, there are no public launches for accessing the Redwood Shores lagoon.
- Redwood Creek is a tremendous natural resource with the potential to offer the community new places to hike, bike, boat, and reconnect with the natural environment. Obstacles to restoring the creek include flood control needs, adjacent urban uses, land acquisition, funding, and liability issues.

Urban and Natural Trails and Connections Goals, Policies, and Programs

Consistent with overall City sustainability initiatives, substantial effort will be made to provide the trail and waterway connections that will allow Redwood City residents to use alternatives to the car for local trips, and to attain the health benefits of walking, biking, and boating. Trails will provide safe and comfortable linkages to activities centers, parks, commercial centers, Downtown, schools, libraries, open spaces, and the San Francisco Bay.

The goals, policies, and implementing programs in the Urban and Natural Trails Chapter respond to these Guiding Principles:

- ***Partner with and embrace neighborhoods to improve health, safety, and well-being for all.***
- ***Design for active pedestrian and bicycle-friendly streets and public spaces.***

GOAL BC-5: Create and maintain a system of trails, sidewalks, linear parks, and other connections that provide residents in all neighborhoods with opportunities to exercise, enjoy nature, and get to destinations without using a car.



Policy BC-5.1: Pursue establishment of a trail and associated amenities within the Hetch Hetchy easement.



Policy BC-5.2: Complete the Bay Trail through Redwood City.



Policy BC-5.3: Provide connection between regional trails, county trails, and other jurisdictions’ trail systems.

Policy BC-5.4: Establish trailheads at highly visible locations and with improvements that provide access for persons with disabilities.

Policy BC-5.5: Develop a strategy for the reclaiming of Redwood Creek as a functional natural waterway with recreation amenities along its banks.

Policy BC-5.6: Provide access to water-based recreation opportunities in San Francisco Bay and along bayfront lands.

Implementation Programs

Plans and Studies



Program BC-8: **Hetch Hetchy Easement Trail Plan.** Develop a comprehensive plan for establishing trails and associated amenities within the Hetch Hetchy easement. Consult with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and San Mateo County on the plan. Seek regional, State, and federal funding and grants for trail development. Ensure that City liability issues are comprehensively addressed.

Timeframe: Mid Range

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department; Community Development

Funding Sources: Grants, General Fund

Special Programs/Projects

Program BC-9: **Redwood Creek Boat Access.** Investigate the engineering and environmental requirements for accommodating passage of small recreational boats (canoes, kayaks, and the like) under the U.S. 101 crossing of Redwood Creek. Develop a comprehensive plan for providing boat access to Downtown via Redwood Creek, and for providing for water-oriented amenities.

Timeframe: Mid Range

Responsible Party: Community Development; Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department

Funding Sources: Grants, General Fund

Inter-Agency and Other Organizations Consultation

Program BC-10: **Bay Trail Interagency Consultation.** Consult with the Association of Bay Area Governments and other local organizations to complete the Bay Trail to provide continuous connections through Redwood City.

Timeframe: Short Range

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department; Community Development

Funding Sources: County and ABAG funds, grants

This page intentionally left blank.

Recreation and Human Services

Recreation and human service programs play a role in sustaining and improving social well-being, and in fostering an inclusive, multi-generational and economically and ethnically diverse community. These programs promote civic involvement by all community members. Redwood City residents and members of the business community are avid users of the City's recreation, enrichment, and child care programs. To address other human service needs, the City works with a variety of agencies and organizations to address, for example, housing assistance, nutrition education and supplementary food needs, and crisis intervention. All services and programs are organized to target specific interests and needs, with programs adjusted over time to reflect changing demographics.

The Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department and the Library Department administer the recreation and human services programs, and also oversee arts and culture and continuing education programs, with many activities available at the libraries, community centers, and schools. The community centers also provide places where local groups—scouts, youth sport organizations, self-help organizations, and community clubs—conduct their activities.

Community volunteers contribute tremendously to the breadth and success of service programs. For example, the library has 1,300 volunteers giving 130,000 hours annually. Volunteerism also allows differing ages and cultures to learn from each other. Partnerships are also a cornerstone of operations, with the school districts, nonprofit and faith-based groups, and others working with the City to run programs and share facilities. These partnerships allow the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department and the Library Department to offer and facilitate a breadth of programs, services, and activities.

Programs for Youth and Families

As Redwood City historically has had a large, relatively young population, many programs and services cater to youth, adult, and family needs (Table BC-5). The increase in dual-income households has substantially increased demand for pre- and after-school youth programs and child care.

Table BC-5: Redwood City’s Current Youth and Family Programs

Preschoolers	Children	Teens	Adults and Seniors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Classes ▪ Child Care ▪ Library Programs ▪ Little Learners Preschool ▪ Family Resources Guide ▪ Babysitters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ After-School Programs ▪ Camps and Holiday Activities ▪ Library Programs ▪ Sandpiper Youth Club ▪ Youth Advisory Board ▪ Sports and Aquatics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Camps and Activities ▪ Teen Centers ▪ Skate Park ▪ Teen Advisory Board ▪ Volunteer Opportunities ▪ Accessible Recreation Activities Program ▪ Library Programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aquatics ▪ Accessible Recreation Activities Program ▪ Classes ▪ Fitness Center ▪ Gym ▪ Sports Leagues ▪ Senior Center ▪ Library Programs ▪ Employment and Volunteer Opportunities ▪ Family Services ▪ Cultural Services

Broad-based Community Services

Many households are challenged with incomes insufficient to cover food, housing, transportation, medical, education, and child care costs. City programs respond to some of these needs but cannot meet all of them. However, Redwood City partners with local nonprofits, congregations and faith-based groups, and San Mateo County agencies to provide a wide array of services, including:

- Food and Nutrition Programs
- Homeless Services
- Crisis Intervention/Emergency Services
- Recovery and Other Support Programs
- Housing Information/Services
- Financial Assistance
- Information and Referrals
- Forms and Translation Assistance/Advocacy
- Legal Services
- Child Care and Preschool Programs
- Inmate Intervention
- Counseling
- Support Services for Families

Recreation and Sports Programs

The City’s recreation and sports programs have grown with intensified resident interest in healthier lifestyles, with the City offering dance

classes, swim lessons, gymnastics, martial arts, fencing, golf, basketball, skate parks, tennis, etc. Local private sports organizations, such as American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), Redwood City Little League, Redwood City Youth Basketball, Redwood City Youth Softball, Foothill Storm Soccer, Junior All-American Football, and Pony/Colt Baseball also respond to demand. These organizations share City park space and school sports fields with City-sponsored programs.

The Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department works closely with the school districts and sports leagues to equitably and efficiently allocate use of available sports fields, and to make sure the fields remain in playable condition. With the popularity of sports leagues growing among youth and adults, the City anticipates that available field space will be insufficient, particularly soccer fields. As of 2008, recreational activity space was considered to be at capacity, with new facilities needed in response to population growth and increasing community participation in all sports leagues.

Youth Engagement and Intervention: Police Activities League

The Redwood City Police Activities League (PAL) is a nonprofit, community-based organization providing intervention, prevention, and alternative programs to youth in Redwood City. This program strives to help youth assimilate honest values, assets, and skills. PAL, the Redwood City Police and other City departments, and the Redwood City School District have formed a unique public/private partnership that is critical in providing delinquency outreach and prevention programs for Redwood City youth. At its inception, PAL served approximately 200 youth; today, it annually serves over 3,500 pre-teens and teens. The PAL building is located adjacent to Taft Elementary School.

Key Recreation and Human Services Considerations

- The City historically has provided high levels of recreation, community, youth and family, and senior services that meet changing community needs. Maintaining and improving this level of service may be challenging given funding resources and demographic changes.
- San Mateo County will continue to have one of the highest costs of living in the country. This will challenge many households

looking to enjoy productive lives in Redwood City. A key community goal is to retain our economic and social diversity. Responsive human service programs will continue to be needed if we wish to keep our diversity and balance.

- Not all of Redwood City’s youth have interest in sports or other extracurricular activities, or have difficulties accessing the available programs due to family circumstances or mobility limitations. Youth are a tremendous community asset that should be better utilized to strengthen the community and to minimize dangerous life choices, particularly involvement in gangs. Focused attention to youth needs can help avoid problems that can arise from under-engaged and unsupervised pre-teens and teens.

Recreation and Human Services Goals, Policies, and Programs

Redwood City has a solid foundation of community service programs to meet residents’ needs. Our efforts will focus on maintaining partnerships to fund programs and continually assessing community needs.

The goals, policies, and implementing programs in the Recreation and Human Services Chapter respond to these Guiding Principles:

- *Preserve and generate awareness of cultural, educational, economic, and recreational diversity and historic heritage.*
- *Partner with and embrace neighborhoods to improve health, safety, and well-being for all.*
- *Continue to make community participation an important part of achieving a greater city.*

GOAL BC-6: Provide recreation and human service programs and activities commensurate with identified community need.

Policy BC-6.1: Implement human service programs that are flexible and responsive to the community’s changing needs.

Policy BC-6.2: Engage the community in the assessment of human service program needs for programs that are funded by all sources: City

monies, San Mateo County resources, federal grants, and donations from charitable organizations.

