



1. Introduction

This chapter describes the purpose and organization of the Town of Los Gatos General Plan, including an overview of the General Plan, why it is prepared, and why it is important. The Introduction also describes the community process to prepare the General Plan and the vision for the future of Los Gatos. The General Plan is intended for use by all members of the community, including residents, businesses, developers, and decision-makers.

This section is organized under the following headings.

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1.1 Purpose and Use of the General Plan

What is a General Plan?

Every jurisdiction in California must have a General Plan, which is the local government's long-term framework or "constitution" for future growth and development. The General Plan is prepared with extensive community engagement to create a plan that expresses the community's vision for its future. California State law requires that each town, city, and county must adopt a General Plan for the physical development of the jurisdiction and any land outside its boundaries that bears relation to its planning. Typically, a General Plan is designed to address the issues facing the jurisdiction for the next 20 years.

A General Plan typically has four defining features:

- **General.** A General Plan provides general policy guidance that will be used to direct future land use and resource decisions.

- **Comprehensive.** A General Plan is comprehensive, covering topics such as land use; housing; economic development; racial, social, and environmental justice; sustainability and resiliency; mobility; public safety; recreation; natural resources; and much more.
- **Long-Range.** A General Plan provides guidance on reaching a future envisioned 20 or more years in the future. To achieve the vision, a General Plan includes goals, policies, and implementation programs that address both immediate and long-term needs.
- **Integrated and Coherent.** The goals, policies, and implementation programs in a General Plan present a comprehensive, unified program for development, resource conservation, and other issues that impact the community. A General Plan uses a consistent set of assumptions and projections to assess future demands for housing, employment, and public services (e.g., infrastructure). A General Plan has a coherent set of policies and implementation programs that enables citizens to understand the vision of the General Plan, and enables landowners, businesses, and industry to be more certain about how policies will be implemented.

A General Plan is made up of a collection of “elements” that cover mandatory topics as well as topics important to the community. Eight elements are required to be included in the General Plan by the State. These are: land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise, safety, and environmental justice. Though the required topics must be addressed in the General Plan, communities can organize their General Plan anyway they choose. Communities may also include other optional elements that address issues of local interest. In Los Gatos the one optional element is the Community Design Element.

The General Plan is not to be confused with zoning. Although both the General Plan and the zoning ordinance designate how land may be developed, they do so in different ways. The General Plan has a long-term outlook. It identifies the types of development that will be allowed, the spatial relationships among land uses, and the general pattern of future development. Zoning regulates development through specific standards such as lot size, building setbacks, and allowable uses. However, the land uses shown on the General Plan diagrams will typically be reflected in the local zoning maps as well, as they are both required to be consistent per State law. Development must not only meet the specific requirements of the zoning ordinance, but also the broader policies set forth in the General Plan.

The Los Gatos 2040 General Plan meets the requirements of State law by containing the required elements and one optional element as described in more detail later in this chapter under “Organization of the General Plan.” Some of the required elements address additional issues of local interest. For example, environmental justice is expanded to consider Racial, Social, and Environmental Justice and the required elements of conservation and air quality are found in the broader Environment and Sustainability element. Each element contains goals and policies that will guide future decisions within the Town. They each also identify a set of implementation programs that will be used to ensure the goals and policies in the General Plan are carried out.

Using the General Plan

The General Plan is used by the Town Council, Planning Commission, and Town staff to make decisions with direct or indirect land use implications. It also provides a framework for inter-jurisdictional coordination of planning efforts among officials and staff of the Town and other government agencies (e.g., Federal, State, and local). Town residents, property owners, and businesses use the General Plan for guidance on Town policies for particular geographic areas or for particular subjects of interest to them.

The General Plan is the basis for a variety of regulatory measures and administrative procedures. California planning law requires consistency between the General Plan and its implementing programs, such as zoning and subdivision ordinances, capital improvement programs, specific plans, environmental impact procedures, and building and housing codes.

The specific roles of the Town Council, Planning Commission, and Town Departments with respect to the approval and use of the General Plan are described below.

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The **Town Council** is the elected body which formulates and implements policies in Los Gatos. It is the Town Council, through its decision-making authority, that affirms the policy direction and priorities contained within this General Plan. The Town Council is ultimately responsible for adoption of the General Plan, as well as the regulations, capital improvement programs, and financing mechanisms that implement the General Plan.

The **Planning Commission** is responsible for conducting public hearings on the General Plan and Zoning Code modifications, considering the input of the public, and making recommendations to the Town Council on these matters. The Planning Commission considers the work and recommendations from the General Plan Update Advisory Committee (GPAC) in its consideration of the 2040 General Plan. After the General Plan is adopted, the Planning Commission must ensure that all subsequent land use ordinances, policies, guidelines, and development applications are consistent with the goals, objectives, and policies in the General Plan. The Planning Commission annually reviews the Town's Capital Improvement Program to ensure consistency with the General Plan.

