



TOWN OF  
*Los* GATOS  
CALIFORNIA

# 2040 General Plan

**Adopted** | June 30, 2022

TOWN OF LOS GATOS



**GENERAL PLAN 2040**



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# 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](http://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](http://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.

# 1. Introduction

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 is a sustainable community that takes pride in its small-town character and provides a range of housing opportunities, historic neighborhoods, local culture and arts, excellent schools, and a lively and accessible downtown. Los Gatos offers a choice of mobility options, superior public facilities and services, and 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. Los Gatos has a dynamic and thriving economy that includes a mix of businesses throughout Town that serves all residents, workers, and visitors.

### ***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.



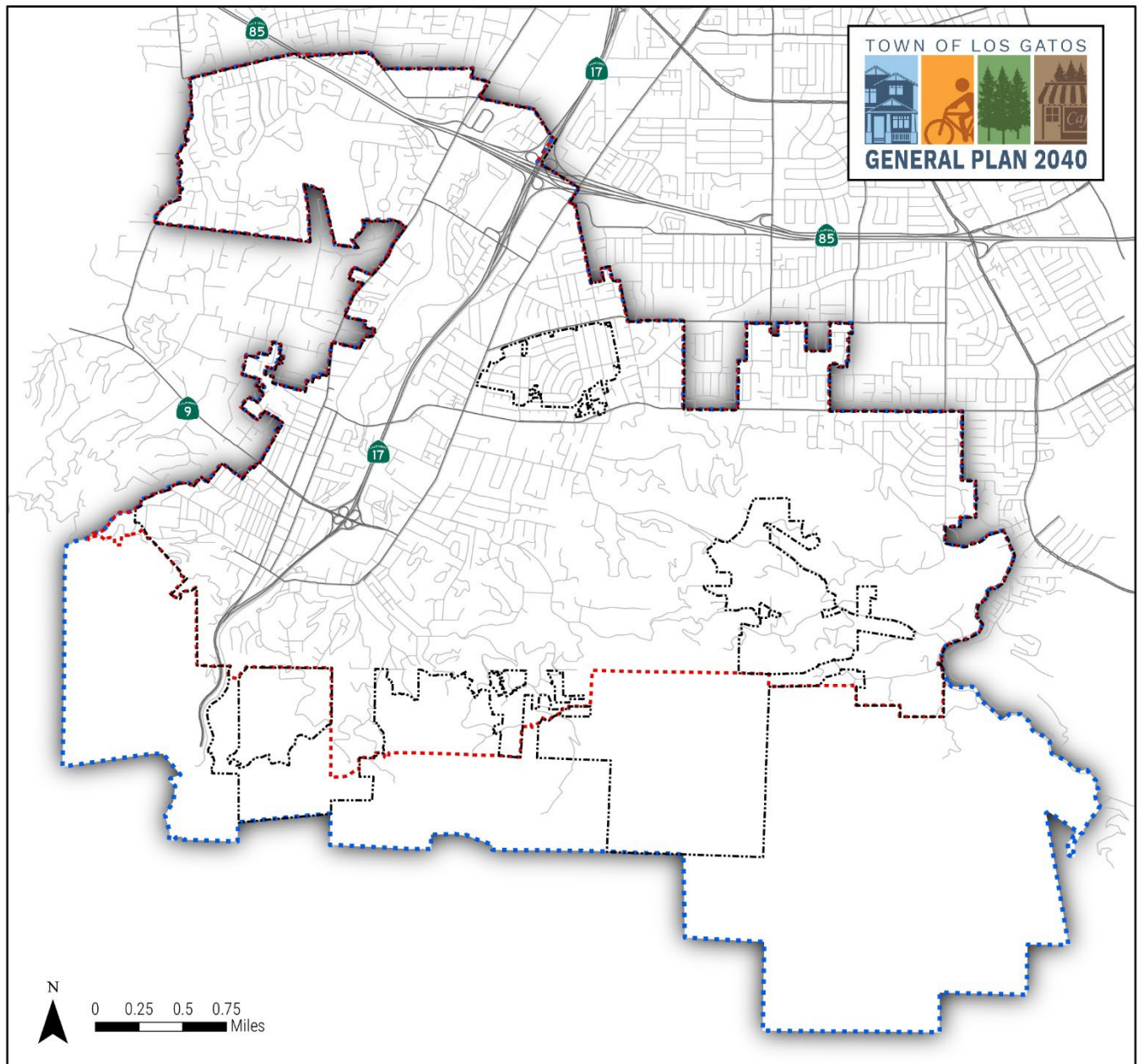
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**Figure 1-1 Regional Context**



**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.

# 1. Introduction

## 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”

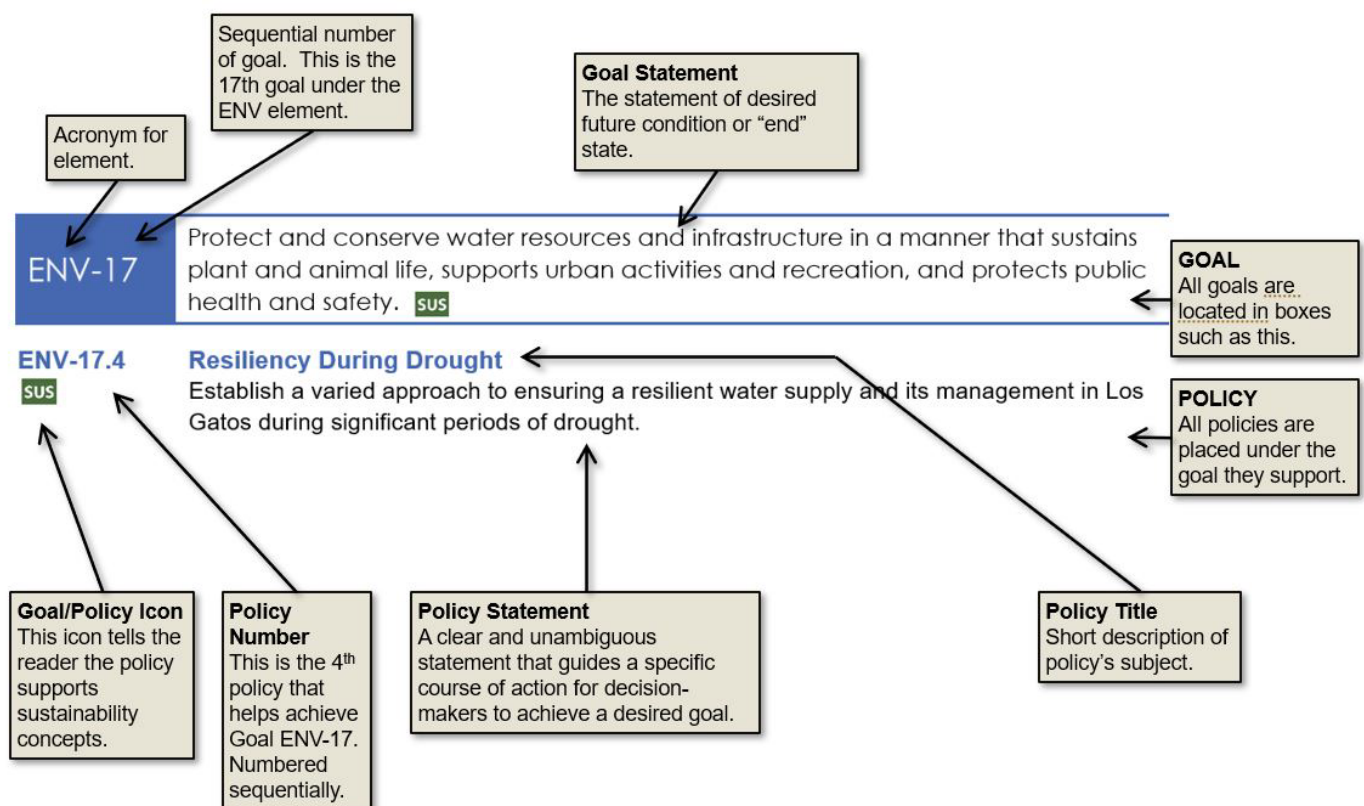
Policies and implementation measures throughout the General Plan use terms such as “shall” and “should” to define the intentions of the Town relative to these components. These modifiers are used as follows in the General Plan:

- “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**



## 1. Introduction

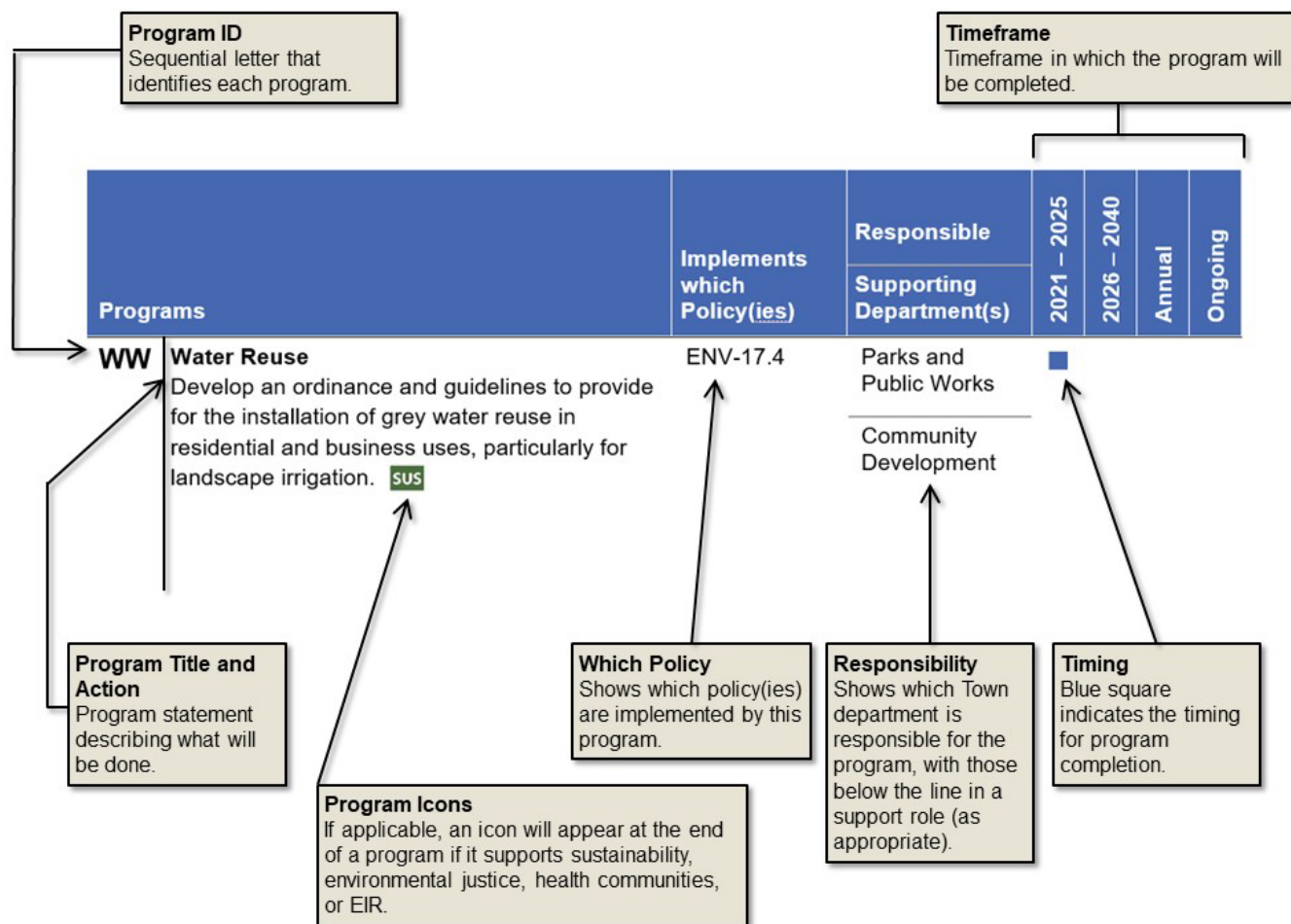
### Implementation Programs

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.

## 1. Introduction

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

Like many other communities in the United States, Los Gatos has a history which includes racial injustice. Often, racial injustice also leads to other forms of injustice, including social and environmental injustice, as well as other contributing factors including affordability and access to housing opportunities. A number of existing and former Town residents, who identify as Black; Indigenous; or People of Color (BIPOC); have come forward to share their experiences and to provide suggestions for increasing diversity (i.e., social, economic, and racial) and inclusivity in Town.

The Town recognizes that it needs to increase its efforts to ensure that all the members of the Los Gatos community (i.e., residents, workers, business owners, local organizations, and visitors) regardless of age and socio-economic status feel valued, safe, respected, included, and secure. Increasing diversity and inclusion involves enhancing meaningful community engagement, considering the implications of Town decisions for all members of the community, and requires new approaches to meet the changing needs of Los Gatos.

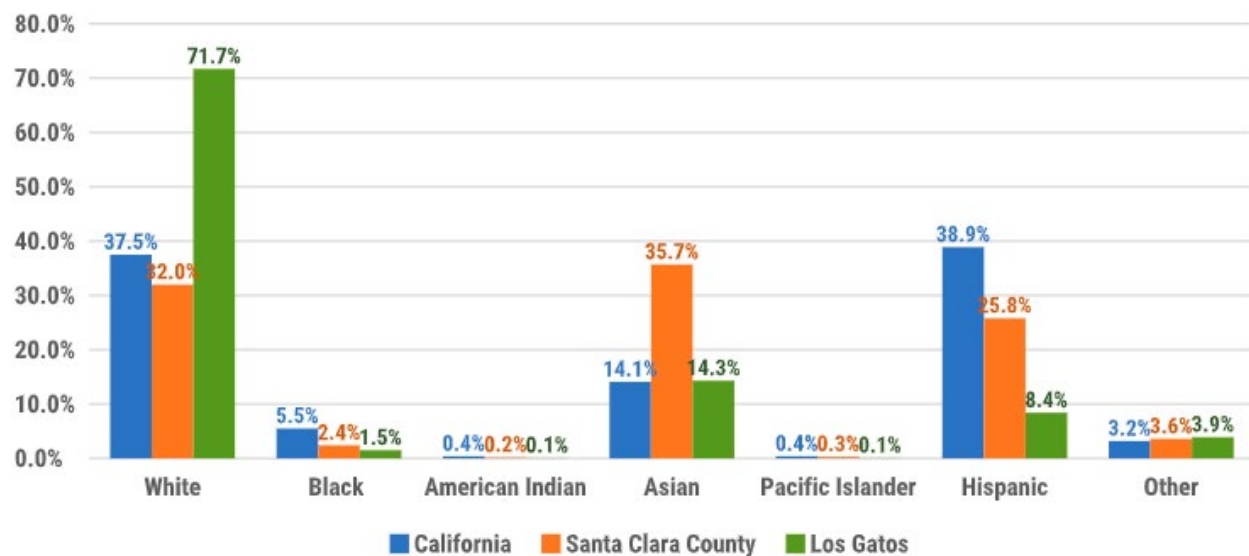
Los Gatos enjoys affluence and scores well in State-wide assessment tools such as CalEnviroScreen 3.0 and the California Healthy Places Index. Places and people of privilege have a responsibility to increase their awareness and understanding of social issues and use their agency to create a more inclusive and equitable society. This Element is a commitment to that responsibility and emphasizes making Los Gatos a more socially, economically, and racially diverse community. Making progress toward racial, social, and environmental justice can be difficult and requires all community members to recognize, engage, and act on these issues over a long period of time. As a result, this Element includes goals, policies, and programs that encourage and support local efforts to increase involvement in local governance processes and to improve local awareness of racial, social, and environmental injustice. This General Plan creates the framework through which residents are empowered to make progress towards equality.

### **2018 Town Demographics**

As of 2018, the median Los Gatos household income was \$140,395; over a third of Town households earned more than \$200,000. Educational attainment is similarly high. In Los Gatos, 64.7 percent of residents over age 25 have at least a bachelor's degree, and of those, nearly 45 percent also had earned a graduate or professional degree. Racial diversity, however, is lacking. In Los Gatos, 71.7 percent of residents were white, 14.3 percent Asian, 8.4 percent Hispanic or Latino, 3.9 other (multiple races), 1.5 percent Black or African American, and 0.2 percent American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and other Pacific Islander.

**Overall Comparison**

Comparing Los Gatos to Santa Clara County and the State of California (2018) provides a better representation of the differences between the population's ethnic diversity of the three entities. Compared to Santa Clara County and the State of California, Los Gatos has a substantially greater white population and substantially smaller Hispanic and Latino population. The Hispanic and Latino population is three times smaller compared to the County and four times smaller compared to the State. Ethnic groups including Black and African American, American Indian, and Pacific Islander have a similar distribution, with the County and State outpacing the Town. Unlike other ethnic groups, the Asian population in Town is lower than the County but aligns with the makeup statewide.



*Additional information regarding age and socio-economic data for the Town is located in the General Plan Background Report.*

The themes discussed in this Element lay the foundation for creating a more equitable and inclusive environment for all Town residents, businesses, visitors, and organizations of Los Gatos. In addition to those contained in this Element, equity-oriented goals and policies can also be found throughout this Plan, particularly in the Housing, Mobility, and Land Use Elements, and are marked by an **EJ** icon.

The Racial, Social, and Environmental Justice Element is divided into the following sections:

Section	Title	Page
	Key Terms .....	2-3
2.1	Racial and Social Justice .....	2-3
2.2	Environmental Justice .....	2-5
2.3	Civic Engagement in the Public Decision-Making Process .....	2-7
2.4	Implementation Programs.....	2-8



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

### Key Terms

**BIPOC.** Acronym referring to Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color.

**Community Member.** Any individual who resides, owns property, is a business owner, or is employed in the Town of Los Gatos.

**Disadvantaged Community.** An area identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) pursuant to Section 39711 of the California Health and Safety Code or a predominately low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.

**Environmental Justice.** The fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, incomes, political and religious affiliation, and national origins with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies including climate adaptation strategies.

**Equality.** Is sameness; everyone gets the same thing. Equality focuses on everyone getting the same opportunity, but often ignores the realities of historic exclusion and power differentials among whites and other racialized groups.

**Equity.** Ensures that outcomes in the conditions of well-being are improved for marginalized groups, lifting outcomes for all. Equity is a measure of justice.

**Explicit Bias.** Conscious attitudes and beliefs about a person or group, also known as overt and intentional bias.

**Implicit Bias.** Attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, decisions, and actions in an unconscious manner.

**Resident.** Any individual who resides in the Town of Los Gatos.

**Social Capital.** A concept in social science that involves the potential of individuals to secure benefits and invent solutions to problems through membership in social networks. Social capital revolves around three dimensions: interconnected networks of relationships between individuals and groups (social ties or social participation), levels of trust that characterize these ties, and resources or benefits that are both gained and transferred by virtue of social ties and social participation.

**Socially Disadvantaged Individuals and Groups.** Socially disadvantaged individuals and groups who have been subjected to prejudice or some form of discrimination or bias because of their perceived identity as a member of a particular group (i.e., race, ethnicity, culture, sex, political or religious affiliation, sexual orientation, age, immigration status) without regard to their individuality and/or merit.

### 2.1 Racial and Social Justice

This section identifies goals and policies which seek to advance Town efforts toward diversity and inclusivity. Implementation of the programs presented will allow the Town to monitor its progress in achieving racial, social, and environmental justice. It is the Town's intent to take actionable efforts to implement a more racially and socially just Los Gatos.

The following goals and policies are intended to promote equality in Los Gatos.

RSEJ-1

Support equity, inclusion, and access to opportunities for all community members, employees, businesses, visitors, and local organizations.

- RSEJ-1.1 Service Delivery**  
Direct Town services to address inequities.
- RSEJ-1.2 Community Budgeting**  
Engage the community through multiple participation opportunities in the Town's budget process.
- RSEJ-1.3 Institutional Bias**  
Continue to build organizational and institutional skills in all Town Departments to advance equity, while identifying and eliminating institutional and structural inequities, and implicit bias.
- RSEJ-1.4 Housing Affordability and Access**  
Encourage development and improved access to affordable housing opportunities for all community members.
- RSEJ-1.5 Celebrate Town Diversity**  
Develop and invest in arts, education, and other community programming that celebrates diversity.
- RSEJ-1.6 Welcoming Town**  
Promote Los Gatos as a welcoming, safe, and inclusive community regardless of age, ability status, and socio-economic status.
- RSEJ-1.7 Quality Living Wage**  
Promote access to a quality living wage for all community members.



*Additional information regarding affordable housing and land use development please see the Land Use Element.*

## RSEJ-2

Respect, protect, and promote the civil and human rights of all members of the community.

- RSEJ-2.1 Culturally Proficient Services**  
Develop and implement Town-wide strategies, practices, and services that are culturally proficient and that acknowledge and reflect diversity.
- RSEJ-2.2 Socially Disadvantaged Populations**  
**EJ HC**  
Develop and implement policies, services, and programs designed to address the needs of socially disadvantaged and vulnerable community members.
- RSEJ-2.3 Diverse Representation**  
Seek diverse representation on all Town boards, committees, and commissions.
- RSEJ-2.4 Advancing Racial and Social Equity Work**  
Encourage appointed Town boards, committees, and commissions to advance the Town's racial and social equity work.
- RSEJ-2.5 Workforce Development Opportunities**  
**EJ**  
Collaborate with public and private universities, colleges, and technical schools to support the development, training, and retention of a skilled and diverse workforce with opportunities for decent and economically viable work for all.

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

### RSEJ-2.6 **Diverse Town Staff**

Promote equitable and anti-bias hiring procedures that focus on recruiting, hiring, and retaining a diverse Town staff.

### RSEJ-2.7 **Cultural Proficiency and Anti-Bias Training for Town Staff**

Implement and require cultural proficiency and anti-bias training for all Town employees and support similar training efforts undertaken by the business community.

### RSEJ-2.8 **Community Diversity, Sensitivity, and Awareness Training**

Promote cultural proficiency and anti-bias training for all members of the community including residents, business owners, and local organizations.

### RSEJ-2.9 **Enhance Public Safety Collaboration**

Strengthen the Town's longstanding commitment to public safety by proactively reaching out to community members to hear concerns about policing and work collaboratively with police and community to find viable solutions.

### RSEJ-2.10 **Implement Best Practices in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing**

Further the Town's commitment to build community trust, procedural justice, and de-escalation of force and strengthen partnerships with mental health providers to address the societal issues that involve calls for police services.

## 2.2 Environmental Justice

Los Gatos is committed to improving the well-being of all Town residents and those affected by Town actions in neighboring communities. The objectives contained in this section strive to reduce health risks by minimizing pollution exposure, improving air quality, and promoting equitable access to public facilities, healthy food, and safe and sanitary housing.

The following goals and policies will guide the incorporation of environmental justice for all citizens of Los Gatos.

### RSEJ-3

Ensure that land use decisions do not adversely impact disadvantaged individuals and groups differently than the population as a whole. **EJ**

#### RSEJ-3.1 **Fair Treatment and Meaningful Involvement**

**EJ**

Provide for the fair treatment and meaningful involvement in respect to the development and review of land use decision and policies for all people regardless of income, religious or political affiliation, race, color, or national origin.

#### RSEJ-3.2 **Environmental Justice in Relation to Land Use**

**EJ**

Evaluate and avoid, reduce, and/or mitigate potential adverse health and safety impacts associated with land use decisions and provide for the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders regardless of income, race, color, or national origin.

#### RSEJ-3.3 **Reducing Negative Impacts from Potential Hazards**

**EJ**

Develop and implement additional project-specific mitigation measures in order to reduce negative impacts associated with environmental hazards, including, but not limited to, industrial operations, Town infrastructure, and air, light, and noise pollution.

### RSEJ-3.4

EJ

#### Coordination on Siting of Utilities

Coordinate with utility providers in the siting, site layout, and design of gas and electric facilities, including changes to existing facilities, to minimize environmental, and safety impacts on existing and future residents.

### RSEJ-4

Actively advocate to ensure all community members have access to healthy foods, education, green spaces, and medical services.

EJ HC

### RSEJ-4.1

EJ HC

#### Acceptance of Government-Issued Vouchers

Coordinate with Farmer's Market vendors and local food retailers to accept payment through Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), which allows residents in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to purchase food with their program benefits.

### RSEJ-4.2

EJ HC

#### Regulations Allowing Healthy Foods

Adopt and implement land use policies, regulations, and Ordinances which allow for and promote increased access to healthy food options (i.e., groceries, farmers markets, and community gardens).

### RSEJ-4.3

SUS EJ

#### Access to Community Assets

Identify and address gaps in access to residential, commercial, recreation facilities, natural open spaces areas, and health resources, including mental and emotional health, such that these community assets are available to all.

### RSEJ-4.4

EJ

#### Equity in Capital Projects

Promote equitable investment in capital improvements Town-wide.

### RSEJ-4.5

EJ

#### Non-Profit Partnerships

Collaborate with non-profit and governmental sectors to provide assistance to the homeless and access to healthcare, rental assistance and food assistance, and other poverty alleviating programs and services.

### RSEJ-4.6

EJ

#### Equitable Access and Distribution of Tree Canopies

Ensure equitable distribution of tree canopy, green space, and parks to increase quality of life and promote mental and emotional health.



*Additional policies relating to healthy communities and social services are covered in Section 5.6 (Public Facilities and Services) and Section 5.13 (Healthy Community) in the Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element.*

### RSEJ-5

Develop, implement, and enforce policies to ensure access to safe and sanitary housing throughout the community.

EJ

### RSEJ-5.1

EJ

#### Construction Safety Regulations and Code Enforcement

Develop and adopt policies, regulations, and Ordinances which reflect up-to-date construction and safety measures for all residential structures, while continuing to take enforcement actions for violations of any municipal or State building and safety codes.

### RSEJ-5.2

EJ

#### Clean and Safe Drinking Water

Ensure access to clean and safe drinking water for all community members.



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



*Additional policies relating to access to water services in the Town are covered in Section 5.1 (Water) in the Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element.*

### 2.3 Civic Engagement in the Public Decision-Making Process

Racial, social, and environmental justice efforts must be rooted in a strong culture of civic engagement in the Town's decision-making processes. Studies have shown that well-rounded public engagement processes increase social capital in projects and promote equitable community development. The Town is committed to goals and policies that build social capital through engagement and empowerment of the public, while emphasizing public participation, transparency, and inclusion.



*Policies within this section are specifically designed to enhance communications to underrepresented populations. General civic engagement in planning is covered in Section 3.8 (Civic Engagement) in the Land Use Element.*

The following goal and policies will guide inclusive public decision-making processes.

#### RSEJ-6

Engage the public, in particular, socially disadvantaged individuals and groups, in Town decision-making and facilitate public involvement in civic life.

#### RSEJ-6.1

##### **Community Capacity-Building**

Collaborate with local organizations and partners to build and strengthen historically marginalized communities' capacity to participate in local planning, governmental affairs, and policy decision-making.

#### RSEJ-6.2

##### **Leadership Development**

Support leadership development programs for historically marginalized, economically, and socially disadvantaged individuals and groups to enhance effective engagement in Town processes.

#### RSEJ-6.3

##### **Opportunities to Communicate with Town Leaders**

Develop, provide, promote, and implement new and innovative approaches to facilitate communication between members of the community and Town elected officials and staff members.

#### RSEJ-6.4

##### **Facilitate a Culture of Inclusion and Compassion**

Work with non-profit, faith, education, and other community-based partners to facilitate a culture of inclusion, empathy, compassion, acceptance, and unity.

#### RSEJ-6.5

##### **Transparency and Public Participation Opportunities**

Facilitate transparent Town decision-making processes through enhanced public outreach, engagement, and participation, including socially disadvantaged individuals and groups.

#### RSEJ-6.6

##### **Accessibility to Town Events**





Schedule Town events using different days, times, and formats (i.e., virtual and digital accessibility) to encourage and facilitate participation among community members with work, school, and other obligations that conflict with more traditionally scheduling.

## 2.4 Implementation Programs

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)				
<b>A Community-Based Budget Process</b> Develop and facilitate a community-based budgeting process to provide the public an opportunity to identify funding priorities annually. This program could feature in-person and online engagement opportunities.	RSEJ-1.1 RSEJ-1.2	Town Manager			■	
<b>B Equity Evaluation of the Proposed Budget</b> Annually evaluate the proposed Capital Improvement Budget and any service expansion/contraction in the Operating Budget to ensure that all neighborhoods are treated equitably in the availability of services and infrastructure investment.	RSEJ-1.2	Town Manager			■	
<b>C Town Staff Diversity and Other Training</b> Require all Town staff to undergo on-going diversity and implicit bias training.	RSEJ-1.3 RSEJ-2.6	Town Manager	■			■
<b>D Expand Recruitment for Town Employment Opportunities to Attract Diverse Candidates</b> Determine effective recruitment strategies to attract diverse candidates to Town employment opportunities. Work with educational institutions and other entities to promote local government job opportunities with middle school, high school, technical school, and college students.	RSEJ-1.3 RSEJ-2.5	Town Manager Human Resources	■			
<b>E Social and Racial Justice Equality Survey</b> Develop an annual survey which measures the successfulness of advancing social equity and diversity Town-wide.	RSEJ-2.3 RSEJ-2.4 RSEJ-2.5 RSEJ-2.8	Town Manager	■		■	
<b>F Social and Racial Justice Commission</b> Form a Social and Racial Justice Commission that will serve as an advisory board to the Town Council to advance the Town's racial equity work.	RSEJ-2.4	Town Manager	■			■
<b>G Racial, Social, and Environmental Justice Outreach</b> Develop clear and inclusive outreach materials to increase and advance racial, social, and environmental justice initiatives.	RSEJ-2.4	Town Manager	■			■
<b>H Career and Job Training</b> Coordinate with the Chamber of Commerce and other organizations to organize an annual career and job fair with local employers to highlight local employment and employment training opportunities for Los Gatos residents.	RSEJ-2.5	Town Manager	■		■	

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

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)				
<b>I Diversity, Sensitivity, and Awareness Training</b> Develop diversity, sensitivity, and awareness training courses and curriculum for residents, business owners, and local organizations to take part in. Training could include, but is not limited to, an informational column in the weekly newsletter and/or links to recommended online material, lectures, and community engagement events.	RSEJ-2.8	Town Manager	■			■
<b>J Citizens Police Academy</b> Implement a Citizens Police Academy, or similar program, to educate community members in law enforcement policies, practices, and problem-solving, as well as promoting the opportunity for one-on-one interaction with Department members in a relaxed environment.	RSEJ-2.9 RSEJ-2.10	Town Manager  Police Department	■			■
<b>K Community Engagement</b> Develop mechanisms to communicate and engage members of the community who are not typically active in civic issues to foster relationships with the Town and the Police Department. This can be accomplished by leveraging technology and by focusing resources on non-enforcement interaction with the community.	RSEJ-2.9 RSEJ-2.10	Town Manager  Police Department	■			■
<b>L Acceptance of Food Vouchers</b> Research the viability of increasing support for the acceptance of food vouchers at local food retailers and farmers markets.	RSEJ-4.1	Town Manager	■			
<b>M Healthy Food Access Regulations Audit and Update</b> To remove any administrative barriers to increase access to healthy foods, conduct an internal audit of and make necessary changes to Town regulations, including but not limited to the Zoning Ordinance. <b>EJ HC</b>	RSEJ-4.2	Community Development		■		
<b>N Capital Improvement Prioritization</b> Create a defined set of criteria that measures and prioritizes equitable distribution of Capital Improvement (CI) Projects Town-wide. <b>EJ</b>	RSEJ-4.4	Parks and Public Works  Town Manager	■			■
<b>O Tree Canopy Study</b> Develop a study to measure tree canopy distribution throughout the Town and encourage the use of native plants when increasing green space.	RSEJ-4.6	Parks and Public Works		■		

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)				
<b>P Rental Multi-Family Housing Inspection Program</b> Create a program to ensure that all rental multi-family housing is inspected on a three to five-year cycle to ensure compliance with all building, housing, and other codes for safe and sanitary housing. 	RSEJ-5.1	Town Manager Community Development Code Compliance				
<b>Q Expand Outreach and Communication Materials to Enhance Transparency and Participation</b> Develop clear and inclusive outreach materials, expand media campaigns, and implement other strategies to engage the public in the Town's processes. 	RSEJ-6.5	Town Manager				



**THE 2040  
LAND USE ELEMENT  
IS ON HOLD  
PLEASE REFERENCE  
THE 2020  
LAND USE ELEMENT**

**THE 2040  
COMMUNITY DESIGN ELEMENT  
IS ON HOLD  
PLEASE REFERENCE  
THE 2020  
COMMUNITY DESIGN ELEMENT**



## 5. Mobility Element

The Mobility Element is designed to address all aspects of moving of people and goods. This 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 goal of this Element is to reduce the impacts from motor vehicles and promote alternative forms of transportation that will reduce the local and regional effects of climate change. Los Gatos can do its part by creating a more walkable community where reliance on the vehicle is reduced and non-driving forms of transportation will be more feasible. This Element also addresses the typical aspects of a transportation network including roadways, parking, and the movement of goods (i.e., truck traffic).

The goals, policies, and implementation programs in the Mobility Element are consistent and interdependent with the other elements of the General Plan.

The Mobility Element includes the following sections:

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## Key Terms

**Bikeway Types.** Bikeways are typically classified into one of four classes depending on their design and placement.

- **Class I bikeways (bike paths)** are also described as bike paths, shared paths (shared with pedestrians), and multi-use paths, and provide a completely separate right-of-way designated for the exclusive use of bicyclists and pedestrians with minimized vehicle and pedestrian cross-flow.
- **Class II bikeways (bike lanes)** are lanes for bicyclists generally adjacent to outer vehicle travel lanes with special lane markings, pavement legends, and signage.
- **Class III bikeways (bike routes)** are designated by signs or pavement markings for shared use with pedestrians or motor vehicles but have no separated bike right-of-way or lane striping.
- **Class IV bikeways (cycle tracks or protected bike lanes)** provide a right-of-way designated exclusively for bicycle travel within a roadway and which are protected from other vehicle traffic with devices, including, but not limited to, grade separation, flexible posts, inflexible physical barriers, or parked cars.

**Complete Streets.** A transportation policy and design approach that requires streets to be planned, designed (such as the inclusion of street trees and bioswales), operated, and maintained to enable safe and convenient access for all users regardless of their mode of transportation (such as vehicle, bicycle, and walking), age, and ability.

**Cut-through Traffic.** Vehicle trips that pass entirely through the Town without stopping to visit locations in Town or patronize local businesses or job centers.

**Level of Service (LOS).** A quantitative measure used to rate a roadway segment's traffic flow characteristics during peak hours. LOS acts as an indicator of roadway performance relative to locally established standards for quality of service based on measures of speed, density, and congestion that are designated using letters from "A" (good) to "F" (poor). LOS can assist in determining when roadway capacity improvements are needed.

**Multimodal.** This term refers to transportation planning that considers various modes (i.e., vehicles, bicycles, walking, public transit) and the connections between these modes.

**Multi-Use Trails.** Trail systems designed to facilitate multiple modes of use, such as pedestrians and bicyclists.

**Traffic Impact Fees (TIF).** Traffic Impact Fees are set by the Town Council to implement the Town's Transportation Impact Policy. The fee is adjusted periodically to meet the objectives of the Transportation Impact Policy.

**Traffic Impact Policy.** A policy that provides guidance in implementing traffic impact fees and mitigation for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) transportation impacts. The Traffic Impact Policy applies to all land use entitlements, land use projects, and transportation improvements Town-wide.

**Transit Stop.** A stop on a transit line that supports connection between multiple transportation modes (multimodal travel).

**Transportation Demand Management (TDM).** TDM strategies are used to reduce vehicle travel, with an emphasis on reducing travel during peak periods. TDM is intended to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow without having to increase the capacity or physical size of a section of transportation infrastructure. TDM strategies and programs could include, but are not limited to, measures such as alternative work schedules, bicycle parking, showers, and route maps for employees, subsidized transit passes, and future measures as programs and technologies evolve.



## 5. Mobility Element

**Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT).** VMT measures the total amount of vehicular travel by the population of a specific area and is used to analyze potential air quality and greenhouse gas impacts. VMT is also the required method used for the evaluation of environmental impacts as required under CEQA.

### 5.1 Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled

In evaluating environmental impacts related to development, the State of California now requires municipalities to use Vehicles Miles Traveled (VMT), as specified under SB 743. Historically, most cities and towns, including Los Gatos, evaluated traffic impacts based on roadway segment and/or intersection Level of Service (LOS). The LOS metric looked at the change in the number of vehicles on a roadway compared to the roadway's capacity or the wait time at an intersection to judge capacity impacts. The Town's VMT standard estimates the total miles traveled as part of a project and can be assessed by evaluating their impact on the Town's VMT standard. The transportation impact of future development projects can be measured against this standard, allowing the Town to adopt strategies to achieve both LOS and VMT targets.

While vehicle LOS is no longer to be used as a measure of transportation impacts for CEQA review of land use projects and land use plans, Los Gatos will retain an LOS standard in their local transportation policies for evaluating physical improvements. This way, the LOS analysis could be used as additional information to aid in the decision-making process that would be outside of the CEQA document.

The Town's goals for the next 20 years are well-aligned with the State's intent in switching to VMT. Those goals are to promote:

- The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;
- The development of multimodal transportation networks (i.e., networks that serve a variety of users including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders and drivers); and
- A diversity of land uses (i.e., neighborhoods with housing, jobs, shops, and services in close proximity to each other).

To adequately address the Town's current reliance on single-occupancy vehicles, the Town must focus on creating strategies and incentives to reduce vehicle usage and encourage alternative modes of transportation. One method for reducing VMT is to incorporate a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) model. TDM is the application of strategies to reduce vehicle travel, with an emphasis during peak periods of travel, to reduce congestion, improve traffic flow, and reduce overall reliance on vehicles and vehicular trips.

The following goals and policies address the reduction of vehicle miles traveled.

#### MOB-1

Reduce vehicle miles and manage vehicle congestion through a complete transportation network.

#### MOB-1.1

**SUS**

##### Require TDM for Development Proposals

Require all development and redevelopment proposals with more than 10 housing units or over 5,000 square feet of non-residential square footage to include a detailed, sustainable, and measurable Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program with accountability requirements to ensure the TDM measures are achieved.

#### MOB-1.2

##### Incentivize Reduced Vehicle Trips

Coordinate with employers to create incentives that reduce employee vehicle trips.

### **MOB-1.3 Link Development and Transit**

**SUS**

Development near transit stops shall provide TDM programs or facilities that encourage transit use for all types of trips.

### **MOB-1.4 Employer Shuttle Services**

**SUS**

Encourage employers with over 100 employees to develop shuttle services (i.e., corporate busing) to transport employees to and from the worksite. Entities may form transportation management associations (TMAs) to pool resources to fund TDM measures.

## **5.2 Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities**

The Town's bicycle and pedestrian facilities consist of sidewalks, bicycle paths and lanes, crosswalks, pedestrian signals, curb ramps, and street lighting along various roadways within Los Gatos as well as a variety of accessible trails and pathways. These provide bicycle and pedestrian connectivity throughout the Town.

The Santa Clara Countywide Bicycle Plan synthesizes other local and County plans into a comprehensive 20-year cross-county bicycle corridor network and expenditure plan. The long-range countywide transportation plan and the means by which projects compete for funding and prioritization are documented in the Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2040 (adopted in 2014). Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) has adopted the Santa Clara Countywide Bicycle Plan (May 2018), which is a planned bicycle network of 24 routes of countywide or interjurisdictional significance.

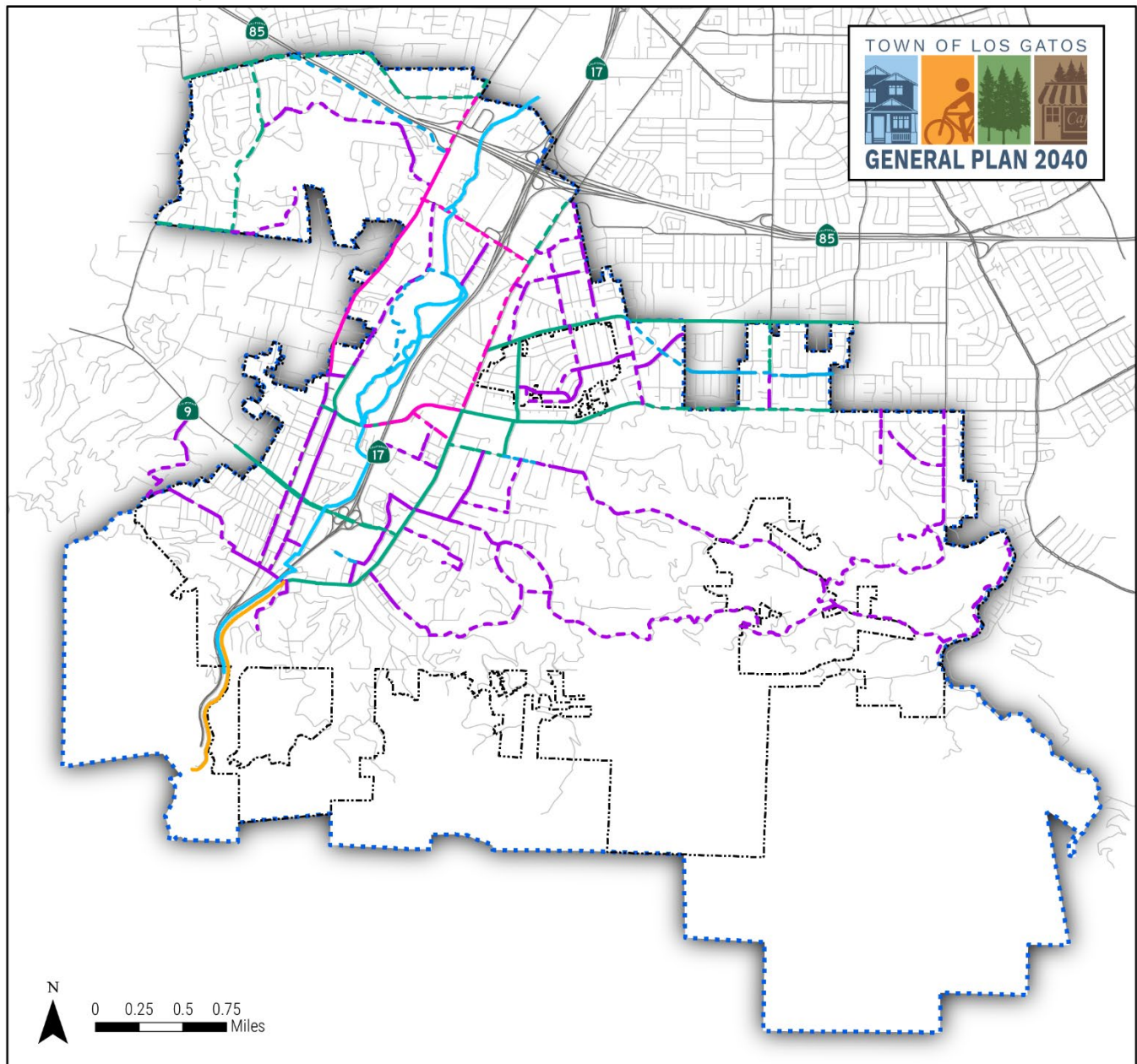
The Town completed its Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan in 2017, with a focused update in 2020, which proposes an enhanced bicycle and pedestrian network that provides safe access to key destinations in Town. The Los Gatos Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan identifies pedestrian improvements, gaps in the pedestrian network, and pedestrian enhancement prioritization. It identifies several network recommendations and prioritized projects for Class I, II, III, and IV bikeways, which includes numerous Safe Routes to School projects.

Bicycle and pedestrian facilities are identified in the Santa Clara County Trails Master Plan which provides a network of regional trails that integrate with local trails, forming a comprehensive network of existing and planned trails. The County of Santa Clara maintains and updates this Master Plan. The Town's own Trails Master Plan identifies existing and local trails that the Town seeks to develop.

Additional pedestrian facilities are primarily included as part of the transportation network along and connecting arterial, collector, neighborhood, and local streets. The Los Gatos Creek Trail is a notable trail used by pedestrians and bicyclists to access the Downtown area and parks from residential areas.

The existing and future bicycle network in the Town of Los Gatos is illustrated on Figure 5-1.

**Figure 5-1 Bicycle Facilities**



**Bikeways**

- |                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Existing Class I   | Proposed Class I           |
| Existing Class II  | Proposed Class II          |
| Existing Class III | Proposed Class III         |
| Existing Class IV  | Proposed Class IV          |
|                    | Existing Bikeway - Unpaved |

- Town of Los Gatos  
 Planning Area/  
 Sphere of Influence

The following goals and policies address bicycle and pedestrian facilities in Los Gatos.

<b>MOB-2</b>	Provide continuous, safe, and efficient bikeway and pedestrian facilities.
<b>MOB-2.1</b> <b>SUS</b>	<b>Roads for Both Bicycles, Pedestrians, and Vehicles</b> Roads designated as bicycle routes (Class III) shall be constructed and maintained to be safe for bicycles, pedestrians, and vehicles.
<b>MOB-2.2</b>	<b>Improve Bicycling in the Town</b> Support planning and design upgrades to bicycling infrastructure, support bicycling education, and encourage other programs to improve bicycling in the Town.
<b>MOB-2.3</b>	<b>Support Regional Bicycle Network</b> Support regional partners to create a complete and comprehensive bicycle network connecting the Town to other regional destinations.
<b>MOB-2.4</b> <b>SUS</b>	<b>Identify Areas to Improve Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities</b> Ensure all planning processes, such as master plans and specific plans, identify areas where bicycle and pedestrian improvements can be made, such as new connections, increased sidewalk width, improved crosswalks, provision of pedestrian crossings every half mile on all arterial and collector roadways, improved lighting, and adding new street furniture, benches, and seating to promote walkable environments. This will also include providing median refuges, bike-friendly signals, enhanced bulb-outs, and wayfinding signage to popular local destinations for cyclists and pedestrians along bikeways and at major street crossings.
<b>MOB-2.5</b> <b>SUS</b>	<b>Avoid Negative Impacts on Bicycle Use</b> All new development shall be designed to enhance the safety or convenience of bicycle use through the Town.
<b>MOB-2.6</b>	<b>Through-Access for Bicyclists and Pedestrians</b> Require all developments with a frontage greater than 300 feet to provide through-access for bicyclists and pedestrians to adjacent developments, paths, or bicycle facilities.
<b>MOB-2.7</b> <b>EJ HC</b>	<b>Safe Routes to Schools</b> Coordinate with all schools that serve Los Gatos to enhance safe bicycling and pedestrian facilities used to access the schools.
<b>MOB-2.8</b>	<b>Employer Support for Bicycle Commuters</b> Require employers greater than 100 employees of new or remodeled places of business, to provide covered and secure bicycle parking and locker facilities for their bicycle commuters.
<b>MOB-2.9</b> <b>SUS</b>	<b>Bicycling Amenities for Public Use</b> Encourage and facilitate the provision of bicycling amenities, such as parking facilities and lockers, at schools, parks, shopping areas, and parking in all parking lots Town-wide.
<b>MOB-2.10</b>	<b>Bicycle Valet at Large Events</b> Require all large community and commercial events to include a bicycle valet program as a permit condition of approval.
<b>MOB-2.11</b>	<b>Safe Pedestrian Access along Unimproved Roadways</b> Require adequate width of roadway clearance between edge of travel and/or edge of pavement, wider sidewalks, and mid-block crossings for pedestrian mobility and safety.

## 5. Mobility Element

### MOB-2.12 **Downtown Pedestrian Environment**

Support pedestrian upgrades to sidewalks and connections between developments to create a more walkable Downtown.

### MOB-3

Provide a well-designed and well-maintained system of trails that connect the Town and open space areas.

### MOB-3.1 **Private Sector Involvement**

Maximize the involvement of the private sector in the maintenance and construction of trails by encouraging voluntary groups to assist in trail maintenance in coordination with the Parks and Public Works Department.

### MOB-3.2 **Safe, Continuous, and Interconnected Trails**

SUS

Trails shall be safe, continuous, and interconnected with other trails and parking areas, designed for bicyclists and/or pedestrians and be consistent with other relevant plans, including the Los Gatos Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

### MOB-3.3 **Aesthetically Pleasing Trails**

Design trails that are aesthetically pleasing, incorporating native landscaping, buffering, scenic overlooks, and historic elements where possible to provide a variety of experiences.

### MOB-3.4 **Homeowners Associations**

Encourage existing homeowners' associations (HOA) to maintain trails that pass through their subdivisions. Require new HOAs for new subdivisions or planned developments to maintain trails that pass through their areas.

### MOB-3.5 **Multi-Use Trails Specifications**

SUS

The location of multi-use trails should:

- Traverse the open space areas of subdivisions that have dedicated open space as a condition of subdivision approval;
- Traverse open areas, as opposed to trails bordering roads, wherever possible; and
- Be built on the first property to develop if a trail location is adaptable to either of two adjacent properties.

### MOB-3.6 **Multi-Use Trail Easements**

Multi-use trail easements shall be wide enough to contain the trail and provide sufficient area on both sides to buffer surrounding properties from trail users.

### MOB-3.7 **Dedication of Easements for Trails**

SUS

Require, wherever feasible, the dedication of easements and construction of multi-use trails, as a condition of approval for all development applications, including any development which includes a section of trail shown on the latest Santa Clara County Countywide Trails Master Plan.

### MOB-3.8 **Santa Clara County Countywide Trails Master Plan**

SUS

Support the latest Santa Clara County Countywide Trails Master Plan by implementing the proposed trail routes within the Town in order to provide critical connections to the region.



## 5.3 Multimodal System/Complete Streets

A true multimodal system emphasizes alternative modes of travel beyond driving. A holistic approach provides a complete streets model where streets are designed to enable convenient, safe access for everyone and accommodating a broad range of transportation modes. This includes pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities. Complete streets should be part of a comprehensive, integrated, and connected transportation network.

The California Complete Streets Act of 2008 (Assembly Bill 1358), as well as recent changes in CEQA and congestion management law, highlight a need for mobility elements to have a broader focus that emphasizes other travel modes beyond driving. It requires jurisdictions to provide local streets with facilities that meet the needs of all transportation system users (i.e., pedestrians, bicyclists, persons with disabilities, motorists, movers of commercial goods, users and operators of public transportation, seniors, youth, and families) when updating their general plans.

The following goals, policies are intended to improve multimodal transportation and incorporate complete streets in Los Gatos.

<b>MOB-4</b>	Encourage the development of a comprehensive and integrated transportation network with infrastructure and design features that allow safe and convenient travel for all users.
<b>MOB-4.1</b> <span>SUS</span>	<b>Complete Streets</b> Apply complete streets principles in transportation projects within the Town as defined in the Town's Complete Streets Policy.
<b>MOB-4.2</b>	<b>Reduce Vehicle Speeds</b> Reduce vehicle speeds using engineering and design techniques, community education, and evaluation and planning strategies rather than relying solely on enforcement.
<b>MOB-4.3</b>	<b>Wide Sidewalks for Shared Use</b> Require wide sidewalks between eight and ten feet in width in commercial and mixed-use areas to allow shared use by pedestrians and non-motorized modes of transportation as directed by the Town Engineer.
<b>MOB-4.4</b>	<b>Limit Widening of All Roadways</b> Limit widening of all roadways for additional vehicular capacity and prioritize improvements within the right-of-way for bicycle and pedestrian facilities to increase roadway capacity without impeding emergency access requirements.
<b>MOB-4.5</b> <span>EJ</span>	<b>Consider Special Populations</b> Plan for the needs of people with disabilities, seniors, and children when designing trail facilities and bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
<b>MOB-5</b>	Support a non-driving Los Gatos by reducing reliance on the automobile and promoting alternative modes of transportation. <span>SUS</span>
<b>MOB-5.1</b> <span>SUS</span>	<b>Prioritize Non-Driving Transportation Modes</b> Prioritize the use of non-driving transportation modes such as walking, bicycling, transit, a shuttle system, and other forms of personal mobility that are energy conserving and non-polluting.