- Policy BC-6.3:** Partner with secular and faith-based organizations to provide human service programs.
- Policy BC-6.4:** Continue broad-based public outreach activities that inform residents of all available human service programs.
- Policy BC-6.5:** Continue organizing and funding City-sponsored recreation and enrichment programs with particular attention being paid to the needs of the very young and the elderly. Consider creating unique programs that match or include both seniors and youth.
- Policy BC-6.6:** Continue to consult with nonprofit sports organizations to support their offering of diverse recreation programs that complement and supplement those of the City. Continue to consult with Redwood City School District and Sequoia Union High School District to provide extended day/after-school care.
- Policy BC-6.7:** Explore options for a teen center, gang prevention programs, and other youth programs.
- Policy BC-6.8:** Continue to offer, if not expand, volunteer opportunities for all ages.

Implementation Programs

Procedures, Permits, Agreements, Ordinances

- Program BC-11: Recreation and Human Services Program and Staff Expansion.** Expand recreation and human service program capacities and staff, including volunteer staffs, to match growth in population and program trends.

Timeframe: Ongoing
Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department; Library Department
Funding Sources: General Fund
- Program BC-12: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Annual Reports and Strategic Plans.** Continue to update and adopt Annual Reports and Strategic Plans to meet the goals set by the Parks,

Recreation, and Community Services Department and for the management, prioritizing, budgeting, and procurement of new initiatives. Pay particular attention to the needs of the very young and the elderly.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department

Funding Sources: General Fund

Program BC-13: Accessible Recreation Activities Program. Continue the Accessible Recreation Activities Program (ARAP) and Inclusion Programs to allow people with physical and/or developmental disabilities to experience meaningful, productive, and enjoyable activities.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department

Funding Sources: General Fund

Program BC-14: Positive Teen Activities. Consulting with Police Activities League, faith-based groups, and other organizations focused on positive teen activities, provide fulfilling and interesting teen activities and identify pre-teen and teen populations at-risk of gang or illegal behavior. Participate in the Youth Development activities in *Redwood City 2020*. Develop integrated programs and activities that address all needs of at-risk youth: help with schoolwork, extra-curricular and diversionary activities, transportation, mentorship, and jobs and job skills.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Police Department; Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department; Library Department

Funding Sources: General Fund, grants

Program BC-15: Volunteer Opportunities. Maintain or expand volunteer opportunities for all ages.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department; Library Department

Funding Sources: General Fund

Program BC-16: Senior Activities and Programs. Continue to ensure that programming meets the needs of the growing portion of city residents over the age of 75.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department; Library Department

Funding Sources: General Fund

Outreach, Education

Program BC-17: Human Services Outreach. Develop and implement a comprehensive outreach plan to identify and inform targeted groups about all available human service programs in Redwood City. Consult with San Mateo County and private organizations in this regard.

Timeframe: Short Range and Ongoing

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department; Library Department

Funding Sources: Grants, General Fund

Inter-Agency and Other Organizations Consultation

Program BC-18: Secular and Faith-Based Organizations Partnerships. Develop strategic partnerships with secular and faith-based organizations. Work together with these groups to create a strategic plan that identifies how joint City/private programs can best be established and managed to meet human service needs.

Timeframe: Short Range and Ongoing

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department; City Manager Office/Economic Development; Library Department

Funding Sources: Grants, General Fund

Program BC-19: Sports Fields Interagency Consultation. Continue to consult with youth and adult sports organizations to coordinate the allocation and maintenance of sports fields. Use joint-use committees and other effective means of communicating and planning for all needs.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services
Department

Funding Sources: General Fund, user fees

Health and Environmental Justice

Health Overview

The health of the American public has become one of our biggest national concerns. The country has seen increases in risk factors affecting children and adults alike for such health problems as obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. These chronic problems consume billions of healthcare dollars every year. We understand that healthier people have more time to be productive and relaxed. We all benefit when our fellow community members take care to exercise, eat healthier foods, and practice preventative healthcare.

As described in the introduction to this Building Community Element, land use planning approaches can lead to improved community health by shaping the social determinants of health to promote and accommodate:

- Access to outdoor recreation and open space
- Access to health services
- Access to healthy foods
- Access to daily goods and services
- Access to reliable, safe transit options
- Environmental quality
- Safe neighborhoods and public places
- Access to affordable housing
- Access to economic opportunities
- Green and sustainable building practices
- Climate resilient neighborhoods

Environmental Justice Overview

Environmental justice 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. This goal is achieved when everyone enjoys:

- The same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and

- Equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.⁶

California State Law requires local jurisdictions to address environmental justice in equities. California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention analyses find that some neighborhoods in Redwood City are disproportionately affected by the following pollution, place, population, and health inequities:

Pollution

- Higher levels of hazardous waste/solid waste; higher number of cleanup sites
- Higher incidences of groundwater threats
- Increased traffic density
- Increased air quality (diesel PM)
- Higher presence of lead

Place

- Increased traffic congestion and lack of active transportation opportunities
- Lack or lower levels of tree canopy
- Limited access to parks
- Lower levels of housing ownership, affordability, and habitability

Health

- Higher incidence of asthma, obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, poor mental, poor physical health

Population

- Linguistic isolation
- Physical inactivity
- Lower levels of civic engagement and civic engagement opportunities

The City recognizes neighborhoods experiencing these unique and compounded Social Determinants of Health (SDoH⁷) risks are known as

⁶ EPA www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice January 18, 2023

⁷ Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) are defined as the conditions in the environment where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range

Environmental Justice communities (or Disadvantaged communities, as defined in Government Code 65302(h)(4)^{8,9}). Environmental Justice goals, policies, and programs are located within the Built Environment Element, Public Safety Element, Natural Resources Element, and this Building Community Element. The goals, policies, and programs 1) focus on reducing hazardous waste, solid waste, and groundwater threats; reducing traffic density; improving residents' physical activity opportunities; improving air quality; encouraging safe, stable, and affordable housing in Environmental Justice communities; 2) promote Environmental Justice communities' residents civic engagement in public decision-making; and 3) prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of Environmental Justice community residents.

Access to Healthcare

Equitable and affordable healthcare access for everyone can reduce community-wide healthcare costs by allowing people to receive routine, preventative health services instead of requiring more costly procedures and surgeries to address significant health issues. While healthcare access is certainly a national problem, local solutions can address it incrementally, recognizing that healthcare policy will take many years to resolve.

Redwood City is home to three major medical facilities: the Kaiser Permanente campus and hospital on Veterans Boulevard, Sequoia Hospital on Whipple Avenue, and the Stanford Medicine Outpatient Clinics on Broadway. Residents citywide have easy physical access to medical care; the larger concern is financial access. As national healthcare policy evolves, all people in Redwood City should be able to take advantage of these quality medical facilities.

of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. SDoH can be grouped into five domains – economic stability, education access and quality, health care access and quality, neighborhood and built environment, and social and community context (Healthy People 2030, www.health.gov/healthy-people/priority-areas/social-determinants-health)

⁸ “Disadvantaged communities” means 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.

⁹ For the Redwood City General Plan's purpose, the term “Environmental Justice community” is synonymous with the State of California's term “Disadvantaged community”, see Footnote 8.

For those of limited incomes, County Health System clinics and hospitals offer healthcare services, with the most convenient at the Fair Oaks Clinic on Middlefield Road (within the City's Sphere of Influence) and the separate Fair Oaks Children's Clinic on Laurel Street. More comprehensive services are available at the main campus and hospital in San Mateo. In addition, the Samaritan House Free Clinic offers free healthcare to uninsured adults who are not eligible for County services.

The City's commitment is to support the County Health Department in keeping these local clinics in Redwood City, and to accommodate innovative mixed land uses that include accessible medical facilities.

Access to Many Food Options

When people have options for food choices and understand the benefits of proper nutrition, they frequently choose the healthful alternative. The City can make it easier for people to buy fruits, vegetables, and other nutritious, lower-calories foods by:

- Facilitating local food growing in community gardens
- Encouraging people to integrate agriculture into private landscapes
- Accommodating farmers' markets at locations convenient for all
- Avoiding over-concentration, through zoning regulations, of liquor stores and drive-through restaurants



The City’s Human Services Financial Assistance Program annually funds a variety of human services resource providers for programs that provide:

- Physical and mental health
- Food assistance
- Crisis intervention
- Legal assistance
- Educational and mentoring assistance

Key Health Considerations

- Many residents in Redwood City do not have access to affordable healthcare.
- Access to healthy food, including fruits and vegetables, is extremely important. In addition, exercise is an integral component of a healthy lifestyle. Walking and bicycling can provide ways to get exercise while doing our everyday activities.

Health Goals, Policies, and Programs

Redwood City recognizes that we all benefit when our community is healthy. The goals, policies, and implementing programs in the Health Chapter respond to this Guiding Principle:

- ***Partner with and embrace neighborhoods to improve health, safety, and well-being for all.***

Goal BC-7: Provide all Redwood City residents the opportunity to make healthy lifestyle choices.



Policy BC-7.1: Provide convenient access to parks and other outdoor spaces for residents of all ages and income levels.

Policy BC-7.2: Assist in the reduction of childhood obesity by increasing opportunities for outdoor recreation and promoting physical activity within and outside of school and child care settings.

Policy BC-7.3: Support the managed growth of complementary medical facilities at and surrounding the Kaiser Permanente campus, Sequoia Hospital, and Stanford Outpatient Clinics.

- Policy BC-7.4:** Support the San Mateo County Health System, local hospitals, clinics, and school districts in their efforts to offer a broad array of healthcare services in County facilities in Redwood City.
- Policy BC-7.5:** Provide public education regarding practices that promote good health.
- Policy BC-7.6:** Provide all Redwood City residents with convenient access to healthy, locally grown, and/or fresh foods.