All **Town Departments** use the General Plan for policy guidance as it pertains to their operations, service delivery, and planning for future capital projects and potential service level changes. The Town's Planning staff ensure that the General Plan is implemented on a day-to-day basis so that: appropriate land uses are proposed in the proper locations, appropriate levels of service are provided, proposed land uses conform to development regulations, and the environment has been adequately protected. The General Plan is a resource for all Town services and provides an internally consistent checkpoint for assessing alternatives for the Town's future.

Maintaining the General Plan

Over time, the Town's population will likely increase, its goals will evolve, and the physical environment in which its residents live, and work will change. In order for the General Plan to be a useful document, it must be monitored and periodically revised to respond to and reflect changing conditions and needs over time.

The General Plan should be reviewed annually, with a more comprehensive and thorough review and revision done every ten years to reflect changes in local conditions, new local priorities, or State law. State law permits the General Plan to be amended up to four times in any calendar year, unless special conditions apply as defined by Government Code Sections 65358(c) and (d). Each amendment may contain more than one change to the General Plan.

General Plan Amendments can be initiated by the Town or at the request of a property owner. Each General Plan Amendment goes through a public review process, including a meeting with the Town's General Plan Committee (GPC) and hearings with the Planning Commission and Town Council. Each Amendment is also subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

1.2 Preparing the 2040 General Plan

In 2018, the Los Gatos Town Council initiated a General Plan update looking forward to the year 2040. The Council appointed an advisory committee to guide the preparation of the 2040 General Plan, consisting of Council Members, Planning Commissioners, and community members called the GPAC. The update process involved multiple opportunities for the public to engage in the development of the 2040 General Plan (see Community Engagement section later in this chapter).

The 2040 General Plan reflects the Town's strong commitment to environmental sustainability, community health, and social equity. During the preparation of the 2040 General Plan, the community requested that the General Plan address climate change and increased risk of wildfire; lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic; and justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. The update process was also tasked with planning for new homes for all incomes to meet the Town's fair share of the Bay Area's housing need.

Community Engagement

The 2040 General Plan was shaped through a public outreach approach that provided an opportunity for all community members to be involved as an integral component in the General Plan process. The Town gathered community input through the following methods:

1. Community workshops and interactive booths at community events that included Spring into Green, the Town's Farmers Market, and Music in the Park;
2. General Plan Update Website – www.losgatos2040.com;
3. eBlasts;
4. General Plan Update Advisory Committee; and
5. Planning Commission and Town Council Meetings, Study Sessions, and Public Hearings.

Community Workshops

The Town hosted three community workshops for residents and stakeholders to share their ideas on how to shape the future of Los Gatos.

- On October 17, 2018, at the Jewish Community Center the Town held a community workshop to provide an overview of the General Plan update and to gather public input on issues and opportunities that should be addressed as part of the General Plan update.
- On January 16, 2020, at Fisher Middle School to present the land use alternatives to the community, educate residents on the potential benefits and impacts associated with the land use alternatives, and solicit feedback on preferences for a Town-wide alternative.
- On June 11, 2020, via teleconference to inform the community about the update process and solicit community input on the topic of community design. The event was held live via Zoom and participants were able to watch the presentation and ask questions. After the teleconference, community members were encouraged to provide feedback through three online surveys for more than a month after the event. The community's input assisted in the development of the Land Use and Community Design Elements.

General Plan Update Website

To help expand the outreach efforts of the General Plan update, a dedicated website (www.losgatos2040.com) provided information on the process including information on the General Plan, meeting dates and locations, and related documents. The Town maintained the website throughout the update process to keep community members informed, involved, and engaged.

eBlasts

Throughout the update process, the Town sent timely eBlasts to the General Plan contact list, which included elected and appointed officials, stakeholders, and engaged community members. People could join the contact list through a link on the project website by signing-in at a General Plan community workshop or public meeting, or by directly contacting the Town of Los Gatos.

General Plan Update Advisory Committee (GPAC)

To help guide the update to the General Plan, the Town Council appointed a GPAC. The GPAC is composed of the Town's GPC and three additional residents (additional members are listed due to changes of membership through the process). The GPC includes two Town Council members, three Planning Commissioners, and four residents.

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The GPAC served as a sounding board for the discussion of issues, opportunities, and the development of the plan to guide the community's future. The GPAC held more than 35 public meetings throughout the General Plan update process, listening to community input and contributing to the development of the Vision and Guiding Principles, Land Use Alternatives, and the content of the General Plan document.

Planning Commission and Town Council Meetings

The Town held various Planning Commission and Town Council Meetings throughout the update process to inform decision-makers and the public, discuss key milestones, and provide direction for the next steps.

