



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Accepted by the City Council on 12/16/14

These Guiding Principles describe the kind of place that community members want Menlo Park to be. City representatives and community members developed them in a collaborative public process for consideration in guiding growth and preserving the city's unique features over the next 20 years. Future change in Menlo Park will involve a careful balance of benefits and impacts, as charted in the General Plan goals, policies, and programs. While growth is planned to occur generally between US 101 and the Bay, these aspirational Principles have community-wide application, including protecting the character of residential neighborhoods and expanding transportation options.

Citywide Equity

Menlo Park neighborhoods are protected from unreasonable development and unreasonable cut-through traffic, share the benefits and impacts of local growth, and enjoy equal access to quality services, education, public open space, housing that complements local job opportunities with affordability that limits displacement of current residents, and convenient daily shopping such as grocery stores and pharmacies.

Healthy Community

Everyone in Menlo Park enjoys healthy living spaces, high quality of life, and can safely walk or bike to fresh food, medical services, employment, recreational facilities, and other daily destinations; land owners and occupants take pride in the appearance of property; Menlo Park achieves code compliance and prioritizes improvements that promote safety and healthy living; and the entire city is well-served by emergency services and community policing.

Competitive and Innovative Business Destination

Menlo Park embraces emerging technologies, local intelligence, and entrepreneurship, and welcomes reasonable development without excessive traffic congestion that will grow and attract successful companies and innovators that generate local economic activity and tax revenue for the entire community.

Corporate Contribution

In exchange for added development potential, construction projects provide physical benefits in the adjacent neighborhood (such as Belle Haven for growth north of US 101), including jobs, housing, schools, libraries, neighborhood retail, childcare, public open space, high speed internet access, and transportation choices.

Youth Support and Education Excellence

Menlo Park children and young adults have equal access to excellent childcare, education, meaningful employment opportunities, and useful training, including internship opportunities at local companies.

Great Transportation Options

Menlo Park provides thoroughly-connected, safe and convenient transportation, adequate emergency vehicle access, and multiple options for people traveling by foot, bicycle, shuttle, bus, car, and train, including daily service along the Dumbarton Rail Corridor.

Complete Neighborhoods and Commercial Corridors

Menlo Park neighborhoods are complete communities, featuring well integrated and designed development along vibrant commercial corridors with a live-work-play mix of community-focused businesses that conveniently serve adjacent neighborhoods while respecting their residential character.

Accessible Open Space and Recreation

Menlo Park provides safe and convenient access to an ample amount of local and regional parks and a range of public open space types, recreational facilities, trails, and enhancements to wetlands and the Bay.

Sustainable Environmental Planning

Menlo Park is a leader in efforts to address climate change, adapt to sea-level rise, protect natural and built resources, conserve energy, manage water, utilize renewable energy, and promote green building.

ConnectMenlo Upcoming Activities and Events*

Event	Date	Time	Location
Release Public Review Draft Existing Conditions Reports	Week of January 12, 2015	na	website
End On-Line Survey on Land Use Alternatives	Tuesday, January 20, 2015	na	website
GPAC Meeting #4 – Review Findings from Workshop #2 and Land Use Alternatives	Wednesday, January 28, 2015	4-6:00 p.m.	TBD
Comment Deadline for Public Review Draft Existing Conditions Reports	Week of February 9, 2015	na	na
Planning Commission Status Report (no consultant in attendance)	Monday, February 9, 2015	7:00 p.m.	City Council Chambers
City Council Status Report (no consultant in attendance)	Tuesday, February 10, 2015	7:00 p.m.	City Council Chambers
GPAC Meeting #5 – Discuss Preferred Alternative	Thursday, February 12, 2015	6-8:00 p.m.	TBD
Workshop #3 (1 of 2) – Review Preferred Land Use Alternative	Thursday, March 12, 2015	7-9:00 p.m.	TBD
Workshop #3 (2 of 2) – Review Preferred Land Use Alternative	Thursday, March 19, 2015	7-9:00 p.m.	TBD
GPAC Meeting #6 – Review Findings from Workshop #3	Wednesday, March 25, 2015	6-8:00 p.m.	TBD
Joint City Council/Planning Commission Meeting on Preferred Land Use Alternative	Tuesday, March 31, 2015 <i>(Potential Special Meeting)</i>	7:00 p.m.	City Council Chambers
City Council Meeting on Acceptance of Preferred Land Use Alternative	Tuesday, April 14, 2015	7:00 p.m.	City Council Chambers
<i>Estimated Completion of Overall Project</i>	<i>Late June 2016</i>		

*Note: The schedule will be reviewed at the upcoming January 13, 2015 City Council meeting. Actual meeting dates, times, and locations are subject to change. Please visit www.menlopark.org/connectmenlo for up-to-date information.