Goal BC-8:

Ensure residents of all ages have access to a range of safe and accessible opportunities for recreation and physical activities in Environmental Justice Communities.



Policy BC-8.1 Promote and facilitate physical activity in Environmental Justice communities

Policy BC-8.2 Ensure a park system that provides all residents with access to parks, community centers, sports fields, trails, and other recreational amenities



Policy BC-8.3: Develop, improve, and/or maintain parks, other recreational facilities, and schools within Environmental Justice communities.



Policy BC-8.4: Create routes that make it safe, easy, and enjoyable to walk or bike to parks, other recreational facilities, and schools within Environmental Justice communities.



Policy BC-8.5: Promote evaluation and reduction of air pollution from both point and mobile sources in Environmental Justice communities.

Implementation Programs**Procedures, Permits, Agreements, Ordinances**

- Program BC-20: Zoning Ordinance Amendments.** Investigate amending City zoning regulations to:
- Include special zoning to address the General Plan *Hospital* land use category and to permit symbiotic uses surrounding hospital properties
 - Address the overconcentration of liquor stores, drive-through restaurants, and tobacco retailers

- Permit the small-scale harvesting of fruits and vegetables grown on residential properties for commercial sale

Timeframe: Short Range
Responsible Party: Community Development
Funding Sources: General Fund

Program BC-21: Farmers’ Markets. Develop standard regulations and permitting processes for farmers’ markets that facilitate their establishment at convenient locations throughout Redwood City.

Timeframe: Short Range
Responsible Party: Community Development
Funding Sources: General Fund



Program BC-22: Parks and Other Recreational Facilities. Prioritize spending of park maintenance and improvement funds on parks and other physical activity-supporting recreational facilities in Environmental Justice communities in accordance with the Park Needs Assessment.

Timeframe: Ongoing
Responsible Party: Community Development and Transportation, Parks, Recreation and Community Services, Public Works
Funding Sources: General Fund



Program BC-23: Routes to Parks, Recreational Facilities, and Schools. Establish ¼ mile pedestrian zones around parks, other recreational facilities, and schools within Environmental Justice communities and prioritize capital projects that improve pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure within these pedestrian zones.

Timeframe: Ongoing
Responsible Party: Community Development and Transportation, Public Works
Funding Sources: General Fund



Program BC-24: Possible Park Conversion. Explore opportunity areas for conversion of parks, including small parks and open spaces in Environmental Justice communities.

Timeframe: Ongoing
Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department

Funding Sources: Park Impact Fees, Capital Improvement Program Fund

Program BC-25: Safety Improvement Programs. Research policies and programs known to improve safety and reduce crime without relying just on law enforcement personnel.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department, Police Department

Funding Source: General Fund

Special Programs/Projects

Program BC-26: Health, Transportation, Economic Development, Recreation, Education Forums. Organize periodic forums to involve private, nonprofit, and government professionals from transportation, health, education, recreation, economic development, and other relevant fields to share with Redwood City residents.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department; Library Department

Funding Sources: General Fund

Inter-Agency and Other Organizations Consultation

Program BC-27: Healthier Lifestyle Education. Consult with the local hospitals, clinics, and school districts in Redwood City and the University of California Extension to produce and provide educational materials and programs aimed at promoting and facilitating healthier lifestyles.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department; Library Department

Funding Sources: General Fund

This page intentionally left blank.

Lifelong Learning, Libraries, and Schools

Education leads to community success. Education drives economic prosperity and security; it channels creativity and enriches lives. Redwood City values and promotes education and lifelong learning in recognition of these benefits. City libraries, public and private schools, the local community college, and continuing education centers succeed because they have the support of students, families, City officials, and the business community. Partnerships are essential to quality learning opportunities.

Redwood City's population is generally well educated, with high school and post-secondary education levels on par with San Mateo County residents as a whole.¹⁰ However, lower-income residents and some immigrants have had very little formal education.

Library Programs

Redwood City libraries offer mainly programs that support children and families' educational success. Over 150,000 children and families attend library programs or receive homework help annually. The library has 130 computers with over 300,000 sessions annually. The library offers, among other things:

- Homework tutoring
- 24/7 online tutoring
- Preschool story times
- Educational classes for all ages
- Access to computers
- At-risk teen tutoring
- Mentoring programs for children
- Adult tutoring
- Parent tutoring
- School literacy programs
- Preschool and daycare literacy support

¹⁰According to U.S. Census 2007 American Community Survey data, 18% of Redwood City adults completed high school, versus 19% countywide. With regard to college degrees, 6% had Associates degrees (7.5% in the county), 24% had Bachelor's degrees (27% in the county) and 13.8% had attained a Masters degree or higher (16.3% in the county).

Formal Education for Youth and Adults

Redwood City supports and encourages strong schools. Redwood City students comprise a diverse student population. Most public elementary schools are operated by the Redwood City School District, with one in the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District. Two local middle schools accommodate the elementary students as they move up. The two local high schools are part of the Sequoia Union High School District. Charter schools represent a growing educational choice, as students and their parents look to establish curriculum structured around specific interests and career paths.

Cañada College

Cañada College is a community college offering associate and certificate degrees, and preparatory coursework for transfers to four-year institutions. Cañada College has approximately 6,000-8,000 students enrolled each semester. Like many other community colleges, it provides a wide array of general educational courses in various disciplines. Many of Cañada College students transfer to four year colleges.

Redwood City School District

The Redwood City School District includes 17 schools within Redwood City and its Sphere of Influence. There are 15 elementary schools and two middle schools, listed in Table BC-6. During the 2008-2009 school year, Redwood City School District schools had an enrollment of approximately 8,800 students.

Belmont-Redwood Shores School District

Children in Redwood Shores attend elementary schools in the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District. Sandpiper Elementary School was for many years the only Belmont-Redwood Shores school within the City's borders, but a new Redwood Shores elementary school is scheduled to open in 2010. This new school will accommodate the growing elementary student population in Redwood Shores.

Sequoia Union High School District

Depending on student's residence location in Redwood City or its Sphere of Influence, high school students can attend Sequoia High School, Woodside High School, Carlmont High School, or Menlo-Atherton High

School. They also have the choice to attend Summit Charter High School. Redwood Continuation School also serves all students within the Sequoia Union High School district.

Sequoia Union High School District enrolls approximately 7,300 students in grades nine through 12, and provides education services to over 8,000 adults through its adult school.

While nearly one in five (20 percent) California high school students drop out prior to graduation, students in the Sequoia Union district generally have had significantly lower drop-out levels, and between the 2007-08 and 2008-09 school years, the drop-out rate improved from 12.6 to nine percent. At Sequoia High School, this trend reflects continued improvement in school curriculum and student test scores, including establishment of an international baccalaureate program, to overcome past challenges at the school.

Students who need more specialized attention and focus can attend Redwood Continuation School, and juniors and seniors looking for college-level work can take classes at the district's Cañada Middle College, located on Cañada College's campus, and Sequoia District's adult school.

Adults looking to further their education and skills, or who are just seeking enrichment, have opportunities at both Cañada College and the Sequoia District Adult School. In particular, these schools offer courses for people who wish to achieve better financial status through education and training. Redwood City staff has partnered with instructors to develop course materials and inform adult students of professional growth opportunities.