1.3 General Plan Vision and Guiding Principles

After community discussions at the General Plan Update Advisory Committee and Planning Commission, the Los Gatos Town Council approved a Vision Statement and set of Guiding Principles for the Los Gatos 2040 General Plan on August 20, 2019. The Vision Statement is written in the present tense to describe the Town in the year 2040.

Vision

The Town of Los Gatos is a welcoming, family-oriented, and safe community nestled in the beautiful foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains. The Town takes pride in its smalltown character, historic neighborhoods, local culture and arts, excellent schools, and a lively and accessible downtown. The Town is pedestrian friendly and offers a choice of mobility options, housing opportunities, and superior public facilities and services, governed by an open and responsive local government that is fiscally sound. The Town includes a mix of businesses throughout Town that serve all residents, workers, and visitors. A dynamic and thriving community, Los Gatos is committed to racial, social, and environmental justice and underscores its commitment to long-term well-being by embracing sustainability.

Guiding Principles

- **Community Vitality**
Invigorate Los Gatos as a special place for community gathering, commerce, and other activities for residents and visitors. Foster the economic vitality of all Los Gatos business locations. Preserve and enhance the Town's historic resources and character while guiding the community into the future.
- **Connectivity**
Emphasize the importance of connecting all facets of the Town to build a strong sense of community through building design, walkability, and safe streets.
- **Diverse Neighborhoods**
Foster appropriate investments to maintain and enhance diverse neighborhoods, housing opportunities, and infrastructure to meet the needs of all current and future residents.
- **Fiscal Stability / Responsibility**
Provide high quality municipal services to the Los Gatos community while sustaining long term fiscal well-being.
- **Government Transparency**
Conduct governmental processes in an open manner and encourage public involvement in Town governance.

- **Inclusivity**
Value the importance of and promote ethnic, cultural, and socio-economic diversity and equity to enhance the quality of life in Los Gatos.
- **Mobility**
Provide a well-connected transportation system that enables safe access for all transportation modes, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities.
- **Promote Public Safety**
Maintain and enhance Los Gatos as a safe community through preparation and planning, education, and community design that is responsive to the full range of potential natural and man-made hazards and safety issues.
- **Protect Natural Environment**
Protect and enhance the natural environment and biotic communities that define Los Gatos, including but not limited to open space preserves, recreational trails, surrounding hillsides, and natural waterways.
- **Sustainability**
Manage, conserve, and preserve Los Gatos' natural environment for present and future generations. Identify and provide opportunities to enhance the Town's sustainability policies and practices.

1.4 Analyses Informing the 2040 General Plan

As part of the Town of Los Gatos General Plan update process, the Town prepared the following General Plan supporting documents:

- **Issues, Opportunities, and Constraints Summary.** The Issues, Opportunities, and Constraints Summary summarized the key issues, opportunities, and constraints identified based on the findings in the Background Report, input from community workshops, GPAC, stakeholder interviews, and a Joint Town Council/Planning Commission study session.
- **Alternatives Report.** The Alternatives Report describes the development and evaluation of land use and policy alternatives. The report was designed to frame an active discussion among stakeholders, community members, and Town decision-makers, and led to a determination from the Town Council on a preferred land use alternative framework and direction on key policy issues, which formed the basis of the Draft General Plan.
- **Environmental Impact Report.** The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) responds to the requirements of the CEQA as set forth in Sections 15126, 15175, and 15176 of the CEQA Guidelines Act. The Planning Commission and Town Council will use the EIR during the General Plan update process to consider potential environmental implications associated with implementing the General Plan and to identify feasible mitigation measures for significant impacts. The General Plan EIR may also be used in the environmental evaluation of future projects. Future projects may be able to build (tier) their environmental review on the General Plan EIR if they are consistent with the General Plan.

1.5 The Los Gatos Community

Los Gatos is located at the base of the Santa Cruz Mountains at the southwest edge of Santa Clara County and approximately 50 miles south of San Francisco. The natural landscape includes picturesque hillsides, creeks, and valley flatlands. Los Gatos is in an area once occupied by Indigenous People, which extends from the point where the San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers flow into the San Francisco Bay to Point Sur, with the interior Coastal Ranges most likely constituting the inland boundary. The Indigenous People lived sustainably in the area

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rich with fertile soils, abundant wildlife, and other natural resources. Before colonization, Indigenous People lived in base camps of tule-reed houses and seasonal specialized camps. Indigenous People ate food gained by hunting, gathering, and fishing. Mussels were particularly important to their diet, as well as sea mammals and acorns.

Seven Franciscan missions were built in Indigenous People's territory in the late 1700s, and all Indigenous People were eventually forced into the mission system. After the establishment of the missions, the population of Indigenous People of this area was decimated from roughly 10,000 people in 1770 to 1,300 in 1814. In 1973, the population of Indigenous People of this area was estimated at fewer than 300 after what is widely cited as a genocide. The descendants of Indigenous People of this area united in 1971 and have since arranged political and cultural organizations to revitalize, maintain, and pass on their culture.