## 5. Mobility Element

### MOB-5.2 Development of Transportation Facilities by Private Entities

SUS

Encourage private entities to develop and maintain publicly accessible transportation facilities, including transit, pedestrian, and bicycle facilities.

### MOB-5.3 Non-Vehicular Transportation Requirement

SUS

New developments that would result in significant increases in air pollution, VMT, or noise shall be required to incorporate non-vehicular facilities or programs that would reduce the project's overall impacts on these resources.

## 5.4 Transit Services and Facilities

### Local Bus Transit

The VTA's New Transit Service Plan was officially rolled out at the end of 2019 and includes several transit route improvement changes in the Town of Los Gatos. Improvements include an extension of Route 27 to Winchester Transit Center via Los Gatos Boulevard through Downtown. Existing Routes 48 and 49 were replaced with Route 27, which has increased frequency on weekdays and Saturdays. Route 61 merged with Route 62 and increased the frequency of buses on weekends and extended evening operating hours. Also, the last stop of VTA's Mountain View - Winchester light rail line, Winchester Station, is approximately one and a half miles from the Town of Los Gatos and is accessible via Route 27.

The existing transit network in the Town of Los Gatos is illustrated on Figure 5-2.

### Vasona Light Rail Extension

VTA's Vasona Light Rail Extension Project was initially envisioned to extend 6.9 miles from Downtown San Jose to Los Gatos, with nine stations and four Park and Ride lots. The project was split into two phases during the planning process. The first phase, a 5.3-mile portion that opened in 2005, extended light rail service from Downtown San José to the Winchester Station in the City of Campbell. Phase II of the project would extend the tracks south along Winchester Boulevard to Vasona Junction in the Town of Los Gatos. This second phase is described as the Future Vasona Light Rail Extension. The Future Vasona Light Rail Extension is uncertain, with the current plans for the extension on hold indefinitely until there is adequate VTA funding for the project.

The following goals and policies address public transportation and facilities in Town.

### MOB-6

Increase public transit opportunities for all types of trips.

#### MOB-6.1 Support Vasona Light Rail Extension

SUS

Support VTA's Vasona Light Rail Extension project to the Town if/when allocated funds are available.

#### MOB-6.2 Land Uses at Transit Stops

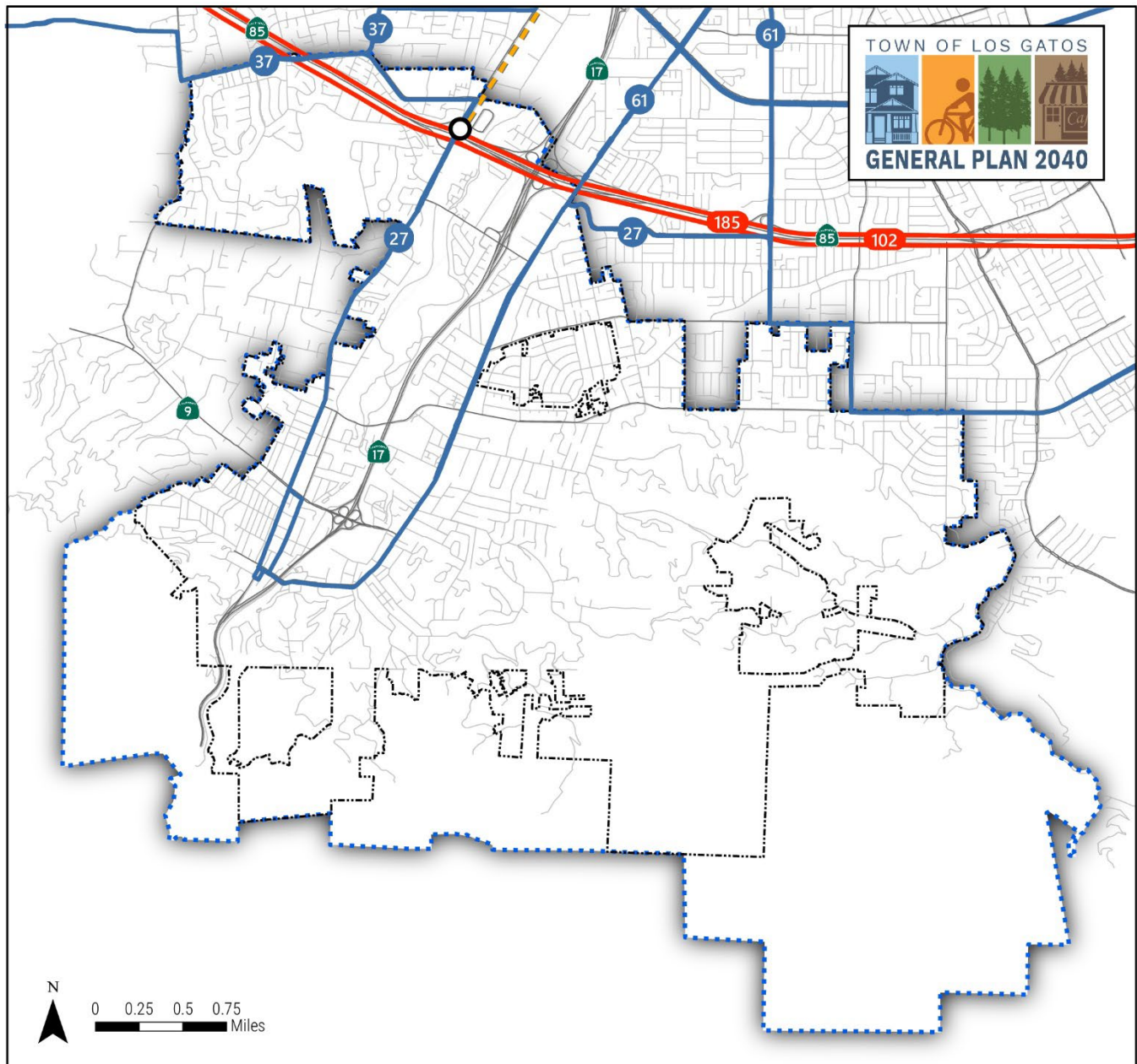
At transit stops, work with VTA and other agencies to prioritize land uses and patterns that generate high transit ridership and encourage affordable housing (i.e., senior housing, multi-family housing, and mixed-use with housing) in appropriate locations.

#### MOB-6.3 Inter-agency Coordination

SUS

Coordinate with appropriate agencies to plan and develop adequate public transit services for everyone in the Town (i.e., bus, Santa Cruz express bus, rail, shuttle, light rail, streetcar, and on-demand transit).

Figure 5-2 Transit Services



Source: Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) 2019 New Transit Service Plan.

## 5. Mobility Element

### MOB-6.4

SUS

#### Improve Transit Service

Work with the VTA and commercial carriers to improve transit service for Los Gatos and increase ridership.

### MOB-6.5

SUS

#### Public and Private Shuttles

Work with transit agencies and major employers in the region to determine the feasibility of financing additional shuttles to improve connections to key destinations in the Town and throughout the region. Include pro rata funding contributions to Town managed shuttle services in all TDM plans.

### MOB-6.6

SUS EJ

#### Transit for Special Populations

Coordinate with appropriate agencies to provide and expand transit services for seniors, school children, low-income people, and people with disabilities.

### MOB-6.7

SUS

#### Encourage Use of Transit

Encourage public transit use by requiring all new developments to provide bus shelters and on-going maintenance as part of their developments, when appropriate.

### MOB-6.8

SUS

#### Support Regional Efforts

Support State and County efforts to reduce vehicle use and encourage the use of public transit.

### MOB-6.9

SUS

#### Santa Clara VTA Services

Work with VTA to facilitate transit services in Los Gatos through the provision of bus stop amenities, such as basic route and schedule information, bus shelters, seating, and lighting.

### MOB-6.10

SUS

#### Shared Parking

Private or public parking developed near transit stops shall be designed to provide reciprocal access to adjacent parking areas to enhance parking availability at all times.

## 5.5 Transportation Systems

This section describes the overall transportation system serving the Town of Los Gatos and how to design a transportation system that accommodates users of all ages and abilities, without exceeding the system's capacity. The following goals and policies address the design, implementation, and management of transportation systems.

### MOB-7

Optimize the Town's transportation system to provide safe and efficient movement to meet the needs of all users.

### MOB-7.1

#### Consistency between Land Use and Transportation Planning

The Town shall ensure that land use and transportation planning are cohesive, consistent, mutually supportive, and strive to reduce VMT. This includes:

- Promoting land use patterns that encourage people to walk, bicycle, or use public transit routinely for a significant number of their daily trips;
- Promoting TDM options;
- Using the Town's provision of public services to direct development to the most appropriate locations; and
- Promoting land uses that are supportive of non-driving modes, including infill of vacant land and redevelopment sites, and mixed uses

### MOB-7.2 Fiscal Implications

Consider the full fiscal impacts including ongoing maintenance relative to the construction and operation of transportation systems.

### MOB-7.3 Balance Needs of All Roadway Users

Make effective use of the traffic-carrying ability of Los Gatos's arterials and collectors while providing multimodal support for users of all ages and abilities.

### MOB-7.4 Regional Transportation Needs

Participate in regional efforts to meet regional transportation needs to provide Los Gatos community members greater connectivity to surrounding communities in Santa Clara County and the Bay Area as a whole.

## 5.6 Roadways

This section describes and plans for the regional highway system and local street circulation system serving the Los Gatos Planning Area. These circulation systems are broadly described in this section and illustrated on Figure 5-3.

The three major highways that run through Los Gatos are State Route (SR) 9, also known as Los Gatos-Saratoga Road, SR 17, and SR 85. SR 9 is a major surface street while SR 17 and SR 85 are freeways. There are four freeway interchanges within the Town, one on Highway 85 at Winchester Avenue, one in the northern end of Los Gatos at Lark Avenue and two towards the southern end at SR 9 and South Santa Cruz Avenue.

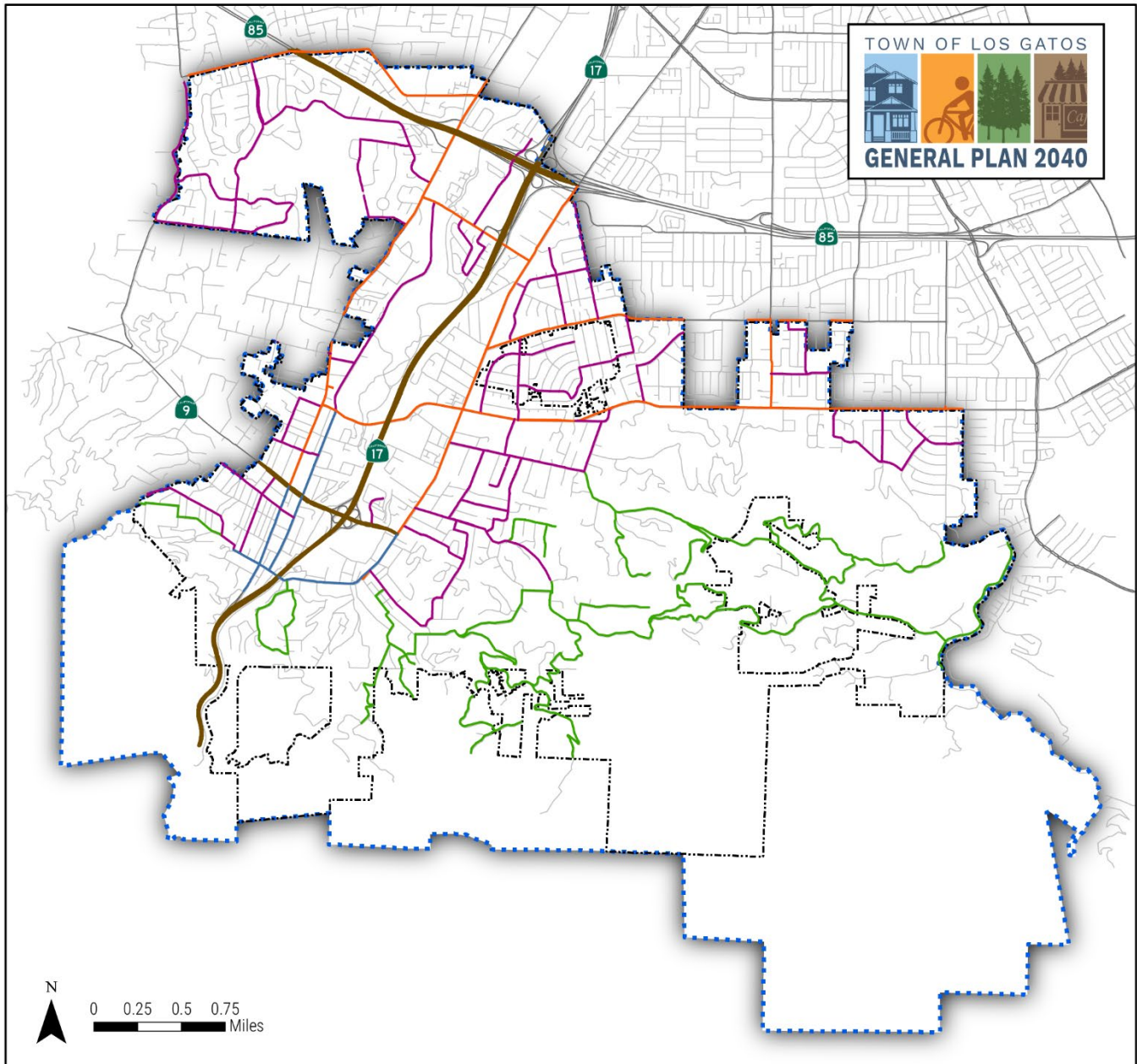
The local street system is organized into a hierarchy of six roadway types (functional classifications) according to the existing Los Gatos Street Design Standards and the 2020 Los Gatos General Plan. The Los Gatos Street Design Standards classify all streets within the Town according to their functional classification.

- **Arterial streets** typically accommodate two or more lanes of traffic in each direction, providing access to the regional highway system, collector roads, and local streets. Examples of arterial streets include Los Gatos Boulevard and Winchester Boulevard.
- **Collector streets** provide circulation within and between neighborhoods. Collector streets usually serve short trips from local and neighborhood collector streets and distribute traffic to the arterial network. Examples of collector streets are Main Street and University Avenue.
- **Neighborhood collector streets** predominantly carry traffic generated within a neighborhood and distributes traffic to collector and arterial streets. Examples of neighborhood collector streets include Alberto Way, Tait Avenue, and Wedgewood Avenue.
- **Hillside collector streets** serve properties located in hillside areas, carrying traffic to either arterial streets, collectors, or neighborhood collectors. An example of a hillside collector street is Kennedy Road.
- **Local streets** support local and neighborhood traffic movement. Local streets typically carry traffic from individual properties to collector and arterial streets and are not designed to accommodate through traffic. Most local streets are in residential neighborhoods. Examples of local streets are Pine Avenue, Jackson Street, and Bayview Avenue.
- **Special design streets** are used when warranted by unique land use, circulation, or environmental conditions. These streets can either be arterial streets, collectors, existing local hillside streets, or scenic residential streets. An example of a special design street is North Santa Cruz Avenue.

For a list of streets and the associated roadway classifications see Table 5-1.



**Figure 5-3 Roadway Classifications**



**Functional Class**

- Freeway
- Arterial
- Collector
- Neighborhood Collector
- Hillside Collector
- Local

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


**Table 5-1 Streets by Roadway Classification**

<b>Roadway Classifications</b>	
<b>Arterial Streets</b>	
Blossom Hill Road	(Winchester Boulevard to Harwood Road)
Knowles Drive	(Pollard Road to Winchester Boulevard)
Lark Avenue	(Winchester Boulevard to Los Gatos Boulevard)
Leigh Avenue	(Los Gatos-Almaden Road to Blossom Hill Road)
Los Gatos-Almaden Road	(Los Gatos Boulevard to Leigh Avenue)
Los Gatos Boulevard	(Route 85 to Los Gatos-Saratoga Road)
Los Gatos-Saratoga Road	(Los Gatos Boulevard to Town Limits)
Pollard Road	(San Tomas Aquino Creek to Knowles Drive)
Santa Cruz Avenue	(Blossom Hill Road to Los Gatos-Saratoga Road)
Union Avenue	(Los Gatos-Almaden Road to Blossom Hill Road)
Winchester Boulevard	(Division Street to Blossom Hill Road)
<b>Collector Streets</b>	
Los Gatos Boulevard	(Los Gatos-Saratoga Road to E. Main Street)
Main Street	(Bayview Avenue to Los Gatos Boulevard)
Santa Cruz Avenue	(Los Gatos-Saratoga Road to Highway 17)
University Avenue	(Main Street to Blossom Hill Road)
<b>Neighborhood Collector Streets</b>	
Alberto Way	(Los Gatos-Saratoga Road to end)
Almond Blossom Lane	(Harwood Road to Town Limits)
Andrews Street	(University Avenue to Rose Avenue)
Anne Way	(Union Avenue to Leigh Avenue)
Arroyo Grande Way	(Lark Avenue to Garden Hill Lane)
Bachman Avenue	(University Avenue to Alexander Avenue)
Bacigalupi Drive	(Belwood Gateway to Westhill Drive)
Bayview Avenue	(West Main Street to Pennsylvania Avenue)
Belgatos Road	(Blossom Hill Road to Westhill Drive)
Belwood Gateway	(Blossom Hill Road to Harwood Road)
Bicknell Road	(Quito to Montclair Road)
Blossom Dale Drive	(Blossom Hill Road to Blossom Valley Drive)
Blossom Valley Drive	(Blossom Dale Drive to Taft Drive)
Camellia Terrace	(Blossom Hill Road to Longwood Drive)
Camino del Cerro	(Los Gatos-Almaden Road to Escobar Avenue)
Camino del Cerro	(Blossom Hill Road to Westchester Drive)
Capri Drive	(Knowles Drive to West Parr Avenue)
Cardinal Lane	(Stonybrook Road to Hilow Road)
Carlton Avenue	(Los Gatos-Almaden Road to Town Limits east of National Avenue)
Cherry Blossom Lane	(Shannon Road to Los Gatos-Almaden Road)
Clearview Drive	(La Rinconada Drive to Wimbledon Drive)
Daves Avenue	(Winchester Blvd. to the west)
Englewood Avenue	(Kennedy Road to Shannon Road)
Escobar Avenue	(Longwood Drive to Camino del Cerro)
Garden Hill Lane	(Lark Avenue to Arroyo Grande Way)
Gateway Drive	(Los Gatos Boulevard to Carlton Avenue)
Glen Ridge Avenue	(Pennsylvania Avenue to Hernandez Avenue)
Harding Avenue	(Los Gatos Boulevard to Vista del Monte)
Harwood Road	(Blossom Hill Road to southern intersection of Alerche Drive)
Hernandez Avenue	(Glen Ridge Avenue to Town Limits)
Herschner Drive	(Howes Drive to Kentfield Drive)
Hilow Road	(Shannon Road to Cardinal Lane)
Howes Drive	(Los Gatos-Almaden Road to Herschner Drive)

Roadway Classifications
Neighborhood Collector Streets Continued
Kennedy Road (Los Gatos Blvd. to South Kennedy Road)
Kensington Way (Anne Way to Herschner Drive)
Kentfield Drive (Los Gatos-Almaden Road to Herschner Drive)
Knowles Drive (Winchester Boulevard to Dell Avenue)
La Rinconada Drive (Winchester Boulevard to Clearview Drive)
Lester Lane (Los Gatos-Almaden Road to Camino del Sol)
Lilac Lane (Oleander Avenue to Longwood Drive)
Loma Alta Avenue (Los Gatos Boulevard to Cypress Way)
Marchmont Drive (Englewood Avenue to Hilow Road)
Mariposa Avenue (Santa Cruz Avenue to San Benito Avenue)
Montclair Road (Quito Road to Bicknell Road)
More Avenue (Pollard Road to Bicknell Road)
National Avenue (Samaritan Drive to Los Gatos-Almaden Road)
Nino Avenue (Los Gatos Boulevard to Nino Way)
Oka Lane (Lark Avenue to W. Mozart Avenue)
Old Blossom Hill Road (Blossom Hill Road to Blossom Hill Road)
Oleander Avenue (Cherry Blossom Lane to Lilac Lane)
Pennsylvania Avenue (Bayview Avenue to Glen Ridge Avenue)
Quito Road (Bicknell Road to Pollard Road)
Ridgecrest Avenue (Hernandez Avenue to Highway 9 (Monte Sereno))
Roxbury Lane (More Avenue to Wedgewood Avenue)
San Benito Avenue (Mariposa Avenue to Andrews Street)
Shannon Road (Los Gatos Boulevard to Short Road)
Short Road (Shannon Road to Old Blossom Hill Road)
Spreckles Avenue (Loma Alta Avenue to Vista del Mar)
Stonybrook Road (Kennedy Road to Cardinal Lane)
Taft Drive (Blossom Valley Drive to Los Gatos-Almaden Road)
Tait Avenue (West Main Street to Los Gatos-Saratoga Road)
University Avenue (Blossom Hill Road to Lark Avenue)
Neighborhood Collector Streets Continued
Vista del Mar (Spreckles Avenue to Vista del Monte)
Vista del Monte (Kennedy Road to Vista del Mar)
Wedgewood Avenue (Roxbury Lane to Wimbledon Drive)
Westchester Drive (Camino del Cerro to Taft Drive)
Westhill Drive (Blossom Hill Road to Bacigalupi Drive)
West Parr Avenue (Pollard Road to Capri Drive)
Wimbledon Drive (Wedgewood Avenue to Winchester Boulevard)
Hillside Collector Streets
Alma Bridge Road (Highway 17 to Lime Kiln Road)
Arnerich Road (Hicks Road to Deer Park Road)
Aztec Ridge (westerly terminus to Blackberry Hill Road)
Blackberry Hill Road (Mireval Road to end)
College Avenue (Main Street to Prospect Avenue)
Cross Way (Loma Alta Avenue to Johnson Avenue)
Cypress Way (Spring Street to Mireval Way)
Deer Park Road (Shannon Road to Arnerich Road)
Forrester Road (Kennedy Road to Top of the Hill Road)
Foster Road (Johnson Avenue to end)
Hicks Road (Camden Avenue to Arnerich Road)
Johnson Avenue (Cross Way to Foster Road)
Kennedy Road (South Kennedy Road to Shannon Road)
Long Meadow Drive (Kennedy Road to Twin Oaks Drive)

Roadway Classifications
Hillside Collector Streets Continued
Maya Way (Mireval Way to Aztec Ridge)
Mireval Way (Cypress Way to Ravinia Way)
Overlook Road (Wissahickon Avenue to end)
Paseo Carmelo (Mireval Way to Ravinia Way)
Pennsylvania Avenue (Glen Ridge Avenue to Wissahickon Avenue)
Phillips Avenue (Cypress Way to South Kennedy Road)
Prospect Avenue (Reservoir Road to College Avenue)
Ravinia Way (Terresita Way to Mireval Way)
Reservoir Road (Villa Avenue to Prospect Avenue)
Santa Rosa Drive (Shannon Road to end)
Shannon Road (Short Road to Hicks Road)
Sierra Azule Drive (Santa Rosa Drive to Sky Lane)
Sky Lane (Shannon Road to Sierra Azule Drive)
South Kennedy Road (Kennedy Road to Kennedy Road)
Spring Street (Cypress Way to Tourney Loop)
Sund Drive (Foster Road to end)
Suvview Drive (Shannon Road to end)
Terresita Way (Kennedy Road to Ravinia Way)
Top of the Hill Road (Kennedy Road to Kennedy Road)
Tourney Loop (Spring Street to Tourney Road)
Twin Oaks Drive (Long Meadow Drive to unnamed)
Villa Avenue (College Avenue to Reservoir Road)
Wissahickon Avenue (Pennsylvania Avenue to Overlook Road)
Wooded View Drive (Shannon Road to end)

The following goals and policies address the street and roadway network in Town.

<b>MOB-8</b>	Provide a safe, efficient, and well-designed roadway network transportation system.
<b>MOB-8.1</b> <b>SUS</b>	<b>Safety in Roadway Design and Management</b> Support the safety of all roadway users of all ages and abilities in the design and management of roadways.
<b>MOB-8.2</b>	<b>Ownership of Public Right-of-Way</b> The Town shall obtain fee title to all land required to be dedicated for public streets and associated right-of-way.
<b>MOB-8.3</b>	<b>Driveways and Curb Cuts</b> New development shall minimize the number of access points (driveway openings or other curb cuts) along Arterial streets to minimize impacts on circulation flow and safety while providing for safe ingress and egress from a location.
<b>MOB-8.4</b>	<b>Avoid Extended Single Access Roadways</b> Discourage single access roads that impede safe and continuous access for all roadway users.
	See policies under Goal MOB-12 for access in hillside areas.

## 5. Mobility Element

### MOB-8.5 **Street Improvements**

Street improvements such as curb cuts, sidewalks, bus stop turnouts, bus shelters, light poles, traffic signals, benches, and trash containers shall be designed to provide safe movement of all users and minimize disruption to the streetscape.

### MOB-8.6 **Roundabouts**

**SUS**

Encourage using roundabouts as an alternative to signalized or traditionally controlled intersections.

## MOB-9

Mitigate the impact of cut-through traffic, with the objective of making it easy for residents to move throughout Town while ensuring Los Gatos remains a welcoming place for visitors.

### MOB-9.1 **Vehicle Traffic-Calming Devices**

Consider traffic-calming devices (i.e., lane narrowing, widening medians, or landscaping) to discourage cut-through vehicle traffic, where appropriate.

### MOB-9.2 **Alternatives to Minimize Cut-Through Vehicle Traffic**

Limit cut-through vehicle traffic to the extent feasible, while minimizing the impacts these limits have on the freedom of movement of residents and minimizing diversion of vehicle traffic to other neighborhood streets. Consider the use of alternative street surfacing materials, traffic diverters, special designs, and stop signs to prevent cut-through traffic on residential streets.

### MOB-9.3 **Neighborhood Traffic-Calming Policy**

Assist citizens in solving traffic concerns in residential neighborhoods in accordance with the latest Neighborhood Traffic-Calming Policy.

### MOB-9.4 **Avoid Commercial Vehicle Traffic in Neighborhoods**

Require that all new development demonstrates, and is conditioned, so that commercial traffic (excluding delivery services) through residential neighborhoods does not occur. Review neighborhood traffic impacts of all development projects and require developer participation in the cost of installation of traffic-calming measures as a condition of approval, if applicable.

### MOB-9.5 **Regional Traffic on Regional Roadways**

Support efforts to keep regional traffic on regional roadways, such as SR 85 and SR 17, prioritizing opportunities for increased transit and greater roadway efficiency, over expanding roadway capacity.

## MOB-10

Prevent and mitigate transportation impacts from new development.

### MOB-10.1 **Project Traffic**

All development proposals shall be reviewed to identify and address project traffic pursuant to the Town's Traffic Impact Policy and shall include roadway improvements and dedications.

### MOB-10.2 **Level of Service**

If a project will cause the current LOS for any project-affected intersection to drop by more than one level for an intersection currently at LOS A, B, or C, or to drop at all if the intersection is at LOS D or below, the project shall construct improvements and/or put TDM measures in place, as directed by the Town Engineer, so that the operation will remain at an acceptable level. These measures shall be implemented and maintained as a condition of approval of the project.



### **MOB-10.3 Upgrade Public Improvements**

New development shall be required to upgrade public improvements on project frontages to meet current Town standards.

### **MOB-10.4 Traffic Signal Installation and Signal Modification Costs**

Developers shall contribute a pro-rata share to the cost of the future installation of traffic signals or future traffic signal modifications with a nexus to the project as a condition of approval.

## **MOB-11**

Ensure that future changes to SR 17 do not negatively impact the quality of life or character of Los Gatos.

### **MOB-11.1 SR 17 Efficiency**

Improvements to SR 17 should consider efficiency improvements prior to adding capacity through increased travel lanes.

### **MOB-11.2 SR 17 and Blossom Hill Road**

There should not be an interchange at Blossom Hill Road.

### **MOB-11.3 SR 17 Connection to Santa Cruz**

SR 17 between Los Gatos and Santa Cruz should not be widened or be converted to a freeway.

### **MOB-11.4 Review of SR 17 Modifications**

The Town Council shall review all new or modified connections with SR 17 within the Town and provide input to the planning process, as appropriate.

### **MOB-11.5 Regionally Reduce SR 17 Congestion**

Work with other local jurisdictions and the State to develop effective ways to reduce regionally generated SR 17 congestion and VMT, including cross-town traffic that does not involve adding freeway interchanges.

## **MOB-12**

Ensure that hillside streets maintain safe access.

### **MOB-12.1 Hillside Emergency Vehicle Access**

Establish and maintain a hillside road pattern that provides adequate access for residents and emergency vehicles in both normal and emergency situations without introducing new through access roads that would invite unwanted traffic into the area, induce further development, or threaten plant or animal habitats or migration patterns.

### **MOB-12.2 Secondary Emergency Access**

New discretionary housing approvals in locations that are identified as Very High Fire Hazard Areas on the Town's Wildland Fire Severity Zone Map shall provide secondary emergency access as required by the Santa Clara County Fire Department. Secondary access shall be provided first by loop roads, then by through-roads, and lastly by long cul-de-sacs with an emergency access connection to a public road. If secondary access is not possible or acceptable, the intensity of land use should be evaluated based on limited access.

### **MOB-12.3 Special Designs for Hillside Area Streets**

Specially designed streets that conform to the Town's public hillside road standards shall be used in hillside areas to preserve scenic and ecological resources (i.e., heritage trees, native plant and wildlife habitat, prominent geologic formations, and the natural terrain).

## 5. Mobility Element

### MOB-12.4 Private Roadway Standards

Require all new or extended private roadways to meet the Town's public roadway construction standards, as directed by the Town Engineer.

### MOB-12.5 Streetlights on Hillside Streets

New public streetlighting on hillside streets shall be prohibited except where lighting is required to address public safety.

## 5.7 Parking

Los Gatos has a variety of parking options throughout the Town, including on-street parking and off-street parking lots. On-street parking is managed by the Town and can come with restrictions on use. This includes some areas with time restrictions and some specifically designated residential neighborhoods where a parking permit is required. The Town also manages several off-street public parking lots, which are controlled relative to time allowed for parking. The Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department is responsible for the Parking Management Program for public facilities and streets in Los Gatos.

The following goals and policies address parking availability, management, and siting.

### MOB-13

Provide adequate parking availability and minimize impacts on surrounding residential neighborhoods.

#### MOB-13.1 Parking for New Development

Require new development to provide an adequate number of parking spaces and encourage shared parking whenever possible. Parking shall be adequate to avoid adversely affecting adjacent residential properties.

#### MOB-13.2 Efficient Parking Facility Design

Encourage efficient parking facility design that allows for creative reuse if parking demand decreases in the future.

#### MOB-13.3 Parking Availability for Schools

Coordinate with all schools that serve Los Gatos to create and address areas that can serve as available parking areas during peak drop off and pick-up hours.

#### MOB-13.4 Pedestrian Safety in Parking Lots

Provide for safe pedestrian travel in parking lots without unnecessarily eliminating parking spaces.

#### MOB-13.5 Wayfinding

Strive to implement an enhanced wayfinding program consistent with the Town's Comprehensive Parking Study to minimize the time motorists spend searching for parking and destinations throughout Town.

#### MOB-13.6 Parking Revenue to Support Non-Driving Modes

Seek methods to use parking revenues to pay for maintenance, enforcement, capital replacement and to support travel by transit, shuttle, bicycle, walking, and other modes.

#### MOB-13.7 Accommodate Traffic and Parking Demand Increases

Review development proposals to confirm that the transportation system and on-site parking can accommodate any increase in traffic or parking demand generated by the proposed development, subject to the considerations and findings required by the Town's Traffic Impact Policy.

**MOB-14**

Provide adequate and well managed parking availability in Downtown for employees, visitors, and shoppers.

**MOB-14.1 Stand-Alone Parking Facilities**

Stand-alone parking facilities in the Downtown shall be designed to minimize impacts on adjacent properties.

**MOB-14.2 Parking Management Downtown**

Implement parking management or Transportation Demand Management (TDM) in the Downtown to address long-term (employee) and short-term (customer) parking demands and maximize the efficient use of parking.

**MOB-14.3 Curbside Management**

**SUS**

Support a curbside management plan for the Downtown to accommodate passenger loading areas and commercial loading zones to minimize double parking.

## 5.8 Goods Movement

The Town of Los Gatos relies on efficient and reliable truck routes to accommodate and facilitate goods movement essential for supporting economic growth and quality of life. On-going changes in on-demand goods delivery services and increases in e-commerce are changing the way members of the community purchase and receive goods, which changes the nature of mobility for people and freight. Since these types of deliveries are expected to increase over the coming years, it is important to address the needs of goods movement and the unique needs of trucks and delivery vehicles in order to limit the impacts associated with e-commerce.

The designated truck routes through the Town of Los Gatos are illustrated on Figure 5-4.

The following goals and policies address the movement of goods, specifically truck traffic.

**MOB-15**

Provide for the safe and efficient movement of goods to support commerce, industry, and the community.

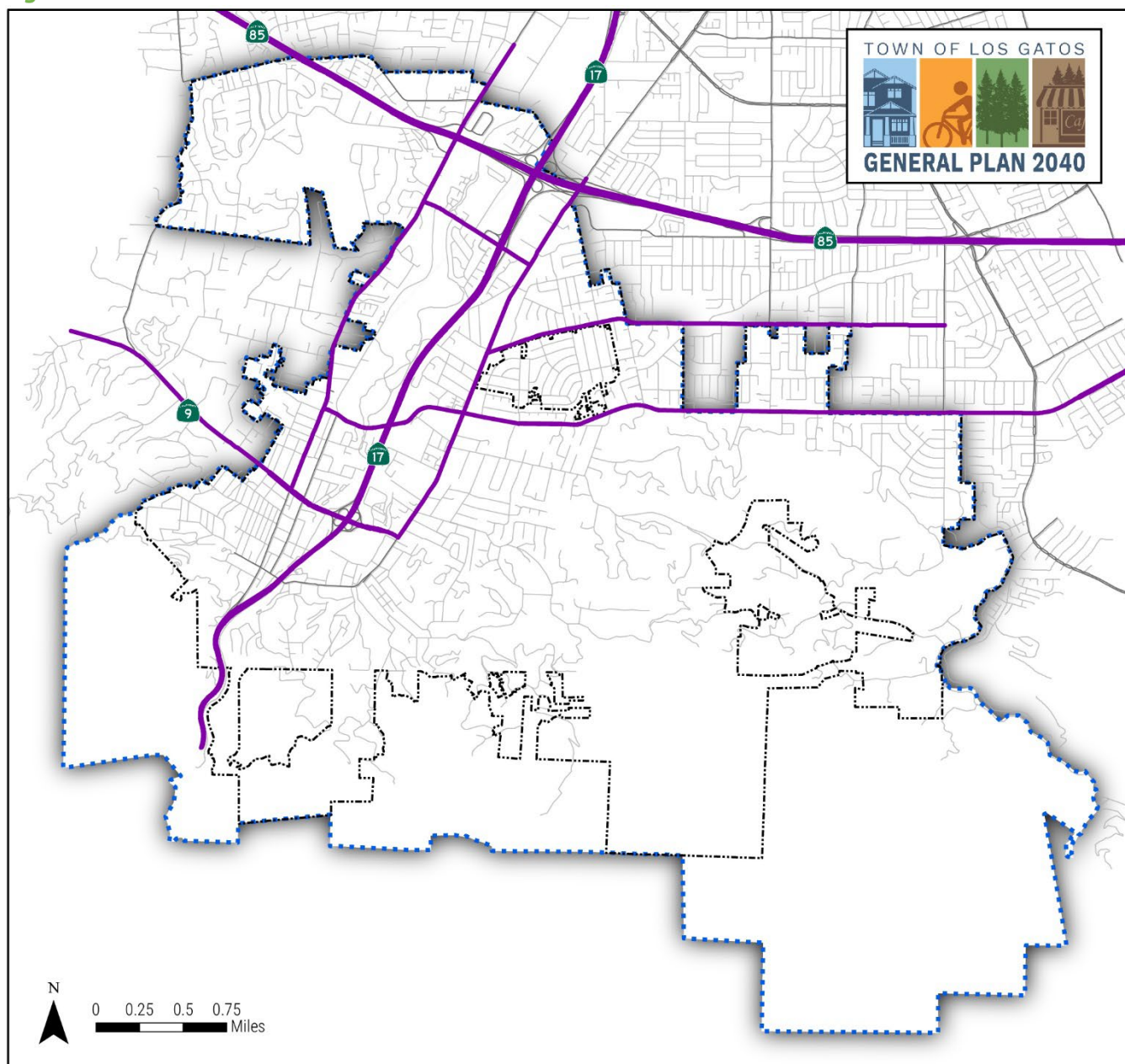
**MOB-15.1 Minimize Truck Conflicts**

Minimize potential conflicts between trucks, truck loading and unloading areas, and pedestrian, bicycle, and transit travel on streets designated as truck routes (See Figure 5-4).

**MOB-15.2 Minimize Environmental Impacts**

Maximize the efficiency of goods movement while working to minimize related environmental impacts.

**Figure 5-4 Truck Routes**



— Truck Routes

— Town of Los Gatos  
 ... Planning Area/  
 Sphere of Influence

## 5.9 Implementation Programs

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)				
<b>A Annual Progress Report</b> Provide a periodic progress report to measure whether the VMT implementation measures are successful at reducing the overall VMT.	MOB-1 MOB-1.1	Parks and Public Works	■			
<b>B Transportation Analysis Guidelines</b> Develop and adopt transportation analysis (TA) guidelines that define the VMT analysis methods, significant impact thresholds, TDM programs, and mitigation programs consistent with the requirements of Senate Bill 743.	MOB-1 MOB-1.1 MOB-1.3 MOB-5 MOB-5.3 MOB-8.1	Parks and Public Works	■			
<b>C Nexus Study to Implement the Transportation Impact Fee Program</b> Perform a nexus study and implement the Town's multimodal transportation impact fee (TIF) program to mitigate negative transportation impacts of new developments and redevelopments where appropriate.	MOB-1.3	Parks and Public Works				■
<b>D Community Shuttle System</b> Evaluate a community shuttle system to serve transit needs within the Town limits that is linked to and coordinated with other transit services. <b>SUS</b>	MOB-1.3 MOB-5.1 MOB-6.5	Parks and Public Works  Town Manager	■			
<b>E Educational Programs on Safe Bicycling</b> Continue to coordinate with local organizations to provide educational programs on safe bicycling practices for cyclists of all ages and experience levels.	MOB-2.2 MOB-2.7	Parks and Public Works				■
<b>F Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Update</b> Update the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan periodically to reflect the Town's priorities. <b>SUS</b> <b>HC</b>	MOB-2.2 MOB-2.4 MOB-2.7 MOB-2.9	Parks and Public Works				■
<b>G Sidewalk Maintenance Plan</b> Maintain sidewalks, ensuring hazard free sidewalk surfaces and the provision of adequate vertical and lateral clearance.	MOB-2.4 MOB-2.11 MOB-2.12	Parks and Public Works				■



## 5. Mobility Element

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)				
<b>H Enhance Sidewalks</b> Develop standards to enhance sidewalks that include but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure existing sidewalks maintain ADA compliance;</li> <li>Remove or relocate objects such as poles, plants, etc. obstructing sidewalks;</li> <li>Install wide sidewalks and/or detached sidewalks with a buffer separation from vehicular traffic;</li> <li>Modify roadway configuration and or reacquire right-of-way dedication from new developments as needed for the improvements, while minimizing impacts to existing homes if possible; and</li> <li>Establish standards and guidelines for enhancing existing sidewalks and installation of new sidewalks.</li> </ul>	MOB-2.4 MOB-2.6 MOB-2.11 MOB-2.12 MOB-4.3	Parks and Public Works		■		
<b>I Streetlighting Policy and Guidelines</b> Update the Town's street lighting policy and design guidelines balancing the needs for adequate illumination and reducing light pollution.	MOB-2.4	Parks and Public Works		■		
<b>J Obtain Easements</b> Develop and fund a program (including provisions for in-lieu fees) to obtain easements along portions of the designated trail system where development is considered unlikely or there is not a nexus to require dedication.	MOB-3 MOB-3.1 MOB-3.6 MOB-3.7	Parks and Public Works Community Development		■		
<b>K Public Trails on Private Property</b> Monitor conservation easements for public trails on private property to ensure that trails are maintained.	MOB-3.1	Parks and Public Works				■

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)				
<b>L Trail Design Standards</b> Develop and adopt detailed trail design standards that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit all new access to pedestrians and, where appropriate, equestrians and/or bicyclists;</li> <li>Provide multi-use opportunities;</li> <li>Protect the natural ecology;</li> <li>Conform to regional trail design standards;</li> <li>Determine trail width, establish policies regarding fencing along trails, and detail the type of fencing to be used;</li> <li>Incorporate erosion control measures; and</li> <li>Prohibit motorcycles, motorized off-road vehicles, and mopeds.</li> </ul>	MOB-3.1 MOB-3.2 MOB-3.3 MOB-3.5 MOB-3.6 MOB-3.7	Parks and Public Works				
<b>SUS</b>						
<b>M Transportation Master Plan</b> Develop and adopt a comprehensive transportation master plan that identifies a broad range of multimodal transportation projects and programs.	MOB-4	Parks and Public Works				
<b>SUS</b>						
<b>N Address Cut Through Traffic</b> Develop and implement appropriate vehicle control devices to reduce the impacts of cut-through traffic such as safety hazards, speeding, noise, and other disturbances in accordance with the adopted Neighborhood Traffic Calming Policy.	MOB-4.2 MOB-9 MOB-9.1 MOB-9.2 MOB-9.3	Parks and Public Works				
<b>O VTA System Enhancements</b> Coordinate with VTA to identify locations for and implementation of in-lane bus stopping at key locations with merge challenges and where queue jump treatments for busses at intersections would be possible and effective, and pursue funding for design and implementation of queue jump treatments from new development, either through individual project contributions or the Town's Transportation Impact Fee program.	MOB-6.4 MOB-6.9	Parks and Public Works				
<b>P Design Guidelines for Hillside</b> Develop and adopt design guidelines for hillside streets, including the making of appropriate findings, to ensure the preservation of plant and wildlife habitats and migration corridors.	MOB-12 MOB-12.3 MOB-12.4 MOB-12.5	Parks and Public Works				

## 5. Mobility Element

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)				
<b>Q</b> <b>Maintain Emergency Access Points</b> Develop and adopt design standards and implement a maintenance program for emergency access points.	MOB-12 MOB-12.1 MOB-12.2	Parks and Public Works  Town Manager	■			
<b>R</b> <b>Review Parking Requirements</b> Periodically review Town Code parking requirements, standards, and parking controls to ensure that they are adequate to meet demand.	MOB-13.1 MOB-13.2 MOB-13.3	Police Department  Community Development				■
<b>S</b> <b>Parking Facility Improvements</b> Develop a plan for implementing improvements on one or more of the parking facilities listed below to increase available parking: Bachman Avenue/Highway 9 Parking Lot; Royce Street/Bachman Avenue Parking Lot; Grays Lane/Royce Street Parking Lot; Station Way Parking Lot; or Farwell Parking Lot.	MOB-14.1 MOB-14.2 MOB-14.3	Parks and Public Works  Police Department	■			

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

Major land use and development decisions have important physical, economic, social, and environmental implications that must be considered by public officials during any planning process. This Element describes the Town's role and responsibilities pertaining to the provision of Town services and assessing needs for resources. Through an effective Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element the Town will be better able to assist individuals and families in achieving and maintaining high levels of social well-being, ensuring that facilities, services, and infrastructure are planned for future changes in population and demand. A comprehensive approach to establishing resilient and adequate facilities, services, and infrastructure will lead to a more positive and satisfied community.

The goals, policies, and implementation programs in this Element support the provision and maintenance of public facilities, services, and infrastructure in Los Gatos and provide for their timely expansion, if required, to maintain adequate services. The goals and policies indicate where those facilities and services will be most beneficial to meet the needs of the community, residents, and businesses through 2040. This Element also includes policies in coordination with the Hazards and Safety Element, for the provision of facilities and services to ensure the safety and welfare of residents, businesses, and visitors and the protection of property. The Element also includes goals and policies that relate to the Environment and Sustainability Element for water supply and delivery.

The Town should be involved in meeting human needs but may not be responsible for directly delivering all services. The Town recognizes the value of public and private agencies working together to effectively deliver services. The Town can be a leader in bringing agencies together and encouraging long-range planning. For services not directly provided by the Town, the Town may assume any of the following five roles to assist in developing more effective delivery of services in Los Gatos: resource coordinator; educator; advocate; facilitator; or evaluator.



The Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element is divided into the following sections:

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## Key Terms

**Aquifer.** A geological formation or structure that stores and/or transmits water, such as to wells and springs. Use of the term is usually restricted to those water-bearing formations capable of yielding water in sufficient quantity to constitute a usable supply for people's uses.

**Discharge.** A rate of water flow, typically expressed as a unit volume of water per unit of time [e.g., cubic feet per second (cfs)].

**Groundwater.** Water that is found underground in the cracks and spaces in soil, sand, and rock.

**Groundwater Basin.** An area of permeable materials capable of furnishing a significant supply of groundwater to wells or storing a significant amount of water. A groundwater basin is three-dimensional and includes both the surface extent and all of the subsurface fresh water yielding material.

**Groundwater Recharge.** The natural or intentional percolation of surface water into a groundwater basin or aquifer.

**Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).** LEED is a green building certification program. Developed by the non-profit US Green Building Council, it includes a set of rating systems for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of buildings. Buildings are rated based on their impact on site/location, water and energy efficiency, materials, and indoor environmental air quality. This is a voluntary program meant to objectively measure a building's sustainability.

**Non-point Source Pollution.** A pollution source that cannot be defined at a discrete location; a dispersed or spread-out source area.

**Reclaimed Water.** Wastewater which, as a result of treatment, is suitable for uses other than potable use.

**Recycled Water.** Water which, as a result of treatment of waste, is suitable for a direct beneficial use or a controlled use that would not otherwise occur and is therefore considered a valuable resource.

**Renewable Energy.** Energy that comes from natural resources that are naturally replenished, such as solar, wind, rain, tides, geothermal, and biomass sources.

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

**Riparian.** Of, on, or pertaining to the bank of a natural course of water. For example, riparian vegetation is composed of plant species normally found near streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and other freshwater bodies.

**Riparian Corridor.** A corridor of riparian vegetation adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams or other freshwater bodies.

**Runoff.** Precipitation (rain or snowmelt) that is not used by plants, evaporated, or infiltrated to soils, and is transported across land surfaces to streams or other surface water bodies.

**Stormwater.** Stormwater is precipitation that accumulates in natural and/or constructed storage and stormwater systems during and immediately following a storm event.

**Wastewater.** Wastewater is water (either treated or untreated) that has been affected by human use, including household, commercial, industrial, and agricultural activities. This water is conveyed through a wastewater system to a treatment plant, and may contain physical, chemical, and biological pollutants prior to treatment.

**Water Quality.** A term used to describe the chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of water, usually in respect to its suitability for a particular purpose.

**Watershed.** The land surface area from which water drains into a common downstream point.

**Wildland.** Land in an uncultivated natural state that is covered by trees, brush, weeds, or grass.

### 6.1 Water

The San Jose Water Company (SJWC) has been the Town's water service provider since 1870. The SJWC's service area encompasses approximately 139 square miles including: most of the City of San Jose and the City of Cupertino; the entire area within the cities of Campbell, Monte Sereno, and Saratoga; the Town of Los Gatos; and parts of unincorporated Santa Clara County.

#### Water Supply

SJWC provides water from five major sources, as shown in Table 6-1.

**Table 6-1 Water Supply in Acre Feet**

Water Source	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Imported Surface Water (Potable)	76,670	79,383	82,256	85,377	88,651
Groundwater (Potable)	54,160	56,078	58,106	60,307	62,621
Surface Water (Potable)	9,606	9,606	9,606	9,606	9,606
Local Mountain Surface Water (Raw)	172	178	184	190	196
Recycled Water	4,072	6,853	8,350	8,369	8,369
<b>Total</b>	<b>144,680</b>	<b>152,098</b>	<b>158,502</b>	<b>163,849</b>	<b>169,443</b>

Source: SJWC, Urban Water Management Plan, 2016, Los Gatos General Plan 2040 Background Report, 2019.

Numbers reflect water supply for the entire SJWC service area

#### Imported Surface Water

Imported surface water is purchased from Valley Water, which is the wholesale supplier to the SJWC. Surface water is imported from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and accounts for approximately 53 percent of the water supply. A smaller portion is impounded in local reservoirs in Santa Clara County.

#### Groundwater

Groundwater is pumped from over 100 wells that draw water from the Santa Clara groundwater basin, which accounts for approximately 37 percent of the supply. The SJWC has rights to pump water from the aquifers in the service area when it is in compliance with Valley Water permitting requirements.

### **Local Mountain Surface Water**

Local mountain surface water is also collected from the watershed in the Santa Cruz Mountains. SJWC has “pre-1914 surface water rights” to raw water in Los Gatos Creek and local watersheds in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Surface water accounts for approximately seven percent of the water supply in normal rainfall years.

### **Recycled Water**

Recycled water has been used in Santa Clara County since the 1970s and currently comprises approximately three percent of the SJWC’s water supply. Recycled water is used for a variety of non-drinking purposes such as landscaping, agriculture, and industrial uses. All recycled water produced in the County meets or exceeds the water quality standards set by the State for the various uses for which recycled water is approved.

## **Water Treatment, Distribution, and Storage**

SJWC provides water treatment and distribution for the Town of Los Gatos.

### **Water Treatment Plant**

The Rinconada Treatment Plant in the Town of Los Gatos supplies drinking water to both residential and commercial users in the west Santa Clara Valley including the Cities of Santa Clara, Campbell, Sunnyvale, Cupertino, Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, and Los Gatos. The water treatment plant can treat and deliver up to 80 million gallons of water per day. The facility is currently under a five-phase renovation, expected for completion in 2027, to modernize the system and will result in an increase in capacity to 100 million gallons of water per day, improved water quality, and greater seismic stability.

### **Water Distribution Pipelines**

SJWC has approximately 29 “stations” within the Town of Los Gatos. These stations include tanks, pump stations, and regulators that regulate the water pressure. Hillside planning in the Town poses unique challenges regarding water supply systems as it is difficult to provide water at higher elevations within the Town.

### **Water Storage**

Los Gatos is located within the Guadalupe Watershed within the boundaries of the service area for Valley Water. Reservoirs located within the watershed provide water storage and are maintained by Valley Water, including James J. Lenihan Dam and Lexington Reservoir, Vasona Dam and Reservoir, Guadalupe Dam and Reservoir, Almaden Dam and Reservoir, and Calero Dam and Reservoir.

## **Water Reuse and Conservation**

### **Water Reuse**

SJWC is the wholesale retailer for the South Bay Water Recycling Program, which takes treated wastewater that would normally be discharged into the San Francisco Bay and pipes it back into the basin to be used for landscape irrigation. The Town of Los Gatos currently does not have the infrastructure in place to provide recycled water (purple pipe) to residents.

### **Water Conservation**

Valley Water adopted an “Ensure Sustainability” strategy in its 2012 Water Master Plan. The strategy calls for securing baseline water supplies and infrastructure, optimizing the use of existing supplies and infrastructure, and increasing recycling and conservation. Through this plan, water conservation and recycled water usage is expected to increase to 8,369-acre feet per year (AF/yr) by 2040. Valley Water also operates a treated groundwater recharge/recycling injection program that promotes the reuse of treated groundwater from the clean-up of contaminated sites. The Ensure Sustainability strategy is currently (2020) being updated as part of Valley Water’s Water Supply Master Plan 2040.