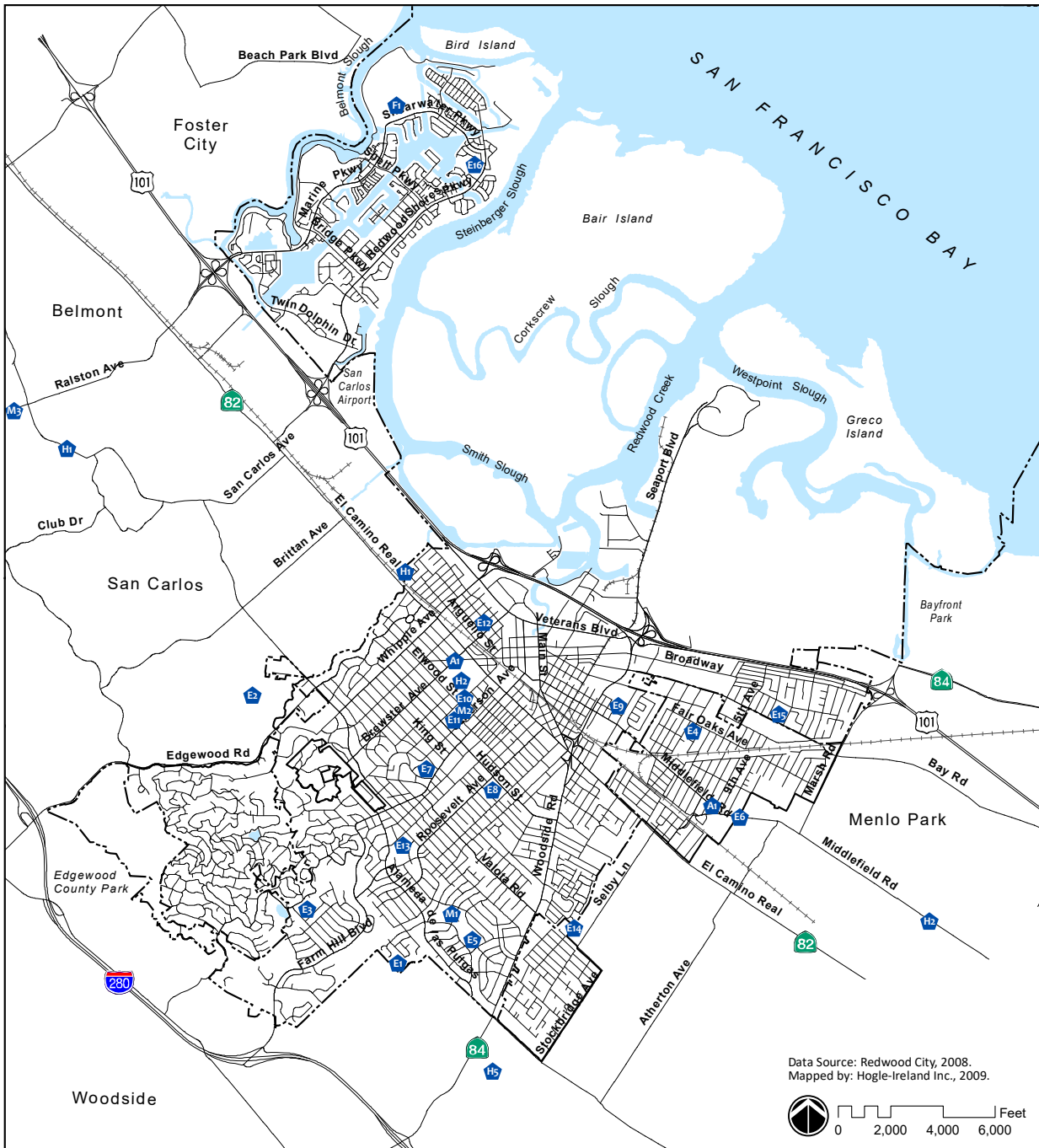
Private Schools

Families and students seeking educational services outside of those provided by the public school districts can enroll in private schools that offer an array of educational environments to meet various learning needs. Over a dozen private schools operate in Redwood City, some affiliated with religious institutions and others that meet specialized needs, such as children with disabilities.

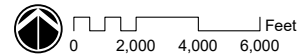
Table BC-6: Public Schools

Redwood City School District			Belmont-Redwood Shores School District		
Map Key	School Type	School Name	Map Key	School Type	School Name
E1	Elementary Schools	Adelante School	E16	Elementary School	Sandpiper School
E2		Clifford School	M3	Middle School	Ralston <i>Located in Belmont</i>
E3		Roy Cloud School	F1	Future Elementary School	Redwood Shores
E4		Fair Oaks School	Sequoia Union High School District		
E5		Henry Ford School	H1	High Schools	Carlmont <i>Located in Belmont</i>
E6		Garfield School	H2		Menlo-Atherton <i>Located in Atherton</i>
E7		John Gill School	H3		Redwood Continuation High School
E8		Hawes School	H4		Sequoia
E9		Hoover School	H5		Woodside <i>Located in Atherton</i>
E10		Newcomer Academy	H6		Cañada Middle College High School
E11		North Star Academy	A1	Adult School	Sequoia Adult School <i>Located in Menlo Park</i>
E12		Orion School			
E13		Roosevelt School			
E14		Selby Lane School			
E15		Taft School			
M1	Middle Schools	Kennedy Middle School			
M2		McKinley School of Technology			

Source: Redwood City School District, 2008; Belmont-Redwood Shores School District, 2008; Sequoia Union High School District, 2008.



Data Source: Redwood City, 2008.
Mapped by: Hogle-Ireland Inc., 2009.



Public Schools

- Elementary Schools
- Middle Schools
- High Schools
- Adult Schools
- Future Elementary School

Base Features

- City Boundary
- Sphere of Influence
- Freeway/Highway
- Major Roads
- Railroad
- Waterways

For a list of schools, refer to Table BC-6

Figure BC3: Public Schools

After-School Programs

Redwood City offers City-sponsored and grant-funded after-school programs and activities for school-age children at the libraries, community centers, public schools, and at other locations throughout the community. Local nonprofit organizations also provide after-school programs. Programs and activities range from art, drama, music and other classes, as well as many sports programs. Programs also provide academic support and enrichment as well as recreation and life skills activities. These programs respond to parents needs for school support for their child and healthy alternatives for after-school care.

Key Lifelong Learning, Libraries, and Schools Considerations

- A key City objective is to provide many avenues for continuing education, both to allow people to develop new employment skills and for intellectual enrichment. Continuing education responsibilities lie primarily with the public school and community college districts. Through City libraries and Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department programs, the City is able to offer programs to those seeking to learn. State funding of public education will continue to affect the schools' and colleges' abilities to provide exceptional services.
- People will increasingly use the Internet and similar technologies to study and learn. Both City and school programs will need to respond to evolving education methods and plan appropriately for the equipment and tools needed to support these changes.
- As local school district scores continue to improve, parents of young children may increasingly look to move to Redwood City to take advantage of exceptional public education services. Such a trend could reshape community demographics and create a new paradigm for supportive City services and facilities.
- Many of our children are not ready to learn by kindergarten; we need service responses to intervene at the earliest age to ensure success.

Lifelong Learning, Libraries, and Schools Goals, Policies, and Programs

Redwood City understands the benefits of continued and high-quality education. Education leads to community success. The goals, policies, and implementing programs in the Lifelong Learning, Libraries, and Schools Chapter respond to this Guiding Principle:

- *Preserve and generate awareness of cultural, educational, economic, and recreational diversity and historic heritage.*

Goal BC-9: Provide opportunities for residents of all ages and backgrounds to access high-quality education services that maximize each individual’s potential.

- Policy BC-9.1:** Partner with local public school and community college districts to maintain effective education programs for all ages.
- Policy BC-9.2:** Support programs of the local public school and community college districts.
- Policy BC-9.3:** Consult with private and public community service organizations to coordinate educational and community services, including child care/early education, classes to learn English, after-school programs, and recreational activities.
- Policy BC-9.4:** Ensure that City library facilities are equipped with the proper technologies and tools to support evolving ways of research and learning. Assist and support lifelong learning for adults through computer training, programs, and library collections.
- Policy BC-9.5:** Continue to adapt collections of materials, programs, and information sources to respond to community needs and interests and new technologies.
- Policy BC-9.6:** Achieve and maintain a state-of-the-art children’s library collection and facility.
- Policy BC-9.7:** Continue to house libraries in attractive and inviting facilities capable of comfortably accommodating residents of all ages.
- Policy BC-9.8:** Use development impact fees to fund library facilities, equipment, and programs that are needed as a result of new development projects.
- Policy BC-9.9:** Explore creative methods to expand Redwood City library services outside of the four physical library facilities.

Goal BC-10: Improve literacy levels of all Redwood City community members.

- Policy BC-10.1:** Assist preschoolers to become “school ready” by developing a love of reading, learning, and libraries.
- Policy BC-10.2:** Increase literacy through library services and programs in other languages, including Spanish, Hindi, Mandarin, and Russian.
- Policy BC-10.3:** Help all community members to reach an appropriate level in computer training, math, reading, writing, and critical thinking skills in English.

Implementation Programs

Procedures, Permits, Agreements, Ordinances

Program BC-28: After-School Homework Assistance. Direct resources to the provision of after-school homework assistance, tutoring, and enrichment on school campuses, at community centers, and at libraries.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department; Library Department

Funding Sources: General Fund

Program BC-29: Library Literacy Story-Time Programs. Sustain or increase library literacy story-time programs.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Library Department

Funding Sources: General Fund, grants

Plans and Studies

Program BC-30: Adult Education Surveys. Regularly assess adult education needs and interests through surveys and other effective information gathering methods.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department; Library Department

Funding Sources: General Fund

Program BC-31: Library Customer Reviews. Conduct regular reviews of library customer program needs. Determine appropriate hours of operation. Adjust funding priorities and programs in response. Continue to update Redwood City Library's Annual Report.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Library Department

Funding Sources: General Fund



Program BC-32: Library Needs Assessment. Periodically conduct a needs assessment for library services and facilities, including evaluating the Fair Oaks Library and those in Environmental Justice communities.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Library Department

Funding Sources: General Fund

Special Programs/Projects

Program BC-33: Foreign Literacy and Library Services and Programs. Work to create literacy and library services and programs in languages other than English through partnerships with other providers and volunteer organizations.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Library Department; Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department

Funding Sources: General Fund

Inter-Agency and Other Organizations Consultation

Program BC-34: Public School and Community College District Consultation. Continue to consult with local public school and community college districts to develop and implement education programs targeted to meet specific community needs. Look to avoid duplication of class offerings to allow limited education funding to be most effective. Look to provide class space in City facilities.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: City Manager Office/Economic Development; Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department; Library Department

Funding Sources: General Fund

Program BC-35: Internship Programs Support. Support internship programs by consulting with the local schools, community colleges, and Redwood City businesses.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: City Manager Office/Economic Development; Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department; Library Department

Funding Sources: General Fund, grants

Program BC-36: Redwood City 2020 Consultation. Continue to consult with Redwood City Education Foundation and *Redwood City 2020* to support a coalition of school and government agencies focused on reducing the number of school drop-outs.

Timeframe: Mid Range

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department; Police Department; Library Department; City Manager Office/Economic Development

Funding Sources: General Fund, grants

Program BC-37: Redwood City Public Library Foundation and Friends of the Redwood City Library Partnership. Continue the partnership with the Redwood City Public Library Foundation and Friends of the Redwood City Library to improve the quality of library services.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Library Department

Funding Sources: General Fund

Seniors

Seniors and older adults in Redwood City (55 years or older) make up a large segment of the population, approximately 13,000 residents and growing. Due to this trend, Redwood City will need to provide additional services and programs to support healthy and busy lifestyles for older adults. Senior services and needs are discussed in this Chapter.