In 1839, El Rancho de Los Gatos was established by a Mexican land grant and was so named because of the large number of mountain lions in the area. Agriculture and timber harvesting were mainstays of the local economy. In 1854, James Alexander Forbes built a flour mill along Los Gatos Creek. In 1860, the first hotel was opened to provide a stage stop on a toll road between San Jose and Santa Cruz. The railroad reached Los Gatos in 1878, catalyzing residential and commercial growth. By 1887, the population had grown to 1,500 and the Los Gatos community voted to incorporate.

Because of its distance from other centers of population, Los Gatos developed as a complete community including residential, business, and industrial elements. Today, Los Gatos is part of the Silicon Valley and its fast-paced economy. Los Gatos has more than 3,000 businesses with a full range of services for its approximate 30,000 residents. The Town is a destination for visitors who are attracted to its small-town feel, beautiful natural setting, recreation opportunities, restaurants, and specialty shopping within a pedestrian friendly, historic downtown setting.

Regional Setting

Los Gatos is located in Santa Clara County at the base of the Santa Cruz Mountains, as shown on Figure 1-1. The cities of San Jose and Campbell border the Town to the north and east; Saratoga and Monte Sereno to the west; and unincorporated land to the south.

Regional access is provided by State Route 85 (SR 85) and State Route 17 (SR 17), both of which are north-south limited access freeways. SR 17 bisects the Town and General Plan Planning Area and connects Santa Cruz and other coastal communities with Silicon Valley and the greater East Bay (i.e., Hayward, San Leandro, Oakland).

SR 85 runs through the far northern edge of the Town and General Plan Planning Area. SR 85 connects the west side of Silicon Valley from South San Jose to Mountain View. State Route 9 (SR 9) is a north-south highway that connects Los Gatos to Monte Sereno, Saratoga, and surrounding mountain communities and becomes Los Gatos-Saratoga Road within Los Gatos.

Los Gatos Planning Boundaries

The General Plan uses several terms to describe the Town and planning boundaries, as shown on Figure 1-2.

- **Town Limits.** The jurisdictional boundary of the Town. The Town limits include the area within the Town's corporate boundary over which the Town exercises land use authority and provides public services. Los Gatos encompasses approximately 11.5 square miles. The northern half of the Town lies on a relatively flat valley terrain bordering the City of San Jose and is primarily developed, while the remainder southern portion of Town consists of hillside areas and permanent open space.
- **Urban Service Area (USA).** The defined area which is served by water, sewer, storm drain, and other infrastructure services.

- **Sphere of Influence.** A sphere of influence (SOI) is the probable physical boundary and service area of a local agency, as adopted by a Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). A SOI typically includes both incorporated and unincorporated areas within which the Town and/or special districts will have primary responsibility for the provision of public facilities and services.
- **Planning Area.** A General Plan, pursuant to State law, must address all areas within the jurisdiction's planning area. The planning area encompasses all incorporated and unincorporated territory that bears a relationship to the long-term physical planning of the jurisdiction. At a minimum, a jurisdiction's planning area should include all incorporated land within the Town limits and all land within the Town's SOI, as it does for this General Plan. The Los Gatos planning area includes approximately 18 square miles.