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

Valley Water, the SJWC, and the Town of Los Gatos all have water conservation programs in place, including but not limited to the following:

- Los Gatos provides online tools and resources for homeowners and business owners on the Town website, including information on rebates through Valley Water;
- SJWC offers complimentary water check-ups, educational materials, and free low-flow devices; and
- Valley Water hosts a variety of informational resources at [watersavings.org](https://watersavings.org), including video tutorials and a calendar of classes and workshops.

The following goal and policies address the provision of water and water conservation efforts in Los Gatos.

PFS-1	<p>Ensure an adequate water supply for the Town's human, wildlife, and plant populations.</p> <p><b>SUS</b></p>
<p><b>PFS-1.1</b></p> <p><b>SUS</b></p>	<p><b>Water Conservation Requirements</b></p> <p>Require that landscaping and hardscaping for all development is designed to minimize water usage and enhance water conservation.</p>
<p><b>PFS-1.2</b></p> <p><b>SUS</b></p>	<p><b>Bay-Friendly Landscaping</b></p> <p>Require the use of the Bay-Friendly Landscaping Guidelines in addition to the landscaping standards in the GreenPoint Rated Building Guidelines for all new home construction and remodeled homes.</p>
<p><b>PFS-1.3</b></p> <p><b>SUS</b></p>	<p><b>Water-Saving Devices</b></p> <p>Require the use of water-saving devices in new developments and plumbing-related remodels and develop incentives to encourage their installation in existing development.</p>
<p><b>PFS-1.4</b></p> <p><b>SUS</b></p>	<p><b>Water-Efficient Irrigation Management Systems</b></p> <p>Require all new development to install water-efficient irrigation management systems and devices, such as evapotranspiration or soil moisture-based irrigation controls.</p>
<p><b>PFS-1.5</b></p> <p><b>SUS</b></p>	<p><b>Sustainable Water Use</b></p> <p>Encourage the use of recycled and reclaimed water.</p>
<p><b>PFS-1.6</b></p> <p><b>SUS</b></p>	<p><b>Recycled Water</b></p> <p>Ensure proper provisions and conditions are in place for the use of recycled water in areas when this water becomes available.</p>
<p><b>PFS-1.7</b></p>	<p><b>Water Supply for Fire Safety</b></p> <p>Coordinate with local water providers to ensure and maintain the long-term sustainability of water supplies to meet current and anticipated future firefighting needs.</p>

## 6.2 Wastewater

The West Valley Sanitation District (WVSD) is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) with board members representing the participating cities, the Town, and the County. WVSD provides wastewater collection and disposal services for the cities of Campbell, Monte Sereno, Town of Los Gatos, much of Saratoga, and some unincorporated areas of the County within the district boundary.

### Collection System



The WVSD's wastewater collection system consists of main and trunk sewers as well as sewer laterals, which are maintained and operated by the WVSD. The WVSD's system within the Town of Los Gatos consists primarily of gravity mains with the collection system flowing north, exiting the Town limits through multiple trunk sewers. These systems continue through the City of San Jose trunk sewers and ultimately to the San Jose-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility for wastewater treatment and disposal.

### Wastewater Treatment

WVSD contracts with the San Jose-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility for wastewater treatment and disposal. The San Jose-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility is the largest advanced wastewater treatment facility in the United States. The facility serves 1.4 million residents and over 17,000 businesses in the Town of Los Gatos and the cities of San Jose, Santa Clara, Monte Sereno, Milpitas, Campbell, Cupertino, and Saratoga.

The facility has the capacity to treat 167 million gallons per day (MGD) utilizing an advanced, tertiary wastewater system. In 2017, average dry weather influent flow was 107.3 MGD, well below the plant's 167 MGD capacity. In fiscal year 2016-2017, the WVSD collected and conveyed 9.6 MGD of wastewater to the treatment plant. The plant, located near Zanker Road in north San Jose, collects and treats wastewater from local municipalities and sanitation districts and discharges the treated wastewater into the San Francisco Bay. WVSD accounts for approximately 10 percent of the treatment flow at the plant.

The following goal and policies guide the provision of wastewater services in the Town.

PFS-2	Meet all wastewater treatment demands and Federal and State regulations. 
PFS-2.1	<b>West Valley Sanitation District</b> Support WVSD to maintain wastewater conveyance, treatment, and disposal infrastructure in good working condition, in order to supply municipal sewer service to the Town's residents and businesses.
PFS-2.2 	<b>Development Beyond Public Water and Sewer Systems</b> For individual home site development where public water and sanitary sewer systems are not available, development shall be discouraged. Development may be allowed with private water systems and septic tank systems when such systems are shown to be adequate, with the condition that the property owner enters into an agreement to connect to the public water system and sanitary sewer system when they become available.
PFS-2.3	<b>Septic Tank Inspection</b> Require that all septic tank systems be inspected to prevent surface flow of septic tank seepage.
PFS-2.4	<b>New Septic Systems</b> Require that any new septic system is reviewed and approved by the Santa Clara County Department of Environmental Health prior to installation.



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

### 6.3 Storm Drainage and Flood Protection

The Town is served by an extensive man-made storm drainage system including pipe networks, ditches, and culverts. These systems discharge into the natural creeks that traverse the Town.

#### Natural Drainage Systems

The Town of Los Gatos Planning Area is in the Guadalupe Watershed and the Santa Clara Valley Groundwater Sub-basin. The Sub-basin runs parallel to the northwest trending Coast Ranges and is approximately 22 miles long and 15 miles wide, with a surface area of 225 square miles. It is bounded by the Diablo Range on the east and the Santa Cruz Mountains on the west, extending from the northern border of Santa Clara County to the groundwater divide near the City of Morgan Hill. The Sub-basin receives approximately 15 inches of rainfall per year. January is the wettest month with an average rainfall of three inches.

The Town has several surface water channels within its limits. Los Gatos Creek and Ross Creek (which flows in a northeasterly direction) flow into the Guadalupe River (which is not located within in Los Gatos). Other creeks such as San Tomas Aquinas Creek and Smith Creek flow south to north through the Town. A large valley in Los Gatos is also drained northward to the San Francisco Bay by tributaries including the Guadalupe River and Los Gatos Creek. Other unnamed natural water courses are also located within the Town limits.

#### Man-Made Drainage Systems

The Town's stormwater system is managed and maintained by the Town's Parks and Public Works Department. The system includes a series of surface and underground drains to direct rainwater to the creeks and tributaries that eventually flow to the San Francisco Bay. Impermeable surfaces such as streets and parking lots are generally designed to channel water into this drainage system, serving as a part of the overall system by directing water to prevent flooding and standing water.

The following goal and policies guide stormwater management practices in Los Gatos.

#### PFS-3

Minimize the amount of stormwater runoff, as well as protect and improve the water quality of runoff. **SUS**

##### PFS-3.1

**SUS**

**EIR**

#### Water Drainage Analysis in CEQA Review

Require CEQA review analysis for all development projects consisting of single and cumulative impacts on water drainage (runoff) and contamination (water quality) in all areas, but particularly in or adjacent to hillsides, riparian corridors, and important undeveloped watersheds.

##### PFS-3.2

**SUS**

#### Non-Point Source Pollution Control Programs

Promote and implement pollution source control programs to reduce and control the discharge of pollutants into the storm drain system, as required by the Town's stormwater NPDES permit. Incorporate green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) elements, such as biotreatment or infiltration into private and public development to provide opportunities for stormwater collection and treatment, per the Town's GSI Plan.

## 6.4 Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling

Garbage disposal and recycling are important and necessary for all residents and businesses of Los Gatos. The resources used to produce the items which end up in landfills are dwindling, and landfill space is limited. Los Gatos endeavors to work through the West Valley Solid Waste Management Authority (WVSWMA), a JPA with broad representation from the Town and the cities of Campbell, Monte Sereno, and Saratoga to proactively address issues of solid waste and recycling.

West Valley Collection and Recycling (WVCR) is the exclusive recycling, green waste, and garbage hauler for the municipalities in the WVSWMA. Garbage is picked up by WVCR and transported directly to the Guadalupe Landfill. The Guadalupe Landfill is a Class III solid waste landfill permitted to accept 3,650 tons of material daily. It is projected that the landfill will reach its capacity in 2048. Recycling and compostables are hauled to specific facilities to allow for reuse. To reduce the impact on the Guadalupe Landfill, the Town will need to proactively encourage limiting trash production, by continuing to actively promote recycling, and potentially introduce Townwide composting. If changes are not enacted before the horizon date of 2040 in this General Plan, the Town will have to collaborate with its hauler to locate a secondary landfill which has a wide range of fiscal implications.

### Recycling

The Town of Los Gatos established a recycling program in February 1990 and instituted single-stream recycling (recyclables are all placed by customers in one bin instead of separating by type) in March 2007. WVCR collects paper products, oil, cans, containers, glass, plastic, yard trimmings, and scrap metal for recycling. Batteries and electronic waste can be dropped off at the WCVR facility headquarters in San Jose, or at local hardware and electronics retailers. Legislative changes have created increasing requirements for the recycling of compostables, including at the individual residence level. As a result of state legislative changes, the Town will need to plan and implement organics recycling programs to facilitate compliance with SB1383.

### Household Hazardous Waste

The Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste Program provides household hazardous waste collection services for Santa Clara County, including Los Gatos. The Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste Program accepts household hazardous waste by appointment at several drop-off locations throughout the City of San Jose. A complete list of waste accepted can be found on the County's Household Hazardous Waste website.

The following goals and policies address solid waste disposal and recycling in Los Gatos.

PFS-4	Promote recycling and reuse as well as reduction in demand. <div>SUS</div>
PFS-4.1 <div>SUS</div>	<b>Recycling of Reusable Materials</b> Require the use of and recycling of reusable materials from residential, commercial, and construction/renovation activities, when feasible.
PFS-4.2 <div>SUS</div>	<b>Waste Reduction Education Programs</b> Collaborate with WVCR or any subsequent waste collection provider to develop waste reduction education programs.

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

### PFS-5

Conserve landfill space.

SUS

#### PFS-5.1

SUS

##### **Coordinated Recycling Plans**

Cooperate with nearby jurisdictions and regional jurisdictions to design and implement coordinated recycling plans.

#### PFS-5.2

SUS

##### **Expand Recycling Programs**

Expand recycling programs through the local waste hauler.

#### PFS-5.3

SUS

##### **West Valley Solid Waste Management Authority**

Continue to work with other West Valley cities through the West Valley Solid Waste Management Authority to design and implement expanded recycling programs.

#### PFS-5.4

SUS

##### **Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission of Santa Clara County**

Continue to work with the Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission of Santa Clara County.

## 6.5 Utilities and Alternative Energy

### Energy Resources

Alternative energy production, energy conservation, and reduction of current energy consumption is of growing importance to individuals, agencies, and jurisdictions. As the State and Bay Area have learned, dependence on traditional energy resources (gas and electricity) can strain the energy grid and cause lasting and damaging fiscal repercussions. Traditional resources, while varied, are not limitless. Our community must direct its attention towards alternative energy applications that can meet future demands sustainably.

The Town of Los Gatos has several opportunities to promote energy conservation and reduce energy consumption, mainly through enforcing construction standards and through its own operations.

#### **Silicon Valley Clean Energy**

Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE) was formed in 2016 as a locally controlled electricity provider (community choice aggregator, or CCA) in Santa Clara County that provides service to the Town of Los Gatos and 11 other jurisdictions as well as the unincorporated County areas. Participating jurisdictions are given the option of purchasing environmentally friendly power generated by renewable sources like solar, wind, and geothermal at competitive rates. Residents are automatically enrolled in the default GreenStart option, providing 50 percent renewably-sourced energy; or can upgrade to GreenPrime, providing 100 percent renewably-sourced energy, from carbon free sources, such as solar and wind energy. PG&E delivers the energy via its distribution system. The Town has subscribed at the GreenPrime level since SVCE started offering service.

SVCE began providing energy to customers in two phases in April and July 2017. In the first half of 2018, the program avoided 1.1 billion tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions and collectively saved customers \$20 million. There was an eligible participant enrollment rate of 97 percent.

The following goals and policies guide the preservation and conservation of energy resources.

### PFS-6

Encourage development that reduces the use of non-renewable energy resources and expands the use of renewable resources and alternative fuels. **SUS**

#### PFS-6.1

##### **Energy Conservation in Development**

**SUS**

Encourage the use of energy conservation techniques and technology in existing and proposed developments to improve energy conservation.

#### PFS-6.2

##### **Renewable Energy Sources**

**SUS**

Encourage the use of renewable energy sources and alternative fuels.

#### PFS-6.3

##### **Energy Efficiency in Non-Residential Uses**

**SUS**

Promote, incentivize, and recognize energy efficiency efforts of local non-residential uses.

#### PFS-6.4

##### **Passive Solar Heating and Cooling**

**SUS**

Require new subdivisions to examine the feasibility of incorporating site layouts that allow for passive solar heating and cooling.

#### PFS-6.5

##### **Solar Orientation**

**SUS**

Require new development to incorporate measures that reduce energy use through solar orientation by taking advantage of shade, prevailing winds, landscaping, and sun screens.

### PFS-7

Promote green buildings that minimize consumption of energy and natural resources. **SUS**

#### PFS-7.1

##### **Sustainable Practices in Design and Construction**

**SUS**

Require new construction and remodels to use energy- and resource-efficient and ecologically sound designs, technologies, and building materials, as well as recycled materials to promote sustainability.

#### PFS-7.2

##### **Energy Efficiency Requirement**

**SUS**

Require higher levels of energy efficiency as house size increases.

#### PFS-7.3

##### **Reduce Use of Nonrenewable Resources**

**SUS**

Encourage reductions in the use of nonrenewable resources in building construction, maintenance, and operations.

#### PFS-7.4

##### **Green Roofs and Community Gardens**

**SUS**

Encourage new multi-family construction to include green roofs and common space for community gardens.

#### PFS-7.5

##### **Sustainability in New Town-Owned Facilities**

**SUS**

New Town-owned facilities shall serve as examples of sustainable development by utilizing recycled and renewable resources, water conserving fixtures and landscaping, and energy efficient systems and appliances.

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

### PFS-7.6

SUS

#### Weatherization

Continue to promote the weatherization of all homes by publicizing available utility energy audit and financing programs and investigate the possibility of contracting with PG&E to identify participants.

### PFS-7.7

SUS

#### Public Education on Energy Efficiency and Green Building

Provide public education and publicity about energy efficiency and green building information, marketing, training, technical assistance to property owners, reduction programs, and incentives.

### PFS-7.8

SUS

#### Coordinate Regionally

Coordinate with other local governments, special districts, nonprofits, and other public organizations to share resources, achieve economies of scale, and develop green building policies and programs that are optimized on a regional scale.

### PFS-7.9

SUS

#### Incentivize Energy Efficiency

Consider providing incentives, such as giving priority in plan review, processing, and field inspection services, for energy efficient building projects.

### PFS-7.10

SUS

#### LEED Certification and Alternative Methods

Encourage new construction, including municipal building construction, to achieve third-party green building certifications, such as the GreenPoint Rated program, LEED rating system, Living Building Challenge, or an equivalent.

## 6.6 Public Facilities and Services

### Public Health

The Town of Los Gatos is committed to a healthy community through planning efforts that can directly enhance the wellness of the community.

Public health and planning professionals recognize that increasing individuals' physical activity is paramount to healthy populations, and that the built environment greatly influences lifestyle choices that promote such activity. Los Gatos strives to be an active, inclusive, and responsive community, where healthy habits are encouraged by the environments we build. Goals, policies, and actions that promote active, healthy lifestyles are also found in the Land Use Element and Mobility Element.

Policies related to community health are also addressed in other sections of this General Plan, including:

- Emergency preparedness in the Hazards and Safety Element;
- Parks and recreational opportunities in the Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Element;
- Water and air quality in the Environment and Sustainability Element; and
- Law enforcement and fire protection services in Sections 6.7 and 6.8 of this Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element.

### Measure A

In November 2016, Santa Clara County voters approved Measure A, a \$950 million affordable housing bond. The housing bond provides the County with an opportunity to partner with jurisdictions, residents, and the affordable and supportive housing community to significantly address the housing needs of the community's poorest and most vulnerable residents. The funds are intended to provide affordable housing for vulnerable populations including veterans, seniors, the disabled, low and moderate-income individuals or families, foster youth, victims of abuse, the homeless, and individuals suffering from mental health or substance abuse illnesses. The bond



proceeds would contribute to the creation and/or preservation of approximately 4,800 affordable housing units, of which a portion will be in Los Gatos.

### **Youth Services**

Having community activities and services catering to young persons 18 years of age or younger is important for families in Los Gatos. The Town of Los Gatos strives to be a youth-friendly community and recognizes that youth services must be identified and developed to foster a healthy and active environment for youth growing up in Los Gatos. Youth represent the future of Los Gatos and providing and maintaining services for youth continues to be an important issue to the Town.

Town of Los Gatos provides the following youth services.

#### ***Youth Commission***

Formed in 2004, the Los Gatos Youth Commission includes 20 young persons who live in Los Gatos and go to schools throughout Santa Clara County. Youth on this Commission are in grades 8 through 12 and are formally appointed by the Town Council. The Youth Commission represents the youth community of Los Gatos and is supported by the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department. The purpose of the Youth Commission is to foster and encourage civic and neighborhood pride and a sense of identity through the knowledge, understanding, and increased involvement of the Town's youth in the Town's present and future municipal affairs. As part of their engagement, a Youth Commission representative is part of the Community Health and Senior Services Commission, Parks Commission, Los Gatos Library Board, and the Arts and Culture Commission.

#### ***Arts and Culture Commission***

The Arts and Culture Commission is an advisory group to the Town Council and works to encourage the development of music, drama, art, and other cultural and creative activities. One of the seven members of the Arts and Culture Commission is a Youth Commissioner, appointed by the Youth Commission.

#### ***Community Health and Senior Services Commission***

The Community Health and Senior Services Commission is an advisory group to the Town Council on health and human service needs of the community. One of the seven members of the Community Health and Senior Services Commission in Los Gatos is a Youth Commissioner, appointed by the Youth Commission. The Youth Commissioner helps provide support for intergenerational activities and other Commission initiatives. This Commission develops partnerships with public and private agencies that can help support various community programs.

#### ***Parks Commission***

The Parks Commission advises the Town Council on issues related to public parks, off-street trails, open space, grounds, and street trees. One of the seven members of the Parks Commission is a Youth Commissioner, appointed by the Youth Commission.

#### ***Los Gatos Library Board***

The Los Gatos Library Board provides collections and services specifically oriented toward children and teens. The library has expanded seating and study areas specifically for Los Gatos youth. The Library Board is a seven-member Commission that advises the Town Council on issues related to library service. One of seven members is a Youth Commissioner, appointed by the Youth Commission.

#### ***Community Unity***

The Town's volunteer recruitment and coordination service provides targeted opportunities for youth and family volunteer projects, internships, and other services in Town parks, trails, government offices, and other agencies and programs.

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

### Childcare

Childcare is often defined as the care for and supervision of children from ages six weeks to age 13. Childcare is a fundamental component of child development. Childcare providers are children's first teachers and can instill a variety of values including learning skills, social conventions, culture, and institutions. There are several private childcare centers within the Los Gatos Town limits.

### Senior Services

Seniors, or persons age 65 and older, are a significant and growing population group in Los Gatos. In Santa Clara County, seniors are the fastest growing population segment, and the State of California Department of Aging estimates that the population 60 years or older in Santa Clara county will increase by more than 200 percent by 2060. The Town of Los Gatos strives to be an age-friendly community and recognizes that, as this population group continues to grow and age, services must be identified and developed to accommodate the needs of older adults.

The Town of Los Gatos contracts with Los Gatos-Saratoga Community Education and Recreation (LGS Recreation) for services, information, and activities for seniors living in Los Gatos. Many of these services are provided at the Los Gatos Adult Recreation Center at 208 E. Main Street in Los Gatos.

**Los Gatos Adult Recreation Center.** The Adult Recreation Center is a gathering place for seniors in Los Gatos and provides a multitude of senior recreation, wellness, and educational services. The Adult Recreation Center provides referral services to social service agencies and assistance in completing applications for social services. The location of the Adult Recreation Center is shown on Figure 6-1.

The Adult Recreation Center hosts a number of events for seniors in Los Gatos through the 55 Plus Program, including:

- A weekly walking group to promote exercise;
- A Live Oak Nutrition Lunch, followed by a free movie;
- A weekly board games and table games event;
- An annual Senior Thanksgiving luncheon with food from local restaurants; and
- An annual senior picnic.

LGS Recreation offers several classes geared toward seniors, ranging from dance and exercise to writing, language, and technology education. LGS Recreation organizes day and extended day trips for seniors. Information on such trips offered through other senior centers can also be obtained through the Los Gatos Adult Recreation Center.

Through the Adult Recreation Center, volunteer counselors and other partner organizations also provide assistance to seniors for tax preparation, legal matters, and health insurance counseling. The Adult Recreation Center holds drop-in hours for Los Gatos residents over 55 years of age. The 55 Plus Drop-In Office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

### ***Healthcare and Social Services***

Los Gatos provides a portion of its social service programming for seniors through the Los Gatos Adult Recreation Center. The Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Police Department also offers a daily senior check-in program called Operation C.A.R.E. In addition, the Town's annual Community Grant Program provides financial resources to service providers focused on senior nutrition and other important community needs.

### ***Housing***

The Town of Los Gatos strives to provide a variety of housing alternatives to allow seniors to live independently and age in place as they so choose. These housing types include not only single-family homes, town homes, condominiums, and apartments, but also life care communities, affordable housing, shared housing, and below market rate properties.

Los Gatos has 150 subsidized units of senior housing in five developments. Villa Vasona at 626 West Parr Avenue and The Terraces of Los Gatos at 800 Blossom Hill Road contain most of these subsidized senior housing units. To ensure that Los Gatos seniors and those that are aging out of their current dwellings have accessible and affordable housing in the future, the Town needs to take a proactive approach to encouraging housing opportunities for this vulnerable population. Santa Clara County, including the residents of Los Gatos took a first step in 2016 to incentivize and provide affordable housing, with the approval of Measure A, described below.

### ***Transportation***

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) operates one public transit bus line that runs through the Town and several park-and-ride lots. The community relies primarily on non-profit organizations to provide transportation services and education for seniors in Los Gatos. The OUTREACH Senior Transportation Program, a non-profit serving Santa Clara County, provides public paratransit services as an alternative for seniors who are unable to access or use fixed route public transit. West Valley Community Services provides the RYDE (Reach Your Destination Easily) program which is a curb-to-curb transportation and local trip planning service for adults 65+ living in the west valley. The American Association of Retired People (AARP) hosts a quarterly senior driver safety course called the 55 Alive Driver Safety Program.

### ***Recreational and Social Activities***

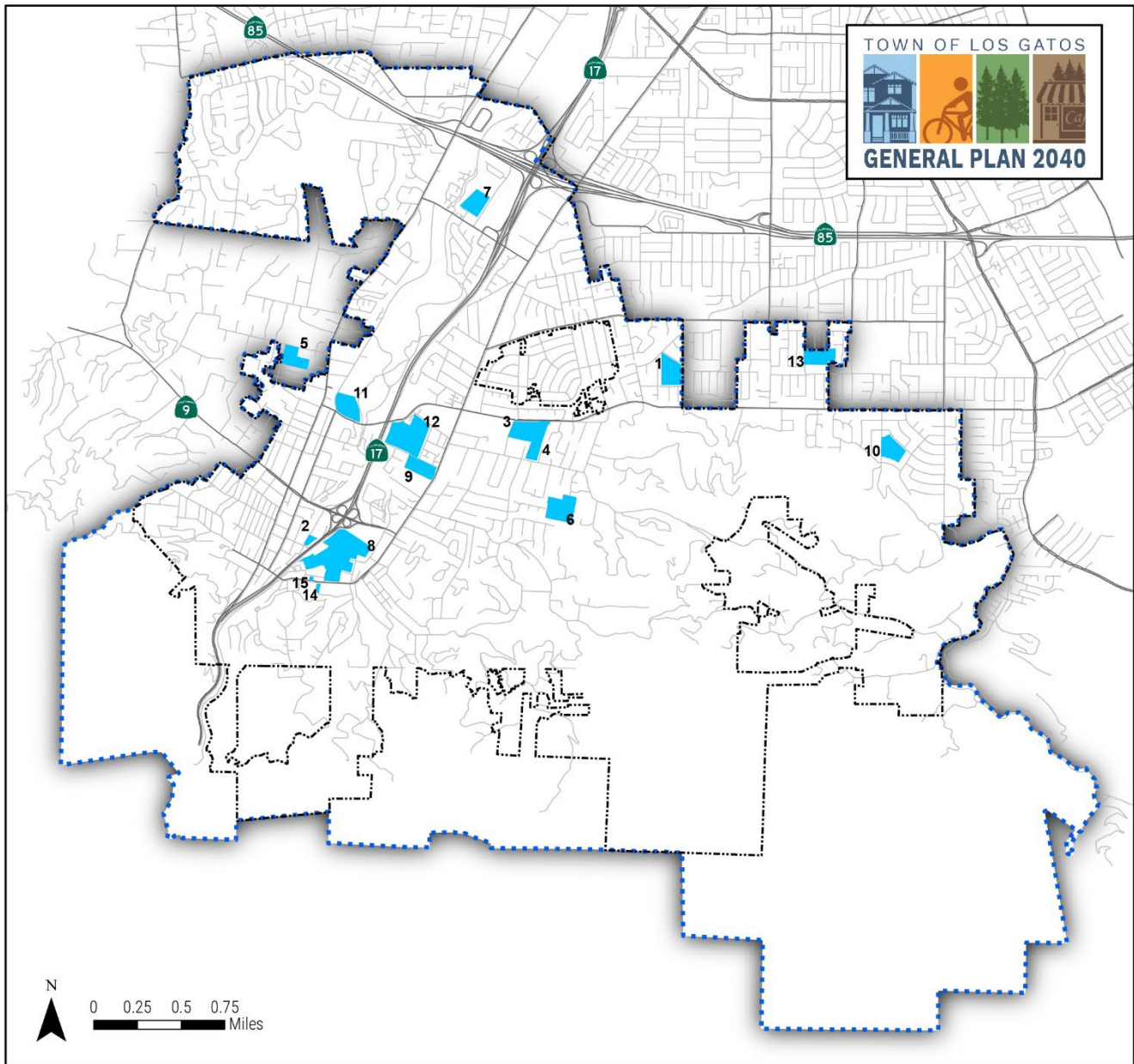
The Los Gatos Public Library offers programs and services for both seniors and the general public on a regular basis. Examples include book clubs, arts workshops, technology tutoring, computer workshops, lectures, and author visits. The Library offers large print materials and adaptive technologies to assist community members with reading needs.

Several non-profit agencies also provide assistance and support for seniors in Los Gatos. Senior programs managed by non-profit agencies include:

- Live Oak Adult Senior Nutrition;
- Live Oak Adult Day Services; and
- West Valley Community Services.

The following goals and policies address public facilities and services in Los Gatos.

**Figure 6-1 Recreation Locations**



**Recreational Facilities**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 - Alta Vista Elementary                   | 9 - Louise Van Meter Elementary School |
| 2 - Balzer Field                            | 10 - Mulberry School                   |
| 3 - Blossom Hill Elementary School          | 11 - Oak Meadow Park                   |
| 4 - Blossom Hill Park                       | 12 - Raymond J. Fisher Middle School   |
| 5 - Daves Avenue Elementary                 | 13 - Stratford School                  |
| 6 - Hillbrook School                        | 14 - Los Gatos Adult Recreation Center |
| 7 - Jewish Community Center & Yavneh School | 15 - Los Gatos Youth Recreation Center |
| 8 - Los Gatos High School                   |  |

Town of Los Gatos

Planning Area/  
Sphere of Influence

## Public Health

### PFS-8

Ensure resources and programs are available for the health needs of the entire community.

#### PFS-8.1

##### Retention of Hospitals

Encourage the retention of three nearby hospitals: El Camino Hospital Los Gatos; Good Samaritan Hospital; and Good Samaritan's Mission Oaks Campus.

#### PFS-8.2

HC

##### Promote Health Services

Promote health services provided by other agencies to local residents.

#### PFS-8.3

##### Encourage Health Care Professionals

Encourage a full array of health care professionals to locate their practices in Los Gatos.

### PFS-9

Foster all residents' health and well-being.

HC

#### PFS-9.1

HC

##### Recreational Areas Throughout Town

Encourage safe and attractive places for recreational exercise within a one mile of every residence.

#### PFS-9.2

##### Retention of Farmers Market

Encourage the continuation of a farmer's market in Town and community gardens in appropriate locations.

#### PFS-9.3

##### Pedestrian Network

Encourage pedestrian routes and sidewalks to be integrated into continuous networks.

#### PFS-9.4

##### Safe Disposal of Medical Related Items

Provide safe and convenient access to disposal sites for expired and unused pharmaceuticals, needles, and related items.

## Youth Services

### PFS-10

Offer a wide range of youth programs and services within the Town.

#### PFS-10.1

##### Youth Services

Require that the Town interact with applicable agencies and entities that provide youth services to ensure that the needs of children and teens are met.

#### PFS-10.2

##### Encourage Childcare Facilities

Require the Town to encourage a broad array of childcare facilities and services to meet the economic, geographic, and demographic diversity of Los Gatos.



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

### PFS-10.3 Youth-Friendly Environments

Promote safe, youth-friendly environments within the Town.

### PFS-10.4 Recreational Activities for Youth

HC

Support organizations that offer recreational activities and events for youth.

### PFS-10.5 Support Sports and Performing Arts Programs

Coordinate with public and private schools, local non-profits, service clubs, and other agencies to provide youth services and additional opportunities for youth to explore and enjoy sports, creative and performing arts, and future career paths.

### PFS-10.6 Youth and Multi-Generational Volunteer Opportunities

Coordinate with local organizations to support and encourage youth and multi-generational volunteer opportunities.

### PFS-10.7 Youth-Oriented Services

Promote learning environments where all students can receive social and economic support as well as mental health services.

## PFS-11

Encourage civic involvement of all youth in the community.

### PFS-11.1 Youth Commission Special Projects

Encourage the Youth Commission to explore youth concerns and opportunities, facilitate community forums, and undertake special projects.

### PFS-11.2 Youth Commission Initiatives

Challenge the Youth Commission to develop new youth-oriented programs, events, and initiatives such as the Youth-Friendly Business Program.

### PFS-11.3 Youth Participation in Town Activities

Encourage students from both middle school and high school and their families to participate in Town activities and to attend Council, Commission, and other public agency meetings.

### PFS-11.4 Engage Youth in Civic Improvement Efforts

SUS

Ensure that youth are engaged in Town beautification and other civic improvement efforts.

## PFS-12

Ensure that bicycling and walking are safe for youth throughout the Town.

### PFS-12.1 Safe Routes to School

SUS

Promote the Safe Routes to School program, which supports safety improvements that encourage safe walking and bicycling to school.

### PFS-12.2 Develop Youth Commute Programs

SUS

Coordinate with local businesses, organizations, and school districts to develop innovative programs, such as "Walking School Buses" and "Bicycle Trains" that encourage youth to commute to and from school in groups.

## Senior Services

### PFS-13

Ensure programs and facilities for social interaction for seniors.

#### PFS-13.1

##### **Social Program Resource for Seniors**

Require the Town to act as a resource for seniors by which seniors may locate agencies or programs that address their social problems.

#### PFS-13.2

##### **Consult with Seniors**

Consult with older adults and seniors on the services and programs they desire and need.

#### PFS-13.3

##### **Provide a Wide Variety of Senior Services and Programs**

Encourage, and facilitate to the extent possible, LGS Recreation and other service providers to provide a wide variety of senior services and programs, including daily opportunities for seniors to have physical activity, social interaction, and mental stimulation.

#### PFS-13.4

##### **Senior and Youth Activities**

Coordinate with local organizations to support intergenerational opportunities for seniors to safely interact with youth in Los Gatos.

### PFS-14

Improve mobility and access to care and services for seniors.

HC

#### PFS-14.1

##### **Convenient Access to Social and Medical Services**

EJ HC

Ensure that seniors have convenient and reasonable access to social and medical services, commercial areas, and transportation by coordinating with senior shuttle service providers.

#### PFS-14.2

##### **Encourage Transportation Services from Senior Housing Developments**

Encourage, and facilitate to the extent possible, all new senior housing developments to provide transportation services.

#### PFS-14.3

##### **Encourage Senior Oriented Services**

Encourage businesses and health care providers that serve seniors to locate in Town.

### PFS-15

Encourage a wide variety of types of senior housing, including independent living, residential care facilities, and affordable housing within the Town.

#### PFS-15.1

##### **Barrier-Free Design Principles**

Encourage new development or substantial remodels to incorporate best practices in designing housing for seniors and people with limited abilities.

### PFS-16

Ensure safe environments for Los Gatos seniors.

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

### PFS-16.1 Public Safety Outreach to Seniors

Continue to provide daily public safety outreach and communications to seniors and their families requesting such support and track the nature and type of support requested.



*For an expanded discussion on services and access to services for all community members, please refer to the Racial, Social, and Environmental Justice Element.*

## 6.7 Law Enforcement

Police protection for the Town of Los Gatos is provided by the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department (Police Department). The Town is characterized as a relatively safe community with limited crime.

The Police Department was established in 1926 to provide police protection services to the Town of Los Gatos. In 1995, the Town entered into a contract to provide police protection services to the City of Monte Sereno as well, resulting in the renaming of the department as the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department. This agreement allows for consideration of ongoing updates in law enforcement practices and more closely reflects the workload and modernized service delivery models for both the Town and the City of Monte Sereno.

The Police Department serves a combined population of approximately 34,000 residents, as well as the non-resident workforce and visitors to Los Gatos and Monte Sereno, and provides core services, including but not limited to, crime prevention and community outreach, communications and records services, response to both emergency and non-emergency calls, criminal investigations, and traffic and safety enforcement.

### Facilities and Staffing

The Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department has two primary locations in Los Gatos. The Police Operations building, located on Los Gatos Boulevard near Blossom Hill Road, houses the Police Operations Bureau, comprised of the Patrol Division and Investigations Division. The Operations Captain, Patrol Sergeants, Patrol Corporals, Patrol Officers, Detectives, Evidence Technician, and other support personnel are located at this site.

The Police Headquarters building is located in the Los Gatos Civic Center complex, located at 110 East Main Street in Los Gatos. This facility serves as the headquarters for Police Administration and the Support Services Bureau, which includes, the Records Division, Communications Division, Personnel and Community Services Division, and Traffic/Parking Division. The Police Department also has several specialty operational teams and collateral assignments including:

- Crime Analysis;
- School Resource Officer;
- Traffic and Motorcycle Unit;
- Canine Team;
- SWAT and Hostage Negotiation Teams;
- Bicycle Patrol Team;
- Evidence Team;
- Reserve Officer Program; and
- Homeless Encampment Resource Officer.

The Police Department, comprised of 39 sworn and 19 professional staff personnel and over 50 community volunteers, is responsible for all incorporated areas of Los Gatos and Monte Sereno. Patrol Teams consist of a Sergeant, a Corporal, and Officers. There are currently four patrol teams with shift rotations every six months. The Investigations Division consists of four Detectives, a School Resource Officer, a Sergeant, and two professional staff members.

### Service Standards

The Police Department has a performance objective of “providing a safe environment through timely response and police assistance.” The Police Department categorizes calls as Priority 1, Priority 2, and Priority 3. Priority 1

calls involve either a serious emergency or public safety hazard. Priority 2 calls are those that require immediate response but are not considered an emergency. Priority 3 calls are other non-emergency calls. While most calls responded to by the Police Department relate to incidences of vandalism, domestic disputes, theft, and burglary, the Police Department does receive and respond to crimes of violence, including robbery, sexual assault, violent assault, and murder. During 2019/20, there were 9,557 calls to 911 and a total of 34,891 incidents addressed. The Town reports that response time for Priority 1 calls during FY 2019/20 averaged three minutes and 43 seconds.

The following goals and policies guide law enforcement efforts in Los Gatos.

### PFS-17

Reduce the potential for injuries, damage to property, economic and social displacement, and loss of life resulting from crime.

#### PFS-17.1

##### **Adequate Police Services**

Support the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department to maintain adequate police staffing, performance levels, and facilities that serve the Town's existing and future population.

#### PFS-17.2

##### **Additional Crime Prevention Measures**

Pursue community policing and other crime prevention measures for increased public safety.

### PFS-18

Promote coordination between land use planning and law enforcement.

#### PFS-18.1

##### **CPTED Site Planning for Crime Prevention**

Emphasize the use CPTED principles in physical site planning as an effective means of preventing crime. Open spaces, landscaping, parking lots, parks, play areas, and other public spaces shall be designed with maximum possible visual and aural exposure to community residents.

#### PFS-18.2

##### **Reduce Law Enforcement Hazards Through Project Review**

Identify and mitigate law enforcement hazards during the project review and approval process.

## 6.8 Fire Protection

The Town of Los Gatos is susceptible to threat from both urban and wildland fires. Fire protection services are provided to the Town by the Santa Clara County Fire Department (SCCFD). This section provides information, goals, policies, and programs related to the responsible agencies and fire protection measures currently (2020) in place. Urban and wildfire risks are discussed in the Safety Element, Section 8.4: Urban and Wildland Fire Hazards.

### **Santa Clara County Fire Department**

The SCCFD provides ISO Class 2/2Y services for Santa Clara County and the communities of Campbell, Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, and Saratoga, as well as the unincorporated areas adjacent to these communities. The Town of Los Gatos works with the SCCFD to protect Town residents and property from injury and damage resulting from fire hazards. SCCFD is a California Fire Protection District serving approximately 226,000 residents and 132 square miles of territory. The SCCFD provides the following services:

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

- Fire suppression;
- Emergency medical response;
- Rescue activities;
- Building plan review;
- Code enforcement;
- Hazardous materials regulation;
- Fire and life safety inspections for new construction, commercial businesses, multi-family residential buildings, and schools;
- Community-education and risk reduction activities;
- Emergency medical services; and
- Public education.

SCCFD includes 15 fire stations, an administrative headquarters, a maintenance facility, five other support facilities, 19 pieces of front-line apparatus, and three command vehicles. The SCCFD is budgeted to employ over 333 fire prevention, suppression, investigation, administration, and maintenance personnel, augmented with a trained volunteer staff. SCCFD maintains a 24-hour emergency response staff of 66 firefighters and officers. Figure 6-2 shows fire station locations within and adjacent to Los Gatos.

The Town of Los Gatos is home to the SCCFD Administrative Headquarters and the Winchester Fire Station, Shannon Fire Station, and Los Gatos Fire Station. The Redwood and Quito stations located adjacent to Los Gatos also provide fire protection services to the Town. Each of these five stations provides emergency medical service (EMS), Advanced Life Support (ALS), and responds to all types of fires (wildland, structure, vehicle, etc.).

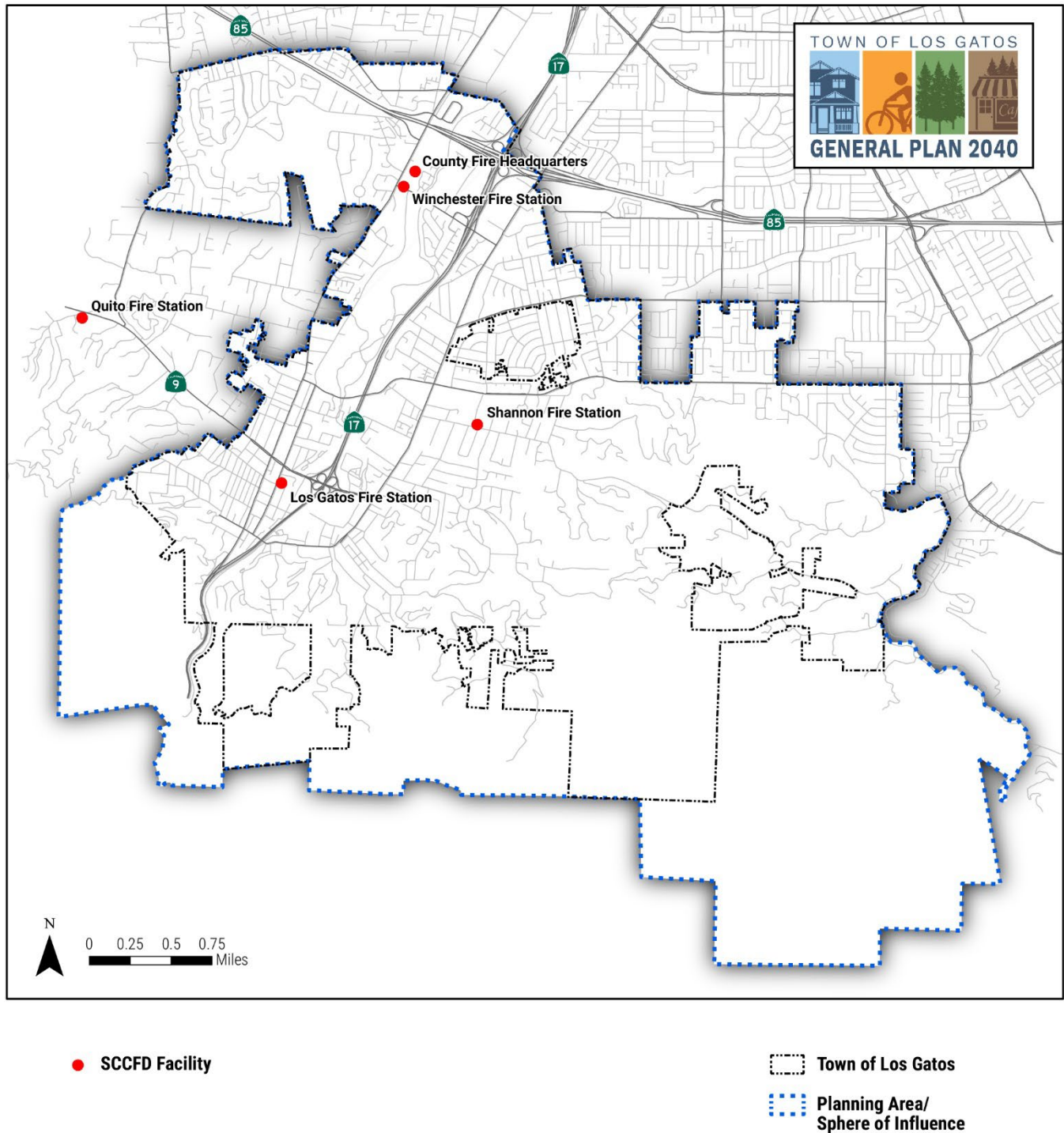
### **Service Standards**

The SCCFD has the following service standards:

- Achieve a score of 95 percent or higher on citizen satisfaction survey;
- Make contact with 20 percent or more of the population served and maintain Completion of Company level business inspections is greater than 85 percent;
- EMS Calls: 90 percent of the time, a fire company with one paramedic arrives in under seven minutes (measured from time of dispatch to time of arrival);
- Structure Fire Calls: 90 percent of the time, the first unit arrives in under seven minutes (measured from time of dispatch to time of arrival);
- EMS urgent calls and structure fires: a fire company with one paramedic arrives in under five minutes (average) from time of dispatch to time of arrival;
- Structure Fire Calls: Establish OSHA firefighter safety standard “2-in/2-out” on structural fires in less than nine minutes from dispatch of alarm at least 90 percent of the time;
- Turnout times average for calls is under 80 seconds;
- Obtain return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) on cardiac arrest patients in the field at or better than the national average;
- 911 dispatchers screen for pre-arrival instructions in at least 65 percent of EMS calls and provide instructions as warranted;
- Maintain annual employee injury rate below 20 percent for safety employees;
- Maintain annual employee injury rate below 20 percent for all employees; and
- Receive a “Clean” opinion on audited financial statements and comply with generally accepted accounting standards including any new pronouncements.



Figure 6-2 SCCFD Facilities



*Note: The Redwood Fire Station is located south of Town beyond the area shown on map.*

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

### **Community Wildfire Protection Plan**

In 2016, Santa Clara County led the development of a countywide strategic plan, the Santa Clara County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), to assist in protecting human life and reducing property loss due to wildfire. The CWPP outlines countywide issues and strategies and provides detailed information and specific projects for each of the 14 at risk communities within the county. For the Los Gatos hillside area, the Annex 9 of the CWPP provides community and parcel-level risk assessment, identifies critical infrastructure and community values at risk, creates mitigation projects, and prioritizes to proactively address wildfire risk. The CWPP is maintained by SCCFD.



*Additional policies relating to wildfire risk, assessment, and mitigation are covered Section 9.2 (Urban and Wildland Fire Hazards) in the Hazards and Safety Element.*

The following goals and policies guide fire protection efforts in Los Gatos.

### **PFS-19**

Provide adequate fire protection and emergency medical response services to Town residents and businesses.

#### **PFS-19.1**

#### **First Response Travel Time**

Work with the SCCFD to ensure that first response travel time is maintained and enhanced where possible.

#### **PFS-19.2**

#### **Emergency Response Facilities and Personnel**

Work with the SCCFD to continue to increase the emergency response facilities and personnel necessary to meet residential and employment growth in the Town.

#### **PFS-19.3**

#### **Fire Safety Requirements for New Developments**

New development shall be required to incorporate and identify the location of the anticipated water supply, adequate emergency water flow, fire resistant design and materials, and evacuation routes.

#### **PFS-19.4**

#### **Emergency Vehicle Accessibility**

New development shall be accessible to emergency vehicles and shall not impede the ability of service providers to provide adequate emergency response.

### **PFS-20**

Promote coordination between land use planning and fire protection.

#### **PFS-20.1**

#### **Adequate Roadways for Fire-Fighting Apparatus**

Require that new, existing, and non-conforming roadways, specifically those in SRA and VHFHSZ areas are constructed and updated to reflect contemporary fire safe standards in terms of width, radius, and grade in compliance with SCCFD requirements. At a minimum, new and improved roadways shall accommodate SCCFD fire-fighting apparatus, while maintaining Los Gatos's neighborhoods and small-town character.

#### **PFS-20.2**

#### **Fire Hazard Mitigation in Project Review**

Identify and mitigate fire hazards during the project review and approval process.

### **PFS-20.3 Fire-Related Design Requirements**

New development shall satisfy fire flow and hydrant requirements and other fire-related design requirements as established by the Town and recommended by the SCCFD.

### **PFS-20.4 Fire Suppressing Systems and Materials**

Ensure compliance with California Fire and Building Code requirements for the installation of interior emergency sprinkler systems, fire-resistant building materials, early warning systems, and sufficient water supply systems for fire suppression in new development and remodels.

### **PFS-20.5 Secondary Emergency Access**

Identify and secure secondary emergency access in new and, when feasible, existing development in locations that are identified as Very High Fire Hazard Areas on the Town's Wildland Fire Severity Zone Map, as recommended by the SCCFD.

## **6.9 Emergency and Medical Services**

### **Emergency Services**

The SCCFD provides emergency services to the Town of Los Gatos and the other communities and adjacent unincorporated lands in its service area, including the entire Los Gatos Planning Area. Emergency services provided by the SCCFD include technical rescue, hazardous materials response, emergency medical services, and emergency disaster management.

#### ***Emergency Operations Plan***

The Town of Los Gatos adopted a comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) in 2015, and it is currently being updated through its 5-year review. The EOP identifies the existing hazards within the Town, provides guidance and education on effective and skillful emergency response techniques, and ensures the most effective coordination of resources for protection of people and property in time of an emergency. In addition, annexes to the EOP will cover specific planning and response for the following topics:

- Aviation Disaster;
- Civil Disturbance;
- Dam Failure;
- Earthquake;
- Extreme Weather/Storm;
- Urban Fire;
- Floods;
- Landslides;
- Hazardous Materials Risks;
- Heat Wave;
- Public Health Emergency;
- Terrorism;
- Transportation-Highway Risks; and
- Wildland Fire.

#### ***Emergency Operations Center***

The EOP identifies the Town's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as the location from which centralized emergency management would be performed during a major emergency or disaster, including receiving and disseminating information, maintaining contact with mutual aid partners and other EOCs, and providing instructions to the public. The EOC is located at the Police Department Operations Building on Los Gatos Boulevard.

#### ***Disaster Aid Response Team***

Founded in 1982, The Disaster Aid Response Team (DART) is an organization of citizen volunteers trained to assist the Police Department in its emergency and service function. DART serves Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, and the surrounding communities. DART has members trained in:

- Technical rescue;
- Medical intervention;
- Swift water rescue;
- Emergency radio communication;
- Traffic control; and

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

- Scuba diving;
- A variety of other skills necessary for effective search/rescue and disaster assistance.

### **Community Emergency Response Team**

Many neighborhoods in Los Gatos and Monte Sereno have organized for disaster preparedness. Sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is one of the most visible Town emergency preparedness organizations. In conjunction with the Town of Los Gatos, SCCFD offers a 20-hour course training in disaster preparation response and recovery skills. Sessions include:

- Disaster preparedness;
- Light search and rescue;
- Damage assessment;
- Disaster fire suppression;
- Disaster medical operations;
- Neighborhood preparedness;
- Terrorism/Hazmat;
- Disaster psychology; and
- CERT team organization.

During disasters, police and fire department personnel may be unavailable to respond to all emergency events. CERT members may be called upon to serve in their neighborhoods, as well as areas outside of their immediate neighborhoods.

### **Los Gatos Prepared**

Los Gatos Prepared is an emergency response program empowering community self-sufficiency when disaster strikes. The program works toward a goal of every resident and business in Los Gatos having the awareness, skills, and resources necessary to be self-sufficient in the event of a disaster or other emergency.

Los Gatos Prepared holds informational community events, organizes and promotes CERT events and training, and provides informational resources on topics such as emergency preparedness for seniors, mental health in times of disaster, service interruptions, and evacuation planning.

### **Emergency Medical Facilities**

The availability of primary care has a role in preserving good health and preventing morbidity and hospitalizations from chronic and communicable diseases. Figure 6-3 shows the location of health care facilities in Los Gatos.