Senior Services

Redwood City has long been concerned with the health and welfare of its senior residents. The Senior Affairs Commission, established in 1983, is charged with encouraging, fostering, facilitating, establishing, and maintaining programs related to the social, economic, and personal well-being of the city's senior population.

The Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department provides a wide range of services and programs aimed at adults 50 years of age and older. Services and programs focus on health and wellness and also include social events, expressive arts, nutrition, fitness, and educational and recreational classes. Most programs, services, and classes are held at the Veterans Memorial Senior Center and the Fair Oaks Community Center. The Veterans Memorial Center regularly serves 8,000 users each month. Senior programs currently offered include but are not limited to:

- Recreation: Billiards, Cards, Softball, Biking, Adaptive Physical Activities, Ping Pong, Drop In Fitness, Dance, Computers
- Art: Painting, Video Making, Photography, Sewing, Needlework, Wood Carving, Choir, Movies
- Health: Breakfast and Hot Lunch, Self Esteem Classes, Weight Loss, Blood Pressure Clinic, Hair/Nail Grooming
- Support Services: Legal, Financial, Housing, Health, Home Repair/Improvement, Energy Assistance, Volunteer Opportunities

The Library Department also provides informational, cultural, and volunteer programs for seniors. Older residents who face mobility, economic, and medical care challenges can find support and referrals from many Redwood City-based private, quasi-public, and nonprofit organizations such as service organizations and religious and medical institutions.



Alternative transportation is provided to seniors via Redwood City's "Climate Best Express," the Veterans Memorial Senior Center vans, and SamTrans' "Redi-Wheels" paratransit service.

Demographics and Increasing Need

An estimated 18 percent of Redwood City's population, in 2000, was 55 years old or older. Demographers tell us that the "senior" population will continue to grow as the "Baby Boomer" generation ages and as our population's life expectancy continues to rise. According to a policy brief conducted by the County of San Mateo, by the year 2030, the number of seniors over age 65 in the county is expected to increase by over 70 percent.

The changing needs of the baby boomer population include new housing needs and preferences, walkable communities, access to public transportation, and a diversity of physical, recreational, and vocational programs.



- **Housing:** Seniors in Redwood City are generally lower income than any other group, and experienced higher housing cost burden (spending more than 30 percent of household income on housing expenses) than families, singles, and averages for the city at large. As such, affordable senior housing is crucial, and continued efforts need to be made to help decrease seniors' housing cost burden. Furthermore, aging seniors can be in need of residentially based supportive services. To meet such needs, more innovative housing types may be suitable for the community, including shared-housing arrangements, community care facilities, supportive housing, and assisted living.
- **Mobility:** While Redwood City residents have access to rail, bus, and shuttle services, the community is based around the automobile. The use of private automobiles is the predominant transportation mode for most residents. However, as we age, the ability to drive ourselves and others often decreases. To meet seniors' mobility needs, transit and shuttle services may need to expand service areas and provide reliable service to key destinations such as medical offices and hospitals, recreation and community centers, educational facilities and libraries, shopping and office districts, and governmental agencies. Furthermore, transit and shuttle amenities (benches, shelters, lighting) need to be improved and located more frequently along corridors.

- **Economic Vitality:** It was once believed that people retire and enjoy the leisure life after they turn 65. However, as people are living longer, and given the recent economic downturn, many older residents are not anticipated to retire at 65, and are expected to continue to work later in life. Working seniors may find that their technical skills and, thus their employability, may lag as businesses and industries continue to adopt new technology. In addition, some seniors may want a “change of pace” and want to seek employment in fields other than the one they have practiced for many years. To help seniors maintain their economic vitality, vocational or technical re-training, job matching, second-career counseling programs will become more important.
- **Health:** Health issues typically increase as people age. Health issues in seniors include, but are not limited to, physical mobility, cardiac and respiratory ailments, and dementia. The City is able to provide limited healthcare services such as blood pressure clinics and wellness clinics. In addition, the City may be able to provide or expand referral services and educational programs in an effort to improve seniors’ health.
- **Recreation, Civic Engagement, and Interests:** Redwood City is experiencing a segmentation of the “senior” population. The younger segment of the “senior” population (those closer to 50 years of age) can have significantly different interests and needs than their older counterparts. The younger senior population may prefer to have more active recreational or volunteer opportunities. Conversely, as the number of residents aged 75 and older increases, recreation and enrichment programming for the oldest residents may require modifications to meet the population’s needs.

Key Senior Considerations

Redwood City, like the rest of the country, can anticipate an increase in the number of senior residents as the Baby Boomers age. While not all may require increased housing, social, health, recreational, and vitality services, the overall number of seniors and related needs can be expected to rise. Furthermore, as the population aged 75 and older increases, recreation and enrichment programming may require modifications to meet that particular population's needs. Many seniors are highly active throughout their senior years; as a result many seniors may be interested in taking on active volunteer and civic roles in Redwood City.

Seniors Goals, Policies, and Programs

The City will continue to be a leader in planning for seniors. The goals, policies and programs located throughout the General Plan respond to this Guiding Principle:

- ***Partner with and embrace neighborhoods to improve health, safety, and well-being for all.***



Redwood City seeks to address the entire senior population's housing, health, recreation, education, and mobility needs. The City has and continues to adopt policies and provide programs to satisfy the interests and needs of those seniors who look to become active in recreational, vocational, and volunteer programs. At the same time, the City actively strives to address the expanding health, medical, and social needs of seniors.

Throughout this General Plan, there are policies and programs specific to the senior population. Likewise, this General Plan also contains policies and programs that apply to all age groups including seniors. Rather than removing the senior policy discussion from the larger issue or topic, the senior policies and programs are discussed within the context of the relevant issue. For example, senior mobility needs are discussed in the Built Environment Element's Circulation Chapter; senior housing needs are discussed in the Housing Element. Briefly discussed below are some examples of the General Plan's concepts that apply to Redwood City seniors.

Built Environment Element

Urban Form and Land Use: Throughout the Urban Form and Land Use Chapter, policies and programs strive to achieve a more walkable community with streets, plazas, public places, landscaping, sidewalks, and pedestrian amenities that are designed and improved to be more pedestrian friendly, thereby improving the pedestrian experience and making it easier for seniors to access goods and services and enjoy the community. Furthermore, the Urban Form and Land Use concepts encourage mixed-use and infill residential development that places walking or transit-dependent residents closer to goods and services.

Circulation: The concept of improving Redwood City's streets, thereby encouraging and improving the pedestrian experience, is continued in the Circulation Chapter. This Chapter also addresses improved bicycle access, routes, and safety for the recreational bicyclist, including senior cyclists. This Chapter proposes expanding rail, streetcar, bus, and shuttle services throughout Redwood City. Specifically, it calls for a better linkage between shuttle services and destinations that are frequented by seniors such as the Veterans Memorial Senior Center, health facilities, governmental offices, schools, libraries, and shopping areas.

Economic Development: The Economic Development Chapter focuses on the economic health of Redwood City. It strives to expand while creating a balance of goods and services to be provided within the community. The larger the range of businesses, employers, and services provided within Redwood City, the more likely seniors and all residents will be able to readily access goods and services without traveling far distances. This is critical for seniors and other residents who are transit, shuttle, or walking dependent. The Economic Development Chapter also calls for improved job training or retraining, employee matching services, and increasing the number of Redwood residents (including seniors) to be employed within the city.

Housing Element

The preservation, maintenance, and production of all types of housing is the overall focus of the Housing Element. Specifically, the Housing Element calls for an increase in affordable housing available for all residents regardless of age; provides for the development of "senior" housing; encourages the provision of assisted living and other types of housing that provide medical or social services in a residential setting; and procedures to facilitate home modifications for disabled persons, including seniors. In addition, the Housing Element encourages loans, grants, and technical assistance for housing maintenance and

improvements. Since seniors may have limited funds to pay for and limited physical abilities to conduct home repairs, these programs would provide direct support to senior residents.

Building Community Element

The Building Community Element (this Senior Chapter is part of the Building Community Element) provides policy and programs on many issues important to seniors.

Recreation and Human Services: The Recreation and Human Services Chapter discusses evaluating current programs to ensure that senior needs and interests are being served (including the needs of those who are age 75 and older). This Chapter calls for implementation of the 2008 *Parks and Facilities Needs Assessment*, which includes the Veterans Memorial Senior Center's revitalization/expansion and the creation of a Wellness Center within the Senior Center. The Chapter supports improving the Accessible Recreation Activities Program and coordinating recreation programs with nonprofit, faith-based organizations, and other service providers. It also explores the idea of providing programs and activities that pair seniors with children.

Lifelong Learning, Libraries, and Schools: This Chapter discusses enlarging the library collection, providing technical and/or computer equipment and access to help seniors and others improve their technical skills, and conducting surveys to ensure that all segments of Redwood City patrons have appropriate and interesting library resources. This Chapter also calls for evaluating the content of library lectures and informational classes to ensure that many participants find the programs interesting and worthwhile.

Health: The Health Chapter focuses on continued health, wellness, and nutrition service provision and the expansion of healthy lifestyles for all Redwood City residents.

Governance: The Governance Chapter strives to expand volunteer and participation opportunities to all Redwood City residents. Senior participation is specifically discussed and encouraged.

Child Care

Child care and early childhood education programs are needed by all families who live in Redwood City and by parents who work in the many businesses here. Parents and guardians employed outside the home often look for full- or part-day child care programs in formal, regulated settings, and they find that high-quality child care is expensive. For parents who do not work, they see the benefits preschool-age children derive from group education and social enrichment programs prior to entry into kindergarten. This is particularly true for lower-income families who have fewer resources to prepare for school success.