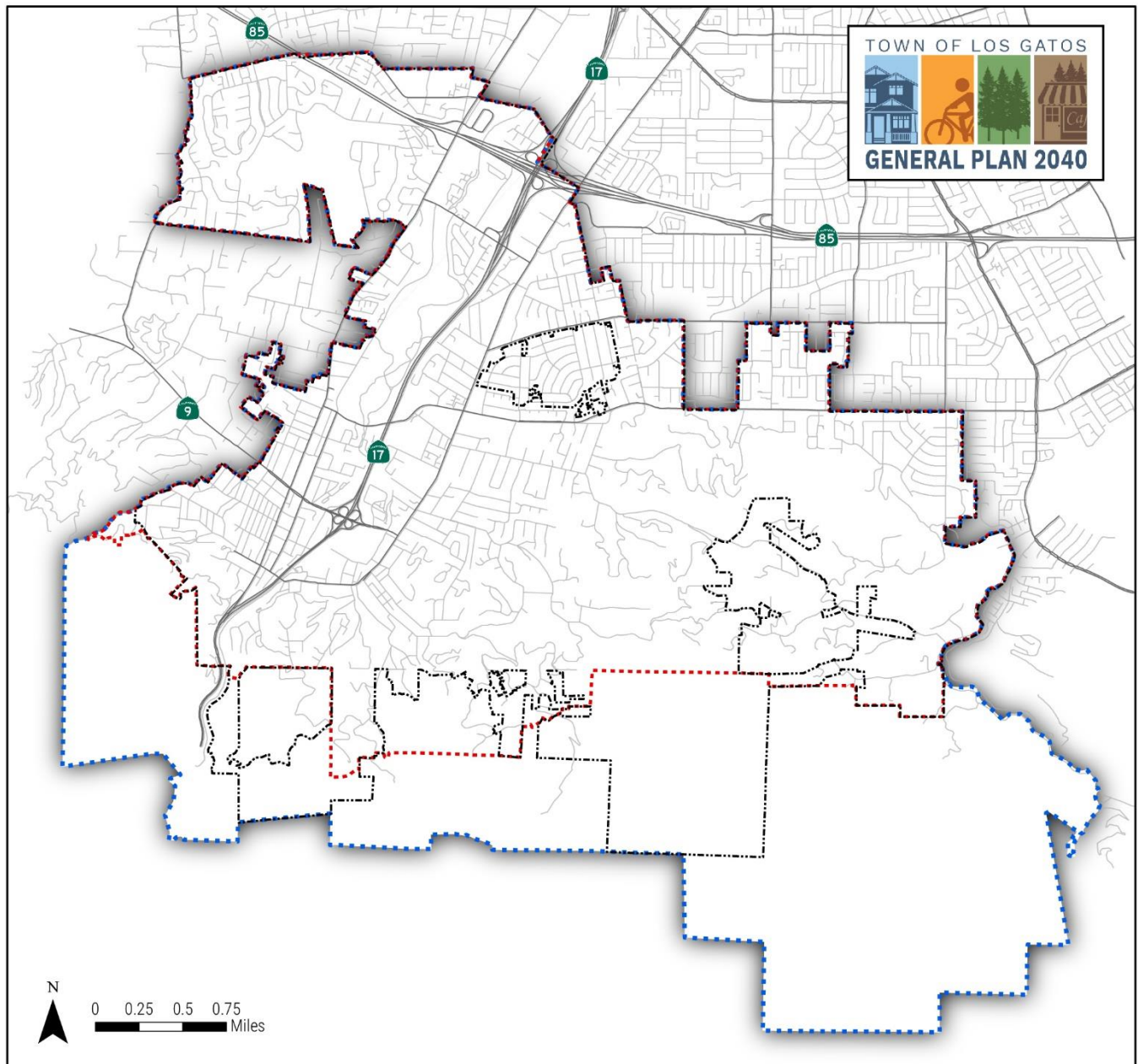
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Figure 1-1 Regional Context



 **Town of Los Gatos**
 **Highway**

Figure 1-2 Planning Boundaries



-  Town of Los Gatos
-  Urban Service Area
-  Planning Area/
Sphere of Influence

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1.6 Organization of the General Plan

Table 1-1 shows how the elements of the Los Gatos 2040 General Plan are organized to meet the requirements of State law.

Table 1-1 Elements of the Los Gatos 2040 General Plan

Los Gatos Elements	State Mandated								Optional Elements
	Land Use	Circulation	Housing	Conservation	Noise	Open Space	Safety	Environmental Justice	
Racial, Social, and Environmental Justice	■							■	
Land Use	■					■		■	
Community Design									■
Mobility		■							
Housing	■		■					■	
Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure	■	■		■			■		
Open Space, Parks, and Recreation	■					■			
Environment and Sustainability				■		■			
Hazards and Safety					■		■	■	

The 2040 General Plan is organized into ten chapters (an introductory chapter and nine elements), allowing users to find topics or sections that interest them. The policies throughout all elements work together and users must consider them comprehensively when making planning decisions. The chapters of the General Plan are as follows.

1. Introduction

The Introduction chapter provides an overview of the General Plan, its use and maintenance, the process used to develop the 2040 General Plan, and the Vision and Guiding Principles. This chapter also includes a Reader's Guide that provides useful information on how to read and use the goals, policies, and implementation programs presented in each element.

2. *Racial, Social, and Environmental Justice Element*

The Racial, Social, and Environmental Justice Element includes goals, policies, and implementation programs that encourage and support local efforts to increase participation in the local political process and to improve local conditions relative to racial, social, and environmental justice issues. The themes covered in this element lay the foundation for creating a more equitable and inclusive Town for all residents of Los Gatos. The Racial, Social, and Environmental Justice Element focuses on the empowerment of the community, and especially of the members of the community who have not been previously heard.

3. *Land Use Element*

The Land Use Element includes two key components that provide a framework to guide and shape the future physical development of Los Gatos. First, the element includes policies establishing land use designations that identify the type and intensity of uses permissible in the Planning Area. Second, this element includes a series of goals and policies identifying the Town's philosophy for future change and development. Combined with the Community Design Element, these two elements address a broad range of topics related to the physical structure and appearance of the Town's built environment and establish the image and character of the Town. These two elements serve as the primary policy guidance for ensuring that new land uses are logically organized and developed in a way that is sustainable and enhances Los Gatos' unique identity.