*Goals and policies pertaining to public health emergencies and associated response, action, and mitigation techniques are covered Section 9.1 (Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery) in the Hazards and Safety Element.*

### **El Camino Hospital**

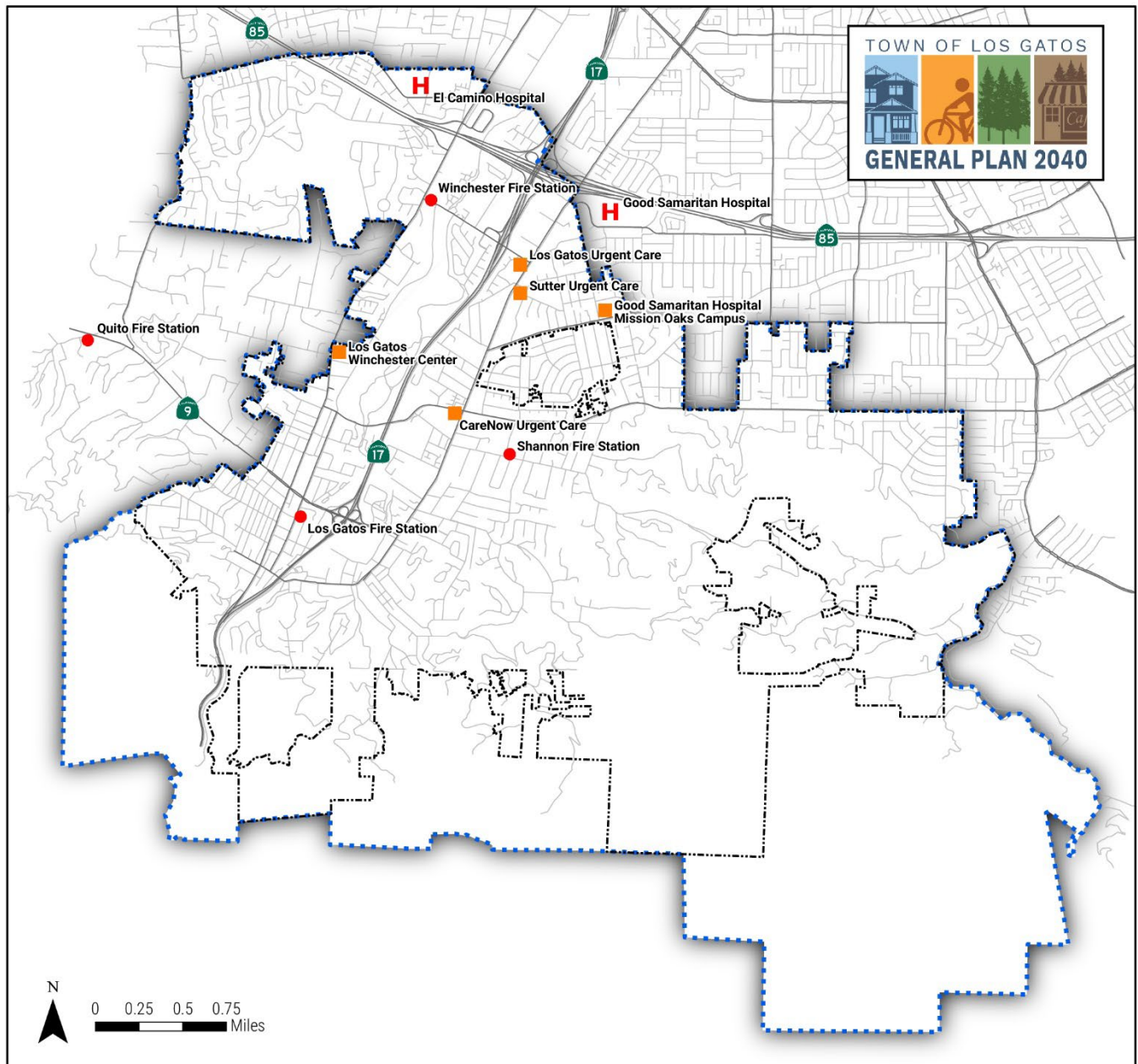
El Camino Hospital is a nonprofit organization with hospital campuses in the Town of Los Gatos and the City of Mountain View. The Los Gatos campus is a 143-bed acute care facility, that provides a full range of care, including emergency care, maternal child health services, general and outpatient surgery, and specialized programs, such as men's health, urology, sleep disorders, and orthopedics. The Los Gatos campus also includes a clinic, a Breast Health Center, and a Sleep Center.

### **Good Samaritan Hospital**

Good Samaritan Hospital is a 474-bed acute care hospital with two locations serving Santa Clara County. The main campus is located at 2425 Samaritan Drive in San Jose, just a few blocks from the Town of Los Gatos. The Mission Oaks campus is located at 15891 Almaden Road in Los Gatos.



Figure 6-3 Health Care Facilities





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

Hospital services include emergency care, anesthesia and pain management, cancer care, cardiology, children's services, emergency care, general surgery, rehabilitation, robotic surgery, women's services, and wound care. Hospital facilities also include a birthing center, breast care center, a comprehensive stroke center, heart rhythm center, and joint replacement center. Good Samaritan Hospital is a certified Comprehensive Stroke Center, STEMI Receiving Center, accredited Chest Pain Center, and a certified Afib Center.

### ***Urgent Care Facilities***

Los Gatos is also supported by urgent care facilities located throughout the Town, including CareNow which also provides occupational health services and x-ray services for minor injuries.

The following goal and policy address emergency and services in Los Gatos.

PFS-21

Reduce the potential for injuries, damage to property, economic and social displacement, and loss of life resulting from emergencies.

### **PFS-21.1      Emergency Response Planning**

Maintain up-to-date preparedness and response plans for fire, flood, earthquake, hazardous materials, and other emergencies.

## 6.10 Schools and Lifelong Learning

Quality education is important to the residents of the Town. However, while local land use and development decisions may impact school facilities, mitigation for school impacts required of developers may be limited by State legislation or other factors.

### **School Districts**

Six different school districts serve the residents of the Town of Los Gatos. These are the Los Gatos Union School District, Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District, Campbell Union School District, Campbell Union High School District, Cambrian Union Elementary District, and Union Elementary School District. In addition, nearby West Valley Community College, located in the City of Saratoga, offers academic and career programs. The location of schools in Los Gatos is shown on Figure 6-4.

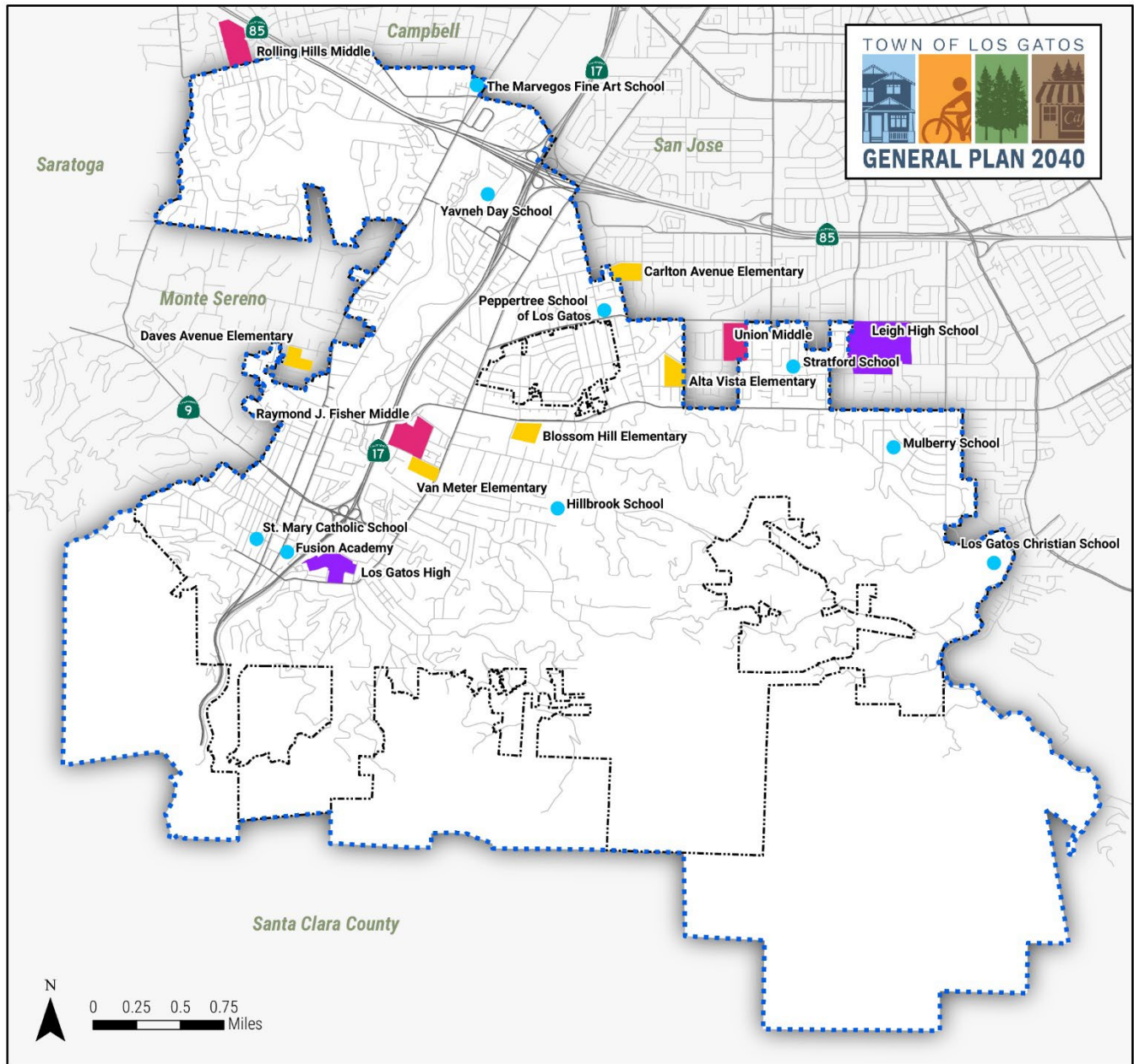
### ***Los Gatos Union School District***

The Los Gatos Union School District has four elementary schools and one middle school providing educational services to the children of Los Gatos:

- Blossom Hill Elementary School (16400 Blossom Hill Road);
- Daves Avenue Elementary School (17770 Daves Avenue);
- Lexington Elementary School (19700 Old Santa Cruz Highway);
- Van Meter Elementary School (16445 Los Gatos Boulevard); and
- Raymond J. Fisher Middle School (19195 Fisher Avenue).

All the elementary schools serve kindergarten through grade 5. Raymond J. Fisher Middle School serves Los Gatos students in grades 6 through 8.

Figure 6-4 Schools in Los Gatos



**Facility Type**

- Public Elementary School
- Public Middle School
- Public High School
- Private School

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

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

### ***Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District***

The Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District has two high schools, Los Gatos High and Saratoga High, which serve over 3,400 students from unincorporated Santa Clara County as well as the communities of Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, and Saratoga. Each school offers grades 9 through 12.

### ***Campbell Union School District***

More than 7,500 students from the communities of Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, San Jose, Santa Clara, and Saratoga attend the 12 schools within the Campbell Union School District. The four schools within the District that serve the Town of Los Gatos are Capri, Forest Hill, and Marshall Lane Elementary Schools (serving K-5 grades), Rolling Hills Middle School (serving 6-8 grades).

### ***Campbell Union High School District***

Campbell Union High School District serves 8,043 students at seven campuses, five of which are traditional public high schools: Branham; Del Mar; Leigh; Prospect; and Westmont High Schools. The District also has an alternative school, Boynton High School, which serves a variety of special needs in the community, an adults and continuing education school, Campbell Adult and Community Education, and a school that focuses on at-risk youth, Camden Community Day School. Both Prospect and Westmont High Schools serve the Town of Los Gatos.

### ***Cambrian Union Elementary School District***

Cambrian Union Elementary School District serves approximately 3,591 students enrolled in four elementary schools (serving K-5 grades) and one middle school (serving 6-8 grades). The Farnham Elementary School, located in San Jose at 15711 Woodard Road, is the only school in this district that serves Los Gatos students.

### ***Union Elementary School District***

Union Elementary School District serves approximately 4,400 students enrolled in six elementary schools (serving K-5 grades) and two middle schools (serving 6-8 grades). The Alta Vista Elementary School serves Los Gatos students.

### ***West Valley Community College***

Located within the City of Saratoga and serving Los Gatos residents, West Valley Community College offers career programs, professional certificates, and degree programs with preparation for transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

The following goals and policies address schools and education in Los Gatos.

#### PFS-22

Maintain a system of open communications between the Town, school districts, and the development community in order to coordinate the activities of each to achieve the highest quality of education for all students.

#### **PFS-22.1**

##### **Evaluate Demographic Changes**

Cooperate with school districts in identifying and evaluating population and demographic changes that may impact schools.

#### **PFS-22.2**

##### **Alternative Uses of School Sites and Facilities**

Encourage alternative uses of school sites and facilities, subject to conditions that will protect the surrounding neighborhood.

**Lifelong Learning**

Lifelong learning is an ongoing, voluntary, and self-motivated pursuit of knowledge, primarily for personal enjoyment and satisfaction. The term recognizes that learning is not confined to formal education and job training but takes place throughout life and in a range of situations.

The following goal and policies address childcare and lifelong learning in Los Gatos.

PFS-23	Enhance the educational and financial support system serving the Town to the benefit of all residents, from childcare through adult education within the community.
PFS-23.1	<b>Enhancing Availability</b> Coordinate with local school districts, park districts, childcare providers, and pre-schools to identify opportunities to implement additional childcare and childhood development programs throughout the Town.
PFS-23.2	<b>Employer Sponsored Childcare</b> Work with commercial development applicants for single users employing more than 100 persons to provide on-site childcare or offset the costs of off-site childcare for employees.
PFS-23.3	<b>Grant Funding</b> Coordinate with the school district and community organizations to pursue grant funding for programs designed to improve schools and State standardized test scores.
PFS-23.4	<b>Continuing Education</b> Encourage local colleges, vocational schools, and technical training institutes to maintain and improve continuing education courses and certificate programs, including opportunities for on-line learning.

**6.11 Libraries**

The Town of Los Gatos is the primary service provider for library services. The Town has one public library located within the Town’s Civic Center complex. The 2-story, 30,000-square foot LEED Gold-certified library was opened in 2012, replacing the original 1964-built civic center library. In 2020, the Library had 32,000 active library card users, served 280,000 visitors, and circulated 419,000 items. The Library includes: a separate space for children’s story-telling programs; a separate teen room; reading and study areas for users of all ages; computer areas for research, internet access, and technology education; laptop areas; additional self-checkout machines; and space for the Town’s extensive history collection. The Library has open, airy seating areas filled with natural light, and added space for adult and youth book collections and multi-media collections. The current Library collection consists of books, ebooks, audiobooks, magazines and periodicals, newspapers, video and audio media, microfilm, and reference materials. The collection includes 155,000 physical items and 923,000 digital items. The Library also subscribes to computerized databases which provide access to thousands of archived newspapers, periodicals, primary source documents, reference works, streaming content, and media files. These databases are accessible on library computers and remotely using a library card number. Reference Librarians are available to assist in locating materials in the Library.

In addition to reference and checkout services, the Library offers: story-times; after-school programs; volunteer reading programs; book discussion groups; knitting groups; computer and internet access; wireless internet access; internet classes; summer reading programs; and Friends of the Library programs, featuring special speakers, artists, and performers. In 2020, the Library held 895 community programs serving 25,000 people, including adults, youth, teens, and community audiences. All programs are open to the public and are free of charge.

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

The following goal and policies address libraries in Los Gatos.

### PFS-24

Provide a library facility that will accommodate library services to meet the educational and informational needs of the community.

#### PFS-24.1

##### **Access to Library Services**

Ensure that all residents have access to Library services, including electronic resources, technology resources, and a range of operating hours.

#### PFS-24.2

##### **Maintain Relevance of Library**

Maintain the Library as an important activity center within the community.

## 6.12 Town Arts

The Town of Los Gatos has a rich history as a center of arts and literature and the home to both historical and contemporary artists of renown. And today, Los Gatos maintains a thriving arts community that is invaluable to people of all ages in the Town. The Town has committed to protecting and promoting its cultural resources, including theaters, museums, art galleries, and public art. The Town also strives to further attract and encourage performing arts in Los Gatos, including live theater, music, and dance, as well as the literary arts, including author events and poetry.

Los Gatos's Arts and Culture Commission is actively involved in promoting cultural events and public art displays in the Town. The Arts and Culture Commission is an advisory group to the Town Council and works to encourage the development of music, drama, art, and other cultural and creative activities. One of the seven members of the Arts and Culture Commission is a Youth Commissioner, appointed by the Youth Commission.

The Town supports a wide variety of cultural experiences including the Music in the Park Summer Concert Series, the annual July Fourth musical celebration, and public art in the Council Chambers and throughout the community. Music in the Park is a free summer concert series held Sunday afternoons on the Civic Center Lawn which has been running since 1988. Arts in the Council Chambers displays exhibits throughout the year. The Forbes Mill Footbridge children's murals span Highway 17 and link Forbes Mill to Old Town. The Banner Project incorporates public art in Downtown banners. The Utility Box program covers local utility boxes with artwork created by Town residents. Many of these efforts are supported or led by the Arts and Culture Commission.

Los Gatos has a museum – the New Museum of Los Gatos (NUMU). NUMU has been a key cultural element of the Town since its founding in 1965, contributing to the unique character of Los Gatos. The Museum's stated mission is to engage the community at the intersection of art, history, and education through innovative, locally connected, and globally relevant exhibits, programs, and experiences. NUMU actively partners with many community organizations and Town departments and government leaders to make programs accessible and responsive to the community. The Museum is the custodian of an extensive art and history collection and works with the Los Gatos Library and other resources to enrich an understanding of our cultural heritage.

The following goal and policies address the arts in Los Gatos.

### PFS-25

Enrich the Town by making visual arts, the performing arts, literary arts, and other cultural amenities more accessible to the Town's residents.

#### PFS-25.1

##### **Incorporation of Art-Related Uses**

Encourage and maintain art-related uses (theaters, museums, and art galleries) in new and remodeled retail development.



- PFS-25.2 Support and Maintain Arts Programs**  
Continue to support and maintain community-based, musical, and other arts programs in an effort to collect, archive, and share the stories and histories of Los Gatos residents through a variety of platforms and voices.
- PFS-25.3 Performing Arts Facilities**  
Encourage new or expanded public and private facilities to host performing arts events.
- PFS-25.4 Encourage Private and Public Funding for the Arts**  
Encourage private and public funding, development, and operation of cultural amenities, activities, and centers.
- PFS-25.5 Facilitate Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration**  
Encourage all local arts groups and artists to collaborate and partner across disciplines, media, and venues for a richer and more diverse cultural experience.
- PFS-25.6 Expand and Deepen Partnerships**  
Retain art-related uses, with the objective of retaining the museum and art organizations in Town.
- PFS-25.7 NUMU and the Visual Arts**  
Continue to support the growth of NUMU, its visual arts program, local history and education programming, and the stewardship of its Art and History Collections for service to and benefit of, visitors and participants of all ages.

## 6.13 Healthy Community

A healthy community promotes a positive physical, social, and economic environment that supports the overall well-being of its residents. While other parts of the General Plan also touch on aspects of health and quality of life, the purpose of section is to promote a healthy lifestyle and improve residents' quality of life.



*Outdoor activity is also part of a healthier community. Bicycle and pedestrian options are covered in Section 5.2 (Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities) in the Mobility Element and in Section 6.2 (Parks and Recreation) in the Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Element.*

The following goal and policies address health in Los Gatos.

### PFS-26

Ensure all residents have access to healthy foods, including plant-based options.

EJ HC

#### PFS-26.1 Healthy Food Options

EJ HC

Encourage farmer's markets and healthier food options within neighborhoods or near child-oriented uses (e.g., schools, day care, and parks).

#### PFS-26.2 Limit Concentrations of Alcohol and Tobacco

HC

Establish zoning code requirements to guide locations and restrict concentrations of businesses selling alcohol and tobacco near sensitive land uses.

#### PFS-26.3 Healthier Diet Options

HC

Support programs that guide healthier diet and plant-based eating options within the community.

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

### PFS-26.4 Support Santa Clara County Efforts

EJ HC

Support Santa Clara County efforts and public health programs that improve access to healthy foods, address food inequities, and provide food education to help residents make healthier food choices.

### PFS-26.5 Support Acceptance of Government-Issued Vouchers

EJ HC

Support the acceptance of Government-issued food vouchers (such as WIC and Cal FRESH) via an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card at food retailers and farmers markets.

### PFS-26.6 Healthy Food at Government-sponsored Events

HC

The Town shall provide healthy foods at Town-sponsored meetings and events when food is provided.

### PFS-26.7 Nutritional Vending Machine Options

HC

The Town shall encourage nutritional options for vending machines in Town-owned and leased locations.

## 6.14 Implementation Programs

Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
<b>A</b>	<b>Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance</b>	PFS-1.1	Community Development	■			
	Review and update the Town's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance with improved large landscape conservation programs and agency incentives for non-residential customers.	PFS-1.2 PFS-1.3 PFS-1.4					
<b>B</b>	<b>Water Audit Programs</b>	PFS-1.1	Parks and Public Works	■			
	In collaboration with efforts by local water purveyors, promote water audit programs that offer free water audits to single-family, multi-family, large landscape accounts, and commercial customers. Collaborate with purveyors to enact conservation programs for commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) accounts and create programs to install ultra-low-flush toilets in facilities.	PFS-1.4 PFS-1.5 PFS-1.6					
			Community Development				
<b>C</b>	<b>Artificial Turf</b>	PFS-1.1	Parks and Public Works	■			
	Determine the appropriate use of artificial turf and consideration of alternative ground covers.	PFS-1.2					
			Community Development				
<b>D</b>	<b>Dual Plumbing Incentives</b>	PFS-1.6	Community Development	■			
	Develop incentives for dual plumbing in new development.						

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)				
<b>E Evaluate Development Impacts on Water Drainage</b> Development projects on riparian lands or undeveloped watershed areas that require environmental reviews shall include detailed evaluations of the individual and cumulative impacts on water drainage and contamination.	PFS-3 PFS-3.1	Parks and Public Works  Community Development		■		
<b>F List of Priorities for Storm Drain System Improvements</b> Develop a list of priorities for improvements to the storm drain system based upon the Storm Drain Master Plan.	PFS-3 PFS-3.1	Parks and Public Works	■			
<b>G Green Stormwater Infrastructure</b> Incorporate Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) elements, such as infiltration and biotreatment, into Town projects to provide opportunities for stormwater collection and treatment, per the Town's GSI Plan. <b>SUS</b>	PFS-3.2	Parks and Public Works				■
<b>H Green Stormwater in Complete Streets Policy</b> Modify the Town's Complete Streets Policy to include Green Stormwater Infrastructure. <b>SUS</b>	PFS-3.2	Parks and Public Works	■			
<b>I Waste Education</b> Expand educational programs to inform residents about reuse, recycling, composting, waste to energy, and zero waste programs. <b>SUS</b>	PFS-4.2	Parks and Public Works				■
<b>J Energy Saving Steps</b> Continue to adopt the following energy saving steps for Town facilities and operations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Conduct, with assistance from PG&amp;E, a thorough energy audit of all Town facilities to identify cost-effective opportunities for conservation and use of solar energy systems;</li> <li>■ Establish realistic yearly goals for reductions in Town energy costs and keep Town personnel aware of program status; and</li> <li>■ Establish a fuel conservation program for the Town vehicle fleet and require Gas Cap driver training for all employees who use fleet vehicles.</li> </ul> <b>SUS</b>	PFS-6.1 PFS-6.2 PFS-6.3	Parks and Public Works				■

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

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
<b>K Improve Efficiency in Existing Buildings</b> Study possible measures to improve energy and water efficiency in existing buildings. <b>SUS</b>	PFS-6.1 PFS-6.2 PFS-6.5	Parks and Public Works	■			
<b>L Encourage Sustainable Purchasing Practices</b> Develop policies, incentives, and design guidelines that encourage the public and private purchase and use of durable and nondurable items, including building materials, made from recycled materials or renewable resources. <b>SUS</b>	PFS-7.1 PFS-7.3	Finance	■			
<b>M Energy Conservation Requirements</b> Amend the Town Code to establish regulations, in addition to Title 24 requirements, that promote and require the conservation of energy and the use of renewable energy sources. <b>SUS</b>	PFS-7.1 PFS-7.2 PFS-7.4 PFS-7.5 PFS-7.9	Community Development	■			
<b>N Outdoor Lighting Standards</b> Establish outdoor lighting standards in the Town Code to address energy efficiency, dark sky conservation, and healthy ecosystems. <b>SUS</b>	PFS-7.1 PFS-7.9 PFS-7.10	Community Development	■			
<b>O Green Building Requirements</b> Consider adopting the Santa Clara County Cities Association recommendations or regional standards/recommendations for green building requirements. <b>SUS</b>	PFS-7.1 PFS-7.3 PFS-7.10	Community Development		■		
<b>P Staff Training</b> Train all plan review and building inspection staff in green building and energy efficiency materials, techniques, and practices.	PFS-7.1 PFS-7.2 PFS-7.8	Community Development	■			
<b>Q Facilitate Green Building Practices</b> Identify and remove regulatory or procedural barriers to implementing green building practices in the Town, by updating codes and guidelines, and identifying incentives for LEED certification or similar. <b>SUS</b>	PFS-7.1 PFS-7.2 PFS-7.3 PFS-7.4 PFS-7.5 PFS-7.9 PFS-7.10	Community Development	■			
<b>R LEED Certification Feasibility Study</b> Study the feasibility of requiring LEED certification for all or certain new projects. <b>SUS</b>	PFS-7.10	Community Development		■		

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025			
<b>S</b> <b>LEED Exceptions Program</b> Establish a LEED Certification Exception Program and Checklist for small businesses who can prove it is financially infeasible to cover the costs for LEED Certification, but still want to reap the benefits, while implementing required sustainable building and construction practices. <b>SUS</b>	PFS-7.10	Community Development	■			
<b>T</b> <b>Annual Review of Health and Service Programs Program Review</b> Annually review health services programs the Town supports to assure they meet the health needs of target groups.	PFS-8.2 PFS-13	Town Manager			■	
<b>U</b> <b>Identification of Missing Services</b> Identify health services that are not readily available in Los Gatos and add them to the Town's economic vitality efforts.	PFS-8.2 PFS-8.3	Town Manager	■			
<b>V</b> <b>Identify the Needs of Youth</b> Town staff shall meet with agencies as needed to identify the needs of youth in the community.	PFS-10.1	Town Manager  Library				■
<b>W</b> <b>Conduct Youth Needs Assessment</b> Coordinate with community partners to conduct a needs assessment for: youth facilities, activities, employment opportunities, and programs; prioritize results; and implement as feasible.	PFS-10.1 PFS-10.3 PFS-10.7	Town Manager  Library		■		
<b>X</b> <b>Display of Youth Artwork</b> Encourage youth art by periodically displaying youth artwork in gallery space in the Town Council Chambers, Library, and the Civic Center.	PFS-10.5	Town Manager  Library	■			
<b>Y</b> <b>Develop Internet Safety Program</b> Work with the Library, Police Department, and LGS Recreation to create a program to educate youth about internet use safety.	PFS-11	Town Manager  Library  Police Department	■			
<b>Z</b> <b>Encourage Positive Behavioral Choices</b> Work with local schools and other community organizations to educate and encourage positive behavioral choices.	PFS-11	Police Department				■



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

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)				
<b>AA Promote Youth and Senior Programs</b> Continue to utilize traditional communication tools and new media and technology to promote youth and senior programs as best suited to meet their needs.	PFS-11.1 PFS-11.2 PFS-11.3 PFS-12.3 PFS-13.3 PFS-14.3	Town Manager  Library  Police Department				■
<b>BB Involve Youth Commission</b> Create additional opportunities to involve the Youth Commission with other Town Commissions.	PFS-11.1 PFS-11.2 PFS-11.4	Town Manager				■
<b>CC Continuation of Community Unity Program</b> Continue the Community Unity program to encourage youth and adult volunteer opportunities and access to resources.	PFS-11.3 PFS-11.4	Town Manager  Police Department				■
<b>DD Support Family Education</b> Support continuation of positive parenting and family relationship courses and programs provided by regional agencies and other resources.	PFS-13	Library  Police Department				■
<b>EE Develop Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Classes for Youth</b> Coordinate with local organizations and school districts to develop a program to offer bicycle and pedestrian safety and education classes for youth.	PFS-12.1 PFS-12.2	Parks and Public Works  Police Department		■		
<b>FF Identification of Safety Improvements</b> Identify safety improvements that will allow for safe walking and bicycling to schools. <b>SUS</b>	PFS-12.1 PFS-12.2	Parks and Public Works  Police Department	■			
<b>GG Teen Driver Safety Program</b> Coordinate with schools and the Police Department to develop and implement a teen driver safety program.	PFS-11.2	Town Manager  Police Department		■		
<b>HH Collaboration with LGS Recreation</b> Collaborate with the LGS Recreation and other local organizations to develop a program to provide additional social, educational, recreational, and fitness programs for seniors.	PFS-13.3	Town Manager	■			
<b>II Connect with Seniors</b> Connect seniors with existing resources in the community.	PFS-14.1 PFS-14.3	Town Manager				■
<b>JJ Set Funding Priorities</b> Annually set funding priorities which include funds for senior needs.	PFS-14.2 PFS-14.3	Town Manager  Finance	■			

Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
<b>KK</b>	<b>Coordination with VTA</b> Seek funding and coordinate with VTA to provide lower prices or subsidized public transit fares for seniors.	PFS-14.2 PFS-14.3	Parks and Public Works  Town Manager	■			
<b>LL</b>	<b>Development of Senior Oriented Housing Options</b> Identify incentives for the development of a variety of types of senior housing, including independent living, and residential care facilities.	PFS-15	Community Development		■		
<b>MM</b>	<b>Update Disaster Preparedness Tools</b> Update as needed, communication tools to encourage disaster preparedness for neighborhoods, and make it available to all residents.	PFS-21.1	Town Manager  Police Department	■			
<b>NN</b>	<b>Update Emergency Management Plans</b> Regularly update the Town's emergency management plans and make available to residents and businesses.	PFS-21.1	Town Manager  Police Department  Fire Department  Parks and Public Works  Community Development		■		
<b>OO</b>	<b>Funding Opportunities for the Library</b> Investigate various funding mechanisms for ongoing operation and expansion of the library facility, services, and programs.	PFS-24.1 PFS-24.2	Library Services  Town Manager			■	
<b>PP</b>	<b>Develop Design Guidelines for Art-Related Uses</b> Develop design guidelines to encourage incorporation of art and art-related uses in new and remodel developments.	PFS-25.1	Community Development		■		
<b>QQ</b>	<b>Performing Arts Center Feasibility Study</b> Study the feasibility of a performing arts center for the Town, including options for location and financing.	PFS-25.3 PFS-25.4	Town Manager  Community Development		■		
<b>RR</b>	<b>Feasibility Study for an Art and History Museum</b> Study the feasibility of dedicating a permanent location for an art and history museum to support and enhance the innate character of the Town.	PFS-25.7	Town Manager  Community Development		■		

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

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)				
<b>SS</b> <b>Limit Alcohol and Tobacco Outlets</b> Explore establishing zoning code limitations on the density of alcohol and tobacco outlets near sensitive receptors such as schools, childcare facilities, senior housing, parks, etc., consistent with State law. <span style="background-color: #4a7ebb; color: white; padding: 2px;">HC</span>	PFS-26.2	Town Manager <hr/> Community Development	■			



# 7. Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Element

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

The Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Element is divided into the following sections:

## Contents

Section	Title	Page
	Key Terms .....	7-3
7.1	Open Space .....	7-3
7.2	Parks and Recreation .....	7-7
7.3	Implementation Programs.....	7-11

The Government Code requires that General Plans identify and address six types of open space. This Element addresses open space for outdoor recreation and preservation. Other Elements in the General Plan cover the remaining types of open space. Table 7-1 lists the six open space types and describes where each type is addressed in the General Plan.

**Table 7-1 Government Code Open Space Classifications**

Category	Addressed In:
<b>Open Space for the Preservation of Natural Resources</b>	
■ Plant and animal habitat areas	■ Environment and Sustainability Element, Section 8.3
■ Rivers, streams, lakes, and their banks	■ Environment and Sustainability Element, Sections 8.3 and 8.10
■ Watershed lands	■ Environment and Sustainability Element, Section 8.10
■ Areas required for ecological and other scientific study purposes	■ Environment and Sustainability Element, Section 8.3 and 8.7
<b>Open Space Used for the Managed Production of Resources</b>	
■ Agricultural lands and rangelands	■ Environment and Sustainability Element, Section 8.2
■ Forest and timberlands	■ Not applicable to Los Gatos
■ Mineral resource production areas	■ Not applicable to Los Gatos
<b>Open Space for Outdoor Recreation and Scenic Resources</b>	
■ Areas of outstanding historic or cultural value	■ Community Design Element, Section 4.3
■ Parks and other areas used for recreation	■ Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Element, Section 7.2
■ Scenic corridors, trails, and links between different open space areas	■ Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Element, Section 7.1
<b>Open Space for Public Health and Safety</b>	
■ Areas requiring special management or regulation because of risks presented by natural hazards such as steep slopes or flooding	■ Hazards and Safety Element, Section 9.4
<b>Open Space in Support of the Mission of Military Installations</b>	
■ Areas associated with military bases	■ Not applicable to Los Gatos
<b>Open Space for the Protection of Native American Sacred Sites</b>	
■ Local tribal lands	■ Environment and Sustainability Element, Sections 8.7 and 8.8
■ Native American cultural sites	■ Environment and Sustainability Element, Section 8.8



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

### Key Terms

**Accessible.** The ability to accommodate everyone regardless of ability.

**Active Recreation Open Space.** Land used for outdoor activities that include additional onsite infrastructure.

**Community Garden.** An otherwise undeveloped lot divided into multiple plots for the growing and harvesting of fruits, vegetables, flowers, or herbs, primarily for the personal use of the growers, and that is established, operated, and maintained by a group of persons.

**Common Recreation Space.** Privately owned outdoor recreational facilities as part of a residential development. Features include, but are not limited to, play lots, playgrounds, and athletic fields.

**Multi-Use Facility.** A facility shared for multiple activities and/or utilized by multiple types of users. For example, a trail accessible to and utilized by pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians. A multi-use field would have facilities that could be used for more than one sport and could be available for informal pick-up games or organized play.

**Open Space.** Land in a predominantly natural state or altered for natural resources-based uses (i.e., farming) and may include, but is not limited to, riparian habitat, agricultural lands, grassland and upland habitat, wetlands, and agricultural buffers.

**Park.** An open area that offers recreational and green space for residential and visitor use. May also be called an urban or municipal park if within jurisdictional limits or a public park if publicly owned.

**Passive Recreation Open Space.** Land used for outdoor activities that has a limited impact and minimal development on land designated for recreation or open space. Passive recreation space would include but is not limited to, hiking mountain cycling, boating, and nature observation.

### 7.1 Open Space

Open space areas and preserves within Los Gatos protect the area's natural beauty and contribute to a regional system of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails. As shown in Figure 7-1, the Town of Los Gatos Planning Area contains a total of four open space areas, all of which are publicly owned and operated and total approximately 3,020 acres of wildlife and plant habitat. Two of the open space areas - Santa Rosa Open Space and Heintz Open Space - are located on Town-owned land and are maintained by the Parks and Public Works Department (PPW), while the other two - St. Joseph's Hill Open Space Preserve and the Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve - are owned and operated by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD). The MROSD is a special regional district that was created in the 1970s to acquire and preserve open space lands and provide and maintain access for public enjoyment. All four of the open space areas offer abundant natural beauty and are available to the entire community for passive recreation and environmental education.

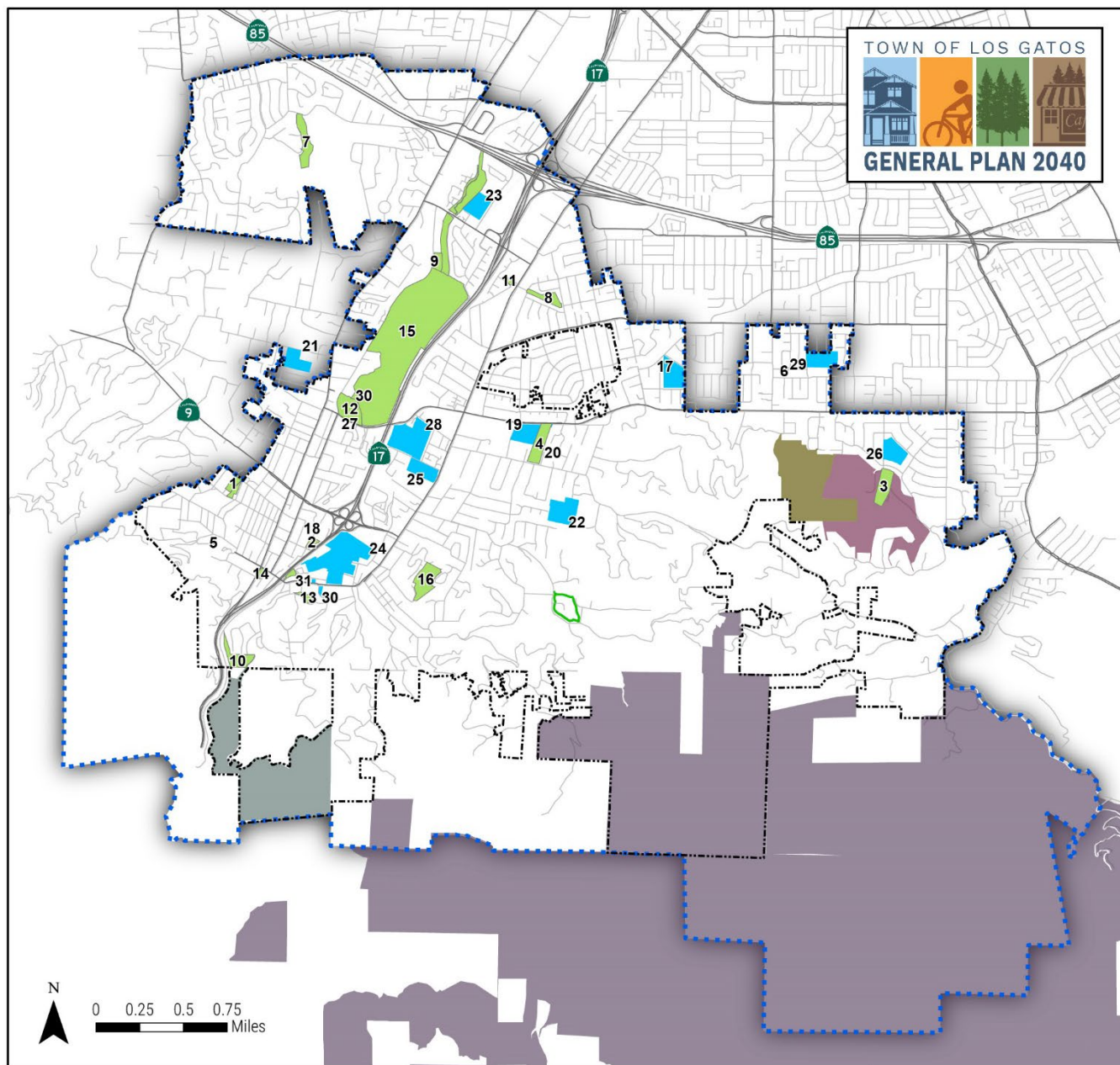
#### Acquisition of Open Space Areas

To enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors, the Town of Los Gatos actively participates in the acquisition of properties as open space. Whether acting individually or in collaboration with other agencies, non-profits, or private landowners, the Town seeks to acquire open space areas that contribute to the protection of the environment and the safety of residents.

#### Access to Open Space Areas

The Town recognizes that open space areas, particularly regional open space areas, should be easily accessible to all residents and visitors. To that end, the Town encourages development of appropriate staging areas and trail heads for equestrians, hikers, and bicyclists. Additionally, the Town will work to ensure that access is available for physically disabled persons.

Figure 7-1 Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Facilities within Town Limits



- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p><b>Parks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 - Bachman Park</li> <li>2 - Balzer Baseball Field</li> <li>3 - Belgatos Park</li> <li>4 - Blossom Hill Park</li> <li>5 - Fairview Plaza Park</li> <li>6 - Howes Play Lot</li> <li>7 - La Rinconada Park</li> <li>8 - Live Oak Manor</li> <li>9 - Creekside Sports Park</li> <li>10 - Novitiate Park</li> <li>11 - Oak Hill Play Lot</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 - Oak Meadow Park</li> <li>13 - Pageant Grounds</li> <li>14 - Town Plaza Park</li> <li>15 - Vasona County Park</li> <li>16 - Worcester Park</li> </ul> <p><b>Recreational Facilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17 - Alta Vista Elementary</li> <li>18 - Balzer Field</li> <li>19 - Blossom Hill Elementary School</li> <li>20 - Blossom Hill Park</li> <li>21 - Daves Avenue Elementary</li> <li>22 - Hillbrook School</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>23 - Jewish Community Center &amp; Yavneh School</li> <li>24 - Los Gatos High School</li> <li>25 - Louise Van Meter Elementary School</li> <li>26 - Mulberry School</li> <li>27 - Oak Meadow Park</li> <li>28 - Raymond J. Fisher Middle School</li> <li>29 - Stratford School</li> <li>31 - Los Gatos Adult Recreation Center</li> <li>32 - Los Gatos Youth Recreation Center</li> </ul> <p><b>Kennedy Loop Trail</b></p> | <p><b>Open Space Preserves</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #2e8b57; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Heintz Open Space</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #90ee90; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Santa Rosa Open Space</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #3cb371; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Sierra Azul Open Space</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #add8e6; margin-right: 5px;"></span> St. Joseph's Hill Open Space</li> </ul> <p><b>Town of Los Gatos</b></p> <p><b>Planning Area/ Sphere of Influence</b></p> |
|---|--|---|--|

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

### Open Space and Existing Neighborhoods

Where access to public open spaces pass through an existing neighborhood, or where trails within public open space are in close proximity to existing development, the Town endeavors to provide access without creating a burden on the neighborhood. This approach allows for a pleasant outdoor experience, while preserving the character of each neighborhood.

### Open Space, Development, and Hillside Preservation

The Town's hillside areas are unique and add to the quality of life of Town residents and visitors alike. The Town's Hillside Development Standards and Guidelines ensure that open space areas in the hillsides are preserved to the greatest extent possible. Viewsheds and the existing character of the hillsides and open space areas are carefully maintained through the implementation of the General Plan and the Town's various planning processes.

The following goals and policies will guide the preservation and conservation of open space in Los Gatos.



*Goals and policies concerning maintenance of open space for wildfire protection are covered in Section 9.2 (Urban and Wildland Fire Hazards) in the Hazards and Safety Element.*

#### OSPR-1

Expand open space areas within the Town of Los Gatos, particularly lands which provide recreational uses.

##### OSPR-1.1

#### Passive Recreation Open Space

Acquire and maintain open space areas in order to define the Town's southern boundary as passive recreation open space.

##### OSPR-1.2

#### Acquisition Coordination

Promote coordination with all levels of government and non-governmental organizations to identify and pursue available resources for the acquisition and development of open space areas (especially areas that provide recreational uses) by both the Town and by other agencies and organizations.

##### OSPR-1.3

#### Environment and Safety Program Support

SUS

Use open space acquisitions to support programs in the Environment and Sustainability Element and Hazards and Safety Element of this General Plan.

##### OSPR-1.4

#### Open Space for Hazards Protection

Acquire open space lands in areas identified as flood, fire, or geologic hazards in order to protect the health, welfare, and safety of residents and visitors.

#### OSPR-2

Preserve hillside areas as natural open space. SUS

##### OSPR-2.1

#### Hillside Natural Open Space Character

SUS

Preserve the natural open space character of hillside lands, including natural topography, native vegetation, wildlife habitats and migration corridors, and viewsheds.

##### OSPR-2.2

#### Hillside Open Space Provision

The provision of open space areas should not detract from the existing character of the Town's hillsides.

### OSPR-2.3

SUS

#### Hillside Open Space Dedication

In all hillside subdivisions, the dedication of open space in fee or as an easement shall be required to protect unique natural features, habitats, and movement corridors.

### OSPR-2.4

SUS

#### Uninterrupted Wildlife

Adjacent parcels in the hillsides shall provide an uninterrupted band of useable segments for wildlife corridors.

### OSPR-2.5

#### Hillside Open Space and Scenic Vista Preservation

Maximize preservation of open space and scenic vistas in the hillside area by requiring dedications in fee (preferred) or easements and by restricting buildable areas on lots. Where buildable areas are restricted through clustering, planned developments, or other means, these means shall not allow higher overall density on the parcel than would otherwise be allowed by the zoning. Dedications should be granted to the Town or MROSD.

## OSPR-3

Make open space areas within the Town accessible to all residents and visitors to the Town.

### OSPR-3.1

EJ HC

#### Open Space Access

Open Space access shall protect the safety, privacy, and security of adjacent residential areas.

### OSPR-3.2

EJ HC

#### Open Space Connections

Improve connections between passive open space areas and on-street bicycle facilities and multi-use trails.

### OSPR-3.3

EJ HC

#### Open Space Access for Persons with Disabilities

All open space areas and related facilities shall provide adequate access for those with accessibility issues.

### OSPR-3.4

#### Open Space Access from all Residential Development

Provide access from all residential developments to open space, where appropriate.

### OSPR-3.5

SUS

#### Access to Open Space Areas

All open space areas shall have access by trails or maintained streets, with adequate protection of rare and sensitive plants and animals and their habitats.

## OSPR-4

Consider the provision of recreation and open space in all development decisions.

### OSPR-4.1

EJ HC

#### Private Open Space in New Development

Promote private open space in all planning decisions for new development.

### OSPR-4.2

#### Open Space Preservation

New development projects shall include conditions to preserve open space (non-recreational common space), where appropriate.

### OSPR-4.3

SUS

#### Development of Open Space

Consider effects on watershed areas, plant and wildlife habitats, and migration corridors before allowing development of any open space.

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

### OSPR-4.4 Design of Common Recreation Space Facilities

Consider health, welfare, and public safety in the design of common recreation space facilities.

### OSPR-4.5 Common Recreation Space in Residential Developments

Provide permanent common recreation space in all residential developments.

### OSPR-4.6 Open Space Dedication Requirement

Evaluate all development projects to determine the benefit of requiring open space dedication.

## OSPR-5

Preserve and enhance Los Gatos Creek, Los Gatos Creek Trail, and Ross Creek as open space amenities, which are critical to protecting biological resources. **SUS**

### OSPR-5.1 Los Gatos Creek Restoration

**SUS**

Restore Los Gatos Creek to a more natural state, removing concrete channelization, where feasible.

### OSPR-5.2 Los Gatos Creek Trail Accessibility

Ensure that Los Gatos Creek Trail is accessible to and safe for all users.

### OSPR-5.3 Ross Creek Restoration

**SUS**

Restore Ross Creek to a more natural state, removing concrete channelization, where feasible.

## 7.2 Parks and Recreation

In addition to the four open space areas and preserves described above, the Town has a total of 32 parks and recreational facilities.

### Town Parks

Local parks are essential to the quality of life for many Los Gatos residents, providing recreational opportunities, neighborhood gathering facilities, and natural beauty throughout the community. The Town of Los Gatos contains a total of 16 publicly owned and operated parks throughout the community (Figure 7-2). As listed above, 15 of these parks are located on Town-owned land and are maintained by the Parks and Public Works Department and the remaining park (Vasona County Park) is owned and operated by the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department. In total, there are more than 250 acres of parkland within Los Gatos, containing nearly 15 miles of multi-use trails and over 65 acres of lawn area.

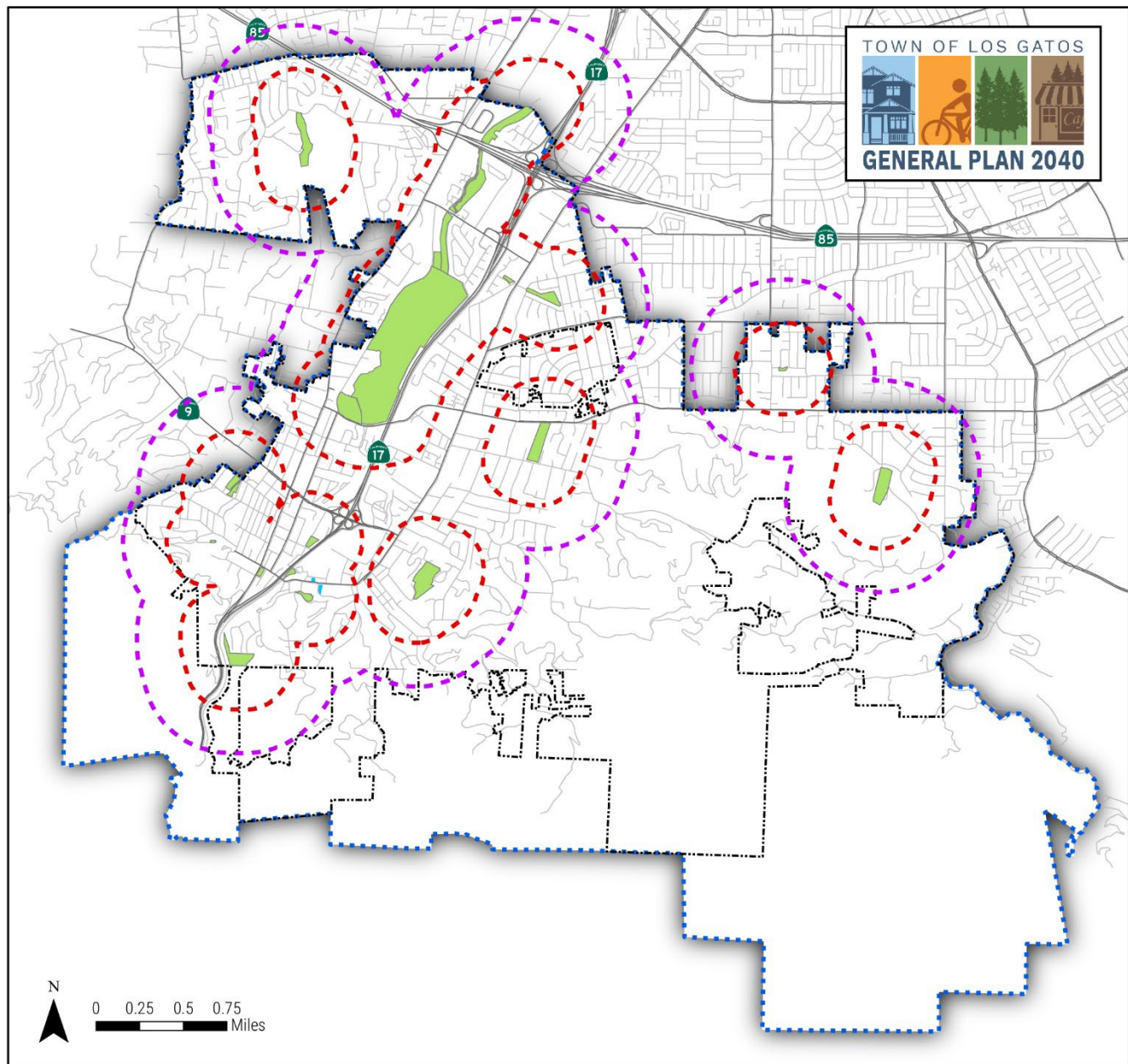
### Recreational Services

Los Gatos relies on a unique service delivery model for recreational activities. These services are provided under a third-party Joint Powers Authority (JPA) with Los Gatos Saratoga Recreation (LGS Recreation). LGS Recreation uses Town facilities at a discount rate and provides full recreational services to the community. LGS Recreation is managed by its own board of directors, comprised of representatives from the school districts and members of the public.

LGS Recreation operates the Los Gatos Adult Recreation Center, located at 208 E. Main Street and the Los Gatos Youth Recreation Center, located at 123 E. Main Street in Los Gatos. From the Recreation Centers, LGS Recreation offers activities, classes, sports, and programs for youth, adults, and seniors throughout the year. Information on programming and events can be found at <http://www.lgsrecreation.org/>.



Figure 7-2 Parks Service Areas



Park

Quarter-Mile Radius

Half-Mile Radius

Town of Los Gatos

Planning Area/Sphere of Influence

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

### Major Recreational Facilities

Los Gatos has 15 recreational facilities containing one or more sports fields on-site.

Of the 15 facilities, eight facilities are currently (2020) at capacity (no additional field availability), including all four schools of the Los Gatos Union Elementary School District, Los Gatos High School, two schools in the Union School District, and the Jewish Community Center. In addition to student and resident use, several of the fields are utilized by local sports leagues for team practices and games. These leagues include: LGS Recreation, Los Gatos United Soccer League, Los Gatos Little League, Los Gatos-Saratoga Softball Association, Los Gatos Pony League, Los Gatos Redhawks Lacrosse League, Union Little League, Pacific Union Academy, and the Branham Hill Girls Softball League. Currently, LGS Recreation and Los Gatos Little League each use seven different fields for athletic activities throughout Los Gatos. The Los Gatos United Soccer League holds games and practices at six different facilities within Los Gatos.

Additionally, 11 of the 15 facilities include a multi-use field area that permit scheduled activities for organized group sporting events. These facilities provide a total of approximately 563,500 square feet of multi-use field space within Los Gatos. These fields are utilized by school children, organized teams, and sports leagues, as well as by the general public.