Child care and early education (preschool) services are not entitlements in California. No local, County, or State agency is responsible for ensuring the availability of facilities or programs. At the same time, the availability of high-quality child care is constrained by economics of child care operations. Yet child care benefits the community by:

- Contributing to the local economy through direct and indirect employment, revenues from parent fees, and enabling many families to work and therefore contribute to the economy
- Providing healthy education environments that support optimal child development, early learning, and school readiness

Redwood City recognizes that high-quality, accessible, and safe child care positively impacts a family's quality of life. Demand for these services continues to rise due to demographic, economic, and social factors, including the high cost of living, increase in the number of single parent households, parents' career demands, an increasing number of parents in the workforce, and parents returning to work with children at younger ages. The need for child care services has increased faster than the development of new resources. However, providing safe, positive care, and supervision helps children become better students and healthier and more stable and productive citizens as adults.

Redwood City has taken a leadership role in supporting child care/preschool development since the 1980s, including providing land and City facilities, funding, direct services, and planning and coordination. Redwood City is one of the few jurisdictions in California with a full-time child care services coordinator on staff. Also, the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department runs a part-day preschool program at a City community center (funded by parent fees and/or scholarships) and licensed exempt after-school enrichment programs on elementary school campuses (funded largely by State grants). The City's Library Department

has many programs for preschool aged children and runs a volunteer based program adopting day care centers and preschools to support reading skills. In response to the recurring issue of how to address the specialized after-school care needs of pre-teens, the City has established extensive youth programs that provide homework help and extracurricular activities. The City's key role has been to facilitate and support the development and operation of programs (infant/toddler, preschool age, and school age) by various private, nonprofit, and public agency providers.

Child care facilities and services are as varied as the families who use them. Some families prefer to use private family child care providers who are licensed to care for children in their homes. Others find that larger child care facilities better suit their children's particular needs. In any given year, over 20 preschool-age full-day child care centers operate in the city and sphere areas, as well as over 20 part-day preschool programs, half a dozen infant/toddler centers, and 15 school-age child care centers. In addition, approximately 130 family child care homes are licensed for either up to eight children or up to 14. In any facility—large or small—infants, toddlers, preschool-aged and school-aged children all have different needs, and staffing and the facilities housing them need to be tailored accordingly.

Historically, only one large private employer in Redwood City has provided on-site child care facilities as an amenity, as has a public agency for its employees. Liability concerns and lack of appropriate space are frequently cited as barriers to provision of this valuable service to employees.

Key Child Care Considerations

- Redwood City is a jobs-rich community, attracting thousands of people to the city every day, many of whom are working parents who desire local, convenient child care facilities so that they can be near their children during the day.
- In many local families, both parents work. As a result of work schedules, child care needs extend from early in the morning until after 6:00 P.M. Quality child care that can accommodate these needs is expensive.
- Lower-income working families have the same child care needs as the more affluent, and often require financial assistance to achieve this quality of care.

- Redwood City has a particularly large shortage of infant/toddler care facilities and licensed school-age care centers.
- Pre-teen youth have unique care and supervision needs.
- Financial assistance for child care or preschool programs is available to some families; however, there is not sufficient State or federal funding to help all economically challenged families who need it, which may lead to less qualified or no supervision.
- Many residents have children and child care or preschool needs. However, when it comes to siting new facilities, neighborhood residents sometimes view these as “locally undesirable land uses,” or LULUs.
- The shortage of facilities to house child care/preschool centers and the cost of developing new space is a barrier to supply-building.

Child Care Goals, Policies, and Programs

The City will continue to be a leader in planning for child care, coordinating services, and meeting the community’s diverse child care needs. The goals, policies, and implementing programs in the Child Care Chapter respond to this Guiding Principle:

- ***Partner with and embrace neighborhoods to improve health, safety, and well-being for all.***

Goal BC-11: Accommodate community needs for safe, high-quality, and affordable child care services and facilities, both for Redwood City residents and people who work in Redwood City.

Policy BC-11.1: Direct City resources and leverage other public and private resources to support development and/or operation of child care/early education facilities and services.



Policy BC-11.2: Integrate the child care needs of those who live and work in the city into the City’s planning processes. Locate child care services, where possible, in or near housing, transportation, and employment centers so as to be convenient to residents and workers.

- Policy BC-11.3:** Take a leadership role in involving all sectors of the Redwood City community in the planning for and provision of child care.
- Policy BC-11.4:** Look for innovative ways to involve employers, congregations, and developers in the provision of child care services and facilities, including possible impact fees.

Implementation Programs

Procedures, Permits, Agreements, Ordinances

- Program BC-38: Child Care Zoning.** Ensure that Zoning Ordinance standards and permitting processes for child care facilities facilitate their provision at appropriate locations throughout Redwood City.
- Consider Zoning Ordinance revisions to support the establishment of large family child care homes and centers through a simplified, streamlined review process.
 - Consider Zoning Ordinance changes that include performance standards for child care centers located in Commercial Office and Mixed Use zoning districts, and in school, church and other public/quasi-public buildings in residential zones to simplify the approval process for these facilities.
 - Explore updating the Zoning Ordinance provisions regarding small child care centers (up to 24 children) to be located in all residential zones.

Timeframe: Short Range

Responsible Party: Community Development; Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department

Funding Sources: General Fund

- Program BC-39: Child Care Impact Fee or Inclusionary Ordinance.** Consider establishing an impact fee or inclusionary ordinance to fund child care facilities.

Timeframe: Mid Range

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department; City Manager Office/Economic Development

Funding Sources: General Fund

- Program BC-40: Child Care/Preschool Information and Referral Services.** Continue to provide child care/preschool information and referral services to Redwood City families and organizations, and technical assistance and resources to program operators, in

conjunction with the Child Care Coordinating Council of San Mateo County. Continue to educate the community regarding the value and benefits of safe, economical child care.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department

Funding Sources: General Fund



Program BC-41:

Child Care Facilities in Transit Stations and Large Development Projects. Encourage and support integration of child care facilities within transit station areas and large development projects. Consider:

- Including child care in station area planning and project financing activities
- Requiring large development project applicants to assess potential impact on child care resources

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Community Development; Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department

Funding Sources: General Fund, Redevelopment funds, CDBG, grants, developers

Program BC-42:

Preschool and Child Care Educational Needs Support. Support the educational needs of Redwood City's preschool and child care children. Consider providing grant writing assistance to child care and preschool providers.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department; Library Department

Funding Sources: General Fund, grants, partnerships

Plans and Studies

Program BC-43:

Comprehensive Child Care Plan. Develop and implement a comprehensive City child care facilities plan that engages the resources of the City, community agencies and organizations, and major employers and employment centers in Redwood City. The plan will identify priority geographic areas to locate new centers considering target populations and supply gaps, and

identify and assess existing and potential financing mechanisms for facility development.

Timeframe: Mid Range and Ongoing

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department; Community Development; Library Department

Funding Sources: Grants, State/federal funding, General Fund, Redevelopment funds, private investment

Special Programs/Projects

Program BC-44: Child Care Subsidies Legislation Support. Support legislation that increases State and federal child care subsidies for low- and moderate-income families, tax credits for child care payments, facility development, and early education programs.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department

Funding Sources: General Fund

Inter-Agency and Other Organizations Consultation

Program BC-45: School District Child Care and After-School Program Support. Continue to encourage and support the Redwood City and Belmont-Redwood Shores School Districts to accommodate licensed school-age child care and other after-school programs (and preschool, where feasible) on school sites to meet the needs of each school's families. Consider partnering with private schools to provide after-school care.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department; Library Department

Funding Sources: General Fund, grants, State funding

This page intentionally left blank.

Culture and Arts

Cultural arts and activities enhance and enrich our lives. Through cultural appreciation, visual art, music, dance, and performance and other art, we as humans express our emotions and our convictions, and reach out to share these feelings with others. Cultural arts celebrate heritage and culture and promote community discussion, and improve quality of life. Furthermore, many businesses and industries look for a creative workforce.

Redwood City maintains several arts and culture venues that celebrate the city's rich heritage, and that provide places where residents can share their appreciation for the visual and performing arts. The support of the arts has been achieved through City programs, commissions, volunteers, and private and public sector support. Redwood City's diversity of cultural arts programs, services, and activities has become a source for community education and enrichment, and has added to the special qualities that distinguish Redwood City from other communities.



City-Sponsored Events

Courthouse Square hosts a variety of events, such as music, art, dancing, and movies. Concert series typically held in the summer are extremely popular, attracting residents from many Peninsula cities to Downtown. Downtown is a site for numerous cultural events and festivals, as are Red Morton and Stafford Parks. Residents in particular love the annual Salsa Fest, Fourth of July celebration, Hometown Holidays, and Latino Film Festival.

Visual Arts

The Redwood City Art Center, established in 1993, is dedicated to promoting visual arts in the local community. The Art Center is home to many artists in various studio spaces. Three small galleries host art exhibitions that are open to the public. The Art Center seeks to encourage and attract artists of all ages and talents, and offers classes in many disciplines to children and adults.

The City's libraries also provide spaces for art exhibitions including children's art.

Performing Arts

The Fox Theatre, built in 1928, is the perfect venue for live stage performances, including concerts, ballets, plays, operas, symphonic performances, movies, and film festivals. The Little Fox Theatre, located adjacent to the Fox Theatre, provides a very intimate club-like setting, with a stage and state-of-the-art sound system for live performances.