4. *Community Design Element*

The Community Design Element looks at the key components of the Town's physical environment and describes the features that, together, contribute to the distinct community character of Los Gatos. The element provides a local context and anticipated urban design enhancements for the next 20 years and highlights a series of Community Growth Districts that have specific community design policies tailored to the context and development potential of these areas in Town. Lastly, this element covers the overall preservation of historic areas and assets and the surrounding hillsides to ensure development occurs in the right places and at appropriate levels consistent with the broader vision for Los Gatos.

5. *Mobility Element*

The Mobility Element is designed to address all aspect of movement of people and goods. The element uses a holistic approach to sustainable transportation methods that focuses on strategies for reducing vehicle miles traveled, enhancing a multimodal transportation system, and enhancing infrastructure for bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit riders. The Mobility Element also addresses the typical aspects of a transportation network including, roadways, parking, and the movement of goods (i.e., truck traffic).

6. *Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element*

The Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element guides decision-making pertaining to the broad areas of Town services, infrastructure, and resources. Through an effective Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element, the Town is positioned to plan for needed capital improvements and deliver high quality services to enhance social well-being consistent with the overall vision of Los Gatos.

7. *Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Element*

The Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Element guides the long-range maintenance, preservation, and conservation of open space, parks, and recreational facilities. These assets enhance the character of the Town, helping to create a unique and pleasant atmosphere for Town residents and visitors.

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8. *Environment and Sustainability Element*

The Environment and Sustainability Element is concerned with protecting and enhancing the charm and character of the community, conserving natural resources, reducing waste, and addressing climate change. The element promotes resource sustainability to protect the Town's built and natural ecologies for current and future generations.

9. *Hazards and Safety Element*

The Hazards and Safety Element evaluates natural and urban safety hazards in Los Gatos, both existing and potential. It establishes policies and actions to avoid and reduce these hazards, including an emphasis on climate resiliency and adaptation, to protect the Los Gatos community. Additionally, this element guides the Town when participating in resolving safety issues that are regional in character, or beyond the immediate control of the Town.

10. *Housing Element*

The Housing Element ensures that there is adequate land identified to accommodate Los Gatos' fair share of new homes. The Town's certified 2015-2023 Housing Element complies with State law by planning for required housing, identifying action items to barriers to housing construction, and providing other required policy guidance. The current Housing Element was adopted in 2016 and will be updated independently of the 2040 General Plan in accordance with statutory requirements. For this reason, it is formatted separately from the 2040 General Plan, but will be incorporated following certification of the 2023-2031 Housing Element update.

11. *Acknowledgements*

This chapter lists the persons and organizations directly involved in the development of the General Plan.

12. *Glossary and Acronyms*

This chapter provides a definition of the key terms and acronyms used in the General Plan.

1.7 Readers' Guide

Goals and Policies

Each element contains the goals and policies to guide future land use, development, resource management, and environmental protection decisions in Los Gatos. The goals and policies in the General Plan are presented in a standard format.

Goal

A goal is a statement that describes, in general terms, a desired future condition or "end" state. Goals describe ideal future conditions for a topic and are intentionally general and broad.

Policy

A policy is a statement that guides a specific course of action for decision-makers to achieve a desired goal.

“Shall” vs. “Should”