The following goals and policies address the provision, maintenance, and future of parks and recreational facilities in Los Gatos.

#### OSPR-6

Provide recreational facilities that address the needs of the community.

##### OSPR-6.1

HC

##### Recreation Space Acquisition

Acquire and develop more publicly accessible active and passive community recreation spaces and/or facilities, with priority given to locations not currently within ½ mile of an existing park.

##### OSPR-6.2

HC

##### Recreational Amenities and Programs

Encourage the development of amenities and programs in parks and other recreational facilities that cater to a variety of ages and address the needs of families.

##### OSPR-6.3

HC

##### Shared Recreational and Sports Facilities

Continue to work with the LGS Recreation, local school districts, and faith communities to provide shared recreational and sports facilities.

##### OSPR-6.4

SUS

##### Community Gardens

Encourage community gardens on appropriate public and private properties.

##### OSPR-6.5

##### Active Recreation Spaces

Consider including more varied, active recreation spaces in new and/or existing recreational facilities.

##### OSPR-6.6

##### Off-Leash Dog Recreation Areas

Actively pursue opportunities for dedicated off-leash dog recreation areas and/or for allowing off-leash dog times at specific parks.

##### OSPR-6.7

##### Town Park Standards

Provide five acres of parkland per 1,000 population, in order to meet the community needs for active and passive recreation.

### OSPR-6.8

#### **Accessibility of Developed Parks**

All developed parks shall provide access for persons with disabilities, unless access and facility improvements would be detrimental to public safety or welfare.

### OSPR-7

Create and maintain open space areas and parks that complement and enhance natural habitats and neighborhoods.

### OSPR-7.1

#### **Town Parks and Trails**

**SUS**

Promote a system of Town parks and trails.

### OSPR-7.2

#### **Quasi-Public Areas**

Maximize the use of public utility easements, flood control channels, school grounds, and other quasi-public areas for recreational uses and playfields.

### OSPR-7.3

#### **Informal Gathering Spaces**

Encourage the development of informal gathering spaces for local residents and visitors in appropriate locations throughout the Town.

### OSPR-7.4

#### **Maintain Landscaping and Tree Preservation**

**SUS**

Maintain the Town's high standards for landscaping and tree preservation, helping to maintain cohesiveness between existing neighborhoods and surrounding open space areas while reducing disturbances to adjacent natural habitats.

### OSPR-7.5

#### **Landscaping**

Utilize private and public landscaping to help open space and park areas along Town streets blend with their surroundings.

### OSPR-7.6

#### **Coordination on Public School Open Space Areas**

Work with the Los Gatos Union School District and Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District to preserve open space, recreational facilities, and promote reuse of facilities for community park or recreation purposes when school facilities are deemed no longer necessary.

### OSPR-7.7

#### **Recreation Space for Young Children**

Encourage new multi-family residential development of eight units or more to include tot lots or similar shared off-street recreation space for young children.

### OSPR-7.8

#### **Park Visibility**

Ensure all parks are visible from a public right-of-way whenever possible and are clear of unnecessary visual impediments (such as vegetation) that reduce visual connections and observation.

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

### 7.3 Implementation Programs

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)				
<b>A Develop an Acquisition Program</b> Develop and institute an acquisition program consistent with the Housing Element that includes fee purchase, easement dedications and land donations. Areas to be considered: Novitiate, hillside open space, additional park sites, closed school sites, and large land-locked parcels.	OSPR-1 OSPR-1.2 OSPR-1.3	Parks and Public Works  Community Development		■		
<b>B Hillside Development Standards and Guidelines</b> Update the Hillside Development Standards and Guidelines as needed to include measures that address open space in new development.	OSPR-2.1 OSPR-2.2 OSPR-2.3 OSPR-2.4 OSPR-2.5	Community Development				■
<b>C Review Open Space Standards</b> Review and update the open space standards as needed, specifying the type and quantity of open space required for new developments.	OSPR-4.1 OSPR-4.2 OSPR-4.3 OPS-4.4 OSPR-4.5 OSPR-4.6	Community Development				■
<b>D Develop a Los Gatos Creek Restoration Plan</b> Work with the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, the California Department of Fish and Game, and Caltrans to seek, develop, and obtain funding for the restoration of channelized segments of Los Gatos Creek.	OSPR-5.1	Parks and Public Works	■			
<b>E Identify Los Gatos Creek Trail Access Opportunities</b> Identify additional opportunities and funding mechanisms for restoration projects and trail connection opportunities to increase access along the Los Gatos Creek Trail.	OSPR-5.2	Parks and Public Works	■			
<b>F Develop a Ross Creek Restoration Plan</b> Work with the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, and Caltrans to seeking funding and develop a restoration plan for channelized segments of Ross Creek.	OSPR-5.3	Parks and Public Works		■		
<b>G Establish a Parks, Trails, and Open Space Database</b> Develop, maintain, and update every 10 years an electronic database and ArcGIS files for all parks, open space easements, trails, and recreational facilities.	OSPR-6.7 OSPR-7 OSPR-7.1 OSPR-7.2	Parks and Public Works  Community Development		■		

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)				
<b>H Assess Existing Parks</b> Conduct an assessment of existing parks to identify any unmet recreational needs and implement new facilities as parks are upgraded.	OSPR-7.1	Parks and Public Works	■			
<b>I Install Park Signage</b> Install interpretive signage at parks when feasible and appropriate, providing a description of features such as the park's history, native species that live in or near the park, accessibility indicator (level of difficulty), and existing or historic waterways.	OSPR-7.2	Parks and Public Works				■
<b>J Adopt Best Management Practices</b> Adopt Best Management Practice park service standards for the Town.	OSPR-6.7 OSPR-7.1 OSPR-7.4	Parks and Public Works	■			





## 8. Environment and Sustainability Element

Residents of the Town of Los Gatos are vitally interested in retaining the charm and character of their community, conserving natural resources, and reducing waste. This Element is concerned with protecting and enhancing each of these important aspects of the Town. The Environment and Sustainability Element promotes resource sustainability to protect the Town’s built and natural environments for current and future generations.

State law requires that a General Plan include a Conservation Element that includes how the Town will conserve, develop, and use natural resources, including biological resources, water resources, and energy resources. This Element also addresses and references the reduction of greenhouse gasses (GHG) and air quality in the 2012 Sustainability Plan, since clean air is an important natural resource and a vital component of a healthy environment. Water service, wastewater, stormwater, and solid waste and recycling are discussed in the Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element.

This Element involves preservation of visual resources, the cultivated and natural environment, historical resources and their cultural significance, and energy conservation. Concerns about some of these resources are shared with adjacent communities, such as climate change and air quality, and the Town is committed to playing its part in local and regional conservation efforts of the resources identified in this Element.

The Environment and Sustainability Element is divided into the following sections:

Section	Title	Page
	Key Terms .....	8-2
8.1	Aesthetics .....	8-3
8.2	Agricultural and Forestry Resources .....	8-5
8.3	Biological Resources .....	8-7
8.4	Air Quality .....	8-10
8.5	Climate Change/Greenhouse Gas Emissions .....	8-11
8.6	Energy .....	8-14
8.7	Cultural and Historical Resources .....	8-15
8.8	Tribal Cultural Resources .....	8-17
8.9	Geology and Soils .....	8-18
8.10	Hydrology and Water Quality .....	8-19
8.11	Noise .....	8-25
8.12	Implementation Programs .....	8-29

## Key Terms

**Adaptation.** Adaptation is preparing for climate change impacts that are expected to occur by making adjustments in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects that are aimed at minimizing harm or taking advantage of beneficial opportunities.

**Ambient Noise Level.** The combination of noise from all existing sources; the normal or existing level of noise at a given location.

**A-Weighted Sound Level.** All sound levels referred to in this policy document are in A-weighted decibels. A weighting de-emphasizes the very low and very high frequencies of sound in a manner like the human ear. Most community noise standards utilize A-weighting, as it provides a high degree of correlation with human annoyance and health effects.

**Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).** A naturally occurring gas that exists in the earth's atmosphere. CO<sub>2</sub> is also a by-product of burning fossil fuels and biomass, as well as land-use changes and other industrial processes. It is the principal man-made greenhouse gas (GHG) that affects the earth's radiative balance. It is the reference gas against which other GHGs are measured and, therefore, has a global warming potential of one.

**Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e).** CO<sub>2</sub>e is the measure of how much heat trapping potential a given type of greenhouse gas has on average over a 100-year time period, based on its molecular structure compared to carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). CO<sub>2</sub> has a baseline of one, while other gases can be tens to thousands of times higher. The carbon dioxide equivalent for a gas is derived by multiplying the tons of the gas by the associated global warming potential. Carbon dioxide equivalents are commonly expressed as "metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents" (MT CO<sub>2</sub>e). Different molecules decay at different rates, causing their heat trapping potential to decline over periods of decades to centuries.

**Climate.** Climate, in a narrow sense, is usually defined as the "average weather," or more rigorously, as the statistical description in terms of the mean and variability of relevant quantities over a period of time ranging from months to thousands of years. The classical period is three decades, as defined by the World Meteorological Organization. These quantities are most often surface variables such as temperature, precipitation, and wind. Climate in a wider sense is the state, including a statistical description, of the climate system.

**Climate Change.** Climate change refers to any significant change in measures of climate (such as temperature, precipitation, or wind) lasting for an extended period (decades or longer). Climate change may result from: natural factors, such as changes in the sun's intensity or slow changes in the earth's orbit around the sun; natural processes within the climate system (e.g., changes in ocean circulation); human activities that change the atmosphere's composition (e.g., through burning fossil fuels); and the land surface (e.g., deforestation, reforestation, urbanization, desertification, etc.).

**Community Noise Equivalent Levels (CNEL).** The average A-weighted noise level during a 24-hour day, obtained after addition of five decibels to noise levels occurring in the evening from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and the addition of 10 decibels to sound levels measured in the night between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

**Criteria Pollutants.** The criteria pollutants are the six principal pollutants harmful to public health and the environment for which the Environmental Protection Agency has set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The pollutants are carbon monoxide (CO), lead, nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), particulate matter (PM), and sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>).

**Day/Night Average Sound Level (Ldn).** The average A-weighted noise level equivalent sound level during a 24-hour day, obtained after the addition of ten decibels to sound levels in the night after 10:00 p.m. and before 7:00 a.m.

**Decibel (dB).** A logarithmic unit commonly used to measure noise level. It is a unit for describing the amplitude of sound as heard by the human ear. As examples, a quiet neighborhood at night might be 30-40 dB and a lawn mower might be 90 dB when standing nearby.

## 8. Environment and Sustainability Element

**Designated Creek.** A creek that has been identified within the General Plan and that is located within the Town limits. Designated creeks within Los Gatos include Los Gatos Creek, Ross Creek, San Tomas Aquinas Creek, and Smith Creek.

**Ecosystem.** A community or group of living organisms that live in and interact with each other in a specific physical environment.

**Equivalent Noise Level (Leq).** The average A-weighted noise level during the measurement period.

**Greenhouse Gas (GHG).** Any gas that absorbs infrared radiation in the atmosphere. GHGs contribute to the greenhouse effect. Some GHGs such as CO<sub>2</sub> occur naturally and are emitted to the atmosphere through natural processes and human activities. Other GHGs (e.g., fluorinated gases) are created and emitted solely through human activities. The principal GHGs that enter the atmosphere because of human activities include water vapor, CO<sub>2</sub>, methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), and fluorinated gases [hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>)].

**Habitat.** The natural environment of an animal, plant, or other organism.

**Integrated Pest Management (IPM).** An ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties.

**Noise-Sensitive Land Use.** Land uses where noise exposure could result in health-related risks to individuals, as well as places where quiet is an essential element of their intended purpose. These uses include residences; schools; nursing homes; historic sites; cemeteries; parks, recreation, and open space areas; hospitals and care facilities; sensitive wildlife habitats, including the habitat of rare, threatened, or endangered species; hotels and other short-term lodging (e.g., bed and breakfasts, motels); places of worship; and libraries.

**Particulate Matter.** Particulate matter is fine metal, smoke, soot, and dust particles suspended in the air. Particulate matter is measured by two sizes: course particles (PM<sub>10</sub>), or particles between 2.5 and 10 micrometers in diameter; and fine particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), or particles less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter.

**Riparian.** Of, on, or pertaining to the bank of a natural course of water. For example, riparian vegetation is composed of plant species normally found near streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and other freshwater bodies.

**Watershed.** The land surface area from which water drains into a common downstream point.

**Wetlands.** Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater to support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. This definition of wetlands requires three wetland identification parameters to be present: wetland hydrology; hydric soils; and hydrophytic vegetation. Wetlands can be areas that are consistently inundated or seasonally inundated. Wetlands are delineated according to the USACE 1987 Wetlands Delineation Manual and are a subset of Waters of the United States.

### 8.1 Aesthetics

Community aesthetics refer to the appearance of a community and are an important component to the way residents feel about their community in terms of the relationship between people and the natural environment. Aesthetic resources improve quality of life and foster a sense of pride for the community. The range of visual resources in Los Gatos attracts visitors and provides pleasure to residents.

#### Scenic Views and other Natural Visual Resources


Natural visual resources primarily refer to the physical landscape, addressed here in Section 7.1 Aesthetics, Section 7.2, Agriculture and Forestry Resources, and Section 7.3, Biological Resources. While the following sections discuss the specific criteria of conserving these resources, Section 7.1, Aesthetics, addresses the way in which natural and built environments provide a sense of place specific to Los Gatos and are important to the



community identity. It includes scenic vistas, designated scenic highways and roadways, and other natural settings important to the quality of life for the Town residents and visitors.

Situated at the northeastern slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains, Los Gatos is defined by a beautiful natural setting that is part of the Town’s fabric in the form of striking views of the forested hillsides, mature trees, and creekside trails. The foothills and higher elevations afford views toward the greater Santa Clara Valley looking north and east. State Route (SR) 9 is an officially designated State Scenic Highway that bisects the Town on a north to south axis, just west and south of Los Gatos as Los Gatos-Saratoga Road. The portion of SR 17 between the SR 9 interchange and Santa Cruz is eligible for State Scenic Highway designation.

Throughout the community, wooded terrain provides a distinctive sense of place in Los Gatos, where residential development and native or landscaped vegetation commingle to support the distinctive Town character. The urban forest in Los Gatos has been recognized by a Tree City USA designation from the Arbor Day Foundation, noting the Town’s commitment to preserving this important feature.



Goals and policies pertaining to open space, parks, and trails are covered in the Section 7.1 (Open Space), Section 7.2 (Parks and Recreation) in the Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Element, and Section 5.2 (Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities) in the Mobility Element.

The following goals and policies aim to protect and promote aesthetic resources in Los Gatos.

ENV-1	Promote and protect viewsheds and scenic resources.
ENV-1.1	<b>Scenic Resources</b>
<div>SUS</div>	Require design review to prevent developments that, due to their site location and massing, block views from roadways and public spaces in the surrounding hillsides.
ENV-1.2	<b>Scenic Easements</b>
<div>SUS</div>	Maintain scenic easements in specifically designated areas, particularly in hillside development and in the Town core.
ENV-1.3	<b>Undergrounding Requirements</b>
	Utilities for new development shall be installed underground. If undergrounding is not possible, an in-lieu fee shall be paid for future undergrounding.
ENV-1.4	<b>View Corridor Protection</b>
	Encourage the protection of key view corridors as described in the Hillside Development Standards and Guidelines to preserve the natural landscape and views of the surrounding hillsides.
ENV-2	Maintain and enhance trees and significant natural features. <div>SUS</div>
ENV-2.1	<b>Tree Protection</b>
<div>SUS</div>	Ensure tree removal and replacement during development is consistent with the latest in tree conservation standards to support the Town’s Arbor Day Foundation status as a Tree City USA.

## 8. Environment and Sustainability Element

### ENV-2.2

SUS

#### Landscaping in Public Spaces

The Town shall maintain existing trees and introduce new trees to enhance streetscapes, public spaces, and public parking lots to maximize the beneficial effects of tree canopies.

### ENV-2.3

SUS

#### Landscape Design

Continue to update landscape design guidelines for development consistent with Biological Resources goals and policies. Landscape design should promote the implementation of native species, drought tolerant species, and fire-wise plants and designs, including in hillside areas and future planning areas.



*Goals and policies pertaining to landscaping in development and overall landscape design are presented in both the Land Use and Community Design Elements.*

## 8.2 Agricultural and Forestry Resources

Woodland/forest communities account for approximately 4,329 acres in the Los Gatos area and include riparian woodlands, oak woodlands, broad-leaved upland forest, and non-native ornamental trees. In the Town of Los Gatos Sphere of Influence (SOI) riparian woodlands occur along Los Gatos Creek, Guadalupe Creek, Pheasant Creek, San Tomas Aquino Creek, and other creeks and drainages. The riparian woodlands support a dense, well-developed canopy of riparian trees dominated by a mix of native species and non-native trees, including ornamentals. Oak woodlands are located primarily in the southern and eastern portions of Los Gatos. The forestland throughout the southern and eastern portions of Los Gatos are no longer used as a source of timber for logging. Many of these areas are designated as protected recreational and open space, serving as wildlife habitat and as an important resource for residents and visitors (See the Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Element for more on this topic). Approximately 1,650 acres of shrubland fall under this woodland designation, including undeveloped parcels that are currently designated for agriculture in the Town limits and in the SOI.

The California Land Conservation Act of 1965, commonly known as the Williamson Act, enables local governments to conserve specific agricultural and open space lands by entering into a contractual agreement with private landowners, who receive tax relief on designated agricultural and open space properties. Approximately 125 acres of land in the Town limits and 358 acres of land outside of the Town limits and in the SOI are under Williamson Act contracts (see Figure 8-1).

The following goal and policies will guide the preservation and conservation of agricultural resources.

### ENV-3

Conserve agricultural lands as a biological resource.

SUS

#### ENV-3.1

SUS

##### Placement of New Residential Uses

Mitigate potential adverse health and safety impacts associated with the establishment of new residential and other sensitive land uses near agricultural operations using pesticides applied by spray techniques.

#### ENV-3.2

SUS

##### Project Siting

Prohibit the introduction of new incompatible land uses and environmental hazards into existing residential areas.

#### ENV-3.3

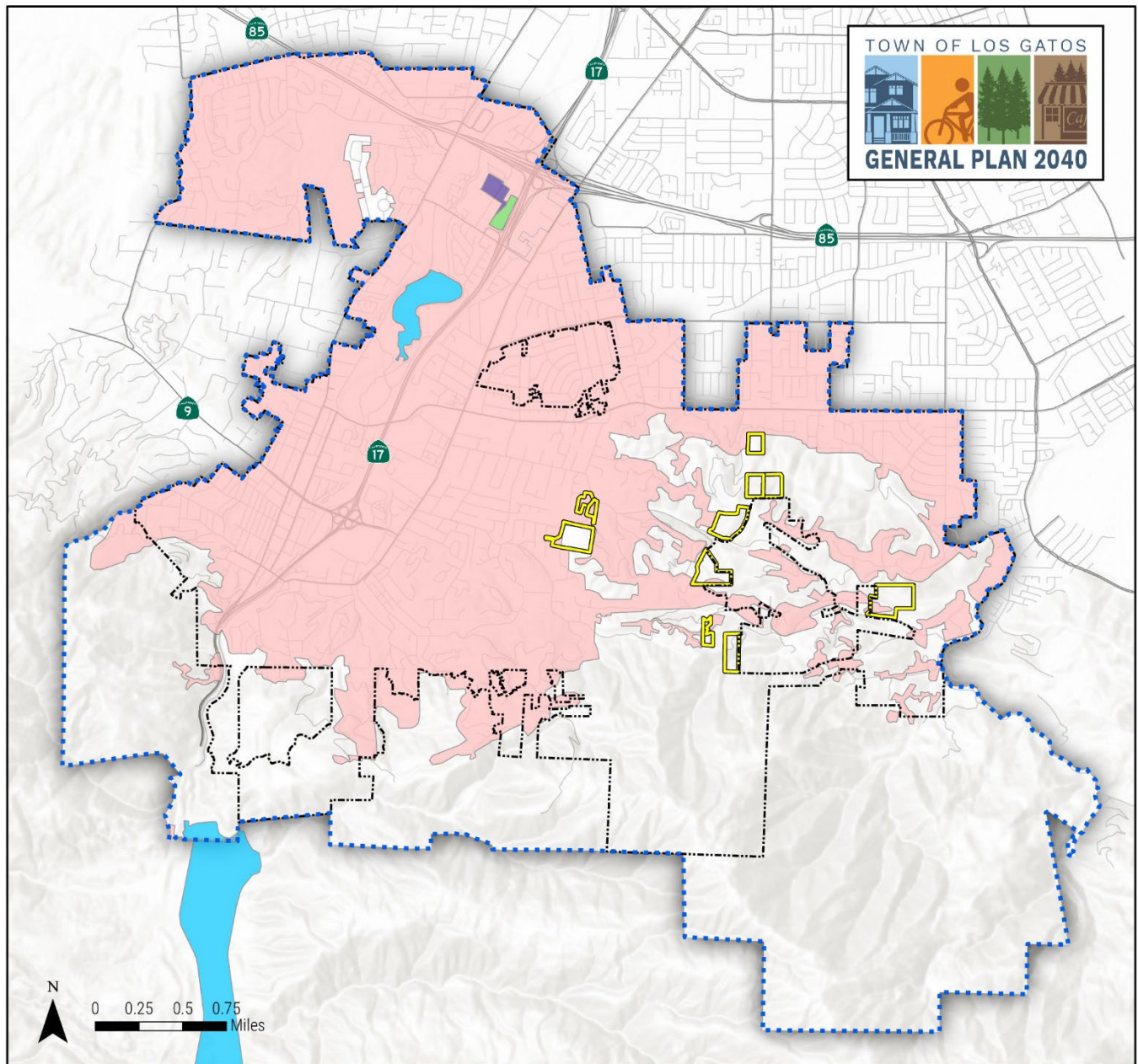
SUS

##### Williamson Act Lands

The Town will work with current landowners with properties under Williamson Act contracts to track renewal status and plan for future changes accordingly.



Figure 8-1 Land Under Williamson Act Contracts in Los Gatos



- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Williamson Act Properties | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: purple; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Prime Farmland        | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 1px dashed black;"></span> Town of Los Gatos                    |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: green; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Unique Farmland            | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: pink; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Urban and Built-up Land | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 1px dotted blue;"></span> Planning Area/<br>Sphere of Influence |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: blue; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Water                       |  |  |

## 8. Environment and Sustainability Element

### 8.3 Biological Resources

Los Gatos is ecologically diverse and includes a variety of terrain, from flat topography at the Santa Clara Valley edge to wooded hillsides of the Santa Cruz Mountains in the southern and eastern portion of the Town. Creeks and streams stemming from the southerly mountains bisect the area, which is bordered by riparian habitats. Vasona Lake is within the west side of Los Gatos, west of SR 17, while Lexington Reservoir is located southwest of Los Gatos adjacent to SR 17. Seasonal wetlands and marshes provide specialized habitat for numerous species. Figure 8-2 depicts vegetation and wildlife habitat distribution.

Los Gatos habitat types include oak woodland and forest land, riparian forestland, grassland and forbs, and wetlands and bodies of water. A few special status species have the potential to occur in Los Gatos including the California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, American peregrine falcon, and over a dozen other species. Even though these species are currently not active in Los Gatos, there are several areas within the Planning Area that include suitable critical habitat areas for these species.

The following goals and policies guide the conservation of biological resources.

#### ENV-4

Protect, conserve, and enhance natural and urban habitats and ecosystems to sustain the biodiversity and natural resources of Los Gatos. **SUS**

##### ENV-4.1

**SUS**

#### Ecosystem Protection

Protect and enhance public and private open space ecosystems in Los Gatos.

##### ENV-4.2

**SUS**

#### Open Space

Maintain and support a network of open space preserves that protects the urban and natural forest and offers all residents access to nature.

##### ENV-4.3

**SUS**

#### Habitat Management

Encourage management of private open space areas, agricultural land, and residential gardens as habitat that supports wildlife in a way that enhances that habitat, reinforces natural wildlife management, and is consistent with open space management plans.

#### ENV-5

Conserve and protect native plants and plant communities in Los Gatos and promote appropriate use of local, native plants in habitat restoration and landscaping. **SUS**

##### ENV-5.1

**SUS**

#### Use Native Plants

Require all development to use native plants or other appropriate non-invasive plants that are indigenous to Los Gatos and Santa Clara County to reduce maintenance and irrigation costs and the disturbance of adjacent natural habitat.

##### ENV-5.2

**SUS**

#### Special Status Native Plant Species Protection

Require public and private projects to protect special-status native plant species.

##### ENV-5.3

**SUS**

#### Impacts on Special Status Plants

Prohibit development that significantly depletes, damages, or alters existing special-status plants.

##### ENV-5.4

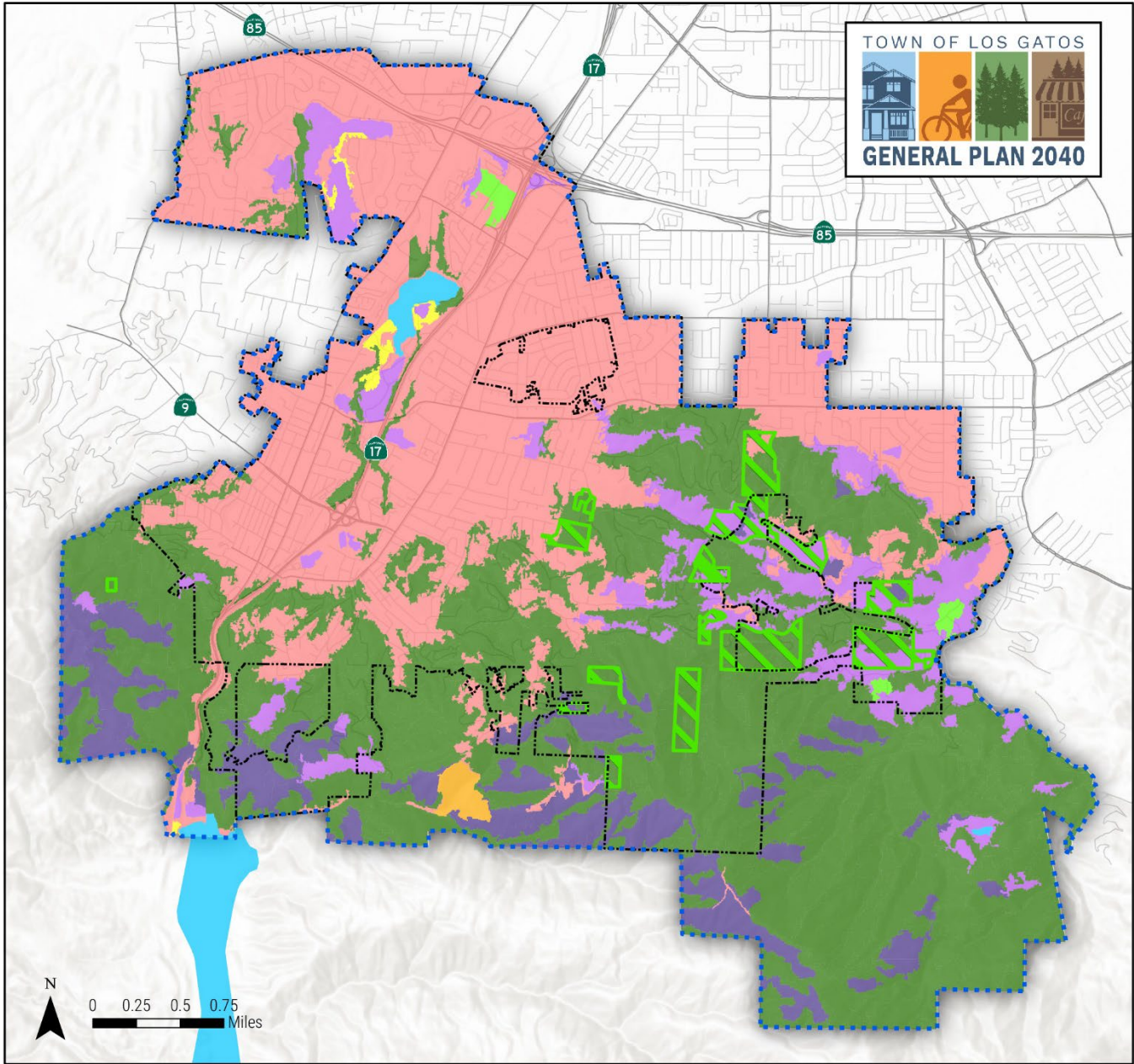
**SUS**

#### Prohibit Invasive Plant Species

Prohibit the use of invasive plant species listed by the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) for all new construction.



Figure 8-2 Vegetation and Wildlife Habitat Types



U.S. Forest Service

- Agriculture
- Barren (rock/soil/sand/snow)
- Hardwood forest/woodland
- Herbaceous
- Mixed conifer and hardwood forest/woodland

- Shrub
- Urban
- Water

Town of Los Gatos

- Agriculture Land Use Designation

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

## 8. Environment and Sustainability Element

### ENV-6

Protect wetlands and riparian corridors, including intermittent and ephemeral streams. **SUS**

#### ENV-6.1

**SUS**

##### **Prevent Damage from Development**

Development shall not damage riparian areas, wetlands, and intermittent or ephemeral streams. See Figure 7-3 (Wetlands and Water Habitats).

#### ENV-6.2

**SUS**

##### **Retain Natural Conditions**

Retain creek beds, riparian corridors, water courses, and associated vegetation in their natural state to assist groundwater percolation and prevent erosion, downstream sedimentation, and other degradation.

#### ENV-6.3

**SUS**

##### **Riparian Corridors**

Require setbacks and measures as appropriate to protect riparian corridors.

#### ENV-6.4

**SUS**

##### **Planting Native Plants**

Promote the planting of local native trees and shrubs where development occurs on land surrounding reservoirs and streams, especially adjacent to areas where banks or channels have been modified for flood protection.

### ENV-7

Conserve and protect wildlife populations. **SUS**

#### ENV-7.1

**SUS**

##### **Protecting Wildlife**

Ensure that public and private projects shall not significantly deplete, damage, or alter existing wildlife habitat or populations.

#### ENV-7.2

**SUS**

##### **Coordination with State and Federal Agencies**

Coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other appropriate agencies to protect wildlife species and habitats.

#### ENV-7.3

**SUS**

##### **Habitat and Movement Corridors**

Maintain wildlife habitat and movement corridors for native wildlife species, specific to Santa Clara County.

#### ENV-7.4

**SUS**

##### **Limit Public Access**

Limit public access in areas that support rare wildlife populations and sensitive nesting and breeding sites.

#### ENV-7.5

**SUS**

##### **Nesting Sites**

Conserve nesting sites in new development and within existing development unless a mitigation plan is approved.

#### ENV-7.6

**SUS**

##### **Minimize Use of Herbicides and Pesticides**

Consider alternative methods prior to utilizing herbicides and pesticides on Town property as one tool within a comprehensive integrated pest management framework to minimize potential damage to native plants, birds, and other wildlife.

### ENV-7.7

SUS

#### Herbicides and Pesticides Adjacent to Aquatic Habitats

Require that herbicides and pesticides used in areas adjacent to creeks and other water bodies are approved for use in aquatic habitats, working towards minimized potential damage to public health, native plants, birds, and other wildlife.

### ENV-7.8

SUS

#### Require Open Space Dedications

Require open space dedications as a means to protect wildlife where necessary.

### ENV-7.9

SUS

#### Conservation of Habitats

Conserve the habitats of native plants, specifically rare species within the Planning Area.

### ENV-7.10

SUS

#### Bird Safe Design

Require new development to increase bird safety by reducing hazardous building and architectural elements, and including bird safe and lighting design.

### ENV-7.11

SUS

#### Dark Skies

Require the design of building, street, landscape, and parking area lighting to improve safety, energy efficiency, protection of the night skies (dark sky protections), biological resources, and environmental soundness.

## 8.4 Air Quality

The air we breathe is a shared resource. In general, air pollution describes the introduction of harmful particles or molecules into the atmosphere. Air pollutants can cause harm to humans, animals, and plants that breathe in or absorb these materials. The amount of harm depends on the type and concentration of the pollutant. Criteria pollutants are the six principal pollutants harmful to public health and the environment for which the Environmental Protection Agency has set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The pollutants are carbon monoxide (CO), lead, nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), particulate matter (PM), and sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>). Air pollution affects all Californians regardless of where they live or how they address the environmental in their daily lives. Polluted air damages our health, our agricultural industry, and our natural environment.

Los Gatos is in the Santa Clara Valley subregion of the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin and is under the jurisdiction of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District). The California Air Resources Board compiles air quality data from a regional air quality monitoring network. In general, air quality in the Los Gatos area is like that of the greater Bay Area, with ozone and particulate matter being the greatest concerns. In Los Gatos, vehicular emissions, waste disposal, cleaning and industrial products and processes are the largest sources of air pollution and odor.

### Sensitive Receptors and Land Uses

Sensitive populations, or sensitive receptors, are persons more susceptible to the health effects of air pollution than the population generally. Locations where high concentrations of sensitive receptors gather are considered sensitive locations. Examples include residential areas, facilities that serve older adults, schools, daycare centers, hospitals, places of worship, and parks.

The following goal and policies will guide the management of air quality.

## ENV-8

Improve the air quality in Los Gatos. SUS

### ENV-8.1

SUS

#### Air Quality Standards

Federal, State, and regional air quality goals, policies, standards, and requirements shall be addressed during environmental review for local land use and development decisions. Applicable



## 8. Environment and Sustainability Element

standards or requirements, if not already in the proposed plans, shall be incorporated as conditions of approval.

### ENV-8.2

SUS

#### Support Regional Efforts to Reduce Air Pollution

Coordinate with and support the Air District, MTC, State, and Federal planning efforts and programs aimed at reducing air pollution, including ongoing monitoring and management of major pollutants affecting Los Gatos and the region, with a particular focus on PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> (Particulate Matter).

### ENV-8.3

SUS

#### Decrease Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)

Require decreases to vehicle miles traveled (VMT) whenever the environmental review document concludes that the traffic generated by a development project would result in adverse impacts from air and noise pollution. Decreases in VMT could be achieved through transportation demand management (TDM) programs.

### ENV-8.4

SUS

#### Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Require installation of electric vehicle charging stations as a ratio of total required parking for new and redeveloped commercial, multi-family, residential subdivision, and condominium projects.

### ENV-8.5

SUS

#### Education Programs to Reduce Particulate Emissions from Vehicles

Support education programs that promote the reduction of particulate emissions from vehicles, such as reducing idling time, as well as reducing overall VMT.

### ENV-8.6

SUS

#### Metropolitan Transportation Commission Recommendations

Support MTC recommendations for the reduction of auto pollutants including encouraging the use of clean, alternative energy sources for transportation, wherever practical.

### ENV-8.7

SUS

#### Reduce Effects of High Air Pollutant Concentrations

Require developments to incorporate site planning techniques that reduce exposure of people to the impacts of high air pollutants from adjacent roadways.

### ENV-8.8

SUS

#### Reduce Emissions from Commercial Sources

Reduce particulate emissions from dry cleaning, light manufacturing, wood burning, and landscape maintenance.

### ENV-8.9

SUS

#### Air Pollution Impacts During Construction

Require project proponents to prepare and implement a construction management plan that incorporates Best Available Control Measures and all best management practices in accordance with the Air District standards to reduce criteria pollutants.

## 8.5 Climate Change/Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Climate change is a global problem caused by the cumulative warming effects of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) emissions. Its effects are seen across California as evidenced in the rise in average temperatures and extreme heat days, increased variability and intensity of precipitation, an increase in the length and severity of droughts, and the increased frequency and severity of wildfires. Governments at all levels, non-governmental agencies, and private citizens and businesses are now acting to mitigate GHG emissions as quickly as possible to reduce or avoid the most catastrophic effects of climate change. The Los Gatos area is projected to have increases in riverine flooding, wildfire, extreme heat, and drought as a result of climate change. The increased wildfire risk is addressed in detail in the Hazards and Safety Element.

GHGs are the result of both natural and human activities. Without human intervention, the earth maintains an approximate balance between the emission of GHGs into the atmosphere and its storage in oceans and terrestrial

ecosystems. The consumption of fossil fuels for power generation and transportation, forest fires, decomposition of organic waste, and industrial processes are the primary sources of GHG emissions.

The State's target is to reduce GHG emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050, in line with the Town's most recent Sustainability Plan. The Town of Los Gatos adopted Sustainability Plan includes targets, strategies, actions, and measures to reduce GHG emissions, as well as an inventory of communitywide GHG emissions. Transportation was the largest source of emissions (65 percent of total emissions), followed by residential building energy (18 percent), and commercial and industrial building energy (12 percent). Emissions associated with solid waste, water and wastewater, and stationary equipment accounted for approximately five percent of emissions combined. The 2030 State target ensures that successes in the first 20 years of the century will continue and that a full range of initiatives can be implemented to contribute to clean technology and related jobs.

Addressing climate change also requires adaptation. Adaptation is preparing for climate change impacts that are expected to occur by making adjustments in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects that are aimed at minimizing harm or taking advantage of beneficial opportunities.

The following goals and policies will guide the management of GHG emissions and address the climate change impacts affecting the region.

### ENV-9

Support local and regional efforts in the Town's response to climate change.

SUS

#### ENV-9.1

##### **Reduce Town Contribution to GHG Emissions**

SUS

Take action to achieve target reductions in GHG emission levels from operation of Town facilities and services to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030.

#### ENV-9.2

##### **Include Adaptation Measures in all Planning Documents**

SUS

Require all planning documents to incorporate newly identified and revised adaptation measures consistently, including measures in the Hazards and Safety Element, the Sustainability Plan, and the Emergency Operation Plan.

#### ENV-9.3

##### **Support Climate Change Initiatives**

SUS

Support initiatives, legislation, and actions to respond to climate change.

#### ENV-9.4

##### **Raise Climate Change Impacts Awareness**

SUS

Collaborate with local organizations, such as health care providers, public health advocates, and fire prevention organizations, to raise awareness about climate change impacts and to disseminate public emergency preparedness and response information as it relates to climate change.

#### ENV-9.5

##### **Address Heat Island Effects**

SUS

Encourage development to address "heat island" effects by including cool roofs, cool pavements, and strategically placed shade trees.

#### ENV-9.6

##### **Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy Use**

SUS

Promote energy conservation in business and residential uses by encouraging installation of fixture and appliance upgrades, installation of solar panels, and other retrofits to existing structures.

#### ENV-9.7

##### **Employer Incentive Programs**

SUS

Support employer incentive programs for carpooling and the use of other forms of alternative transportation, as well as offering plant-based menu options.

## 8. Environment and Sustainability Element

### ENV-9.8

SUS

#### Local Employment Opportunities

Promote local employment opportunities to reduce consumption of fuel used for commuting.

### ENV-9.9

SUS

HC

#### Carpool, Walk, Bike to School

Work with local school districts to encourage carpooling, walking, and biking to schools.

### ENV-9.10

SUS

#### Encourage and Incentivize Alternative Fuels

Support the use of non-polluting fuels by encouraging the inclusion of facilities for alternative fuels in new public and private developments and by offering incentives to encourage retrofits.

### ENV-9.11

SUS

#### Green Building

Foster awareness and encourage adoption of green building practices that include the design and development of environmentally responsible commercial and residential development and retrofits.

### ENV-9.12

SUS

#### GreenPoint Guidelines

Continue to require that all remodeled homes and new home construction comply with the adopted GreenPoint Guidelines to reduce GHG emissions reduction.

### ENV-9.13

SUS

#### Regional Green Building Programs

Coordinate with other local governments, special districts, nonprofits, and other public organizations to share resources, achieve economies of scale, and develop green building policies and programs that are optimized on a regional scale.

### ENV-9.14

SUS

#### Exceeding Title 24 for Large Developments

Require new residential developments with more than 20 dwelling units an acre and new or remodeled commercial, industrial, and office developments greater than 15,000 square feet to exceed the Title 24 requirements by 10 percent.

### ENV-9.15

SUS

#### Sustainability Plan Requirements

Continue to require that all new and remodeled developments incorporate sustainable building practices and site design methods as listed in the Sustainability Plan.

## ENV-10

Become a zero-waste Town through encouraging sustainable procurement, extended producer responsibility, and innovative strategies. **SUS**

### ENV-10.1

SUS

#### Move Toward Zero Waste

Encourage practices that take the Town closer to being a zero waste municipality through:

- Limiting the amount of waste sent to landfills;
- Promote and implement programs that reduce packaging and microplastics that get into the environment;
- Promoting a reduce and reuse first approach to consumer waste; and
- Providing opportunities for composting, safe disposal of hazardous waste and bulky items, and other strategies, including enhancing construction and demolition debris recycling programs to increase diversion, where possible.

### ENV-10.2

SUS

#### Energy-Efficient Town Operations

Continue to encourage Town operations to pursue and model waste reduction and recycling methodologies in Town facilities for the community.

### ENV-10.3

SUS

#### Reusable/Recyclable Packaging

Encourage or, where feasible, require local businesses to use bags, packaging, and other materials that can be reused or recycled.

### ENV-10.4

SUS

#### Recycled-Content Construction Materials

Encourage the use of recycled-content construction materials in new construction that have low production energy costs for building materials, hard surfaces, and non-plant landscaping.

### ENV-10.5

SUS

#### Reuse and Rehabilitate Existing Buildings

Encourage reuse and rehabilitation of existing buildings when appropriate and feasible to reduce waste, and conserve resources and energy.

### ENV-10.6

SUS

#### Life-Cycle Costing

Incorporate a “life-cycle costing” approach into Town purchasing considerations that takes into account long-term cost savings from energy efficient products.

### ENV-10.7

SUS

#### Recycling Areas in Residential Developments

Require recycling and composting facilities in all new single-family and multi-family residential developments along with other waste-reduction resources.

## 8.6 Energy

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) distributes electricity throughout Los Gatos, with supplies purchased from Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE). PG&E supplies natural gas to the community as well. The Town is committed to its partnership with other local communities under the umbrella of SVCE. Through this partnership, Los Gatos residents and businesses receive carbon-free electricity at lower rates than those that arise from fossil fuel consumption. SVCE works to innovate and implement new clean energy programs and presents many of these innovations at community meetings, Earth Day events, and presentations to businesses. SVCE's 2020 Community Benefits Summary indicates Los Gatos achieved the following results:

- \$813,000 in on-bill savings for Los Gatos SVCE customers;
- 14,700 households and businesses served;
- 99 percent reduction in electric utility-related emissions (34,897,000 pounds greenhouse gas emissions avoided by providing clean energy); and
- \$29,900 in cash payments to customers for generating surplus solar energy.

Achieving these goals adds to the overall GHG reduction strategy, with a focus on lowering dependence on carbon-based fuels and energy sources. Energy efficiency involves a careful balance of assessing energy sources, educating the public on home and business renewable energy use, implementing energy efficiency strategies, and encouraging and incentivizing widespread and ongoing implementation of those strategies.

The following goal and policies will guide energy demand and efficiency.

### ENV-11

Source clean, efficient energy supplies from cost-effective, renewable sources.

SUS

### ENV-11.1

SUS

#### Carbon-Neutral Energy

Support SCVE to continue to procure carbon-neutral energy for long-term and short-term supplies, including renewable resources.

## 8. Environment and Sustainability Element

### ENV-11.2 Energy Efficiency in Municipal Facilities

Invest in cost-effective energy efficiency and energy conservation programs in municipal facilities.

### ENV-11.3 Future Demand Reduction

SUS

Explore cost-effective, reliable, and feasible energy efficiency and demand reduction opportunities and continue to use the Sustainability Plan to include education programs for these opportunities.

### ENV-11.4 Conservation and Reduction

SUS

Maximize the conservation and efficient use of energy in existing and new residences, businesses, and municipal buildings in Los Gatos.

### ENV-11.5 Solar Systems

SUS

Support the maximum economic use of solar electric (photovoltaic) systems on-site to augment the renewable energy portfolio available to new development, businesses, and municipal facilities.

### ENV-11.6 Organic Waste Recycling

SUS

Comply with SB 1383 regulations to maximize energy recovery from organic materials such as yard trimmings, food waste, and other compostable resources.

## 8.7 Cultural and Historical Resources

Cultural resources are most frequently identified with prehistoric (archaeological) or historic resources. Archaeological resources refer to the material remains produced by human beings (e.g., artifacts, structures), whether intentionally or accidentally. The scientific study of these remains can lead to identification of activities, types of adaptation to the environment, and changes in activities and organization that groups of people in the past experienced. Furthermore, these remains often have special significance to Native Americans, ethnic groups, special interest groups (e.g., avocational archaeologists), and the public.

Cultural resources can include both physical features and non-renewable, nonmaterial resources such as cognitive systems (including meanings and values attached to items of material culture, biota, and the physical environment), religion and world views, traditional or customary behavior patterns, kinship and social organization, and folklore. Goals, policies, and programs related to Native American cultural resources can be found in Section 7.8, Tribal Cultural Resources.

Historical resources refer to the period following European contact. These resources include historic event or activity sites, historic archaeological sites, architecture and other significant properties, documents and other sources of historical information, and objects of material culture. Historical resources in Los Gatos include the Forbes Flour Mill and Mill Annex, the Kotani-En Estate and Garden, the Town's first firehouse, the Los Gatos Historic Commercial District, the McCullagh-Jones and Yung See San Fong historic homes, Town documented historic residences, and four designated residential historic districts.

The Los Gatos Public Library houses an archive of cultural documents, including photographs, newspapers, books, and other resources that document the rich and varied history of Los Gatos, its settlement and subsequent development. The collection developed from a collaborative effort between the Library and the New Museum of Los Gatos (NUMU) and included donations in the form of money, time, equipment, and archive materials from more than 100 individuals and 20 companies, organizations, clubs, and associations.



Goals and policies concerning historic districts are covered in Section 3.6 (Special Planning Areas) in the Community Design Element.



The following goals and policies will guide the preservation and conservation of archaeological and cultural resources.

### ENV-12

Protect Los Gatos's archaeological and cultural resources to maintain and enhance a unique sense of place.

#### ENV-12.1

##### **Evaluate Archaeological and Cultural Resources**

Evaluate archaeological and/or cultural resources early in the development review process through consultation with interested parties and the use of contemporary professional techniques in archaeology, ethnography, and architectural history.

#### ENV-12.2

##### **Protect Archaeological Resources**

Protect archaeological resources, including natural land formations, sacred sites, historic habits, and remains of settlements in place before Los Gatos was founded.

#### ENV-12.3

##### **Archaeologically and Culturally Significant Structures**

Ensure the preservation, restoration, and appropriate use of archaeological and/or culturally significant structures and sites.

#### ENV-12.4

##### **Human Remains**

Treat with respect and dignity any human remains discovered during implementation of public and private projects within the Town.

#### ENV-12.5

##### **Uncovered Cultural Resources**

Require that if cultural resources, including archaeological or paleontological resources, are uncovered during grading or other on-site excavation activities, construction shall stop until appropriate mitigation is implemented.

#### ENV-12.6

##### **Burial Sites**

Encourage development to avoid impacts to burial sites by designing or clustering development to avoid archaeological deposits that may contain human remains.

### ENV-13

Preserve and protect Los Gatos's historic buildings, sites, and resources.

#### ENV-13.1

##### **Historic Resource Preservation**

Preserve non-municipal resources with historic merit, including residences and sites listed or eligible for listing in the State or Federal registers.

#### ENV-13.2

##### **Municipal Historic Resources**

Preserve significant historic resources owned by the Town of Los Gatos while allowing them to be altered to meet contemporary needs consistent with the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Rehabilitation.

#### ENV-13.3

##### **Funding**

**SUS**

Seek State and Federal funding for preservation of buildings of historical merit, both listed and potentially eligible for listing. Consider partnerships between public and private entities for capital and program improvements. Encourage owners of potential historic resources to adapt and rehabilitate these buildings through participation in State and Federal tax credit programs.

## 8. Environment and Sustainability Element

### ENV-13.4 Historic Commercial District

Reinforce the scale and character of the Los Gatos Historic Commercial District by promoting significant buildings, including regulating signage to be in keeping with the historic style and aesthetic of the district.

### ENV-13.5 Proposed Alterations

If a proposed project would substantially affect sites or structures of special character, or potential historical, architectural, or aesthetic interest that has not been evaluated for inclusion in the State or Federal registers, part of the plan review shall include consideration of eligibility prior to issuance of demolition or alterations permits. Minor exterior improvements that do not affect the architectural integrity of potentially significant buildings (as determined by the Historic Preservation Committee) shall be exempt from more extensive review. Examples of minor improvements may include repair or replacement in-kind that do not alter character-defining features.

### ENV-13.6 Adaptive Reuse

SUS

Promote adaptive reuse of older buildings and allow compatible non-conforming uses for the life of historic buildings.

### ENV-13.7 History Archives

Continue to support library, museum, private, and non-profit efforts to maintain historic resource collections, including collaborative efforts to acquire funding, educate the community, and provide access for researchers.

### ENV-13.8 Increase Historical and Cultural Awareness

Support a community sense of stewardship for historic and cultural resources through supporting talks, tours, and other programs that increase awareness and promote Los Gatos as a destination with historic cultural resources and through including Indigenous People in the conversation and planning.

## 8.8 Tribal Cultural Resources

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. 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.

The following goal and policies will guide preservation and protection of tribal cultural resources.

### ENV-14

Protect and respect Los Gatos's tribal cultural resources.

### ENV-14.1

#### **Tribal Consultation**

Require that local Native American tribes are involved early and often on potential disturbance, recovery, and preservation of tribal cultural resources, including development of strong consultation protocols with appropriate Native American tribe(s), as required by California Senate Bill 18 and Assembly Bill 52.

### ENV-14.2

#### **Tribal Prohibitions**

Accommodate tribal concerns when the tribe has a religious prohibition against revealing precise information about the location or previous practice at a sacred site.

## 8.9 Geology and Soils

Los Gatos is in the central portion of the Coast Ranges Physiographic Province of California, a series of coastal mountain chains that run parallel to central California. The geology in Los Gatos is characterized by hilly terrain situated on the lower slope of the Santa Cruz Mountains down to the valley floor. The potential for erosion generally increases with steepness of slope, rainfall, and in areas where fire or grading has occurred and where the protective soil and/or vegetation cover has been removed. Due to the varied topography of Los Gatos, the erosion potential within the Town also varies by location. The potential for erosion in Los Gatos is highest in the eastern, southern, and southwestern areas of the Town. Erosion potential decreases toward the center of Town and is minimal in the flat areas just east of the SR 17 corridor. In addition, erosion potential is high to very high in the areas at the north end of the Los Gatos Creek corridor.

Soils in Los Gatos differ in texture, depth, and drainage, all of which are determined largely by the environments in which the soils formed. Soils in the northern and central urban areas of Town, primarily on the valley floor, contain a substantial amount of sand with clay and, to a lesser degree, silt. Soils on the hillsides and mountains on the east and south portions of Town are approximately half clay mixed with substantial sand, and with less silt. The primary soil types in the Los Gatos area are clay and clay loam. Soils in Los Gatos are well-drained, exhibit rapid to very rapid runoff and tend to have moderate permeability. The more developed portions of the Town may have been disturbed or contain imported fill materials, and therefore may not be accurately described by soil surveys.



*Goals and policies concerning geological hazards are covered in Section 9.3 (Geological and Seismic Hazards) in the Hazards and Safety Element.*

The following goal and policies will guide conservation and protection of soil resources.

### ENV-15

Conserve and protect soil resources of the Town. **SUS**

#### ENV-15.1

##### **Erosion Control Plans**

**SUS**

Require all new developments in areas subject to soil erosion and slippage to provide an effective erosion control plan to minimize soil erosion. The erosion control plans shall be implemented prior to construction operations and maintained throughout the construction process.

#### ENV-15.2

##### **Minimize Grading**

**SUS**

Require grading permits to ensure that the grading of slopes and sites proposed for development will be minimized.