The local schools and colleges also have superb theaters for live performances, such as Carrington Hall. In addition to school productions, the theaters are used by community arts groups to present plays and music events.

Key Culture and Arts Considerations

- An active cultural and arts community can provide many community benefits. In addition to providing creative outlets and avenues to celebrate diversity, arts and culture can fill a unique economic niche. Providing a concentration of cultural arts venues and events creates a synergy that attracts complementary uses, particularly restaurants.

- Redwood City occupies a central geographic location on the Peninsula. By focusing arts and culture at Downtown venues, the City can draw people to Downtown for non-work reasons and create a livelier night-time and weekend presence.
- Art that is incorporated into public places and into visible/accessible parts of private development enlivens that space. Such art can be functional—such as aesthetically attractive wind turbines or shade structures—or merely decorative. However, without requirements for public art or a comprehensive, well-thought-out public art program, installations are infrequently provided. In general, Redwood City lacks major public art pieces in important locations citywide.
- In times of financial crisis, arts programs are usually the first budget items eliminated in public schools. Yet students continue to desire opportunities to create and perform.

Culture and Arts Goals, Policies, and Programs

The goals, policies, and implementing programs in the Culture and Arts Chapter respond to these Guiding Principles:

- *Preserve and generate awareness of cultural, educational, economic, and recreational diversity and historic heritage.*
- *Design for active pedestrian and bicycle-friendly streets and public spaces.*

Goal BC-12: Establish Redwood City as the pre-eminent location for arts and culture on the Peninsula.

Policy BC-12.1: Develop a comprehensive Culture and Arts Master Plan.

Policy BC-12.2: Encourage new development projects to incorporate public art pieces.

Policy BC-12.3: Build and promote Downtown Redwood City as the city’s center for culture and arts.

- Policy BC-12.4:** Nurture and support local arts organizations, and promote the appreciation of and involvement in the creative arts, including supporting education in the arts at the elementary, secondary, and post-secondary school levels.
- Policy BC-12.5:** Support programs that promote a full range of cultural activities and their appreciation among all age groups, all levels of education, and all cultural backgrounds, and that provide enhanced opportunities for personal participation.
- Policy BC-12.6:** Build community identity through cultural art events that focus on local art, food, music, and ethnic diversity.

Implementation Programs

Procedures, Permits, Agreements, Ordinances

- Program BC-46:** **Public Art Program.** Continue to implement the Redwood City Public Art Program. Priorities include:
- Develop a Culture and Arts Master Plan
 - Create vibrant and appealing public spaces by integrating art into new development and existing sites
 - Contribute to Redwood City’s evolving culture and image by ensuring high-quality public art
 - Involve the community and support local artists where ever possible

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department; City Manager Office/Economic Development

Funding Sources: Grants, developer fees, fundraisers, annual City Art funding

- Program BC-47:** **Downtown Public Arts Events.** Continue to sponsor and support public art events in Downtown, such as live music performances, performing arts, dancing, outdoor public movies, artist exhibits, and other similar activities and events that bring the community together.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department; City Manager Office/Economic Development

Funding Sources: General Fund, corporate sponsorships, grants, annual City Art funding

Program BC-48: Cultural Activities Event Locations. Provide space for cultural activities in well-located, adaptable venues that are easily accessible to all community members, including flexible use of venues through partnership with City departments, the City library, school districts, and cultural arts organizations.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department; Library Department

Funding Sources: General Fund

Special Programs/Projects

Program BC-49: Cultural Events Marketing Strategy. Create communication systems and marketing programs that encourage the use of all available theaters and performing venues in Redwood City, and that highlight City-sponsored events and private art activities and shows. Encourage temporary “phantom galleries” in unoccupied storefronts. Consult with The Redwood City - San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce and Downtown businesses in establishing the marketing strategy.

Timeframe: Short Range and Ongoing

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department; Library Department

Funding Sources: General Fund, grants

Inter-Agency and Other Organizations Consultation

Program BC-50: The Redwood City - San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce Event Planning Support. Seek involvement of The Redwood City - San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Business Group, and local businesses in event planning through business-sponsored events. Include events oriented on both Saturday and Sunday and events focused on seniors’ interests.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department; City Manager Office/Economic Development

Funding Sources: Chamber of Commerce, grants, private funding

Program BC-51: Cultural Events and Art Activities Identification. Continue to engage City boards, committees, and commissions and the community as a whole in identifying cultural events and art activities to be attracted to Redwood City.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department; Library Department

Funding Sources: General Fund

Program BC-52: School District and Art Organizations Consultation. Consult with school districts and art organizations to promote and educate residents about cultural arts and programming in Redwood City.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department; School Districts; Library Department

Funding Sources: General Fund

Governance

Council-Manager Form of Government

The City is administered by a council/manager form of government. In this system, the elected City Council sets the basic policy framework for the City, and the City Manager directs the day-to-day operations to implement the Council's direction and ensure proper City service delivery.

City Council

The City Council is elected by the voters of the city to staggered terms of four years each. The Council adopts ordinances and resolutions necessary for efficient governmental operations, approves the budget, and acts as a board of appeals. It appoints the City Manager, City Attorney, and City Clerk, as well as the members of the City's advisory boards, commissions, and committees.

City Commissions, Committees, and Boards

Community representatives serve on commissions, committees, and boards appointed by the Council on various issues, and they have some decision-making authority and make recommendations to the City Council. Table BC-7 identifies the roles of various City commissions, committees, and boards. Since these bodies represent all Redwood City residents, it is important that their composition reflect the cultural and ethnic diversity of the city.

Table BC-7: City Commissions, Committees, and Boards¹¹

Commissions, Committees, and Boards	Roles and Description
<i>Commissions</i>	
Civic Cultural Commission	Acts in an advisory role on matters affecting the beauty or culture of the city.
Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Commission	Acts in an advisory role on policy matters pertaining to the acquisition and development of parks and the formulation of recreation programs.
Planning Commission	Exercises such powers and duties as may be provided for by such general laws of the State of California and administers the City's General Plan and Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances.
Port Commission	Assigned exclusive control and management of the Port, including the right to adopt and enforce such ordinances, orders, regulations and practices for proper administration as necessary for the management and government of the Port and its facilities.
Senior Affairs Commission	Encourages, fosters, facilitates, establishes, and maintains programs for the enhancement of all matters relating to the social, economic, and personal well being of the city's senior population.
<i>Committees</i>	
Architecture Review Committee	Established to provide enhancement of the environment, and to provide for the orderly and harmonious appearance of structures.
Child Care Advisory Committee	Promotes the availability of high-quality child care and preschool facilities and services for those who live and work in Redwood City.
Historic Resources Advisory Committee ¹²	Advocates the preservation and appropriate rehabilitation of historically significant properties and structures.

¹¹ Redwood City has many boards, committees, and commissions. Each is unique in its organization, responsibilities, and inception. As a result, there is no universal definition as to what constitutes a board, committee, or commission.

¹² Members of the HRAC are appointed by the Planning Commission. All other board, commission, and committee members are appointed by the City Council.

Table BC-7: City Commissions, Committees, and Boards¹¹

Commissions, Committees, and Boards	Roles and Description
Housing and Human Concerns Committee	Advocate the improvement of the quality of life of Redwood City citizens and to ensure that human considerations are given adequate consideration in physical and economic decision making.
Home Improvement Loan Committee	Reviews home improvement and low-interest loans to qualified home owners in certain areas in an effort to improve housing and neighborhood conditions.
Pride and Beautification Committee	Participates in and supports activities and programs that improve the physical and aesthetic environment of our community.
Complete Streets Advisory Committee	Committee is planned for establishment. Roles and description will be inserted here when determined.
Boards	
Board of Building Review	Reviews the updating of the City's building regulatory codes, determines the suitability of alternate materials and types of construction, and hears appeals of persons denied a building permit, inspection approval, or certificate of occupancy.
Library Board	Acts in an advisory and an advocacy role pertaining to library services.

Community Collaborations

The City recognizes that inclusive governance requires extending involvement beyond City-sponsored groups. A significant initiative that has successfully engaged the passions, intellect, and can-do attitude of residents and the business community is *Redwood City 2020*. *Redwood City 2020* is a community partnership designed to support the success of all youth and families and strengthen the community. *Redwood City 2020* provides a collaborative forum for cross-sector planning and programming to address complex community challenges. Partners in *Redwood City 2020* include the City of Redwood City, the Redwood City Elementary School District, the Sequoia Union High School District, Cañada College, Redwood City Education Foundation, San Mateo County, Stanford University/John W. Gardner Center, Wells Fargo Bank, the Sequoia Healthcare District, Kaiser Permanente, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Redwood City Library Partnership, and the Shinnyo-en Foundation. The partnership works to build stronger schools,

provide after-school programs, ready preschool children for kindergarten, address community social service needs, and provide productive activities for the city's teenage youth. The partnership's composition and charges will continue to evolve.

Another significant City initiative is the Partnership Academy for Community Teamwork (PACT). The PACT program is a nine-week academy that engages participants in a hands-on overview of City government. It is the intention that PACT will engage people in learning about and understanding Redwood City's government, and to improve communication between residents, business people, and the City.

Key Governance Considerations

- The opinions and passions of all Redwood City residents matter in governance. For those who have time to engage in civic activity, understanding those opinions and passions is easy. Extra effort is needed to reach out to residents who are equally impassioned but, due to family and job commitments or because of language barriers or mobility limitations, cannot and do not engage in civic activities.
- New technologies offer avenues for more expansive community participation.
- The composition of City boards, committees, and commissions may not always reflect the youth voice, cultural, and ethnic diversity of Redwood City residents.
- Transparency in decision making is a cornerstone of effective governance. It provides the governed with confidence. All of Redwood City needs to have access to materials that illustrate how and why particular decisions have been made.