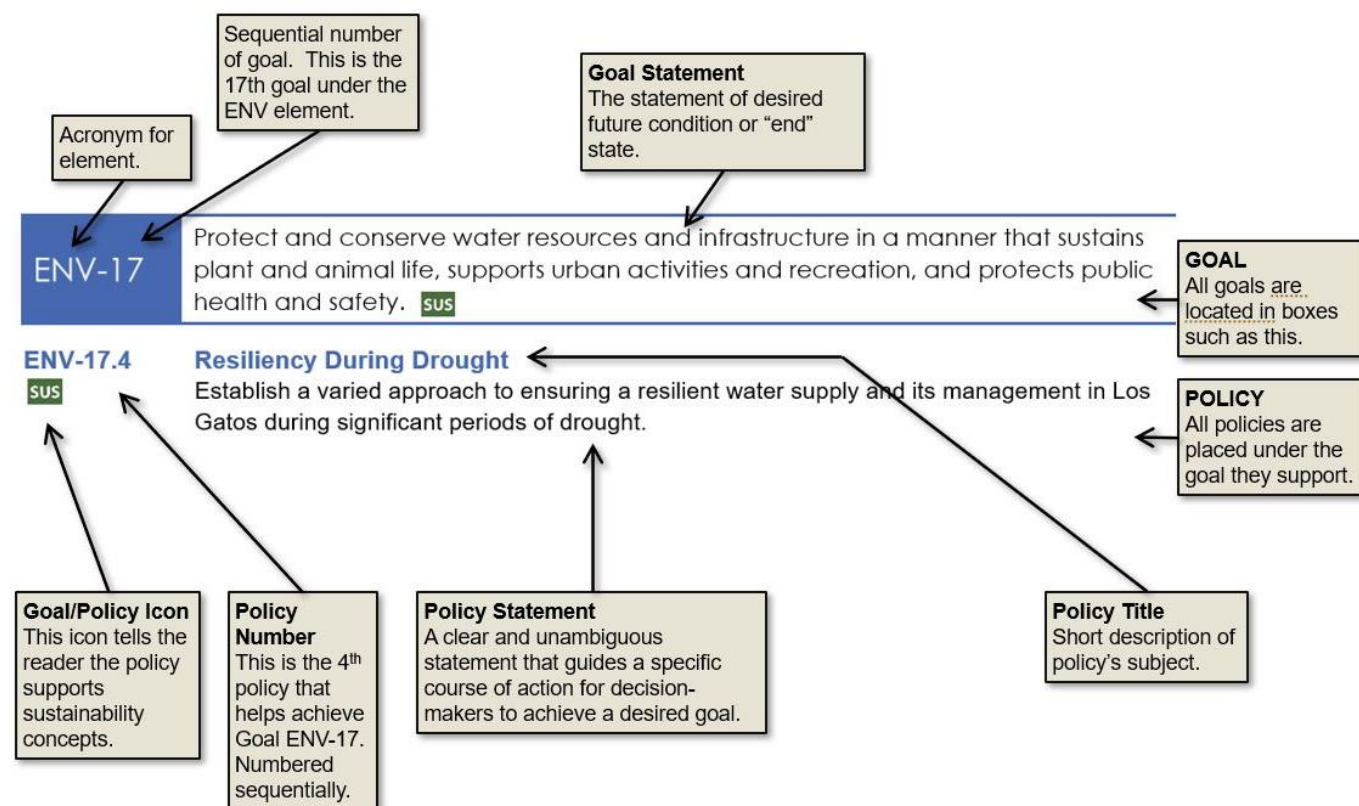
Policies and implementation measures throughout the General Plan use terms such as “shall” and “should” to define the intentions of the Town relative to these components. These modifiers are used as follows in the General Plan:

- “Must” or “shall” or “required” are used to signify a mandatory requirement that the Town will follow. For example, Policy LU-3.2 says: “Projects shall be evaluated and the Town shall apply appropriate mitigation measures and/or conditions of approval to reduce impacts on the environment, municipal services, and wildfire risk, including utilities, police, and fire.”
- Words such as “should” or “may” are used to signify a less rigid directive, that will be honored in the absence of compelling or contravening considerations.

For example, Policy LU-2.1 says: “Promote a mix of compatible uses in and adjacent to residential neighborhoods to serve the basic, daily needs of nearby residents. This should include neighborhood shopping and services available within one mile of all non-hillside residential areas in the following categories:...” This provides flexibility in addressing the policy in the context of the project or proposal.

Figure 1-3 shows an example goal and policy that illustrates this standard presentation format.