## 8. Environment and Sustainability Element

### ENV-15.3

SUS

#### Soil Protection

Protect soils in urban and natural areas, recognizing that healthy soils are necessary to filter water, sustain plants and animals, and support building structures.

## 8.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

Maintaining water quality and availability is a high priority and a complex challenge that becomes more critical as supplies become more uncertain due to climate change and a growing population. Goals and policies in this section address the quality and reliability of the Town's long-term water supply, including during periods of drought. To maintain water quality, surface water and groundwater must be protected from the impacts of past and future development using methods such as low-impact development requirements and the careful regulation of sub-surface dewatering. The Town supports the efforts of regulatory bodies, such as the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board, the agency that controls discharge to San Francisco Bay from stormwater and other sources. The San Francisco Bay Region Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit (MRP) requires the Town of Los Gatos to implement programs that reduce urban runoff pollution. The MRP regulates stormwater discharges into local creeks and the San Francisco Bay to protect water quality. The Town participates in the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVURPPP), along with twelve other cities and towns, the County of Santa Clara, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District to implement the requirements of the MRP. As required by the MRP, the Town has developed a Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Plan that describes how the Town will gradually transform its urban landscape and storm drainage systems from "gray" to "green"; that is, supplement traditional storm drain infrastructure, where stormwater runoff flows directly from impervious surfaces into storm drains and receiving waters, with a more resilient, sustainable system that reduces and slows runoff by dispersing it to vegetated areas, promotes infiltration and evapotranspiration, collects runoff for non-potable uses, and treats runoff using biotreatment and other GSI practices. The control of wastewater and stormwater is discussed in more detail in the Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element.

### Surface Hydrology

Wetlands and water habitats cover approximately 75 acres in the Los Gatos Planning Area and include ponds and reservoirs. Vasona Lake and the northern tip of the Lexington Reservoir are the two main open water bodies in the Town and its SOI. Several of these water habitats in the form of ponds, creeks, and lakes flow through Town and other adjacent communities before being deposited into the San Francisco Bay. Cherry Springs Pond in Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve (OSP) is also open water habitat. Seasonal wetlands, marshes, and other wetland habitats occur throughout Los Gatos in grasslands, shrublands, and woodland/forest communities, as well as along creeks and the edges of some open water bodies.

Creeks in Los Gatos include perennial and ephemeral creek channels, and aboveground and underground reaches. Most of these creeks are considered part of the Guadalupe River watershed. Los Gatos Creek is one of the primary creeks in the area, flowing south to north into and out of Vasona Lake. Figure 8-3 depicts these habitats in the planning area.

### Natural Drainage Systems

The Town has several surface water channels within its limits: Los Gatos Creek, San Tomas Aquinas Creek, and Smith Creek flow south to north through the Town, and Ross Creek flows in a northeasterly direction. A large valley in Los Gatos drains northward to the San Francisco Bay by means of tributaries that include Coyote Creek, the Guadalupe River, and Los Gatos Creek. Other unnamed natural water courses are also located inside Town limits. An extensive man-made storm drainage system including pipe networks, ditches, and culverts also serves to drain stormwater runoff into the natural creeks that cross the Town.

### **Groundwater**

Los Gatos is in the Santa Clara Valley Groundwater Sub-basin (groundwater sub-basin), a structural trough that parallels the northwest trending Coast Ranges. The groundwater sub-basin is approximately 22 miles long and 15 miles wide, with a surface area of 225 square miles (Figure 8-4). The groundwater sub-basin receives approximately 15 inches of rainfall per year. In the northern areas of the groundwater sub-basin, a series of clay layers results in a low permeability zone. The southern area is an unconfined zone, or forebay, where the clay layer does not restrict recharge.

### **Groundwater Management**

Valley Water manages the groundwater sub-basin with the primary objectives to recharge the basin, conserve water, increase water supply, and prevent waste or reduction of the water supply. Historically, over-extraction of the groundwater sub-basin has resulted in occurrences of subsidence in Santa Clara County. Subsidence occurs when underground water levels drop and clay layers compact, resulting in the sinking of the ground surface and a loss of aquifer capacity. To avoid any further subsidence Valley Water works to maintain the sub-basin by augmenting natural percolation of rainfall and local stream runoff via managed aquifer recharge using local and imported surface water. Valley Water's managed recharge program includes 18 major recharge systems with in-stream and off-stream facilities. In addition to directly replenishing groundwater, Valley Water reduces the need for groundwater pumping through treated and untreated surface water deliveries, water conservation, and recycled water programs.

Based on these efforts, permanent subsidence was effectively halted around 1970, and groundwater levels recovered to sustainable levels. In 2019, Valley Water's Groundwater Management Plan was approved by the Department of Water Resources as an Alternative to a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act compliance. While groundwater levels and storage decline during droughts, Valley Water's comprehensive groundwater management activities provide for subsequent recovery, and groundwater in the sub-basin is sustainably managed.



**Figure 8-3 Wetlands and Water Habitats**

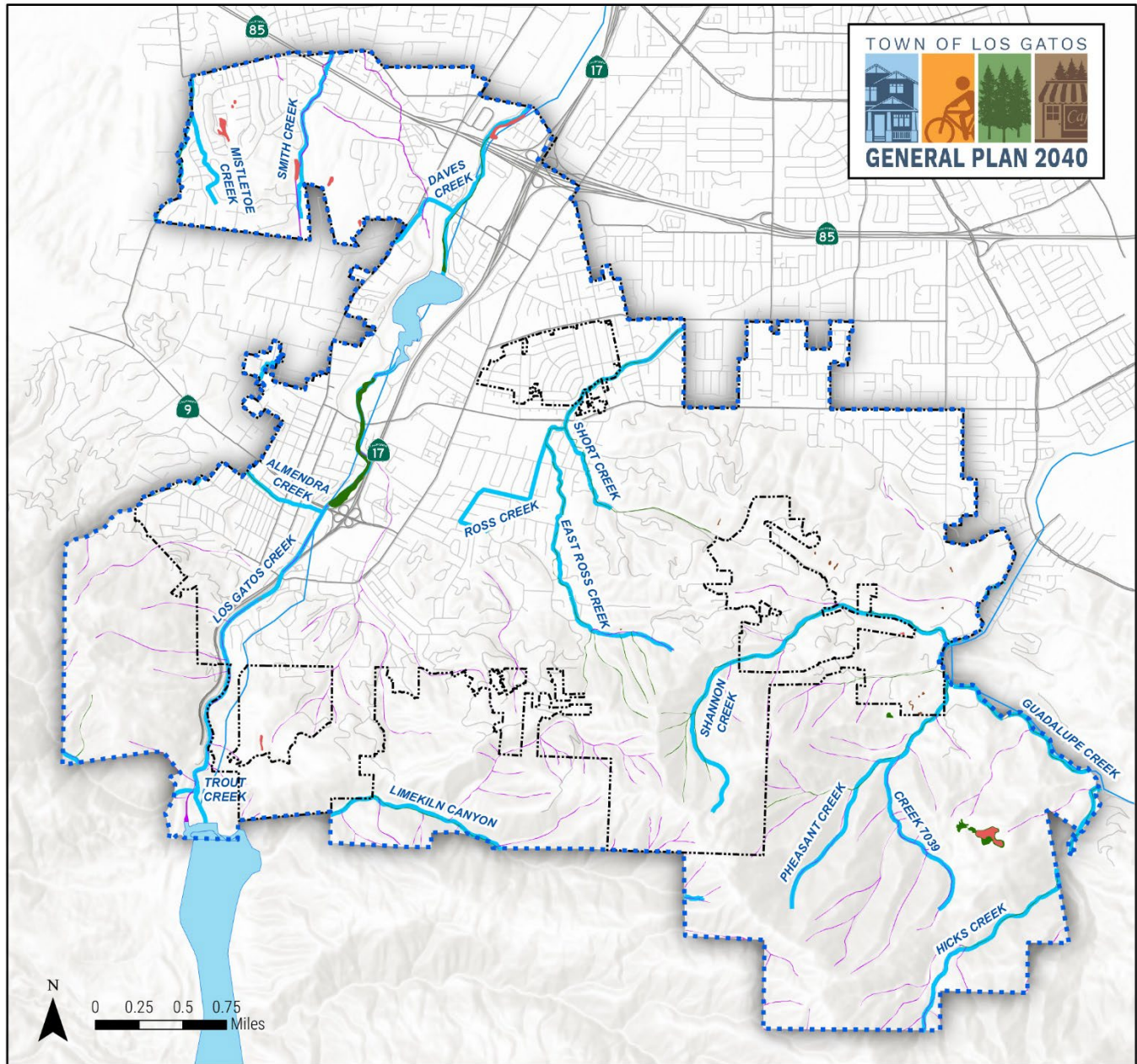
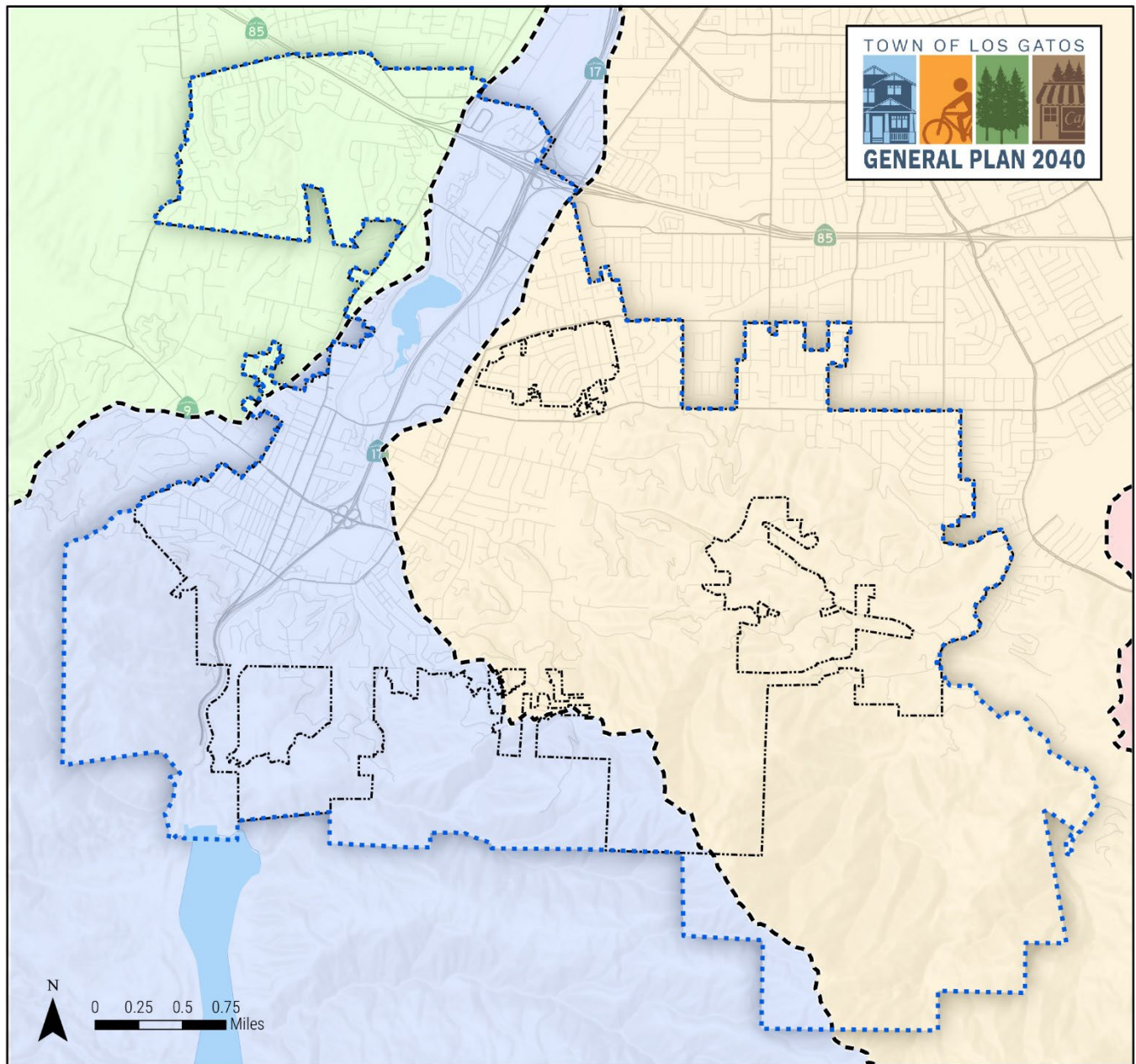


Figure 8-4 Planning Watershed



- |                         |      |                                       |
|-------------------------|------|---------------------------------------|
| Alamos Creek            | Lake | Town of Los Gatos                     |
| Los Gatos Creek         |      | Planning Area/<br>Sphere of Influence |
| San Tomas Aquinas Creek |      |                                       |
| Guadalupe River         |      |                                       |



## 8. Environment and Sustainability Element

### Groundwater Quality

Groundwater quality in the Santa Clara Valley sub-basin is generally good. Natural interactions between water, the atmosphere, rock minerals, and surface water influence groundwater quality in the groundwater sub-basin, but man-made compounds such as nitrogen-based fertilizer, solvents, and fuel products can also affect groundwater quality. The most significant threat to water quality is from commercial water pollutants such as those from automobile uses, dry cleaners, and underground storage tanks, although some wells may be vulnerable to pollutants such as metal plating and finishing, electrical and electronics manufacturing, and chemical/petroleum processing.

A few water quality problems have been detected in the sub-basin. High mineral salt concentrations have been identified in the upper aquifer zone along San Francisco Bay, the lower aquifer zone underlying Palo Alto. Elevated nitrate concentrations are sporadically observed in the Santa Clara Valley Sub-basin. However, drinking water standards are met at public water supply wells without the use of treatment methods beyond disinfection. Valley Water and public water suppliers conduct extensive monitoring of groundwater quality to understand conditions and trends and work with regulatory agencies to protect groundwater quality.

The following goals and policies will guide the preservation and conservation of water resources.

### ENV-16

Protect and conserve watersheds and water quality. **SUS**

#### ENV-16.1

**SUS**

#### Avoid Water Contamination from New Development

Require all applicants to demonstrate that new development will not contaminate surface water and/or groundwater.

#### ENV-16.2

**SUS**

#### Conserve Land Contiguous to Reservoirs and Stream Channels

Apply land use regulations, scenic easements, or other appropriate measures to keep the maximum amount of land immediately contiguous to reservoirs and stream channels undeveloped and undisturbed.

#### ENV-16.3

**SUS**

#### Valley Water

Cooperate with Valley Water and other agencies to protect watersheds, groundwater, and riparian habitats from degradation.

#### ENV-16.4

**SUS**

#### Conserve Existing Creeks

Conserve existing creeks and avoid disturbances, including fencing, lighting, structures, hydrological barriers, and roads, to these areas.

#### ENV-16.5

**SUS**

#### Creek Dedication

Require that the approval of a development adjacent to a designated creek includes a condition that the creek be dedicated to the Town in fee with a maintenance easement granted to Valley Water.

#### ENV-16.6

**SUS**

#### Alternative Paving Materials and Designs

Encourage alternative paving materials and designs to limit driveways, parking areas, and parking lots in all zones. Examples include, but are not limited to, pervious paving material, and “ribbon strip” driveways, which have pavement in tire areas and grass or gravel in the middle.

#### ENV-16.7

**SUS**

#### Parking Lot Drainage

Implement bioswales and other innovations so runoff from parking lots drain into landscaped areas and rainwater percolates into the ground.

### ENV-16.8

SUS

#### Open Space and Recreation Prioritization

Require that open space and recreation is the priority land use designation for lands immediately adjacent to reservoirs, creeks, and streams.

### ENV-16.9

SUS

#### Stormwater Runoff

Reduce pollution in urban runoff from residential, commercial, industrial, municipal, and transportation land use activities.

### ENV-16.10

SUS

#### Street-Sweeping

Conduct regular street-sweeping to collect trash and road surface pollutants before they enter stormwater drainage systems.

### ENV-16.11

SUS

#### Sustainable Landscaping Practices

Support low water landscaping practices and limited artificial fertilizer and pesticide application on public and private properties.

## ENV-17

Protect and conserve water resources and infrastructure in a manner that sustains plant and animal life, supports urban activities and recreation, and protects public health and safety. SUS

### ENV-17.1

SUS

#### Residential Water Conservation

Implement and maintain cost-effective, Town-wide water conservation and efficiency programs for all residents through education, rebates, assistance programs, and building requirements.

### ENV-17.2

SUS

#### Commercial and Business Conservation

Encourage owners of commercial and industrial properties to conserve water by replacing inefficient plumbing fixtures, installing drought-tolerant and water-wise landscaping, and harvesting rainwater for irrigation.

### ENV-17.3

SUS

#### Human, Plant, and Animal Water Needs

Manage the water supply to address human use as well as that needed to sustain plant and animal life.

### ENV-17.4

SUS

#### Resiliency During Drought

Establish a varied approach to ensuring a resilient water supply and its management in Los Gatos during significant periods of drought.

### ENV-17.5

SUS

#### Rainwater Retention

Retain and use rainwater on municipal facility sites, to the extent possible. Encourage rainwater harvesting and irrigation use in commercial and residential uses. Ensure that all development projects in Los Gatos maximize opportunities to filter, infiltrate, store, and reuse or evaporate stormwater runoff onsite.

### ENV-17.6

SUS

#### Groundwater

Participate in the regulation of groundwater use to protect it as a natural resource and conserve it for potential use during extended drought.

### ENV-17.7

SUS

#### Subsurface Water

Conserve and maintain subsurface water resources by exploring ways to reduce the impacts of development dewatering and other excavation activities.

## 8. Environment and Sustainability Element

### ENV-17.8

SUS

#### Low-Impact Development

Encourage Low-Impact Development (LID) measures to limit the amount of impervious surface in new development and redevelopment to maintain or increase the retention, treatment, and infiltration of urban stormwater runoff from pre-development conditions. LID measures should also apply to major remodeling projects and to public and recreation projects where possible.

## 8.11 Noise

While noise is frequently an integral part of daily living, exposure to excessive noise is considered a detriment to well-being and contributes to undue stress, sleep and concentration disturbance, and other health issues. There are many sources of noise in Los Gatos including vehicular traffic, operations at commercial and industrial uses, and construction noise.

Los Gatos has established outdoor noise limits, which represent long-range community goals related to noise exposure for different land use designations within the Town. These are specified under Goal ENV-18. In addition, the Town of Los Gatos Municipal Code establishes decibel ranges for noise in different zones as well as when and how construction activities may occur, with the goal of reducing any short-term impacts from construction noise.

### Future Noise Contours

The noise environment in Los Gatos is not expected to significantly increase as a result of the implementation of the 2040 General Plan. However, vehicular traffic noise, the dominant source throughout the Town, would slightly increase as a result of additional traffic within the Town along local streets and major through routes, including SR 17 and 85. Sources of non-transportation noise are not anticipated to substantially increase in the community with compliance with the Town's Noise Ordinance and implementation of the goals, policies, and implementation programs included herein. Noise contours for projected conditions within Los Gatos at 2040 General Plan buildout are provided on Figure 8-5 in terms of the Day-Night Average Level (Ldn).



*These statements on future noise levels (highlighted above) require the completion of the traffic modelling of the proposed land use diagram for confirmation. These statements will be updated following completion of the traffic and noise models for the General Plan update.*

The following goals and policies address noise in Los Gatos.

### ENV-18

Consider existing and future noise levels when making land use decisions in order to protect people from exposure to excessive noise levels, as defined for each land use type. Particular attention will be given to protecting noise sensitive land uses.

#### ENV-18.1

##### Acoustical Analysis Requirement

Applicants for proposed new non-residential development projects shall submit an acoustical analysis prepared by a licensed acoustician for their project as part of the environmental review process.

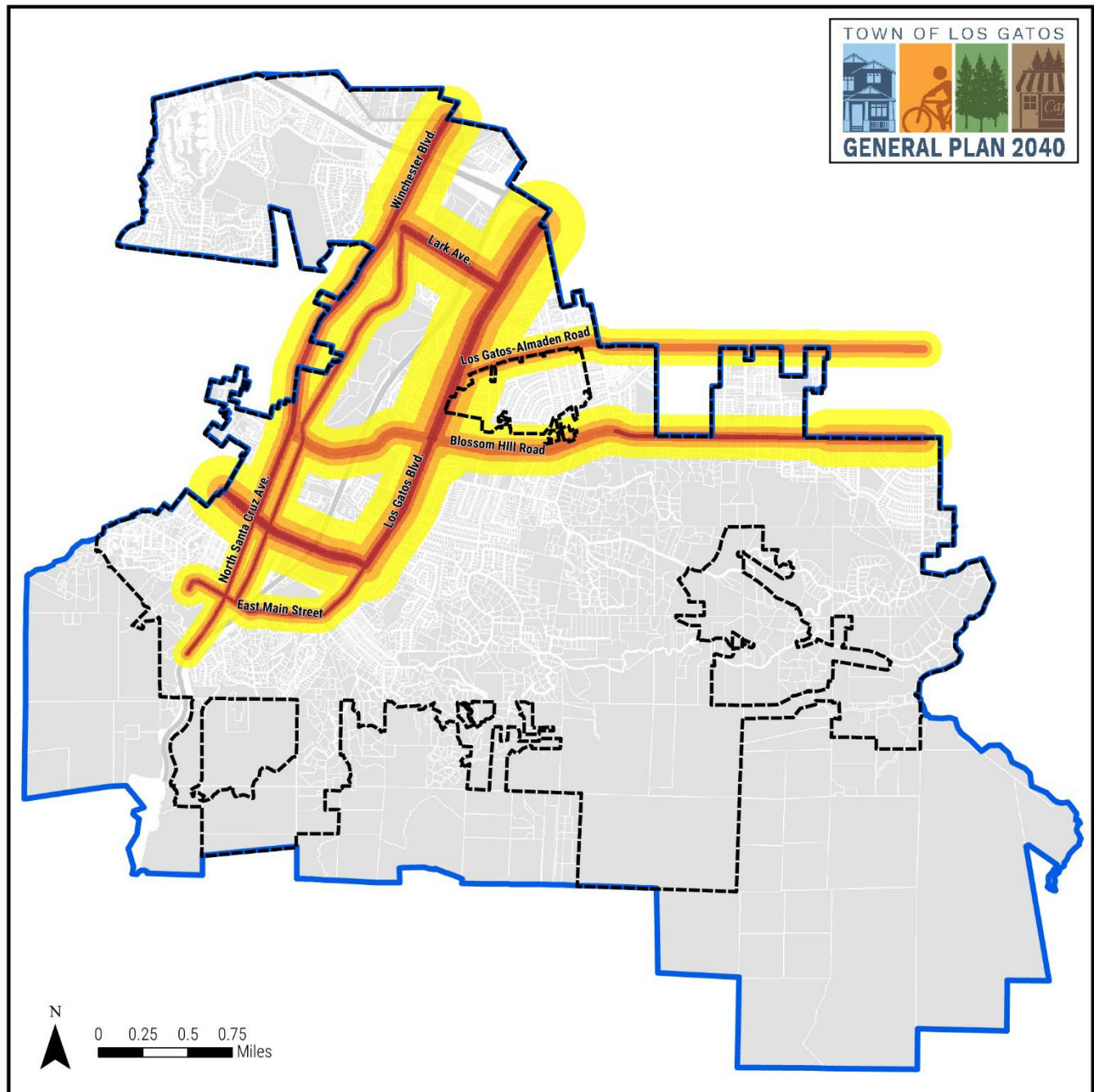
#### ENV-18.2

##### Indoor Noise Level Standards

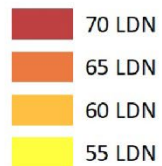
Require all interior residential noise levels to be 45 dB or less, as specified in the Town's Noise Ordinance.



Figure 8-5 Future Noise Contours



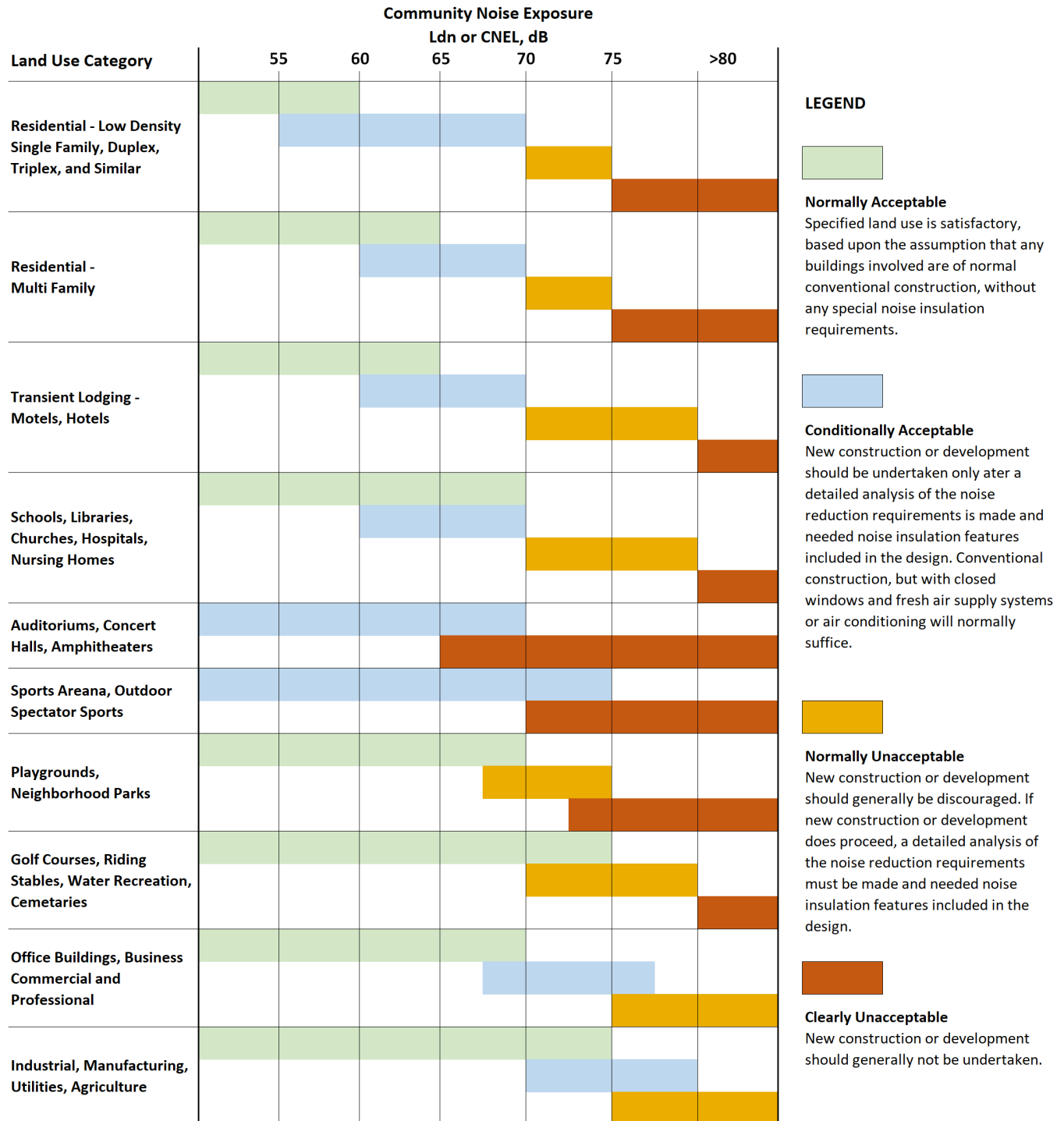
**Future Noise Contours**



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

## 8. Environment and Sustainability Element

**Figure 8-6 Land Use Noise Compatibility Criteria**



Source: California General Plan Guidelines, 2017

### **ENV-18.3 Exterior Noise Levels**

Require all exterior noise levels to be based on the compatibility criteria shown on Figure 8-6.

### **ENV-18.4 Residential and Noise-Sensitive Site Design Noise Consideration**

Protect existing and proposed residential areas from noise by requiring appropriate site and building design, sound walls, a minimum landscape buffer of five feet, and/or the use of noise attenuating construction techniques and materials.

### **ENV-18.5 Noise Restrictions in Commercial and Industrial Developments**

For commercial and industrial developments adjacent to residential neighborhoods, additional restrictions beyond the Noise Ordinance by up to 10 percent shall be applied in designated areas to reduce noise intrusions in residential districts.

### **ENV-18.6 Transportation Improvement Noise Consideration**

Ensure that transportation improvement plans address noise-sensitive areas and do not expose them to unacceptable noise levels.

### **ENV-18.7 Noise Limit Enforcement**

Enforce noise limits and monitor compliance with noise standards.

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## **ENV-19**

Ensure proposed new development is not located in areas with existing higher-than-acceptable noise levels.

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### **ENV-19.1 Noise-sensitive Developments**

Require all new noise-sensitive developments, and sound- or noise-generating uses near open space, to provide a noise study prepared by a licensed acoustician with recommendations for reducing noise impacts to the maximum allowed level in the Noise Ordinance.

### **ENV-19.2 Locating Development**

Locate new development in areas where noise levels are appropriate for the proposed use. Use Town standards, including Figure 8-6 as a part of development review.

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## **ENV-20**

Ensure that roadway-related noise does not adversely affect people in Los Gatos.

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### **ENV-20.1 Road Construction Noise**

Ensure that the construction of roadways or roadway improvements consider noise level standards for scheduling and construction methods to the maximum extent feasible.

### **ENV-20.2 Transportation Agency Cooperation**

Cooperate with transportation agencies, including Caltrans and VTA, to reduce noise from existing and future roadways and consider noise reduction strategies related to the design and location of all facilities.

### **ENV-20.3 Noise Control Measures**

Require that stringent noise control measures accompany construction of new County, State, and Federal roads and highways by constructing aesthetically pleasing sound walls, berms, and dense landscaping where appropriate.

## 8. Environment and Sustainability Element

### ENV-21

Ensure that construction and maintenance equipment noise does not adversely affect land uses.

#### ENV-21.1 Noise Attenuation, Town Equipment

All Town-owned and operated construction and maintenance equipment, and equipment for these activities operated under contract with the Town, shall contain state-of-the-art noise attenuation equipment.

#### ENV-21.2 Noise Attenuation, Private Equipment

Monitor and modify Town ordinances, as appropriate, to control nuisance noise from maintenance equipment used in the community.

#### ENV-21.3 Noise Reduction Legislation

Continue to support State legislation reducing noise levels for machinery, motor vehicles, and other equipment that generates excessive noise.

## 8.12 Implementation Programs

Programs		Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible Supporting Department(s)	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
<b>A</b>	<b>State Scenic Highway</b> Study the feasibility of applying to designate SR 17 between Lark Avenue and SR 9 as a State Scenic Highway.	ENV-1.1 ENV-1.4	Parks and Public Works		■		
<b>B</b>	<b>Tree Ordinance</b> Review the Tree Ordinance periodically and update as necessary to ensure regulations meet leading standards for tree health practices. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-2.1	Parks and Public Works Community Development				■
<b>C</b>	<b>Williamson Act</b> Work to maintain Williamson Act agricultural preserve contracts in the Town and SOI.	ENV-3.1 ENV-3.3	Community Development				■
<b>D</b>	<b>Re-Designation of Properties Not in Williamson Act</b> Designate all Williamson Act properties Agriculture and remove the Agriculture designation for those properties that are no longer under the Williamson Act.	ENV-3.1 ENV-3.3	Community Development				■
<b>E</b>	<b>Ecosystem Protection</b> Promote and support ecosystem protection and environmental education programs for residents and developers. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-4.1 ENV-4.2	Parks and Public Works				■

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)				
<b>F Landscape Maintenance Education</b> Develop and provide education programs for Town staff, residents, and developers regarding landscape maintenance, soil health and retention, and irrigation practices that protect the urban forest and wildlife species, along with water supplies.	ENV-4.1 ENV-4.3 ENV-15.3	Parks and Public Works  Community Development				■
<b>G Grading Ordinance</b> Amend the grading ordinance to establish standards to maintain and conserve existing native plant species. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-5.1 ENV-5.2 ENV-5.3 ENV-5.4	Parks and Public Works  Community Development		■		
<b>H Native and Special Species Catalog</b> Publish a list of native, special status, and native special status plant species in Los Gatos and the SOI on the Town website and update the list in the Hillside Development Standards and Guidelines. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-5.1 ENV-5.2 ENV-5.3	Parks and Public Works  Community Development		■		
<b>I Invasive Species Catalog</b> Publish a list of invasive plant species on the Town website. Disseminate information about their use and eradication. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-5.1 ENV-5.4	Parks and Public Works		■		
<b>J Riparian Policy</b> Adopt a riparian policy to protect riparian corridors. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-6.1 ENV-6.2 ENV-6.3 ENV-6.4	Parks and Public Works  Community Development		■		
<b>K Riparian Corridor Lighting</b> Require careful lighting design in and near natural riparian corridors to direct light away and to maximize the distance between nighttime lighting and the corridor. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-6.2	Parks and Public Works  Community Development		■		
<b>L Recreational Trails</b> Limit development of recreational trails in riparian corridors.	ENV-6.3	Parks and Public Works				■
<b>M Movement Corridor Plan</b> Support the ongoing identification of critical linkages between movement corridors for wildlife, particularly in hillside communities, but throughout the Town. Develop standards and ordinances designed to conserve these movement corridors. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-7.3	Parks and Public Works  Community Development		■		



## 8. Environment and Sustainability Element

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)				
<b>N Bird Safety Ordinance</b> Adopt a Bird Safety Ordinance to reduce bird collisions with windows that provide development standards and performance measures that regulate building design and lighting implementation. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-7.10	Community Development	■			
<b>O Dark Skies Ordinance</b> Adopt a Dark Skies Ordinance that addresses light pollution, building lighting design, and impacts to wildlife. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-7.11	Community Development	■			
<b>P Air Quality Standards</b> Adopt standards that target reduction of very fine particulate matter (PM <sub>2.5</sub> ) through a combination of incentive programs and control measures, as well as establishing standards for other criteria pollutants. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-8.1 ENV-8.5	Community Development	■			
<b>Q Development Near Heavily Traveled Roads</b> Implement BAAQMD standards for designing buildings that will be situated near heavily travelled roads to minimize exposure to vehicle emissions. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-8.1 ENV-8.7	Community Development	■			
<b>R Concrete and Asphalt Use</b> Explore and implement feasible and cost-effective ways to reduce concrete and asphalt use in parks and public projects. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-8.2	Parks and Public Works		■		
<b>S Particulate Matter</b> Promote understanding of health impacts from particulate emissions and offer information to residents and businesses about steps for reducing particulate matter, such as reducing or eliminating wood-burning stoves and fireplaces or transitioning to “green” dry cleaning facilities. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-8.2 ENV-8.6	Community Development	■			
<b>T Alternatives to Individual Auto Use</b> Develop a comprehensive TDM program to encourage ride sharing, biking, walking, and other alternatives to individual auto use. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-8.3	Parks and Public Works	■			
<b>U EV Charging Stations</b> Update the Zoning Ordinance to establish a ratio for electric vehicle charging stations as a ratio of total required parking for new projects or substantial renovations. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-8.4	Community Development	■			

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)				
<b>V</b> <b>Electric Vehicle Parking Incentives</b> Provide incentives, such as giving priority in plan review, processing, and field inspection services, for new and existing commercial and residential projects that provide parking spaces reserved for electric vehicles and have a charging connection. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-8.4 ENV-8.5	Community Development	■			
<b>W</b> <b>Sustainability Information Center</b> Establish and maintain a “sustainability information center” at Town Hall to inform the public and distribute brochures and provide information. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-9 ENV-9.4 ENV-10.2	Community Development	■			
<b>X</b> <b>Sustainability Plan Update</b> Update the Sustainability Plan to reflect recent updates in Federal and State law, address zero-waste and recycling, as well as revise GHG targets for the Town. Following the update to the Sustainability Plan, revise all planning documents to reflect the changes to targets and actions and to align processes. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-9.1 ENV-9.2 ENV-9.3 ENV-9.4 ENV-9.5 ENV-9.15	Community Development		■		
<b>Y</b> <b>Design Review Standards for GHG Emissions</b> Develop applicable Planning and Building design standards to evaluate a project’s contribution to GHG emissions and bring all planning materials into line with these standards. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-9.1 ENV-9.3 ENV-9.4 ENV-9.11	Community Development	■			
<b>Z</b> <b>Continually Assess Local Climate Change Vulnerabilities</b> Every five years, Town staff shall reassess progress toward GHG reduction goals and update the Sustainability Plan to ensure continued progress in reducing GHG emissions from operation of Town facilities and services and from the community. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-9.1 ENV-9.2 ENV-9.3	Community Development				■
<b>AA</b> <b>Green Building Initiatives</b> Develop an incentive program to encourage individuals and businesses to complete green retrofits on properties through incentives such as tax credits and financing opportunities. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-9.1 ENV-9.3 ENV-9.4 ENV-11.1 ENV-11.2	Town Manager	■			

## 8. Environment and Sustainability Element

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)				
<b>BB Heat Island Mitigation Guidelines</b> Prepare specific heat island mitigation building guidelines in line with the Sustainability Plan and the Green Building Ordinance (Ordinance 2257). Amend applicable building and remodel Commercial Design Guidelines to integrate these specific guidelines. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-9.1 ENV-9.3 ENV-9.5 ENV-9.6	Community Development	■			
<b>CC Plant Based Education</b> Develop and implement a plan to educate and support residents about the environmental, economic, and social benefits of shifting to a plant-based diet, examples of which may include informational materials, educational programs, community events, coordination with schools and businesses, or guidelines for procurement. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-9.3 ENV-9.4	Library Town Manager	■			
<b>DD Climate Change Education</b> Work with local organizations to support educational programs that raise awareness about climate change and resiliency actions, including ways residents and business owners can contribute to GHG reduction, including increased recycling opportunities (hazardous household waste, e-waste, and large household items). <b>SUS</b>	ENV-9.11	Town Manager Parks and Public Works	■			
<b>EE Energy Conservation and Reduction</b> Develop and implement programs that promote energy reduction/efficiency upgrades, zero waste practices, and use of renewable energy and building materials. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-9.7	Community Development Town Manager	■			
<b>FF Regional Cooperation</b> Collaborate with large regional employers to increase availability of ride share and other programs from Los Gatos to corporate campuses and central areas in Silicon Valley cities where the employers are located.	ENV-9.7 ENV-9.8 ENV-9.9	Town Manager				■
<b>GG Upgrade Town's Vehicle Fleet</b> Identify opportunities to increase and/or change the Town's vehicle fleet to maximize the use of alternative fuels. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-9.10	Parks and Public Works	■			

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)				
<b>HH Green Building Technical Assistance</b> Provide technical assistance, directly or through referral services as appropriate, to developers and homeowners wishing to incorporate green building techniques. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-9.9	Community Development	■			
<b>II Incentivize Alternative Fuel Availability</b> Develop an incentive program to increase the number of alternative fuel stations. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-9.11	Community Development Town Manager		■		
<b>JJ Zero Waste in Town Facilities</b> Implement zero waste program in municipal facilities that models the actions for businesses and residents. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-10.1 ENV-10.2	Parks and Public Works Town Manger		■		
<b>KK Solid Waste Reduction</b> Adopt programs that reduce the number of materials entering the solid waste stream to achieve Statewide waste reduction targets. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-10.1 ENV-10.2 ENV-10.3 ENV-10.4 ENV-10.5 ENV-10.7	Parks and Public Works	■			
<b>LL Recycling Access</b> Revise recycling facility requirement to include a variety of waste-reduction facilities, including food and garden composting and hazardous waste. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-10.7	Parks and Public Works	■			
<b>MM Zero Waste Education</b> Provide ongoing education about the environmental benefits of reducing wasteful consumption and avoiding products with excessive packaging, recycling, refilling empty containers, separating food and yard waste for composting, and using rechargeable batteries, among other topics. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-10.1 ENV-10.2 ENV-10.3 ENV-10.4 ENV-10.5 ENV-10.7	Parks and Public Works Town Manger				■
<b>NN Energy Reduction Education</b> Work with other sustainability education programs to develop and disseminate information about energy demand reduction opportunities. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-11.2	Parks and Public Works		■		
<b>OO Solar Implementation in Los Gatos</b> Incentivize installation of roof-top solar and onsite energy storage on all new construction, including parking facilities, using the latest in green building technology. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-11.4	Community Development	■			

## 8. Environment and Sustainability Element

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)				
<b>PP Minimize Impacts to Archaeological and Cultural Resources</b> Develop guidelines for project review to ensure that potential impacts to archaeological and/or cultural resources are minimized.	ENV-12.1 ENV-12.2 ENV-12.3 ENV-12.4 ENV-12.5 ENV-12.6	Community Development		■		
<b>QQ Identify Cultural Resources</b> Identify Native American/cultural resources and heritage trees with interpretive signs as appropriate.	ENV-12.5	Community Development		■		
<b>RR Adaptive Reuse</b> Develop a policy to address adaptive reuse of historic buildings including mixed-use, arts spaces, and other innovative uses that help preserve the historic nature while making the buildings usable spaces.	ENV-13.6	Community Development Parks and Public Works	■			
<b>SS History Archives</b> Seek funding to support preservation and curation of the local history archive at the Los Gatos Public Library.	ENV-13.7	Library	■			
<b>TT Indigenous People Language</b> Review and update language used in the Environment and Sustainability Element in regards to Indigenous People to be consistent with the Town's work on a land acknowledgement.	ENV-13.8	Community Development Town Manager	■			
<b>UU Hillside Landscape Design Guidelines Update</b> Update the hillside landscape design guidelines to include requirements to optimize soil volume, porosity, structure, and health. Add information on location, shape, and configuration of soil beds, particularly relative to bioswale components in commercial and residential design.	ENV-15.3	Parks and Public Works Community Development		■		
<b>VV Street-sweeping</b> Increase street-sweeping schedule from once per month in streets and twice per month in parking lots to twice monthly in streets and weekly in parking lots.	ENV-16.10	Parks and Public Works		■		
<b>WW Water Reuse</b> Develop an ordinance and guidelines to provide for the installation of grey water reuse in residential and business uses, particularly for landscape irrigation.	ENV-17.4	Community Development	■			
<b>XX Rainwater</b> Implement rainwater harvesting in municipal facilities throughout the Town. Encourage residents and businesses to use rain barrels or other rainwater reuse systems. Offer incentives where possible.	ENV-17.5	Parks and Public Works		■		

SUS



Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)				
<b>YY Sustainable Water Practices</b> Educate residents and businesses about low-water landscaping, limited pesticide application, and other water-sustaining practices. Implement these in municipal practices. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-17.8	Parks and Public Works Community Development				■
<b>ZZ Water Audit Programs</b> In collaboration with efforts by local water purveyors, promote water audit programs that offer free water audits to single-family, multi-family, large landscape accounts, and commercial customers. Collaborate with purveyors to enact conservation programs for commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) accounts and create programs to install ultra-low-flush toilets in facilities. <b>SUS</b>	ENV-17.8	Parks and Public Works Community Development				■
<b>AAA Adopt Noise Impact Review Procedure</b> Adopt a procedure for reviewing the noise impacts of any proposed development and update the Town's Noise Ordinance to reflect these standards.	ENV-18.1 ENV-18.2 ENV-19.1 ENV-19.2	Community Development Code Compliance		■		
<b>BBB Establish Noise Significance Criteria</b> Establish significance criteria for evaluating increases in ambient noise resulting from new development and evaluating the compatibility of new development with the existing noise environment.	ENV-18.1 ENV-18.2 ENV-19.1 ENV-19.2	Community Development Parks and Public Works		■		
<b>CCC Require Noise Buffers</b> Amend the Town Code to require buffers or separation between noise-generating uses and noise-sensitive uses.	ENV-18.4	Community Development Parks and Public Works	■			
<b>DDD Noise Control Measures Update</b> Regularly review data from both the public and private sector to update noise control procedures and programs.	ENV-18.4 ENV-18.5 ENV-18.6 ENV-18.7	Community Development Parks and Public Works		■		
<b>EEE Identify Noise-reducing Traffic Improvements</b> Conduct a study to identify roadway improvements to reduce high noise levels created by traffic congestion without increasing speed or traffic levels.	ENV-20.1 ENV-20.2 ENV-20.3	Parks and Public Works		■		
<b>FFF Review Noise-reducing Effectiveness</b> Periodically review traffic volumes and average speeds to ensure maximum effectiveness in reducing noise levels, especially adjacent to residential areas.	ENV-20.1 ENV-20.2 ENV-20.3	Parks and Public Works		■		

## 8. Environment and Sustainability Element

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)				
<b>GGG Study Gardening Equipment Ban</b> Study a ban that requires gardening equipment to be mitigated when it creates adverse noise.	ENV-21.1 ENV-21.2	Community Development	■			

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## 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 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.

The Hazards and Safety Element is divided into the following sections:

### Contents

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9.2	Urban and Wildland Fire Hazards.....	9-4
9.3	Geological and Seismic Hazards.....	9-7
9.4	Flood and Inundation Hazards.....	9-13
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### Key Terms

**100-Year Flood Event/100-Year Flood Zone.** A flood event that would occur on average once every 100 years, or that has a 1.0 percent chance of occurring in any given year. The area with this flood potential is referred to as the 100 Regulatory Floodplain, or 100-year flood zone, as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Map Service Center.

**500-Year Flood Event/500-Year Flood Zone.** A flood event that would occur on average once every 500 years, or that has a 0.2 percent chance of occurring in any given year. The area with this flood potential is referred to as the 500 Regulatory Floodplain, or the 500-year flood zone, as designated by the FEMA Flood Map Service Center.

**Defensible Space.** An area around the perimeter of structures in which vegetation, debris, and other types of combustible fuels are treated, cleared, or reduced to slow the rate and intensity of potentially approaching wildfire or fire escaping from structures.

**Earthquake Fault Zone.** Earthquake fault zones are established areas around active faults where there is a complex system of primary and secondary faults. Because most faults are not a single, clean fracture in the crust, fault zones describe the area at risk of seismic activity beyond the fault itself.

**Essential Facilities.** Structures and buildings housing services and equipment that are essential to an emergency response following a natural or human-induced disaster. These facilities include:

- Hospitals and other medical facilities having surgery, trauma, or other emergency treatment areas;
- Fire, police, and sheriff stations;
- Tanks or other structures containing, housing, or supporting water or other fire-suppression materials or equipment required for protection of essential or hazardous materials facilities or special occupancy structures;
- Emergency vehicle shelters and garages;
- Structures and equipment in emergency-preparedness centers;
- Stand-by power generating equipment for other essential facilities; and
- Structures and equipment in government communication centers and other facilities required for emergency response and communications.

### **Fault and Seismic Systems.**

- **Fault.** A fracture in the crust of the earth along which rocks on one fracture side have moved relative to those on the other side. Most faults are the result of repeated displacements over a long period of time.
- **Fault, Active.** An active fault is one that has ruptured in the past 11,000 years.
- **Fault, Quaternary.** Quaternary faults are ones that have been recognized at the surface and that have moved in the past 1.6 million years.
- **Fault Trace.** A fault trace is the line on the earth's surface defining the fault.
- **Fault Zone.** A fault zone is the area at risk of seismic activity beyond the fault itself.

**Fire Hazard Severity Zone.** A mapped area that designates zones, based on factors such as fuel, slope, and fire weather, with varying degrees of fire hazard (e.g., moderate, high, and very high).

**Hazardous/Toxic Substances.** Any ignitable, corrosive, reactive, or toxic agent which, after release into the environment and upon exposure to humans, will or may cause death, disease, behavioral abnormalities, cancer, genetic mutation, physiological malfunctions, or physiological deformations.

**Hazardous Waste.** An ignitable, corrosive, reactive, or toxic waste.

**Landslide.** The sliding movement of masses of loosened rock and soil down a hillside or slope. Fundamentally, slope failures occur when the strength of the soils forming the slope exceeds the pressure, such as weight or saturation, acting upon them.

**Liquefaction.** Loosely packed, water-logged sediments at or near the ground surface losing their strength in response to strong ground shaking.

**Regulatory Floodway.** The channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height.



## 9. Hazards and Safety Element

**Seismic Hazards, Primary.** Primary seismic hazards are those that occur as a result of the slip of a fault line below the earth's surface. Primary seismic hazards typically include ground shaking and motion, and surface rupture.

**Seismic Hazards, Secondary.** Secondary seismic hazards are those that occur as a result of the primary ground shaking and surface rupture from an earthquake (primary seismic hazard). Secondary seismic hazards typically include landslides, rockslides, tsunamis, and liquefaction.

**Subsidence.** The sinking or settling of the ground surface, typically related to the withdrawal of fluids (e.g., groundwater, natural gas, or oil).

**Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).** Areas where homes or other structures are built near or among lands prone to wildland fire.

### 9.1 Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

All municipal governments are required to prepare for natural and manmade disasters. The Santa Clara County Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan (OAHMP) assesses Countywide risk for natural hazards and establishes mitigation measures, funding, and plan implementation actions for Los Gatos.

The Town of Los Gatos has adopted a comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) that is an all-hazards document describing the Town's incident management organization, compliance with relevant legal statutes and other relevant guidelines, outlines whole community engagement, establishes a continuity of government focus, and identifies critical components of the incident management structure. The Town also participates in volunteer emergency response training programs and has volunteer coordination plans in place.

The following goal and policies guide emergency preparedness, response, and recovery efforts by the Town of Los Gatos.

HAZ-1	Ensure the community is prepared for health, natural, and human-caused hazards and can respond quickly and effectively.
<b>HAZ-1.1</b>	<p><b>Emergency Preparedness Planning</b></p> <p>Coordinate with regional agencies and incorporate emergency preparedness into appropriate Town planning efforts, including plans for preparation, communications, response, providing adequate access for emergency equipment, and evacuations in the case of an emergency.</p>
<b>HAZ-1.2</b>	<p><b>Evacuation Routes</b></p> <p>Coordinate with Santa Clara County Fire and the Los Gatos – Monte Sereno Police Department and incorporate emergency access and evacuation planning into all planning efforts.</p>
<b>HAZ-1.3</b>	<p><b>Community Information and Education</b></p> <p>Provide regular and redundant community emergency awareness information, training, and education about potential health, natural, and human-caused hazards in Los Gatos and how to responsibly prepare for or mitigate them.</p>
<b>HAZ-1.4</b>	<p><b>Siting of Essential Facilities</b></p> <p>The Town shall not site essential facilities, public safety or emergency service facilities, special occupancy structures, or hazardous materials storage facilities on property subject to the following hazard designations, as defined in the Santa Clara County OAHMP, unless the structure is designed to mitigate the hazard or if no other viable option for siting is available to serve the need identified:</p>

- The 500-year flood zone;
- Seismic hazard areas and fault zones;
- Areas subject to liquefaction, landslide, or seiche hazards; and
- Areas designated as a very high fire severity zone.

### **HAZ-1.5 Identify Isolated Seniors**

Require the identification of isolated seniors who may need assistance in natural disasters such as fires, earthquakes, or floods.

## **9.2 Urban and Wildland Fire Hazards**

Santa Clara County, including Los Gatos, has a high potential for devastating wildland fires. As future climate change-related impacts increase, such as dry thunderstorms and droughts, there will be greater potential for more frequent and more intense wildfires, along with the potential for these fires to release significant quantities of Greenhouse Gases and particulate matter into the atmosphere. To comprehensively tackle urban and wildland fire prevention, strong land use policies and mitigation measures are necessary to protect the health and safety of residents, minimize the loss of life, and minimize property damage and damage to infrastructure. These efforts contribute to the community's ability to be resilient and adapt to climate change effects, including more intense weather events.

