



MOORPARK GENERAL PLAN 2050

What is a General Plan?

The General Plan defines the community vision for what our City will look like in 2050, and a roadmap to get us there! The State of California requires each city to adopt a comprehensive, long-term General Plan for the physical development of a community and provides a list of topics that must be addressed. Local decision makers use the goals and policies of a General Plan to make decisions regarding land use, housing, mobility, infrastructure, open spaces, and recreation.

Why Update the General Plan?

Considerable time has passed since the last comprehensive update of the City of Moorpark's General Plan in 1986 and limited update in 1992. There are important challenges, opportunities, and emerging trends that need to be addressed to enable the General Plan to be an effective tool in guiding and ensuring that the future conforms to the visions and aspirations of Moorpark's residents. The population has grown; lands have been developed, others have been conserved; and the composition, needs, and visions of Moorpark's residents have evolved. Broader national and global changes also affect the City—the economy has fluctuated, housing costs have escalated, traffic has worsened, our climate is warming, and technological changes are changing how we live and do business. The State has also enacted legislation that more aggressively directs cities to address these and other changes. It's time for a community conversation about how we grow and where we'll go!

What Will the General Plan Contain?

State law requires all general plans to include a vision statement and seven mandatory elements. Jurisdictions may choose to include additional stand-alone chapters addressing topics like Economic Development. Prominent themes such as sustainability and public health are often woven across multiple chapters of the Plan.

Vision: The Moorpark vision statement serves as the foundation for all goals and policies contained within the General Plan. The vision serves as the "common ground" from which all decisions are made, and it identifies priority areas where resources should be focused to ensure that our City continues to be a great place to live, work, and play.

Land Use: The mandatory Land Use Element describes the proposed distribution and intensity of uses of the land for housing, business, industry, open spaces, natural resources, public facilities, and other categories of public and private use. For each type of land use, it establishes development criteria and standards, including building intensity and population density. In practice, it clarifies for residents and developers the City's intentions for what lands will be developed, what uses will be located on those, and what lands will be preserved for their existing use.

Circulation: The mandatory Circulation Element identifies the location and extent of existing and proposed major thoroughfares, transportation routes, pedestrian connections, bicycle facilities, public transit facilities, and local public utilities and facilities. Strategies to reduce vehicle trips and lengths, and to promote non-motorized transportation alternatives, are defined to improve livability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Housing: The mandatory Housing Element analyzes housing needs for all income groups and demonstrates how to meet those needs. The issues of housing availability and affordability in California have risen to the highest level of importance at a legislative level and local governments have a wide variety of responsibilities related to housing. State law requires that this element be revised every eight years, with the next deadline for completion in October 2021. This element will be a priority during the General Plan Update.

Open Space and Conservation: Open Space and Conservation are mandatory elements that address the preservation of natural resources, landforms and

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open spaces. Because there is overlap between these sections, they are often paired together.

Noise: The mandatory Noise Element identifies and analyzes projected noise conditions in the community and includes measures to address potential noise levels.

Safety: The mandatory Safety Element defines a comprehensive strategy to reduce the potential for harm from various threats to community health and safety, including seismic, geologic, flood and wildfire hazards. This element will also address climate change adaptation and resiliency.

Parks and Recreation: This chapter is being prepared separately to emphasize the importance of parks and recreational facilities as critical components of the community. This section documents existing and planned parks, community facilities and trails and identifies strategies for maintenance and enhancement.

Infrastructure and Community Services: The General Plan defines goals and policies for the provision of public infrastructure and community services supporting the uses accommodated by the Land Use Element. This includes water, wastewater, energy, civic administration, libraries, and education.

Economic Development: The Economic Development chapter sets forth goals for economic prosperity and identifies a path to sustainable funding sources. This element will consider a plan to encourage a thriving business environment, healthy local economy, job growth and retention, and, as appropriate, community revitalization.

Environmental Justice and Public Health: Issues of concern addressed in this chapter include the reduction of pollution exposure, food access, safe and sanitary living conditions and access to physical activity and healthy environments. This section emphasizes civil engagement in the public decision-making process and prioritizes improvements that address the needs of historically underrepresented communities.

Sustainability and Climate Change: Policies to make Moorpark a more sustainable city and mitigate the impacts of climate change are woven throughout the General Plan.

Consistency with Other City Documents and Projects

The City utilizes several other planning tools when considering new development or public improvements, such as a zoning ordinance, capital improvement plan, and specific plans. Each of these implementing plans support the General Plan and must be consistent with the provisions of the General Plan. The General Plan also guides efforts such as public works projects and public land acquisition or sale to ensure that these activities are consistent with the goals and policies identified in the General Plan.

Who will use the General Plan?

City Council and Planning Commission use the goals and policies of the General Plan as a basis upon which to make both long-term and short-term decisions, determine long-term objectives, generate and evaluate budgets, plan capital improvements, and prioritize tasks.

City staff in all departments will also reference the General Plan when considering development applications, capital improvements, service programming, and departmental budgeting.

Individual residents, existing and prospective business owners, and the development community can use the General Plan as a resource for information about the City, including what uses are priorities and areas planned for growth or change.

Other local and regional agencies will refer to the General Plan when projecting future needs and services. The General Plan is truly the City's collective roadmap to the future.

How Will the General Plan be Implemented?

The General Plan will include long-term goals and policies and more focused, short-term implementation actions and programs that establish priorities for the City and guide their implementation to reach the community vision of the City in 2050. Implementation can also be included in the annual City Council Strategies, Goals and Objectives, and other strategic plans.

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