Figure 1-3 How to Read Goals and Policies



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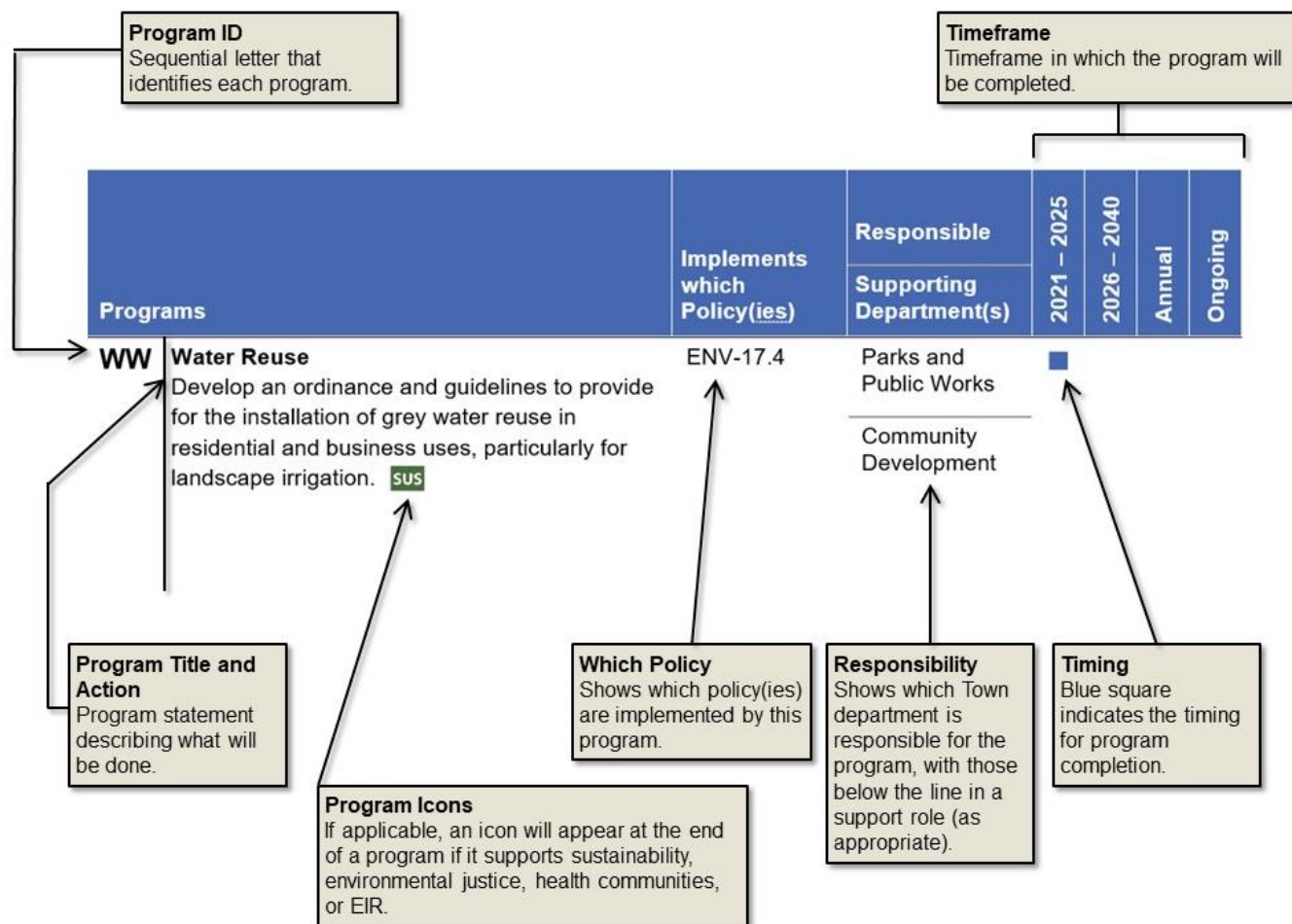
Implementation Programs

While many policies can be implemented as part of standard Town operations, some policies require specific implementation programs to ensure their implementation. The last section of each element includes a table of implementation programs in a format illustrated on Figure 1-4. Similar to policies, implementation programs that address one or more of the cross-cutting topics described earlier include an icon to highlight the implementation program's relationship to these topics, as applicable.

To ensure all policies can be implemented, the General Plan contains a wide range of implementation programs. While the Town intends to pursue the implementation programs included in the General Plan, the Town will need to evaluate each program in light of Town resources. This includes resources such as financial, staffing, and technology. Over the 20-year planning period, the Town Council and staff will need to prioritize various implementation programs based on the resources available, and some implementation programs may not be completed as planned.

Figure 1-4 shows an example implementation program that illustrates this standard presentation format.

Figure 1-4 How to Read Implementation Programs



Cross-cutting Topic Icons

The Los Gatos 2040 General Plan contains a number of goals, policies, and implementation programs that address cross-cutting topics that weave throughout the General Plan. To highlight these goals, policies, and implementation programs, this General Plan uses one or more icons to highlight if a goal, policy, or implementation program is directly related to one or more of these topics. The icons are described below:



Sustainability

Sustainability includes the physical development and operating practices that meet the needs of present users without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, particularly regarding use and waste of natural resources. Sustainability recognizes that certain resources are finite, and therefore should be used conservatively and wisely with a view to the long-term priorities and consequences. Items marked with this icon are designed to enhance the Town's sustainability relative to a wide range of resources.



Environmental Justice

Pursuant Government Code Section 65302(h), general plans "must include an environmental justice element or include goals and policies in other element(s) of the general plan to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by reducing pollution exposure, improving air quality, and promoting public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity; promote civil engagement in the public decision-making process; and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities." State law defines "disadvantaged communities" as areas that are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation. Items marked with this icon are designed to identify which goals, policies, and implementation programs that address issues related to disadvantaged communities.



Healthy Communities

The 2040 General Plan focuses on promoting healthy communities and the connection between the built environment and public health. Healthy communities focus on providing for a quality and sustainable environment, supporting economic and social development, ensuring social equity, and encouraging social relationships that are supportive and respectful to meet all residents' basic needs across a lifespan. To improve population health outcomes, the Town needs to focus on policies, systems, and implementation programs that address the social and environmental determinants of health. Items marked with this icon are designed to identify goal, policies, and policies that affect and promote overall community health.

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