Wildfires are becoming an all too regular event in California, and both urban and wildland fires are a threat to the Town of Los Gatos. Wildfires that burn exclusively in uninhabited natural areas generally pose little risk to lives or property, although the smoke from such fires may cause respiratory problems for people nearby. Fires that occur along the wildland-urban interface (WUI) are much more of a hazard, as they can spread into urbanized areas. According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), 95 percent of all fires are caused by people (e.g., arson, escaped debris burns, and equipment use) and this is why fires that occur along the WUI are much more of a hazard. Wildfire risk is dependent on several factors, including the amount and type of vegetation in the area, weather, and local topography. Factors such as narrow, winding roads and vegetation also slow response to fires, increasing the risk of spread. Based on the increased potential for devastating wildfires in Santa Clara County and the Town of Los Gatos, CAL FIRE developed and adopted "Fire Hazard Severity Zone" maps. These maps highlight that most of the County is located within the "high" fire severity zone, with smaller portions of the County within the "moderate" and "very high" fire severity zones. Figure 9-1 illustrates the fire hazard severity zones in the Los Gatos area. More than half of the southern portion of the Town is in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ), with most of the areas to the south in the High or Moderate zones. It is also important to note that a high fire hazard severity zone does not describe the risk of a fire start, but rather describes potential impacts to natural ecosystems, known as fire severity.

The Town must therefore strongly incorporate fire hazard mitigation into its land use decisions and requirements to protect residents and property. The Santa Clara County OAHMP, the Santa Clara County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), the Los Gatos Annex 9 of the CWPP, and the Los Gatos Ad Hoc Wildfire Committee Report all include techniques for reducing wildfire risk for Los Gatos through land use decisions, inter-agency coordination, community programs, and emergency response improvements. These plans work in coordination with the Los Gatos General Plan to provide a comprehensive framework for mitigating fire risk in Los Gatos and Santa Clara County. The OAHMP (page 45 of the OAHMP) also provides additional information on the location of critical infrastructure and facilities in SRA's and VHFHSZ's within the Town. The findings of the OAHMP note that the Town currently does not have gaps in services areas related to wildfire hazards.

The Santa Clara County Fire Department provides emergency response services to the Town; further information on their services is available in the Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element. Utilities in California have begun to address their contributions to wildfire risk by reducing vegetation near vulnerable powerlines, evaluating old infrastructure, and implementing Public Safety Power Shutoffs. These shutoffs are conducted by

## 9. Hazards and Safety Element

local energy providers such as PG&E when dry hot weather combined with strong erratic wind patterns leads to a high probability of downed power lines inducing devastating fires. The power shutoffs are an attempt to minimize fires caused by downed power lines in communities across California. Local efforts are needed as well.

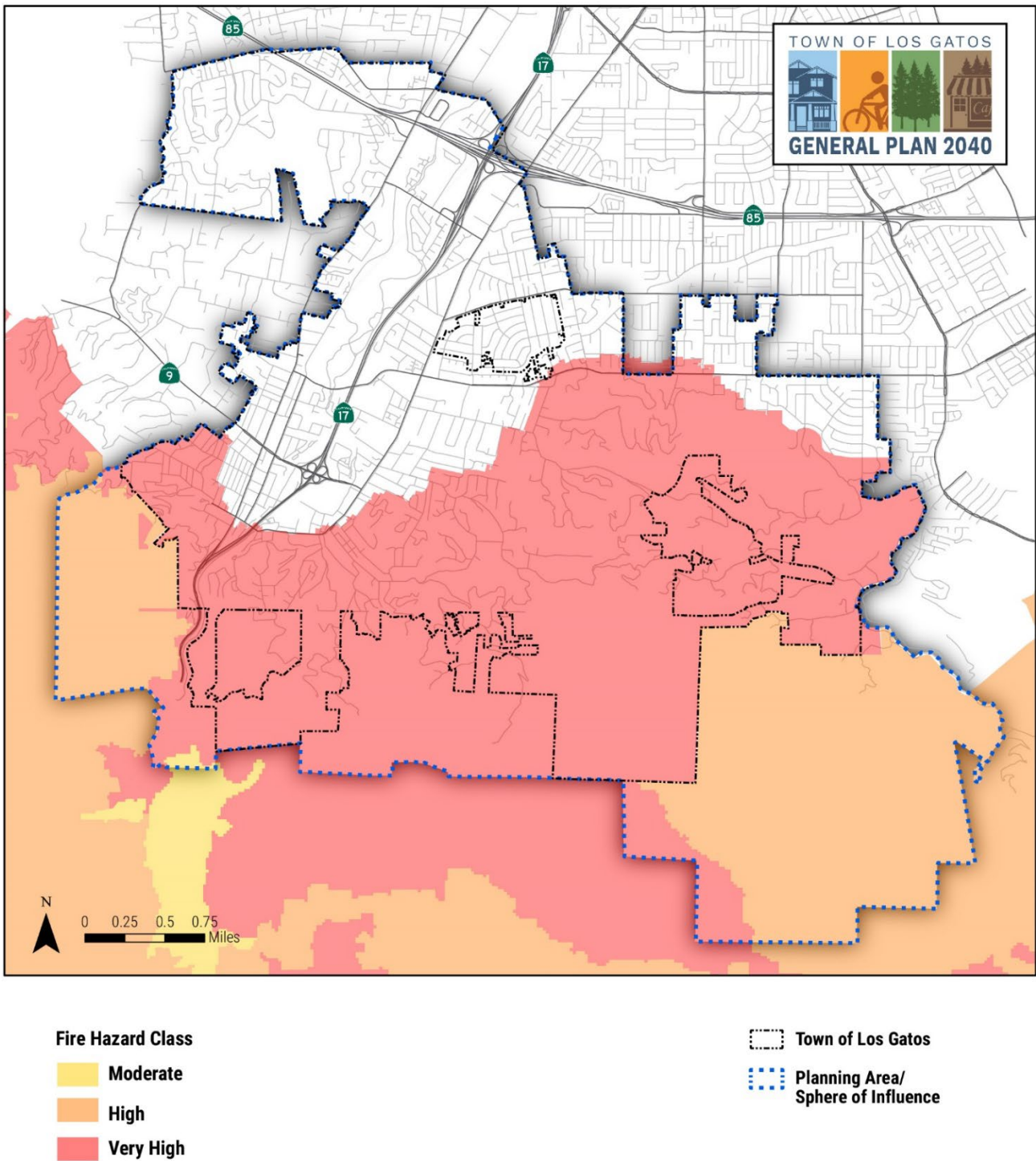
The following goals and policies will guide the management of urban and wildland fire hazards.

<b>HAZ-2</b>	Incorporate fire safety precautions as an integral consideration in planning development.
<b>HAZ-2.1</b>	<p><b>New Development in Fire Hazard Areas</b></p> <p>Require new development, including additions to existing structures, located in or adjacent to fire hazard areas to minimize hazards to life and property, by using fire preventive site design, access, fire-safe landscaping, building materials, and incorporating defensible space and other fire suppression techniques.</p>
<b>HAZ-2.2</b>	<p><b>Fire Safety Improvements</b></p> <p>Encourage fire safety improvements for existing homes and commercial buildings.</p>
<b>HAZ-2.3</b>	<p><b>Adequate Water Storage for Fire Protection</b></p> <p>During the development review process, carefully consider the adequacy of water storage for fire protection.</p>
<b>HAZ-2.4</b>	<p><b>Secondary Emergency Access</b></p> <p>Provide secondary emergency access as required by the Santa Clara County Fire Department.</p>
<b>HAZ-2.5</b>	<p><b>Fire Buffer Zones</b></p> <p>Designate Fire Buffer Zones in collaboration with Santa Clara County Fire Department between urban areas in Town and the hillsides.</p>
<b>HAZ-2.6</b>	<p><b>Vegetative Hazards</b></p> <p>Reduce the wildfire risks to existing and newly developed transportation networks through regular clearance and maintenance of vegetation adjacent to public roadways to current State and/or locally adopted fire safety standards for vegetation clearance in SRA's or VHFHSZ's.</p>
<b>HAZ-2.7</b>	<p><b>Wildfire Response</b></p> <p>Following a large and/or destructive fire in Los Gatos or the region, the Town shall reassess standards and other requirements for new development and redevelopment and revise these requirements to ensure a high level of community resilience to fire events.</p>
<b>HAZ-2.8</b>	<p><b>Community Fire Breaks</b></p> <p>Establish and maintain community fire breaks and fuel modification/reduction zones, including public and private road clearance.</p>
<b>HAZ-2.9</b>	<p><b>Fire Safety Development Precautions</b></p> <p>Establish that minimum requisite firefighting services and infrastructure are ubiquitous throughout its Town, including but not limited to: high-visibility street signage and house numbers, appropriate street widths and building clearances for firefighting equipment and vehicles, high water pressure at all fire hydrants, and driving signage indicating rights-of-way with no outlets.</p>



*Additional policies relating to fire protection, fire station information, and service standards are covered Section 6.8 (Fire Protection) Figure 6-2 (SCCFD Facilities) in the Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element.*

Figure 9-1 Fire Hazard Severity Zones



NOTE: All fire hazard areas noted are covered by the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) for Santa Clara County

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### HAZ-3

Reduce the potential for injuries, damage to property, economic and social displacement, and loss of life resulting from fire hazards.

#### HAZ-3.1

##### **Fire Hazard Preparedness**

Minimize exposure to wildland and urban fire hazards through proactive code enforcement, public education programs, use of modern fire prevention measures, quick and safe access for emergency equipment and evacuation, and emergency management preparation.

#### HAZ-3.2

##### **Neighborhood Fire Emergency Planning**

Coordinate neighborhood fire emergency planning for WUI areas.

#### HAZ-3.3

##### **Fire Emergency Water Supply**

Coordinate with emergency, fire, and medical services to ensure water supply is available for fire emergencies.

#### HAZ-3.4

##### **Development Restrictions**

Restrict development in areas with inadequate water flow or emergency access.

#### HAZ-3.5

##### **Flammable Vegetative Material**

Monitor and remove excessive buildup of flammable vegetative materials on Town properties and along public and private ingress/egress routes within the SRA and or the VHFHSZ's.

#### HAZ-3.6

##### **Utility Access**

Ensure that utility providers have the ability to monitor, inspect, replace, and move equipment that may pose a fire hazard.

#### HAZ-3.7

##### **Community Evacuation Trainings**

Continue to conduct regular evacuation trainings with single-access community HOAs, residents, and the Wildfire Ad Hoc Committee; encourage residents in single-access communities to maintain emergency supplies for at least three days.

## 9.3 Geological and Seismic Hazards

The San Francisco Bay Area is in one of the most active seismic regions in the United States. Los Gatos is near several active faults including the San Andreas, Hayward, and Calaveras Faults. Figure 9-2 shows faults, most of which are quaternary faults, within the Town Los Gatos, while Figure 9-3 shows the proximity of active major faults to Los Gatos. Ground shaking is the primary risk in an earthquake and can set off a chain reaction of secondary landslides and liquefaction, or loss of soil strength. As shown in Figure 9-4, most ground shaking risk in Los Gatos is in the northern half of the Town, with a higher risk area centered south of Los Gatos-Saratoga Road and west of Highway 17.

The region around the Lexington Reservoir also has higher risk of ground shaking should an earthquake occur. Figure 9-5 focusing on secondary seismic hazards, shows that landslides are a risk in most of the southern and eastern portions of the Town, and liquefaction risk is centered along Highway 17. Implementation of applicable building codes and geotechnical investigations will minimize potential loss of life and damage to property from primary and secondary seismic hazards and siting essential structures and services outside high-risk areas will enable faster emergency response after an earthquake.

Seismic activity within or near the Santa Clara County region has historically caused significant damage to buildings and infrastructure in the Town of Los Gatos due to ground shaking and landslides. Five earthquakes



have affected Los Gatos in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with the 1906 San Francisco and 1989 Loma Prieta earthquakes having the highest magnitude.

The following goal and policies will address geological and seismic hazards in Los Gatos.

### HAZ-4

Minimize community exposure to risks from geologic and seismic hazards, including slope instability, subsidence, ground shaking, fault rupture, liquefaction, and landslides.

#### HAZ-4.1

##### **Geologic Hazard Zone Development**

Require new development to be sited away from high risk geologic and seismic hazard zones or, if located in a high-risk zone, incorporate construction techniques or specialized technologies to reduce risk. Restrict new development and redevelopment based on the levels of risk and potential severity of geologic hazards.

#### HAZ-4.2

##### **Geotechnical Report – Seismic Hazards**

Require a geotechnical report by a licensed engineering geologist and/or geotechnical engineer for new developments proposed in hazard zones mapped by the State or identified by the Town, as shown in Figures 9-2 through 9-5 of this Hazards and Safety Element. The report shall identify all site geologic, seismic, and geotechnical engineering conditions and potential hazards and include appropriate design measures to mitigate potential fault ground rupture/deformation impacts to acceptable levels.

#### HAZ-4.3

##### **Geotechnical Report – Grading**

Require a geotechnical report by a licensed engineering geologist and/or geotechnical engineer for new developments proposed with significant grading, potential erosion, and sedimentation hazards.

#### HAZ-4.4

##### **Geotechnical Report – Construction Methods**

Require a geotechnical report by a qualified engineering geologist and/or geotechnical engineer for new developments proposed in areas with identified geologic hazards. The report shall specify construction methods to protect existing and future residences, from identified hazards.

**Figure 9-2**      **Faults in Town Limits**

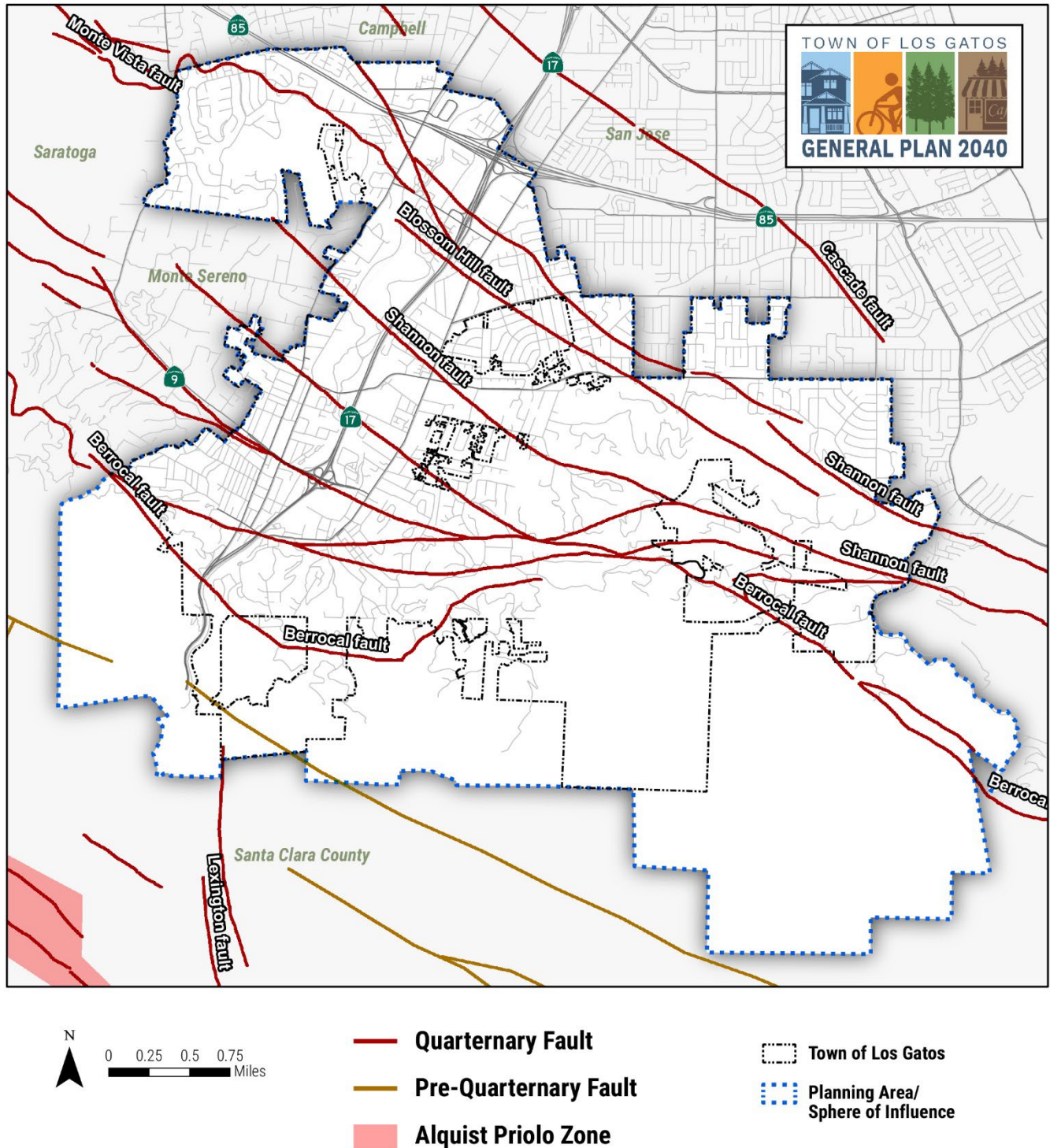
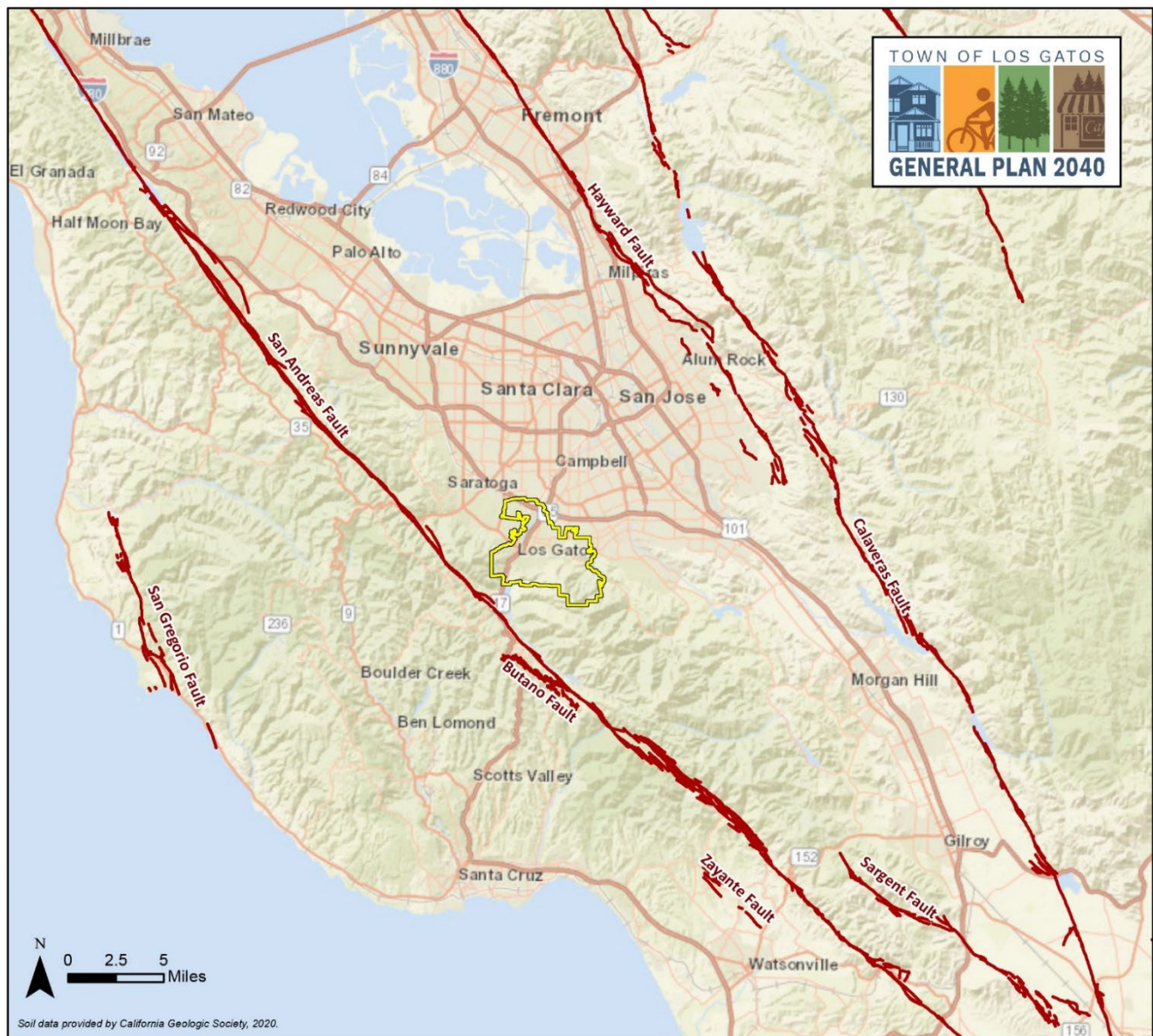


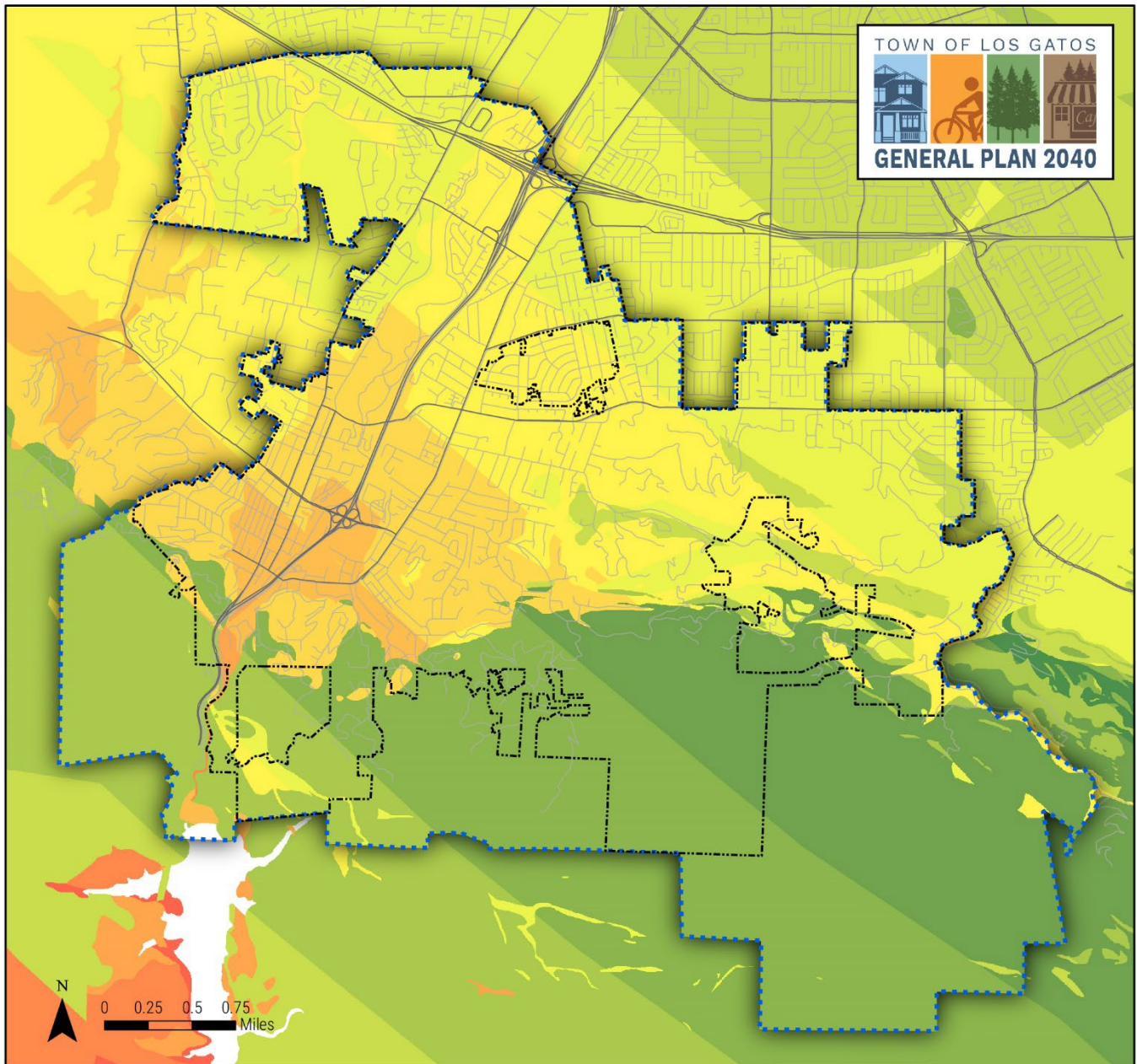


Figure 9-3 Active Major Faults in the South Bay



- Town of Los Gatos
- Regional Fault

**Figure 9-4 Projected Groundshaking**



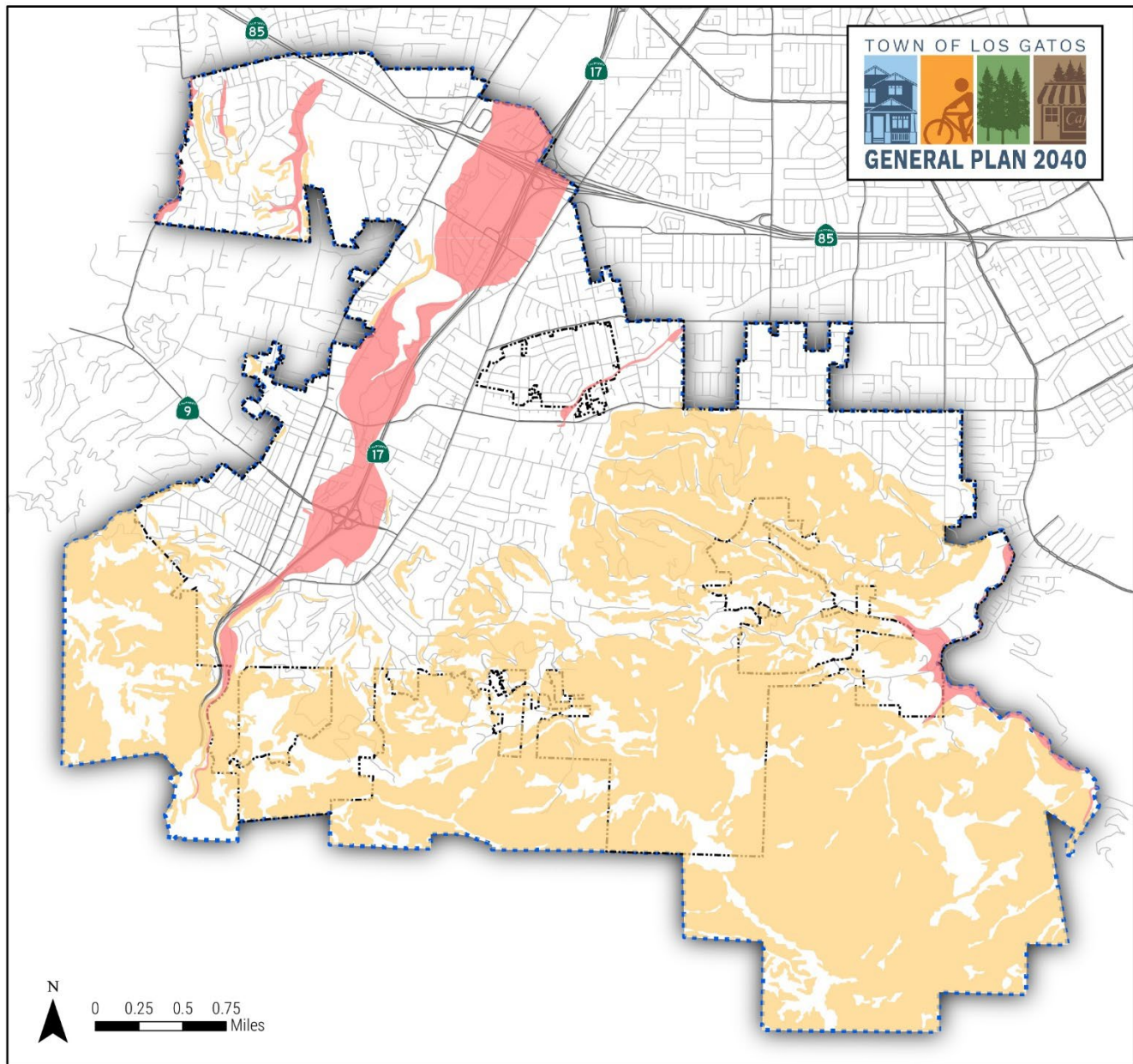
**Level of Earthquake Hazard**



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



Figure 9-5 Secondary Seismic Hazards



- Landslide Zone
- Liquefaction Zone

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



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### HAZ-4.5 **Unbuildable Property as Open Space**

Preserve open space portions of properties that are unbuildable due to geologic and seismic conditions.

### HAZ-4.6 **Emergency Services Structure Safety**

Require that buildings and structures needed for emergency services and other essential services exceed the California Building Code for seismic strengthening to withstand a major earthquake.

### HAZ-4.7 **Seismic Retrofit Incentives**

Work with regional, State, and Federal agencies and organizations to incentivize seismic retrofits of structures.

### HAZ-4.8 **Geologic Hazards Checklist**

Require that a licensed geologic/geotechnical engineer complete the Town Geologic Hazards Checklist for all new proposed development to demonstrate that potential hazards have been identified and that proposed structures, including grading cuts and fills, will be designed to resist potential earthquake effects.

### HAZ-4.9 **Resilient Infrastructure**

Require that new public utilities, communication infrastructure, and transportation facilities be located, designed, and constructed in a manner that minimizes risk and maximizes functionality during and after an earthquake.

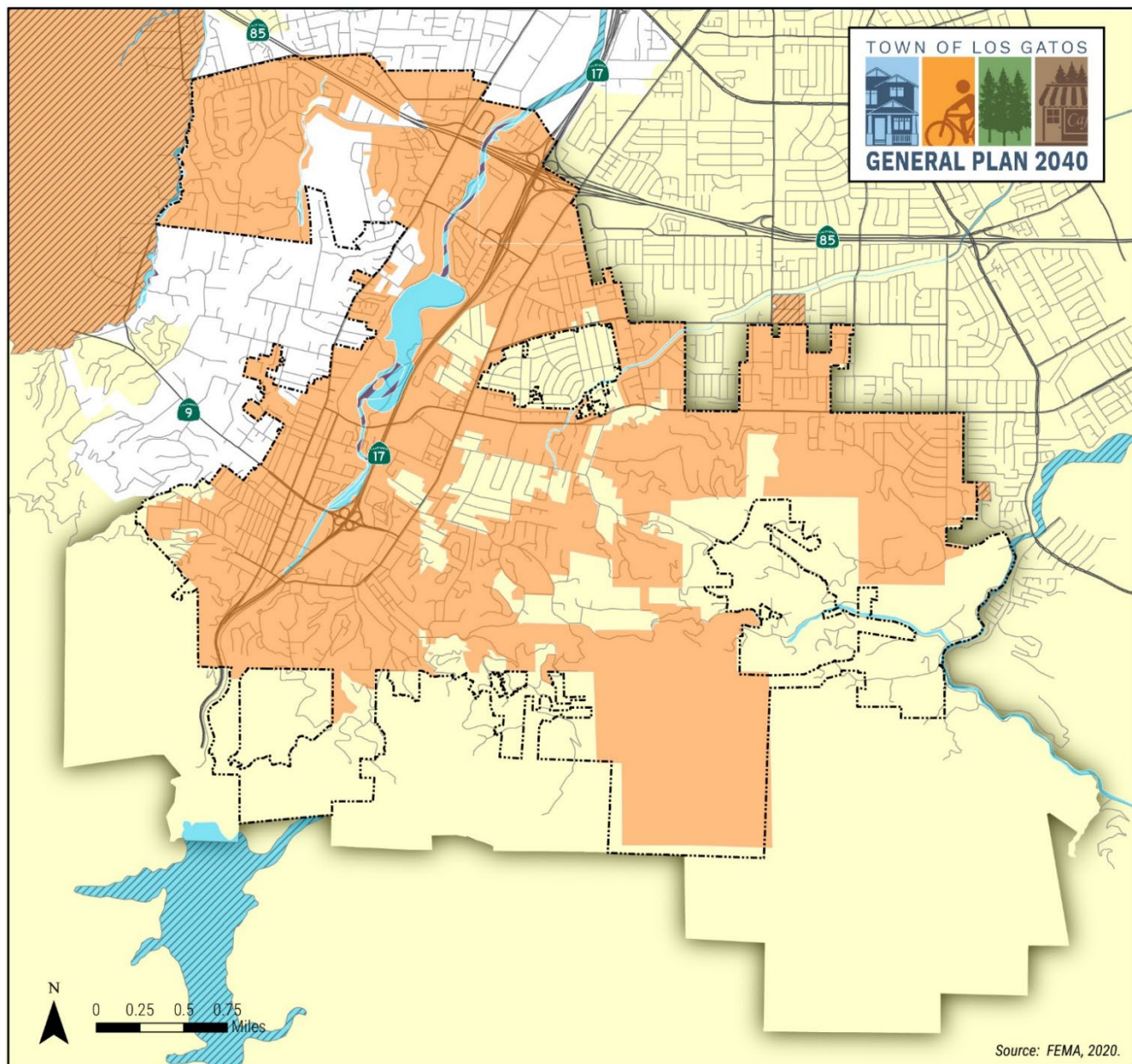
## 9.4 Flood and Inundation Hazards

Flooding can threaten life, safety, and property and can occur in a number of ways. The level in a body of water, such as a lake or creek, can rise higher than the water body's banks, causing it to overflow into nearby areas. Heavy precipitation can overwhelm the ability of soil to absorb water or storm drains to carry it away, causing water to build up on the surface. Localized flooding may also occur as a result of infrastructure failure, such as a burst water tank or pipe. In Los Gatos, the floods that are of most concern are from heavy rainfall causing local flooding or flash floods. Flooding puts various populations in Town at risk. A 500-year flood could affect upwards of 28,000 people and cause \$10 billion of structural damage. Figure 9-6 shows FEMA flood zones in Los Gatos.

Beyond localized flooding, Los Gatos faces a flood threat from dam inundation from both the James J. Lenihan and Vasona Dams. While less common, dam inundation is recognized in both the Town Emergency Operations Plan and Santa Clara County OAHMP. The Lexington Reservoir as contained by the James J. Lenihan Dam is the largest concern for dam inundation. Lexington Reservoir is the third largest reservoir in Santa Clara County storing 19,044 acre-feet of water. The potential inundation zone in the event of failure is significant, with the potential to affect over 3,000 people and damage over 1,000 structures.

Thirteen Presidentially-declared flood disasters have occurred in Santa Clara County since 1954, caused largely by high precipitation events leading to riverine floods, flash floods, and stormwater runoff floods. As future climate change-related impacts increase, localized flooding will become more common due to more extreme storms increasing the potential for more frequent and severe riverine flooding.

Figure 9-6 FEMA Flood Zones



- 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard (100-Year Flood)
- 0.2% Annual Chance of Flood Hazard (500-Year Flood)
- Flood Hazards Outside Los Gatos
- Area of Minimal Flood Hazard
- Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard
- Regulatory Floodway
- Town of Los Gatos
- Planning Area/  
Sphere of Influence

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The following goal and policies address flood and inundation hazards in Los Gatos.

<b>HAZ-5</b>	Reduce the potential for injuries, damage to property, economic and social displacement, and loss of life resulting from flood hazards.
<b>HAZ-5.1</b>	<b>Flood Hazard Consideration in Site Planning</b> Require site planning and building design to mitigate identified flood and inundation hazards.
<b>HAZ-5.2</b>	<b>New Development in FEMA 100-Year Flood Zones</b> Require that new development and substantial improvements to existing structures meet Federal and State standards when located within FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) designated 100-year flood zones, as shown in Figure 9.5 or most current FEMA mapping.
<b>HAZ-5.3</b>	<b>Land Dedicated for Flood Protection</b> Obtain fee title to all land required to be dedicated for flood protection.
<b>HAZ-5.4</b>	<b>Peak Stormwater Run-off</b> Require new development and redevelopment to provide design solutions to control the cumulative rate of peak stormwater run-off to no higher than pre-development levels.
<b>HAZ-5.5</b>	<b>Flood Protection Facilities</b> Cooperate with the Santa Clara Valley Water District to develop and maintain additional stormwater retention facilities in areas where they are needed or where the design capacity of existing retention facilities cannot be restored.
<b>HAZ-5.6</b>	<b>Precipitation Changes</b> Monitor and respond to the risk of flooding caused by climate change-related changes to precipitation patterns and groundwater levels.

## 9.5 Public Health Emergencies: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

During health emergencies, local jurisdictions provide initial leadership, resources, and information to their immediate communities while establishing public-private and regional response efforts. As a result, the Town must work with health providers, Santa Clara County, and local stakeholders to develop coordinated initial responses to public health emergencies that rely on local resources.

Pandemics have the potential to be the most-deadly threat to public health. A pandemic can occur when a new strain of influenza or other pathogen emerges to which most or all of the world's human population has had no previous exposure and thus has no immunity.

In the last century, multiple pandemics have swept the globe.

- In 1918, the first pandemic (sometimes referred to as the "Spanish Flu") killed over 500,000 Americans and more than 20 million people worldwide. One-third of the U.S. population was infected, and average life expectancy was reduced by 13 years.
- Influenza pandemics in 1957 (H2N2 virus) and 1968 (H3N2 virus) killed tens of thousands of Americans and millions across the world.

- In the spring of 2009, a novel influenza A (H1N1) virus emerged. It was detected first in the United States and spread quickly across the United States and the world. From April 12, 2009 to April 10, 2010, the Centers for Disease Control estimated there were 60.8 million cases (range: 43.3-89.3 million), 274,304 hospitalizations (range: 195,086-402,719), and 12,469 deaths (range: 8868-18,306) in the United States.
- In 2020, the COVID-19 Pandemic has spread rapidly since its discovery in December 2019. COVID-19 is an illness caused by a new coronavirus that can spread from person to person. As of March 2, 2021, there have been more than 28.7 million confirmed cases and 514,000 deaths in the United States. Globally, 114 million cases have been confirmed and 2.54 million people have died from the effects of the novel coronavirus.

Although the timing, nature, and severity of a pandemic cannot be predicted, a planned and coordinated response is critical to minimizing the public health impact, as well as the social and economic disruption to our everyday lives.

The following goal and policies guide preparedness, response, and recovery efforts by the Town of Los Gatos for current and future health emergencies.

### HAZ-6

Reduce the potential and severity of short- and long-term health emergencies, control the rate and extent of the spread of an illness, reduce economic and social displacement, and reduce loss of life.

#### HAZ-6.1

HC

##### **Addressing Town Public Health Needs**

The Town shall implement all minimum requirements from appropriate State of California and Santa Clara County agencies relative to declared public health emergencies. The Town shall also consider the needs of the community and expand the Town's response beyond these minimum requirements, as appropriate.

#### HAZ-6.2

##### **Agency Coordination**

Work closely with the State of California and Santa Clara County health officials to make certain that Town needs are considered and addressed and to make sure the residents are made aware of programs and resources in a timely manner.

#### HAZ-6.3

HC

##### **Coordinate the Delivery of Essential Public Health Services**

Partner with organizations responsible for essential health care and human services to ensure those services are provided as early as possible to respond during and recover after a public health emergency or event.

#### HAZ-6.4

##### **Promote Training and Guidance for Community Partners**

Promote training initiatives for community partners and other stakeholders within public health, health care, human services, mental/behavioral health, and environmental health sectors.

#### HAZ-6.5

##### **Communications and Community Education**

Continue to maintain and enhance the Town's communications and education resources to provide timely and up-to-date information concerning public health emergencies.

#### HAZ-6.6

##### **Resources**

Work with the State of California and Santa Clara County to maintain a supply of resources necessary to respond to and recover from a public health emergency.

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### HAZ-6.8

#### Response Evaluation

During and following any public health emergency, Town staff should work with the community to identify ways to improve preparation and responses necessary to recover and return to normal following a public health emergency.

## 9.6 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

The use, manufacture, production, transportation, storage, treatment, disposal, and clean-up of hazardous materials and hazardous wastes present a potential threat to the health and safety of those who are using the materials and those who could be affected by improper or accidental release or disposal. Hazardous materials include all toxic, flammable, combustible, corrosive, poisonous, and radioactive substances that possess the potential to bring harm to the public or the environment.

Common sources of hazardous materials in Los Gatos include:

- Air emissions from industrial land uses;
- Chemical contamination from industrial processors, such as commercial laundries;
- Pesticide contamination from historic agricultural activities; and
- Soil and groundwater contamination from industrial and commercial activities.

The Town maintains a comprehensive list of Hazardous Waste and Substance sites where hazardous materials are present and cleanup activities are or may be necessary. A number of the listed facilities in Los Gatos emit hazardous and/or toxic substances as part of their daily operations. These facilities are subject to the Air Toxics Hot Spots reporting requirements under AB 2588.

The following goal and policies address hazardous materials in Los Gatos.

### HAZ-7

Reduce the potential for injuries, damage to property, economic and social displacement, and loss of life resulting from hazardous materials.

#### HAZ-7.1

HC

#### Water Supply and Air Protection

Work with public agencies and private organizations to prevent the introduction of hazardous materials into the air and the water supply.

#### HAZ-7.2

#### Phase I Site Assessment

Require Phase I site assessments for new development proposed on land that may be contaminated with hazardous materials or waste.

#### HAZ-7.3

#### Hazardous Materials Storage Monitoring

Support Santa Clara County Fire Department in monitoring the storage of hazardous materials.

#### HAZ-7.4

#### Hazardous Materials Business Plan

Require all businesses that use, store, or transport hazardous materials or waste to prepare a Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Business Plan.

#### HAZ-7.5

#### Household Hazardous Waste

The Town shall develop and distribute educational materials and conduct educational outreach to inform the public about household hazardous waste, proper disposal methods, and proper use and storage of these materials.



## 9.7 Implementation Programs

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)				
<b>A Plan Review</b> Annually review and refresh key staff on the contents of the Los Gatos Hazards and Safety Element, the Santa Clara OAHMP, and the Los Gatos HMP to ensure processes and procedures are streamlined and coordinated.	HAZ-1.1	Town Manager			■	
	HAZ-1.2					
	HAZ-1.3					
	HAZ-1.4	Community Development				
	HAZ-1.5	Parks and Public Works				
<b>B Review Emergency Services</b> Regularly review the adequacy of emergency services in the Town. Plan and develop law enforcement infrastructure and technology according to overall need and Town growth.	HAZ-1.1	Town Manager				■
		Police Department				
		SCC Fire Department				
<b>C Evacuation Routes and Planning</b> Develop, evaluate, maintain, and update evacuation routes and protocols for high-risk fire hazard areas, SRA's, and VHFHSZ's that are consistent with AB 747 and local ordinances (Title 14, CCR, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Subchapter 2, Articles 2 and 3 (commencing with section 1273.00)). As necessary prepare improvement plans that identify appropriate mitigation measures to further implementation of evacuation routes.	HAZ-1.1	Town Manager	■			■
	HAZ-1.2					
	HAZ-4.4					
	HAZ-5.1	Police Department				
	HAZ-5.2					
<b>D Emergency Drills</b> Conduct emergency hazard drills with key stakeholder organizations, community groups and organizations, outside agencies, and local and County officials across the community to improve preparedness for known threats and hazards.	HAZ-1.3	Town Manager				■
	HAZ-1.4					
		Police Department				
		SCC Fire Department				

## 9. Hazards and Safety Element

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)				
<b>E Hazard Preparedness</b> Coordinate with regional agencies to update and distribute information on how to prepare for and lessen the potential impact of earthquakes, floods, fires, public health emergency, and other safety hazards. Help and encourage all households to prepare for two weeks of self-sufficiency	HAZ-1.3	Town Manager Police Department SCC Fire Department	■			
<b>F Fire Safety Education</b> Provide public education on fire safety, including wildland and structural fire prevention, evacuation protocols, and guidelines for defensible space and other hazards around structures.	HAZ-1.4 HAZ-2.2 HAZ-3.2 HAZ-3.5	Town Manager Community Development Fire Department				■
<b>G Wildfire Protection Plan</b> Create a checklist for applicants to complete and submit a fire protection plan to assess and mitigate fire risks for all new development within SRA's and VHFHSZ's. Fire protection plans shall include:  1. Risk analysis; 2. Fire response capabilities assessment; 3. Fire safety requirements (i.e., defensible space, infrastructure, and building ignition resistance); 4. Mitigation measures and design considerations for nonconforming fuel modification; 5. Wildfire education strategies; and 6. Plan maintenance and limitations.	HAZ-2.1	SCC Fire Department Community Development	■			
<b>H Review of Fire Related Ordinances</b> Update the Town's development standards to either directly adopt or meet the minimum standards of title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 2, articles 1-5 (commencing with section 1270) (SRA Fire Safe Regulations) and title 14, CCR, division 1.5, chapter 7, subchapter 3, article 3 (commencing with section 1299.01) (Fire Hazard Reduction Around Buildings and Structures Regulations) for SRAs and/or VHFHSZs.	HAZ-2.1 HAZ-2.2 HAZ-2.9	Town Manager SCC Fire Department	■			■

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)				
<b>I Hillside Roadway Assessment</b> Coordinate with Santa Clara County Fire Department to assess hillside roadway access to allow efficient evacuation for residents and access for emergency personnel vehicles.	HAZ-2.1 HAZ-2.4 HAZ-3.1 HAZ-3.2	Parks and Public Works  SCC Fire Department  Town Manager				■
<b>J Disaster Recovery</b> Ensure the Town has a disaster recovery plan in place that is reviewed and updated as needed, at a minimum of every five years. The plan should include an interim recovery strategy, model post-disaster recovery ordinance, and a post-disaster re-development plan.	HAZ-3.3	Town Manager  Community Development  Parks and Public Works  SCC Fire Department	■			
<b>K Test Essential Bridges</b> Every five years, assess the Town's bridges whose destruction would cause serious access and other problems after an earthquake.	HAZ-4.6	Parks and Public Works				■
<b>L Ensure Earthquake Safety in Essential Town Buildings</b> Ensure Town structures that house essential functions are earthquake safe.	HAZ-4.6 HAZ-4.7	Town Manager  Community Development				■
<b>M Retrofit</b> Provide information for seismic retrofits of structures throughout the Town, particularly those building types that would affect the most people in the event of an earthquake.	HAZ-4.7	Community Development  Parks and Public Works				■
<b>N Review Flood Zones</b> Annually review all areas subject to flooding as identified by FEMA or the State Department of Water Resources, as required by AB 162.	HAZ-5.1 HAZ-5.2	Parks and Public Works  Community Development			■	
<b>O Prevent Inappropriate Development in Flood Areas</b> Adopt floodplain zoning to prevent inappropriate development in areas subject to flooding.	HAZ-5.1 HAZ-5.2	Community Development	■			
<b>P Flood Mitigation</b> Implement flood mitigation requirements of FEMA in Special Flood Hazard Areas as illustrated on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps.	HAZ-5.2	Community Development  Parks and Public Works				■

## 9. Hazards and Safety Element

Programs	Implements Which Policy(ies)	Responsible	2020 – 2025	2026 – 2040	Annual	Ongoing
		Supporting Department(s)				
<b>Q FEMA Community Rating System</b> Participate in FEMA's Community Rating System to reduce flood insurance for local residents and businesses.	HAZ-5.2	Community Development Parks and Public Works				■
<b>R Public Health Messaging</b> Collaborate with community partners and stakeholders to develop, test, and disseminate timely public health messaging to targeted populations through trusted representatives or spokespersons.	HAZ-6.3 HAZ-6.5 HAZ-6.6	Town Manager				■

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## 10. Housing Element

The Town Council adopted the 2015-2023 Housing Element for the Town of Los Gatos on May 5, 2015. The adopted Housing Element was certified by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on May 20, 2015. The 2015-2023 Housing Element provides a comprehensive assessment of current and projected housing needs for all economic segments in the community. The 2015-2023 Housing Element includes goals, policies, implementation programs, and identifies housing sites adequate to meet the needs of the Town.

The next cycle of Housing Element updates for jurisdictions within the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) region will cover the planning period from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2031. As part of this process, ABAG will work with the Town and cities within the ABAG region to develop and finalize a Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). The RHNA numbers provided by ABAG will be used to prepare the 2023-2031 Housing Element update. The final RHNA numbers for Los Gatos are 1,993 units.

To comply with state Housing Element law, the Town must demonstrate that there is adequate capacity to accommodate the development of dwelling units that are affordable for all household income categories (i.e., extremely low, very low, low, moderate, and above moderate-income) as called out in the RHNA.



*The Town will update the 2015-2023 Housing Element by January 1, 2023, in compliance with State law. The updated Housing Element will demonstrate how the Town will provide adequate sites to meet the RHNA numbers, by income category, by 2031. At this time, this Element only provides information regarding the process that will be followed to conduct this subsequent update. Once the 2023-2031 Housing Element update process is completed, it will be uploaded to the Town's website.*

*A copy of the Town's current 2015-2023 Housing Element can be found at this link:*  
<https://www.losgatosca.gov/1735/General-Plan---Housing-Element>

The Town's 2023-2031 Housing Element update will also address changes in State law that have occurred since the 2015-2023 Housing Element was adopted in 2015. Since the last Housing Element was adopted, the State has passed a number of new housing laws that will impact the analysis and ultimate identification of adequate housing sites. These include, but are not limited to, a law that requires the Town demonstrate that the projected residential development capacity of RHNA sites can realistically be achieved [Gov. Code, Section 65583.2(c)]. According to HCDs "Building Blocks: A Comprehensive Housing-Element Guide," realistic development capacity is based on several factors:

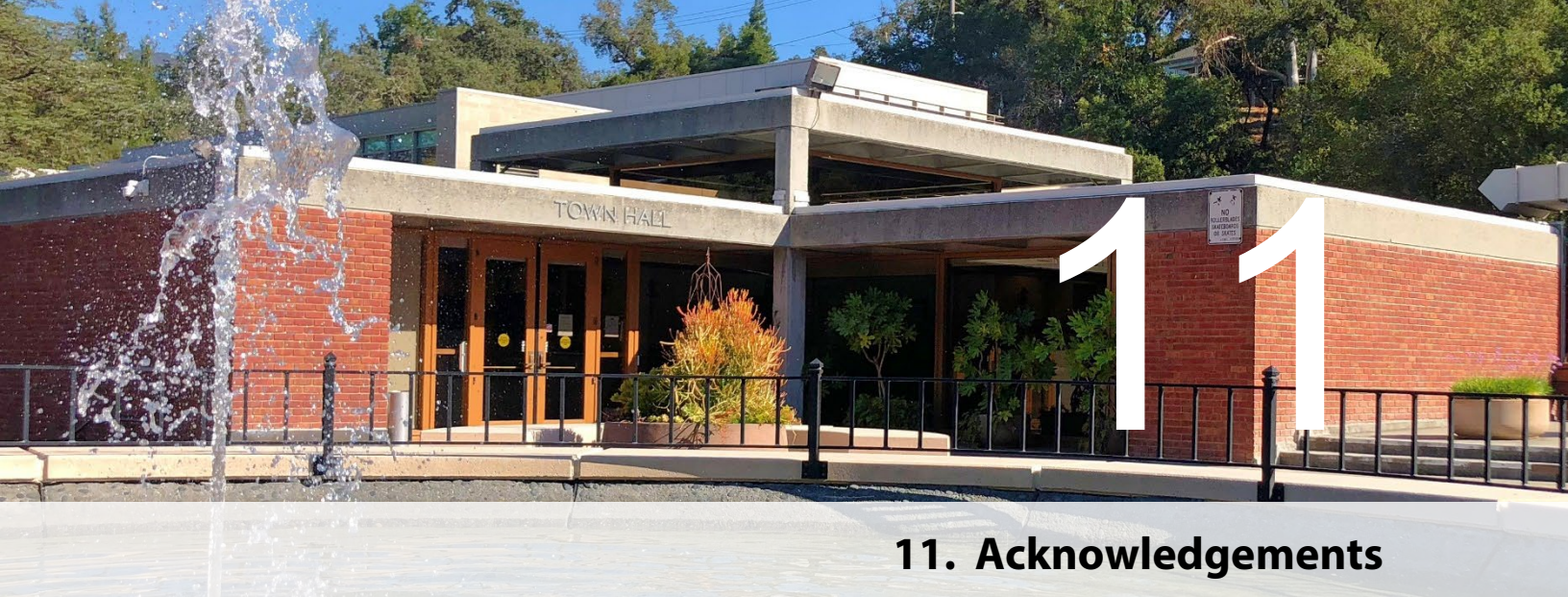
- Existing site use: vacant, underutilized, or appropriate for redevelopment;
- Site's current zoning: a site is either zoned for or allows residential development, or a site is zoned for nonresidential use, but can be rezoned and redeveloped for residential use;

- The cumulative impact of development standards on residential development such as maximum lot coverage, height, open space, and parking;
- Existing development trends;
- A site's general environmental features such as the existence of floodplains, protected wetlands, or oak tree preserves, and demonstration that the presence of such features will not preclude residential development; and
- Adequate public infrastructure capacity, such as water, sewer, and other dry-utilities supply.