Governance Goals, Policies, Programs

This Plan reflects Redwood City's commitment to responsive and participatory government. The City looks to promote diversity in its approach to governance, recognizing the importance of public input in program definition and implementation. Equal representation and prompt government response will result in fair distribution of services and facilities.

The key to strong local government and a great community is public involvement. The goals, policies, and implementing programs in the Governance Chapter respond to this Guiding Principle:

- ***Continue to make community participation an important part of achieving a greater city.***

Goal BC-13: Ensure that City deliberations and decisions involve all interested members of the community, including those residing in the Environmental Justice communities.



Policy BC-13.1: Continue to use committees, boards, and commissions comprised of residents and members of the business community to review policy considerations and to advise the City Council consistent with the specific charges of those committees, boards, and commissions. Consider creating temporary “ad hoc” committees to study issues and report findings to the City Council. Consider strategic outreach to the Environmental Justice community members.



Policy BC-13.2: Ensure that the composition of City committees, boards, and commissions reflect the diversity of the Redwood City community, including residents and business owners in the Environmental Justice communities.



Policy BC-13.3: Develop and implement strategies to involve and engage city residents who have difficulties or trepidation in making their voices heard. Particular attention should be given to those issues that directly affect the residents, particularly in the Environmental Justice communities.



Policy BC-13.4: Promote the involvement of neighborhoods in addressing local concerns.

Policy BC-13.5: Enhance communication and foster relationships between neighborhoods and City staff.

Policy BC-13.6: Encourage and promote neighborhood associations.

Policy BC-13.7: Continue in the cooperation and sharing of facilities and services, and joint planning that exists between the school districts and the City.

Policy BC-13.8: Encourage residents, particularly those residing in the Environmental Justice communities, to join with neighborhood and community organizations that participate in civic activities.

Policy BC-13.9: Encourage residents and businesspeople to become familiar with City government.

Goal BC-14: Foster an environment of trust that encourages diversity and supports individuals of many ages, ethnic, cultural, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds.



Policy BC-14.1: Consider people of all ages, races, cultures, and income levels with respect to development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of regulations, policies, and environmental processes.



Policy BC-14.2: Give high priority to the needs of low-income and/or Environmental Justice community residents in City development projects, and promote the full integration of low-income individuals and families into the community.



Policy BC-14.3: Encourage tolerance of all legal forms of political expression and protect the rights of all to express as way to promote environmental justice.

Goal BC-15: Promote civic engagement in public decision-making processes that affect Environmental Justice communities.



Policy BC-15.1: Center the participation of and input from Environmental Justice community residents in policy decisions that impact Environmental Justice communities.

Goal BC-16: Foster a governmental administrative and functional structure that maximizes service levels.

Policy BC-16.1: Continue to prioritize City efforts and expenditures through the City's "Strategic Plan."

Policy BC-16.2: Ensure that the organization of City departments maximizes employee effectiveness and provides the highest levels of service.

Policy BC-16.3: Maintain fiscal soundness.

Policy BC-16.4: Adhere to City of Redwood City normal standards and procedures to implement the intent of this General Plan.

Implementation Programs

Procedures, Permits, Agreements, Ordinances

Program BC-53: **Commissions, Boards, and Committees Joint Meetings.** Continue to schedule joint meetings involving the various commissions, boards, and committees to discuss special topics that are of mutual and community-wide interest and concern.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: City Manager Office/Economic Development; All Departments

Funding Sources: General Fund



Program BC-54: **Diversity in Boards, Committees, and Commissions.** Establish application and appointment processes and procedures for all the boards, committees, and commissions that ensure memberships reflect a cross section of the community—demographically, ethnically, economically, geographically and with a focus on Environmental Justice communities.

Timeframe: Short Range and Ongoing

Responsible Party: City Manager Office/Economic Development

Funding Sources: General Fund



Program BC-55: **Boards, Committees, and Commissions Responsiveness to Community Issues.** The number, focus, and types of boards, committees, and commissions have varied over the years. Periodically review the intent and purpose of these advisory and decision-making bodies to ensure that they are responding to current and pertinent city issues and needs.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: City Manager Office/Economic Development; City Council

Funding Sources: General Fund



Program BC-56: Technology Use in Public Services. Continue to expand the City's use of technology to enhance the performance of internal City operations and the delivery of public services as follows:

- Review and revise, as needed, the procedures governing the use of technology and telecommunications within the City organization.
- Conduct periodic evaluations of the City's in-house computer network to determine the changing information and computing needs of the City organization.
- Evaluate the potential benefits to the City from new applications and new technology as they become available.
- Expand the information, interactivity, and online services provided on the City's Internet website.
- Consider creating City blogs, networks, as well as social networking opportunities on the City's website.
- Improve and expand the City's Geographic Information System (GIS) and other tools to assist City staff and provide pertinent and useful information for the public. Expand the City's "e-government" efforts to further facilitate the public in obtaining information, interacting with City staff, and participating in governing.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: City Manager Office/Economic Development; Community Development; Finance Department

Funding Sources: General Fund

Program BC-57: Community-Based and Neighborhood Associations. Continue to support community-based and neighborhood associations through dedicated City staff available to coordinate meetings and other outreach activities. Consider providing grants to neighborhood groups for block parties and other neighborhood events.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: City Manager Office/Economic Development

Funding Sources: General Fund

Program BC-58: City Organizational Structure and Priorities. Annually update the City's "Strategic Plan" to ensure expenditures and City efforts are prioritized. Periodically review the City's government departmental structure, including the Redevelopment Agency, to most effectively address and serve community needs.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: City Manager Office/Economic Development

Funding Sources: General Fund



Program BC-59:

City Organizational Structure and Environmental Justice Priorities. To build accountability and ensure that policy decisions are responsive to input received from Environmental Justice community residents, implement the Redwood City Equity Plan’s equity lens¹³, geographic equity index, and equity review policies. Prioritize establishing formal steps to apply an equity lens to decision-making processes (such as policy adoption, project approval, and annual budgeting).

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: All Departments

Funding Sources: General Fund

Program BC-60:

Reserve Funding. Maintain City reserve funding.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: City Manager Office/Economic Development

Funding Sources: General Fund

Outreach, Education

Program BC-61:

Increased Public Participation. Continue to increase public participation as follows:

- Seek out residents by holding meetings in their neighborhoods in convenient, comfortable locations such as schools, houses of worship, and community facilities.
- Continue to improve the user-friendliness of materials used to communicate information about the City, including the City’s website (www.redwoodcity.org), newsletters, billing statements, and mailings.

¹³ Redwood City adopted a “2021 Equity Plan” which outlines and establish the City’s commitment to taking tangible steps to normalize, organize, and operationalize equity principles and tools, with the eye toward impactful and sustainable outcomes that create a more equitable community. The Plan provides policies regarding equity lens, geographic equity index, and City policy equity review.

- Invite members of the community, particularly youth and seniors to volunteer in various activities and operations of the City.
- Invite civic, neighborhood, and nonprofit groups to assist with City projects, program planning, and implementation.
- Create ad hoc committees to serve specific needs or address specific issues.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: City Manager Office/Economic Development; All Departments

Funding Sources: General Fund



Program BC-62:

Increase Public Participation with Environmental Justice Communities. Increase the number of, diversity of, and meaningful collaboration with Environmental Justice community residents, community organizations, and stakeholders engaged in policy processes that impact the Environmental Justice communities through activities such as:

- ensuring project timelines allow sufficient time for meaningful community engagement;
- ensuring project budgets allocate sufficient funds for community engagement activities that are accessible to Environmental Justice community residents; and
- establishing formal and ongoing relationships with individuals or organizations that represent Environmental Justice communities to build trust with and create reliable channels for community participation and input, including engagement outside of specific projects or policy processes.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: All Departments

Funding Sources: General Fund

Program BC-63:

PACT. Continue to conduct PACT or other programs that inform residents and businesspeople about governmental decision making processes, City funding allocation processes, and City departments' roles and operations.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: City Manager Office/Economic Development

Funding Sources: General Fund

Inter-Agency and Other Organizations Consultation

Program BC-64: Facilities Joint-Use. Coordinate with school districts and other public agencies regarding facilities usage, planning, and other joint-use opportunities.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Responsible Party: City Manager Office/Economic Development; Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department

Funding Sources: General Fund

This page intentionally left blank.

Introduction 2
 Building Community Vision - 2030..... 4
 Public Places 7
 Urban and Natural Trails and Connections..... 23
 Recreation and Human Services 33
 Health and Environmental Justice 41
 Lifelong Learning, Libraries, and Schools..... 50
 Seniors 60
 Child Care..... 66
 Culture and Arts..... 73
 Governance..... 79

List of Tables

Table BC-1: Park Facilities 9
 Table BC-2: Active Park Needs by Planning Area and Neighborhood 13
 Table BC-3: Community Centers..... 14
 Table BC-4: Redwood City Libraries..... 16
 Table BC-5: Redwood City’s Current Youth and Family Programs 34
 Table BC-6: Public Schools 53
 Table BC-7: City Commissions, Committees, and Boards 80

List of Figures

Figure BC-1: Public Places.....10
 Figure BC-2: Trails and Connections.....25
 Figure BC-3: Public Schools.....54