In addition, new state law requires no “net loss” of identified RHNA sites for lower and moderate-income dwelling units [i.e., the Town may not take action that would reduce identified affordable housing sites for these income categories without identifying replacement sites (Gov. Code, § 65863)]. Furthermore, the State revised the Housing Accountability Act, which prohibits the Town from lowering the density or denying a project (unless there are specific and unmitigable adverse impacts to health and safety) if the project complies with the Town's General Plan and Zoning Ordinance (Gov. Code, Section 65589.5). Finally, new State law requires ministerial approval of, and provides a statutory CEQA exemption for, affordable housing projects consistent with specified criteria (Gov. Code, Section 65913.4).

The State also has new regulations on Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (Assembly Bill 686 (2017)) that require each jurisdiction to administer its programs and activities relating to housing in a manner to affirmatively further fair housing and not take any action that is inconsistent with this obligation.





## 11. Acknowledgements

### Town Council

Rob Rennie, Mayor  
Maria Ristow, Vice Mayor  
Mary Badame, Council Member  
Matthew Hudes, Council Member  
Marico Sayoc, Council Member  
Marcia Jensen, former Council Member  
Barbara Spector, former Council Member

### Planning Commission

Melanie Hanssen, Chair  
Jeffrey Barnett, Vice-Chair  
Kylie Clark, Commissioner  
Kathryn Janoff, Commissioner  
Steven Raspe, Commissioner  
Reza Tavana, Commissioner  
Emily Thomas, Commissioner  
Mary Badame, former Commissioner  
Kendra Burch, former Commissioner  
Matthew Hudes, former Commissioner  
D. Michael Kane, former Commissioner  
Tom O'Donnell, former Commissioner  
Jeffrey Suzuki, former Commissioner

### General Plan Update Advisory Committee

Melanie Hanssen, Chair, Planning Commissioner  
Kathryn Janoff, Vice-Chair, Planning Commissioner  
Mary Badame, Council Member  
Maria Ristow, Council Member  
Emily Thomas, Planning Commissioner  
Todd Jarvis, General Plan Committee  
Joseph Mannina, General Plan Committee  
Steven Piasecki, General Plan Committee  
Lee Quintana, General Plan Committee  
Carol Elias Zolla, Public Representative  
Susan Moore Brown, Public Representative  
Ryan Rosenberg, Public Representative  
Marcia Jensen, former member  
Barbara Spector, former member  
Kendra Burch, former member  
Jeffrey Barnett, former member

### Town Board, Commissions, and Committees

Arts and Culture Commission  
Community Health and Senior Services  
Commission  
Complete Streets and Transportation Commission  
Historic Preservation Committee  
Library Board  
Parks Commission  
Youth Commission

### Town Staff

Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager  
Gabrielle Whelan, Town Attorney  
Arn Andrews, Assistant Town Manager  
Joel Paulson, Community Development Director  
Matt Morley, Parks and Public Works Director  
Ryan Baker, Library Director  
Peter Decena, Police Chief  
Stephen Conway, Finance Director  
Lisa Velasco, Human Resources Director  
Jennifer Armer, Planning Manager  
Monica Renn, Economic Vitality Manager  
Gitta Ungvari, Finance and Budget Manager  
Holly Zappala, Management Analyst  
Alexa Nolder, Executive Assistant  
Robert Schultz, former Town Attorney  
Sally Zarnowitz, former Planning Manager  
Cindie Gonzales, former Executive Assistant  
Dorrie Romero, former Executive Assistant

### Consultant Team

Jim Harnish, Project Advisor  
Rick Rust, Project Director  
Brent Gibbons, Project Manager  
Amy Yang, Associate Planner  
Michael Gibbons, Planner  
Ryan Lester, Planner  
Matthew Jumamoy, Planner  
Steve Svete, Rincon Consultants  
Della Acosta, Rincon Consultants  
Matt Haynes, Fehr & Peers  
Charlie Coles, Fehr & Peers  
Doug Svensson, Applied Development Economics  
Jim Stickley, WRT  
Poonam Narkar, WRT  
Jim Heid, UrbanGreen

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Train, [Don DeBold](#)





## 12. Glossary and Acronyms

### 12.1 Glossary

#### #

**100-Year Flood Event/100-Year Flood Zone.** A flood event that would occur on average once every 100 years, or that has a 1.0 percent chance of occurring in any given year. The area with this flood potential is referred to as the 100 Regulatory Floodplain, or 100-year flood zone, as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Map Service Center.

**360 Architecture.** The intentional incorporation of architectural design style and elements around the entirety of a building regardless of if portions of the building are not facing public view.

**500-Year Flood Event/500-Year Flood Zone.** A flood event that would occur on average once every 500 years, or that has a 0.2 percent chance of occurring in any given year. The area with this flood potential is referred to as the 500 Regulatory Floodplain, or the 500-year flood zone, as designated by the FEMA Flood Map Service Center.

#### A

**Accessible.** The ability to accommodate everyone regardless of ability.

**Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU).** An accessory dwelling unit is a detached or attached dwelling unit.

It shall include permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation and is generally smaller and located on the same parcel as a proposed or existing primary dwelling. An accessory dwelling unit also includes efficiency units and manufactured homes.

**Acre-foot (AF).** The volume of water required to cover one acre of land (43,560 square feet) to a depth of one foot. One acre-foot is equal to 325,850 gallons or 1,233 cubic meters. Generally, an acre-foot represents the amount of water typically used by two to three families of four during a year.

**Acre-foot per Year.** A time rate unit of that describes water flow rate. One acre-foot per year is equal to approximately 893 gallons per day.

**Acres (Gross).** An acre is a measurement of land area equal to 43,560 square feet. The gross acreage of a lot includes all land within the boundaries of the lot (including, but not limited to, easements). The gross acreage is defined as the total area, measured on a horizontal plane, and is the measure used for determination of density and intensity calculations.

**Acres (Net).** A reduced lot size based average lot slope or other factors and used for the purpose of calculating the maximum allowed floor area or density.

**Active Recreation Open Space.** Land used for outdoor activities that include additional onsite infrastructure.

**Adaptation.** Adaptation is preparing for climate change impacts that are expected to occur by making



adjustments in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects that are aimed at minimizing harm or taking advantage of beneficial opportunities.

**Adaptive Reuse.** The practice of converting obsolete or historic buildings from their original or most recent use to a new use.

**Adverse Impact.** A negative consequence for the physical, social, or economic environment resulting from an action or project.

**Aesthetics.** Aesthetics concerns the condition and change to visual resources. Visual resources consist of the landforms, vegetation, rock and water features, and cultural modifications (such as buildings) that create the visual character and sensitivity of a landscape.

**Affordable Housing.** Under State and Federal statutes, affordable housing is housing which costs no more than 30 percent of gross household income. Housing costs include rent or mortgage payments, utilities, taxes, insurance, homeowner association fees, and other related costs.

**Age-Friendly.** Age-friendly or livable communities have walkable streets, housing and transportation options, access to key services, and opportunities for residents at all life stages to participate in community activities.

**Air Basin.** A geographic area that exhibits similar meteorological and geographic conditions. California is divided into 15 air basins.

**Air Pollution.** Air pollution refers to any chemical, physical (particulate matter), or biological agent(s) that modifies the natural characteristics of the atmosphere. This can occur indoors or outdoors and often has harmful health effects. Car emissions, chemicals from factories, dust, pollen, and mold spores may be suspended as particles. Ozone is a major component of air pollution in towns and cities, causing smog.

**Ambient Noise Level.** The combination of noise from all existing sources; the normal or existing level of noise at a given location.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).** A civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public.

**Alternative Energy.** A form of energy that is not derived from fossil fuels.

**Alternative Fuel.** A fuel for internal combustion engines that is derived partly or wholly from a source other than petroleum and that is less damaging to the environment than traditional fuels.

**Annexation.** The process by which land is incorporated into an existing district, town, or city, with a resulting change in the boundaries of the annexing jurisdiction.

**Aquifer.** A geological formation or structure that stores and/or transmits water, such as to wells and springs. Use of the term is usually restricted to those water-bearing formations capable of yielding water in sufficient quantity to constitute a usable supply for people's uses.

**Archaeological Resources.** The fossilized remains of plants and animal life.

**Arterial Streets.** Arterial streets typically accommodate two or more lanes of traffic in each direction, providing access to the regional highway system, collector roads, and local streets.

**Articulation.** The division of a building facade into distinct sections; including the materials, patterns, textures, and colors that add visual interest to a building or facade.

**Assessor's Use Code.** Land use codes used by the County Assessor to determine the value of property for property tax purposes.

**Attainment Area.** An attainment area is a geographic area that meets the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for a criteria pollutant.

**Attainment Status.** Attainment status for a pollutant indicates whether or not an Air District meets the standard set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Federal) or California Environmental

## 12. Glossary and Acronyms

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Protection Agency (State). Continuous air monitoring ensures that these standards are met and maintained.

**Average Daily Traffic (ADT).** The average number of motor vehicles traversing a given roadway over a 24-hour period.

**A-Weighted Sound Level.** All sound levels referred to in this policy document are in A-weighted decibels. A weighting de-emphasizes the very low and very high frequencies of sound in a manner like the human ear. Most community noise standards utilize A-weighting, as it provides a high degree of correlation with human annoyance and health effects.

### B

**Best Management Practices (BMP).** In the context of groundwater management, the practice, or combination of practices, that is designed to achieve sustainable groundwater management and have been determined to be technologically and economically effective, practicable, and based on best available science.

**Bikeway Types.** Bikeways are typically classified into one of four classes depending on their design and placement.

**Class I bikeways (bike paths)** are also described as bike paths, shared paths (shared with pedestrians), and multi-use paths, and provide a completely separate right-of-way designated for the exclusive use of bicyclists and pedestrians with minimized vehicle and pedestrian cross-flow.

**Class II bikeways (bike lanes)** are lanes for bicyclists generally adjacent to outer vehicle travel lanes with special lane markings, pavement legends, and signage.

**Class III bikeways (bike routes)** are designated by signs or pavement markings for shared use with pedestrians or motor vehicles but have no separated bike right-of-way or lane striping.

**Class IV bikeways (cycle tracks or protected bike lanes)** provide a right-of-way designated exclusively for bicycle travel within a roadway

and which are protected from other vehicle traffic with devices, including, but not limited to, grade separation, flexible posts, inflexible physical barriers, or parked cars.

**Biological Resources.** A term that includes plant and animal species (including those defined as “special-status species”) and their habitats, plant communities, and ecosystems that include habitat linkages and wildlife corridors.

**Broadband.** In the context of internet access, broadband is used to mean any high-speed internet access that is always on and faster than dial-up access over traditional analog or telephone services.

**Building Coverage.** The amount of a lot that is covered by buildings, which is expressed as a percentage.

### C

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).** State law that requires State and local agencies to evaluate and disclose the significant environmental impacts of discretionary actions and to avoid or mitigate those impacts, if feasible.

**California Historical Landmarks.** Buildings, sites, features, or events of statewide historical significance.

**California Points of Historical Interest.** Sites, buildings, features, or events that are of local (town, city, or county) significance and have anthropological, cultural, military, political, architectural, economic, scientific, technical, religious, experimental, or other value.

**California Register of Historical Resources.** A list of cultural resources determined by the State Historical Resources Commission to be of architectural, historical, archaeological, or cultural significance at the state level.

**Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).** A naturally occurring gas that exists in the earth’s atmosphere. CO<sub>2</sub> is also a by-product of burning fossil fuels and biomass, as well as land-use changes and other industrial processes. It is the principal man-made greenhouse gas (GHG) that affects the earth's radiative balance.

It is the reference gas against which other GHGs are measured and, therefore, has a global warming potential of one.

**Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e).** CO<sub>2</sub>e is the measure of how much heat trapping potential a given type of greenhouse gas has on average over a 100-year time period, based on its molecular structure compared to carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). CO<sub>2</sub> has a baseline of one, while other gases can be tens to thousands of times higher. The carbon dioxide equivalent for a gas is derived by multiplying the tons of the gas by the associated global warming potential. Carbon dioxide equivalents are commonly expressed as "metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents" (MT CO<sub>2</sub>e). Different molecules decay at different rates, causing their heat trapping potential to decline over periods of decades to centuries.

**Climate.** Climate, in a narrow sense, is usually defined as the "average weather," or more rigorously, as the statistical description in terms of the mean and variability of relevant quantities over a period of time ranging from months to thousands of years. The classical period is three decades, as defined by the World Meteorological Organization. These quantities are most often surface variables such as temperature, precipitation, and wind. Climate in a wider sense is the state, including a statistical description, of the climate system.

**Climate Change.** Climate change refers to any significant change in measures of climate (such as temperature, precipitation, or wind) lasting for an extended period (decades or longer). Climate change may result from: natural factors, such as changes in the sun's intensity or slow changes in the earth's orbit around the sun; natural processes within the climate system (e.g., changes in ocean circulation); human activities that change the atmosphere's composition (e.g., through burning fossil fuels); and the land surface (e.g., deforestation, reforestation, urbanization, desertification, etc.).

**Cluster Development.** This is the grouping of residential structures in one portion of a development site, with the intent to maintain larger areas of the overall site for open space, recreation, or agriculture uses.

**Collectors Streets.** Collector streets provide circulation within and between neighborhoods. Collector streets usually serve short trips from local and neighborhood streets and distributing traffic to the arterial network.

**Commercial.** Retail, service, and entertainment uses (e.g., shopping centers, smaller stores, restaurants).

**Community Garden.** An otherwise undeveloped lot divided into multiple plots for the growing and harvesting of fruits, vegetables, flowers, or herbs, primarily for the personal use of the growers, and that is established, operated, and maintained by a group of persons.

**Community Noise Equivalent Levels (CNEL).** The average A-weighted noise level during a 24-hour day, obtained after addition of five decibels to noise levels occurring in the evening from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and the addition of 10 decibels to sound levels measured in the night between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

**Community Member.** Any individual who resides, owns property, is a business owner, or is employed in the Town of Los Gatos.

**Community Growth District.** Within the Los Gatos Planning Area, eight Community Growth Districts are identified based on the proximity of commercial services or employment to support additional development, easy access to transportation systems, having access to infrastructure needed to support future development, and opportunities to include urban design and architectural design characteristic to create unique places. Section 3.7 in the Land Use Element and Section 4.5 in this Community Design Element for more information.

**Common Recreation Space.** Privately owned outdoor recreational facilities as part of a residential development. Features include, but are not limited to, play lots, playgrounds, and athletic fields.

**Complete Streets.** A transportation policy and design approach that requires streets to be planned, designed (such as the inclusion of street trees and bioswales), operated, and maintained to enable safe and convenient access for all users regardless of

## 12. Glossary and Acronyms

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their mode of transportation (such as vehicle, bicycle, and walking), age, and ability.

**Conservation.** The management of natural resources to prevent waste, destruction, or neglect.

**Corridor.** Transportation pathway allowing movement between activity centers. A corridor may encompass single or multiple transportation routes and facilities, adjacent land uses, and the connecting street network.

**Criteria Pollutants.** The criteria pollutants are the six principal pollutants harmful to public health and the environment for which the Environmental Protection Agency has set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The pollutants are carbon monoxide (CO), lead, nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), particulate matter (PM), and sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>).

**Critical Habitat.** Specific areas designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as essential to the conservation of a Federally-listed species and which may require special management considerations or protection. On Town, county, State, or private land where there is no Federal involvement, a critical habitat designation has no regulatory impact. In other words, designation of critical habitat generally does not affect non-Federal land unless and until the property owner needs a Federal permit or requests Federal funding for a project.

**Cultural Resources.** Observable evidence of past human activities that is at least 45 years old, including prehistoric or historic archaeological sites, historic built-environment resources, traditional cultural properties and landscapes, and paleontological resources.

**Cut-through Traffic.** Vehicle trips that pass entirely through the Town without stopping to visit locations in Town or patronize local businesses or job centers.

### D

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**Dam.** Any artificial barrier, together with appurtenant works, which impounds or may impound or divert water.

**Day/Night Average Sound Level, (Ldn).** The average A-weighted noise level equivalent sound level during a 24-hour day, obtained after the addition of ten decibels to sound levels in the night after 10:00 p.m. and before 7:00 a.m.

**Decibel (dB).** A logarithmic unit commonly used to measure noise level. It is a unit for describing the amplitude of sound as heard by the human ear. As examples, a quiet neighborhood at night might be 30-40 dB and a lawn mower might be 90 dB when standing nearby.

**Defensible Space.** An area around the perimeter of structures in which vegetation, debris, and other types of combustible fuels are treated, cleared, or reduced to slow the rate and intensity of potentially approaching wildfire or fire escaping from structures.

**Density.** Residential developments are regulated by an allowed density range (minimum and maximum) measured in "dwelling units per acre." Residential density is calculated by dividing the number of housings units on the site (excluding accessory dwelling units) by the gross acreage of the site.

**Design Guidelines.** Design criteria and standards that must be considered for development projects. Design guidelines address a variety of topics, including site design, building mass, neighborhood compatibility, facade design, building materials, signage, and landscaping.

**Development.** The subdivision of land; construction or alteration of structures, roads, utilities, and other facilities; installation of septic systems; grading activities; depositing of refuse; disposal of any material; dredging or mineral extraction, debris or fill materials; and the clearing of natural vegetation with the exception of agricultural activities. This does not include routine repair and maintenance activities.

**Development Impact Fee.** A fee that a local government imposes on private developers, usually on a per dwelling unit or per square foot basis, to pay for infrastructure improvements necessitated as a result of the development.

**Disadvantaged Community.** An area identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) pursuant to Section 39711 of the California

Health and Safety Code or a predominately low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.

**Discharge.** A rate of water flow, typically expressed as a unit volume of water per unit of time [e.g., cubic feet per second (cfs)].

**Dwelling, Two-Family (Duplex).** A building with two attached dwelling units.

**Dwelling, Multiple-Family.** Residential buildings containing units built one on top of another and those built side-by-side which do not have a ground-to-roof wall and/or have common facilities (i.e., attic, basement, heating plant, plumbing, etc.).

**Dwelling Unit.** A room or group of rooms (including sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation facilities, but not more than one kitchen) that constitutes an independent housekeeping unit, occupied or intended for occupancy by one household on a long-term basis.

## E

**Earthquake Fault Zone.** Earthquake fault zones are established areas around active faults where there is a complex system of primary and secondary faults. Because most faults are not a single, clean fracture in the crust, fault zones describe the area at risk of seismic activity beyond the fault itself.

**Easement.** The right to use property owned by another person or entity for specific purposes or to gain access to another property.

**Eave.** The edge of the roof that overhangs the exterior walls, sometimes with exposed rafters.

**Ecosystem.** A community or group of living organisms that live in and interact with each other in a specific environment.

**Effluent.** A discharge of pollutants, with or without treatment, into the environment.

**Encroachment.** In relation to natural areas, the placement of structures, roads, railroads, improved

paths, utilities, and other development into natural areas including floodplains, river corridors, wetlands, lakes and ponds, and the buffers around these areas. The term also encompasses the placement of fill, the removal of vegetation, or an alteration of topography in such natural areas. These cause impacts to the functions and values of natural areas, such as a decline in water quality, loss of habitat (both aquatic and terrestrial), disruption of equilibrium (or naturally stable) conditions, loss of flood attenuation, or reduction of ecological processes.

**Endangered Species.** A species whose survival and reproduction in the wild is in immediate jeopardy from one or more causes, including: loss of habitat; change in habitat; over exploration; predation; competition; disease; or other factors.

**Environmental Justice.** The fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, incomes, political and religious affiliation, and national origins with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies including climate adaptation strategies.

**Equality.** Is sameness; everyone gets the same thing. Equality focuses on everyone getting the same opportunity, but often ignores the realities of historic exclusion and power differentials among whites and other racialized groups

**Equity.** Ensures that outcomes in the conditions of well-being are improved for marginalized groups, lifting outcomes for all. Equity is a measure of justice.

**Equivalent Noise Level (Leq).** The average A-weighted noise level during the measurement period.

**Erosion.** Erosion is the process of removal and transport of soil and rock by weathering, mass wasting, and the action of streams, glaciers, waves, winds, and underground water.

**Essential Facilities.** Structures and buildings housing services and equipment that are essential to an emergency response following a natural or human-induced disaster. These facilities include:

- Hospitals and other medical facilities having surgery or emergency treatment areas;



## 12. Glossary and Acronyms

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- Fire, police, and sheriff stations;
- Tanks or other structures containing, housing, or supporting water or other fire-suppression materials or equipment required for protection of essential or hazardous materials facilities or special occupancy structures;
- Emergency vehicle shelters and garages;
- Structures and equipment in emergency-preparedness centers;
- Stand-by power generating equipment for essential facilities; and
- Structures and equipment in government communication centers and other facilities required for emergency response.

**Expansive Soils.** Expansive soils greatly increase in volume when they absorb water and shrink when they dry out. Expansion of the soil or rock is due to the attraction and absorption of water into the expansible crystal lattices of the clay minerals. The water may be derived from moisture in the air, or ground water beneath the foundations of buildings.

**Explicit Bias.** Conscious attitudes and beliefs about a person or group, also known as overt and intentional bias.

**Extreme Heat Days.** An extreme heat day is a day in April through October where the maximum temperature exceeds the 98th historical percentile of maximum temperatures (based on daily temperature data between 1961-1990).

**Extreme Storm Events.** Extreme storm events refer to the increase in precipitation intensity and variability, increase in wind speed, and increase in ocean temperatures that increase the number and intensity of tropical cyclones and hurricanes that can increase the risk of flooding, drought, erosion, turbidity, debris in reservoirs, nutrient and pollutant loading, and wildfires.

### F

**Facade.** An exterior wall, or face, of a building.

**Farmland of Local Importance.** A category of the Important Farmlands Inventory that consists of local soils that are listed as Prime or Statewide

Importance. This farmland is not irrigated and includes such dry land crops as beans or grain.

**Farmland of Statewide Importance.** A category of the Important Farmlands Inventory that generally includes lands with a good combination of physical and chemical features for the production of agricultural crops. The criterion is like that of prime farmland but there is no minimum soil depth limitation and no permeability restriction. Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

### Fault and Seismic Systems.

**Fault.** A fracture in the crust of the earth along which rocks on one fracture side have moved relative to those on the other side. Most faults are the result of repeated displacements over a long period of time.

**Fault, Active.** An active fault is one that has ruptured in the past 11,000 years.

**Fault, Quaternary.** Quaternary faults are ones that have been recognized at the surface and that have moved in the past 1.6 million years.

**Fault, Trace.** A fault trace is the line on the earth's surface defining the fault.

**Fault, Zone.** A fault zone is the area at risk of seismic activity beyond the fault itself.

**Fenestration.** The design, construction, and presence of any openings in a building, including windows, doors, vents, wall panels, skylights, curtain walls, or louvers.

**Fire Hazard Severity Zone.** A mapped area that designates zones, based on factors such as fuel, slope, and fire weather, with varying degrees of fire hazard (e.g., moderate, high, and very high).

**Fiscal Year.** The period designated for the beginning and ending of financial transactions, which begins on July 1 and ends June 30 of the following year.

**Flag Lot.** A flag lot (also called a Corridor Lot) is a lot with access to a street by means of a strip of land

having less frontage or width than that required for the parcel and which expands into a larger area.

**Flood.** A flood is a temporary rise in flow rate and/or stage (elevation) of any watercourse or stormwater conveyance system that results in runoff exceeding normal flow boundaries and inundating adjacent, normally dry areas.

**Floor Area Ratio (FAR).** Total building size is regulated by a maximum FAR standard. FAR means the gross floor area of a building or buildings on a zoning plot divided by the area of such zoning plot. Floor area means the entire enclosed area of all floors that are more than four (4) feet above the existing or proposed grade, measured from the outer face of exterior walls or in the case of shared walls from the centerline. The maximum FAR standard limits the overall size of development on a property.

**Frontage.** The frontage, or front, of a lot is usually defined as the side nearest the street.

## G

**Gable.** The wall that encloses the end of a roof or the triangular end below a roof overhang.

**Gateway.** A defining element, type of development, or signage that creates the clear distinction of entering a community or place.

**Geographic Information System (GIS).** A computerized tool for gathering, managing, mapping, and analyzing geo-spatial data. GIS analyzes spatial location and organizes layers of information into visualizations using maps and 3D scenes.

**Global Warming.** Global warming is an average increase in the temperature of the atmosphere near the earth's surface and in the troposphere, which can contribute to changes in global climate patterns. Global warming can occur from a variety of causes, both natural and human induced. In common usage "global warming" often refers to the warming that can occur as a result of increased emissions of GHGs.

**Goal.** A statement that describes, in general terms, a desired future condition or "end" state. Goals describe ideal future conditions for a topic and tend to be very general and broad.

**Greenhouse Gas (GHG).** Any gas that absorbs infrared radiation in the atmosphere. GHGs contribute to the greenhouse effect. Some GHGs such as CO<sub>2</sub> occur naturally and are emitted to the atmosphere through natural processes and human activities. Other GHGs (e.g., fluorinated gases) are created and emitted solely through human activities. The principal GHGs that enter the atmosphere because of human activities include water vapor, CO<sub>2</sub>, methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), and fluorinated gases [hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>)].

**Greenhouse Effect.** The earth's natural warming process is known as the "greenhouse effect." Certain atmospheric gases that trap heat in the atmosphere, causing the greenhouse effect, are referred to as greenhouse gases (GHGs).

**Gross Floor Area.** Gross floor area is the sum of the floor areas of the floor spaces within the building, including basements, mezzanine, and intermediate-floored tiers.

**Groundwater.** Water that is found underground in the cracks and spaces in soil, sand, and rock.

**Groundwater Basin.** An area of permeable materials capable of furnishing a significant supply of groundwater to wells or storing a significant amount of water. A groundwater basin is three-dimensional and includes both the surface extent and all of the subsurface fresh water yielding material.

**Groundwater Recharge.** The natural or intentional percolation of surface water into a groundwater basin or aquifer.

## H

**Habitat.** The natural environment of an animal, plant, or other organism.

**Hazardous/Toxic Substance.** Any ignitable, corrosive, reactive, or toxic agent which, after release into the environment and upon exposure to humans, will or may cause death, disease, behavioral abnormalities, cancer, genetic mutation, physiological malfunctions, or physiological deformations.

## 12. Glossary and Acronyms

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**Hazard Mitigation.** A sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to wildlife, ecosystems, and people and their property from hazards and their effects.

**Hazardous Waste.** An ignitable, corrosive, reactive, or toxic waste.

**Headway.** Measurement of the distance or time between vehicles in a transit network.

**Health.** A complete state of physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease.

**Heatwave.** Heat waves are a prolonged period of excessive heat, often combined with excessive humidity. A heat wave is defined as five or more consecutive extreme heat days.

**Hillside Collector Streets.** Hillside collector streets serve properties located in hillside areas, carrying traffic to either arterial streets, collectors, or neighborhood collectors.

**Historic District.** A group of buildings, properties, or sites recognized as historically or architecturally significant. These may be designated at the Federal level, managed by the National Park Service, or at the State or local levels. Federally designated historic districts are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In some counties or jurisdictions, historic districts receive legal protection from certain types of development considered to be inappropriate.

**Historic Preservation.** The act or process of applying measures such as identification and protection necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of a historic resource.

**Historic Resource.** Any cultural resource listed in or determined eligible for listing in a local, State, or Federal inventory or register.

**Household.** All those persons—related or unrelated—who occupy a single housing unit.

**Human-Scale.** Is the effort to create an appropriate relationship between human beings and the size/function of surrounding buildings. Human-scale emphasizes building features and characteristics

which can be observed in close proximity, at the speed a pedestrian would travel.

### I

**Implicit Bias.** Attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, decisions, and actions in an unconscious manner.

**Implementation Program.** An action, activity, or strategy to be taken by the Town to carry out an adopted policy to achieve a specific goal or objective.

**Incompatible.** The characteristic of different uses or activities that are not permitted to be located near each other because it is likely to create conflict. Some elements affecting compatibility include intensity of occupancy as measured by dwelling units per acre; pedestrian or vehicular traffic generated; volume of goods handled; and environmental effects including noise, vibration, glare, air pollution, or radiation.

**Incubator Space.** Retail, office, or industrial space that is affordable to and dedicated to the start-up and growth of small businesses. Facility support systems are often provided, including copy machines and other office, and electronic equipment.

**Infill Development.** Development of vacant or underutilized land (usually individual lots or leftover properties) within areas that are already largely developed.

**Intensity.** Intensity is a measure of the extent to which a land parcel is developed in conformity with the zoning ordinance.

**Inundation.** The act of flooding land that would otherwise remain dry, for management purposes or as a result of natural causes, and the result of such an act.

### J

**Joint Powers Authority.** An entity composed of two or more public authorities that may jointly exercise powers common to all partners.

K

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L

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**Landslide.** The sliding movement of masses of loosened rock and soil down a hillside or slope. Fundamentally, slope failures occur when the strength of the soils forming the slope exceeds the pressure, such as weight or saturation, acting upon them.

**Land Use Designation.** A specific geographic designation with associated land use or management policies and regulations.

**Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).** LEED is a green building certification program. Developed by the non-profit US Green Building Council, it includes a set of rating systems for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of buildings. Buildings are rated based on their impact on site/location, water and energy efficiency, materials, and indoor environmental air quality. This is a voluntary program meant to objectively measure a building's sustainability.

**Level of Service (LOS).** A quantitative measure used to rate a roadway segment's traffic flow characteristics during peak hours. LOS acts as an indicator of roadway performance relative to locally established standards for quality of service based on measures of speed, density, and congestion that are designated using letters from "A" (good) to "F" (poor). LOS can assist in determining when roadway capacity improvements are needed.

**Liquefaction.** Loosely packed, water-logged sediments at or near the ground surface losing their strength in response to strong ground shaking.

**Live-Work Unit.** An integrated dwelling unit and working space, occupied, and used by a single household, designed or structurally modified to accommodate both residential occupancy and work activity.

**Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo).** A commission within each county that reviews and evaluates all proposals for formation of special

districts, incorporation of towns or cities, annexation to special districts, towns, or cities, consolidation of districts, and merger of districts with towns or cities. Each county LAFCO is empowered to approve, disapprove, or conditionally approve such proposals.

**Local Streets.** Local streets support local and neighborhood traffic movement. Local streets typically carry traffic from individual properties to collector and arterial streets and are not designed to accommodate through traffic. Most local streets are in residential neighborhoods.

**Lot Coverage.** Lot coverage is the percentage of a lot that is covered by all buildings compared to the total area of the lot.

**Low Impact Development (LID).** Development that incorporates a combination of drainage design features and pollution reduction measures to reduce development impacts on hydrology (peak runoff flow rates) and water quality.

M

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**Massing.** The general shape, or shapes of a building, as well as its form and size.

**Median.** A raised barrier used to separate opposing traffic flow and control access and vehicle turning movements. A median can also provide a pedestrian crossing refuge and streetscape enhancement.

**Mid-Block Crossing.** Marked locations between intersections where marked crosswalks have been provided to pedestrians.

**Missing Middle Housing.** Missing middle housing is a term used to multiple units on a single parcel (whether attached or detached) that are compatible in scale and form with detached single-family homes. Common housing types include duplexes; triplexes; fourplexes; courtyard apartments; cottage courts; townhomes; triplex stacked (vertical); and live-work spaces.

**Mixed-Use Development.** Development projects where a variety of uses such as office, commercial, institutional, and residential are combined in a single building or on a single site in an integrated project. These developments are regulated by both the

## 12. Glossary and Acronyms

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maximum residential density (units per acre) and maximum FAR standard that incorporates both the residential and non-residential building floor areas.

**Mode Share.** The proportion of travelers taking different transportation modes (i.e., driving alone, transit users, cycling, walking).

**Multimodal.** This term refers to transportation planning that considers various modes (i.e., vehicles, bicycles, walking, public transit) and the connections between these modes.

**Multi-Family Residential.** Residential buildings containing units built one on top of another and those built side-by-side which do not have a ground-to-roof wall and/or have common facilities (i.e., attic, basement, heating plant, plumbing, etc.). Accessory dwelling units (ADUs) are not considered multi-family residential.

**Multi-Use Facility.** A facility shared for multiple activities and/or utilized by multiple types of users. For example, a trail accessible to and utilized by pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians. A multi-use field would have facilities that could be used for more than one sport and could be available for informal pick-up games or organized play.

**Multi-Use Trails.** Trail systems designed to facilitate multiple modes of use, such as pedestrians and bicyclists.

**Municipal Service Review (MSR).** A study conducted for a town, city, county, or special district that examines all public service needs for the area and recommends action to promote the efficient provision of public services.

### N

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**National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).** A list of cultural resources and historic properties determined by the National Park Service to be of historic, cultural, architectural, archaeological, or engineering significance.

**Neighborhood Collector Street.** Neighborhood collector streets predominantly carry traffic generated within a neighborhood and distributes traffic to collector and arterial streets.

**Noise-Sensitive Land Use.** Land uses where noise exposure could result in health-related risks to individuals, as well as places where quiet is an essential element of their intended purpose. These uses include residences; schools; nursing homes; historic sites; cemeteries; parks, recreation, and open space areas; hospitals and care facilities; sensitive wildlife habitats, including the habitat of rare, threatened, or endangered species; hotels and other short-term lodging (e.g., bed and breakfasts, motels); places of worship; and libraries.

**Nonattainment Area.** An area or air basin that does not meet California or National ambient air quality standards for a given pollutant.

**Non-point Source Pollution.** A pollution source that cannot be defined at a discrete location; a dispersed or spread-out source area.

### O

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**Office.** Land with professional buildings for business uses.

**Open Space.** Land in a predominantly natural state or altered for natural resources-based uses (i.e., farming) and may include, but is not limited to, riparian habitat, agricultural lands, grassland and upland habitat, wetlands, and agricultural buffers.

### P

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**Paleontological Resources.** The fossilized remains of ancient plants and animals.

**Park.** An open area that offers recreational and green space for residential and visitor use. May also be called an urban or municipal park if within jurisdictional limits or a public park if publicly owned.

**Parklet.** A small seating area or green space created as a public amenity on or alongside a sidewalk, especially in a former roadside parking space.

**Particulate Matter (PM).** Particulate matter is fine metal, smoke, soot, and dust particles suspended in the air. Particulate matter is measured by two sizes: course particles (PM10), or particles between 2.5 and



10 micrometers in diameter; and fine particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), or particles less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter.

**Passive Recreation Open Space.** Land used for outdoor activities that has a limited impact and minimal development on land designated for recreation or open space. Passive recreations space would include but is not limited to, hiking mountain cycling, boating, and nature observation.

**Pedestrian-Oriented.** An approach to architectural design intended to facilitate movement on foot in an area, as opposed to design that primarily serves automobile movement. Examples of pedestrian-oriented design include pathways following the most direct route from sidewalk to front door, continuous building street-walls with shop windows, outdoor cafes, street trees and benches, and architectural enhancement in the first two floors that are at human-scale.

**Permeability.** The ability of a substance to allow another substance to pass through it, especially the ability of a porous rock, sediment, or soil to transmit fluid through pores and cracks.

**Planning Area.** State planning law requires that the General Plan cover all territory within the boundaries of the Town as well as “any land outside its boundary which in the planning agency’s judgment bears relation to its planning.” (Government Code Section 65300) This larger area is referred to as the Town’s “Planning Area.” The Planning Area for the Los Gatos 2040 General Plan encompasses the entire area within the Town Limits and unincorporated areas within the Town’s Sphere of Influence.

**Planning Commission.** An appointed commission 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.

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

**Point Source.** A specific site from which pollution is discharged to a water body.

**Precipitation.** Precipitation is moisture in the form of rain, snow, hail, etc., that has fallen at a given place within a given period, usually expressed in inches or centimeters.

**Preservation.** The act or process of applying measures, such as identification and protection, necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of a historic property.

**Prime Farmland.** A category of the Important Farmlands Inventory that has the best combination of physical and chemical features able to sustain long-term agricultural production. This land has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields. Prime Farmland must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

**Projection.** A side wing, tower, or window bay that protrudes from a building.

## Q

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## R

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**Rafters.** One of several long, inclined, structural members such as wooden beams used in the construction of pitched roofs, supporting the roof-covering, e.g. laths and tiles.

**Rare (Species).** A term used to describe a plant or animal species that, although not presently threatened with extinction, is present in such small numbers throughout all or a significant portion of its range that it may become endangered if its environment worsens.

**Reactive Organic Gases (ROG).** ROGs are photochemically reactive and are composed of non-methane hydrocarbons. These gases contribute to the formation of smog.

**Reclaimed Water.** Wastewater which, as a result of treatment, is suitable for uses other than potable use.

**Recycled Water.** Water which, as a result of treatment of waste, is suitable for a direct beneficial use or a controlled use that would not otherwise

## 12. Glossary and Acronyms

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occur and is therefore considered a valuable resource.

**Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA).** A State-mandated process to identify the total number of housing units (by affordability level) that each jurisdiction must accommodate in its Housing Element.

**Regulatory Floodway.** The channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height.

**Renewable Energy.** Energy that comes from natural resources that are naturally replenished, such as solar, wind, rain, tides, geothermal, and biomass sources.

**Renewable Resources.** Self-perpetuating types of resources; living or biotic resources and resources that are finite in quantity but can be reused, such as air and water. Other renewable natural resources include solar, wind, biomass, and water resources.

**Reservoir.** A place where water is collected and kept in quantity for future use.

**Resident.** Any individual who resides in the Town of Los Gatos.

**Resilience.** The ability of a social or ecological system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic structure and ways of functioning, the capacity for self-organization, and the capacity to adapt to stress and change.

**Right-of-Way.** In this General Plan, this term refers to the land used for transportation or utility purposes. This area of land is often used for the construction and operation of a transportation facility and adjacent space.

**Riparian.** Of, on, or pertaining to the bank of a natural course of water. For example, riparian vegetation is composed of plant species normally found near streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and other freshwater bodies.

**Riparian Corridor.** A corridor of riparian vegetation adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams or other freshwater bodies.

**Runoff.** Precipitation (rain or snowmelt) that is not used by plants, evaporated, or infiltrated to soils, and is transported across land surfaces to streams or other surface water bodies.

### S

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**Scale.** Refers to how the sizes of different architectural elements relate to one another.

**Screening.** Elements used to visually block or separate detrimental elements of a site. Screening is commonly used to obscure parking areas, utilities, dumpsters, etc.

**Seismic Hazards, Primary.** Primary seismic hazards are those that occur as a result of the slip of a fault line below the earth's surface. Primary seismic hazards typically include ground shaking and motion, and surface rupture.

**Seismic Hazards, Secondary.** Secondary seismic hazards are those that occur as a result of the primary ground shaking and surface rupture from an earthquake (primary seismic hazard). Secondary seismic hazards typically include landslides, rockslides, tsunamis, and liquefaction.

**Sensitive Land Uses.** Relative to issues of land use compatibility and adjacency, sensitive land uses typically include residences; schools; nursing homes; historic sites; open space areas; hospitals and care facilities; places of worship; and libraries.

**Setback.** The distance between a building and the property line or other buildings.

**Shall.** That which is obligatory or necessary.

**Should.** Signifies a directive to be honored if at all possible.

**Single-Family Residential.** Single-family residential includes fully detached, semidetached (semi-attached, side-by-side), row houses, and townhouses. In the case of attached units, each must be separated from the adjacent unit by a

ground-to-roof wall in order to be classified as a single-family structure. Also, these units must not share heating/air-conditioning systems or utilities.

**Social Capital.** A concept in social science that involves the potential of individuals to secure benefits and invent solutions to problems through membership in social networks. Social capital revolves around three dimensions: interconnected networks of relationships between individuals and groups (social ties or social participation), levels of trust that characterize these ties, and resources or benefits that are both gained and transferred by virtue of social ties and social participation.

**Socially Disadvantaged Individuals and Groups.** Socially disadvantaged individuals and groups who have been subjected to prejudice or some form of discrimination or bias because of their perceived identity as a member of a particular group (i.e., race, ethnicity, culture, sex, political or religious affiliation, sexual orientation, age, immigration status) without regard to their individuality and/or merit.

**Soil Erosion.** Soil erosion refers to the removal of soil by water or wind. Factors that influence erosion potential include the amount of rainfall and wind, the length and steepness of the slope, and the amount and type of vegetative cover.

**Special District.** A special district is an agency of the State, formed pursuant to general law or special act, for the local performance of governmental or proprietary functions within limited boundaries. Examples include fire protection districts, sanitary districts, water districts, county service areas, open space districts, etc.

**Special Status Species.** Rare, threatened, or endangered plant or animal species protected by Federal, State, or other agencies.

**Specific Plan.** A planning tool authorized by Government Code Section 65450, et seq., for the systematic implementation of the General Plan for a defined portion of a community's planning area. A specific plan must specify in detail the land uses, public and private facilities needed to support the land uses, phasing of development, standards for the conservation, development, and use of natural

resources, and a program of implementation measures, including financing measures.

**Sphere of Influence (SOI).** The SOI is the area determined by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) of Santa Clara County to represent the probable future physical boundary of the Town. The adoption of Spheres of Influence is required by Government Code Section 56425.

**State Scenic Highway.** A highway officially designated by the State Scenic Highway Advisory Committee as scenic after application from a local jurisdiction, and only when the highway is identified on State Scenic Highway Master Plans.

**Stepback.** A step-like recession in the profile of a multi-story building. A step back requires the building to take a step back from the street for every increase in height of the structure. Step backs can also be a design technique to reduce the visual impact of tall buildings.

**Stoop.** The uncovered wide step leading into the front or main door of a unit or building.

**Stormwater.** Stormwater is precipitation that accumulates in natural and/or constructed storage and stormwater systems during and immediately following a storm event.

**Street Furniture.** Fixtures installed along the roadway, at or above grade level, including lamp posts, pedestrian lighting, street signs, benches, trash cans, bike racks, news racks, water fountains, and planters.

**Streetscape.** The elements within and along the street right-of-way that define its appearance, identity, and functionality. These can include, but are not limited to, adjacent buildings and land uses, street furniture, landscaping, trees, sidewalks, and pavement treatments.

**Subsidence.** The sinking or settling of the ground surface, typically related to the withdrawal of fluids (e.g., groundwater, natural gas, or oil).

**Sustainability.** 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 with

## 12. Glossary and Acronyms

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regard to use and waste of natural resources. Sustainability presumes that resources are finite, and therefore should be used conservatively and wisely with a view to the long-term priorities and consequences.

### T

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**Take.** To harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.

**Town Council.** The political 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.

**Town Limits.** A political boundary that defines land that has been incorporated into the Town.

**Threatened.** A species which is listed as Threatened by the state or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services. Generally, any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

**Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ).** A unit of geography used in transportation planning models.

**Traffic Impact Fees (TIF).** Traffic Impact Fees are set by the Town Council to implement the Town's Transportation Impact Policy. The fee is adjusted periodically to meet the objectives of the Transportation Impact Policy.

**Transit Stop.** A stop on a transit line that supports connection between multiple transportation modes (multimodal travel).

**Transportation Demand Management (TDM).** TDM strategies are used to reduce vehicle travel, with an emphasis on reducing travel during peak periods. TDM is intended to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow without having to increase the capacity or physical size of a section of transportation infrastructure. TDM strategies and programs could

include, but are not limited to, measures such as alternative work schedules, bicycle parking, showers, and route maps for employees, subsidized transit passes, and future measures as programs and technologies evolve.

**Tribal Cultural Resources.** A Tribal Cultural Resource as defined in AB 52 are sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American Tribe(s).

### U

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**Unincorporated Areas.** Areas of the County outside of the Town limits over which Santa Clara County has direct land use jurisdiction.

**Unique Farmlands.** A category of the Important Farmlands Inventory that consists of lesser quality soils used for the production of the state's leading agricultural crops. This land is usually irrigated but may include non-irrigated orchards or vineyards as found in some climatic zones in California. Land must have been cropped at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

**Urban Service Area (USA).** The Los Gatos USA is established by Santa Clara County LAFCO. The USA delineates areas outside Town limits that are currently provided with urban services, facilities, and utilities; or areas proposed to be annexed into a Town within the next five years.

### V

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**Vacant Land.** Land that is not actively used for any purpose, including land that is not improved with buildings or site facilities and is sizeable in area to accommodate development.

**Vacant/Underutilized Sites.** Vacant/underutilized sites includes undeveloped and underdeveloped parcels. A majority of a parcel must be undeveloped for a parcel to be considered underutilized.

**Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT).** VMT measures the total amount of vehicular travel by the population of a specific area and is used to analyze potential air quality and greenhouse gas impacts. VMT is also the

required method used for the evaluation of environmental impacts as required under CEQA.

**Vulnerability.** Vulnerability is the degree to which a system is exposed to, susceptible to, and (un)able to cope with and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes.

## W

**Wastewater.** Wastewater is water (either treated or untreated) that has been affected by human use, including household, commercial, industrial, and agricultural activities. This water is conveyed through a wastewater system to a treatment plant, and may contain physical, chemical, and biological pollutants prior to treatment.

**Watershed.** The land surface area from which water drains into a common downstream point.

**Water Conservation.** The reduction in water use through measures designed to help people change their behaviors to use less water.

**Water Efficiency.** The overall minimization of the amount of water used to accomplish a function or task.

**Water Quality.** A term used to describe the chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of water, usually in respect to its suitability for a particular purpose.

**Water Year.** A continuous twelve-month period for which hydrologic records are compiled and summarized. Months may vary by location and agency, but October 1st through September 30th is commonly used by the United States Geological Survey. A given water year is named for the year in which it ends, i.e., the water year from October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018, was water year 2018.

**Wetlands.** Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater to support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. This definition of wetlands requires three wetland identification parameters to be present: wetland hydrology; hydric soils; and hydrophytic vegetation. Wetlands can be areas that are

consistently inundated or seasonally inundated. Wetlands are delineated according to the USACE 1987 Wetlands Delineation Manual and are a subset of Waters of the United States.

**Wildland.** Land in an uncultivated natural state that is covered by trees, brush, weeds, or grass.

**Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI).** Areas where homes or other structures are built near or among lands prone to wildland fire.

## X

## Y

## Z

**Zoning.** The division of the Town into districts, and the application of different regulations in each district.

**Zoning District.** A part of the community designated by the local zoning ordinance for specific of land uses, such as single-family residential or neighborhood commercial uses. Only the primary permitted land uses, their accessory uses, and any conditional uses permitted in the zoning district may be placed on the land in that part of the community.

**Zoning Ordinance.** The adopted zoning and planning regulations of a town, city, or county that establish development standards for each zone, such as minimum lot size, maximum height of structures, building setbacks, and yard size.





## 12. Glossary and Acronyms

### 12.2 List of Acronyms

A	
AB	Assembly Bill
ABAG	Association of Bay Area Governments
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ADT	Average Daily Traffic
ADU	Accessory dwelling unit
AF/yr	Acre Feet per Year
AG	Agriculture land use designation
AR	Atmospheric Rivers
A-SP	Albright Specific Plan
AV	Autonomous Vehicle
B	
BAAQMD	Bay Area Air Quality Management District
BIPOC	Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color
BPMP	Los Gatos Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
C	
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CBC	California Building Code
CBD	Central Business District land use designation
CC	Community Commercial land use designation
CD	Community Design Element
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act

CERT	Community Emergency Response Team
cfs	Cubic feet per second
CIP	Capital Improvement Program
CMP	Congestion Management Program
CMU	Mixed-Use land use designation
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CO	Carbon monoxide
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon dioxide
CO <sub>2</sub> e	Carbon dioxide equivalent

D	
DART	Disaster Aid Response Team
dB	Decibel
DFIRMs	Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps
DOF	Department of Finance
du/ac	Dwelling units per acre
DUC	Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community

E	
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
ENV	Environment and Sustainability Element
EOC	Los Gatos Emergency Operations Center
EOP	Town of Los Gatos Emergency Operations Plan
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency

F	
FAR	Floor area ratio
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency

FMMP The California Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program

## G

GHG Greenhouse gas  
GIS Geographic Information System  
GPAC General Plan Update Advisory Committee  
GPC General Plan Committee  
GSI Green Stormwater Infrastructure

## H

HAZ Hazards and Safety Element  
HDR High Density Residential land use designation  
HDS&G Hillside Development Standards and Guidelines  
HMP Santa Clara County Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan  
HOA Homeowners' Association  
HOV High Occupancy Vehicle  
HPC Historic Preservation Committee  
HR Hillside Residential land use designation

## I

IFI Important Farmland Inventory

## J

JPA Joint Powers Authority

## K

## L

LAFCo Local Agency Formation Commission  
LCA Land Conservation Act  
Ldn Day-Night Average Noise  
LDR Low Density Residential land use designation  
LEED Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design  
Leq Equivalent Noise Level  
LI Light Industrial land use designation  
LID Low Impact Development  
LOS Level of Service  
LU Land Use Element

## M

MDR Medium Density Residential land use designation  
MGD Million gallons per day  
MHP Mobile Home Park land use designation  
MOB Mobility Element  
MRP San Francisco Bay Region Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit  
MSR Municipal Service Review  
MT Metric ton  
MTC Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
MU Mixed-Use land use designation

## N

N<sub>2</sub>O Nitrous oxide  
NAAQS National Ambient Air Quality Standards  
NC Neighborhood Commercial land use designation  
NFIP National Flood Insurance Program  
NF-SP North Forty Specific Plan  
NO<sub>2</sub> Nitrogen dioxide  
NRHP National Register of Historic Places  
NUMU New Museum of Los Gatos

## O

O<sub>3</sub> Ozone  
OP Office Professional land use designation  
OPR The California Governor's Office of Planning and Research  
OS Open Space land use designation  
OSP Open space preserve

## P

P Public land use designation  
PFS Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element  
PG&E Pacific Gas and Electric  
PM Particulate matter  
PM<sub>2.5</sub> Particulate matter, 2.5 microns or smaller  
PM<sub>10</sub> Particulate matter, 10 microns or smaller  
PPW Parks and Public Works Department  
PUB Public land use designation

## 12. Glossary and Acronyms

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### Q

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### R

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RHNA	Regional Housing Needs Allocation
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board

### S

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SB	Senate Bill
SC	Service Commercial land use designation
SCC	Santa Clara County
SCCFD	Santa Clara County Fire Department
SCVURPPP	Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program
SJWC	San Jose Water Company
SO <sub>2</sub>	Sulfur dioxide
SOI	Sphere of Influence
SR	State Route

### T

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TAZ	Traffic Analysis Zone
TDM	Transportation Demand Management
TIF	Traffic Impact Fee
TMA	Transportation Management Association
TNC	Transportation Network Company

### U

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USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service

### V

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VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled
VTA	Santa Clara Valley Transit Authority
VTP	Valley Transportation Plan
VW	Valley Water

### W

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WVSD	West Valley Sanitation District
WUI	Wildland/Urban Interface

### X

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### Y

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### Z

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