

Did you Know?

- San Rafael is the oldest city in Marin County. It was incorporated in 1874.
- San Rafael is the largest city in Marin County in population, with about 59,000 residents in 2016.
- The city limits of San Rafael cover 22 square miles. About 6 square miles are water and 16 square miles are land.
- San Rafael has more than 7.3 square miles of open space within the City limits. It's the single largest land use in town!
- The 1963 General Plan for San Rafael envisioned a freeway running from south to north across the open waters of San Francisco Bay, connecting the west landing of the Richmond Bridge to points north and south.
- 48% of San Rafael's households are renters and 52% are homeowners.
- In 2000, the median age of San Rafael residents was 38.5. In 2016, it was 41.6.
- In 2016, 20.5% of San Rafael's residents were under 18 and 17.4% were 65 or older.



Your Input is Needed!

The success of the City's General Plan depends on you. The City has established a website to provide information on the project. During the next month or so, we will begin posting reports, meeting announcements, and other documents on the website.

We'll also provide information on how you can participate in this process, including opportunities to attend meetings or comment on line regarding important issues and questions. We encourage you to join our email list, which ensures you'll be notified before upcoming meetings and events.

Visit

<https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/departments/general-plan-2040/> for more information.

Help shape San Rafael's future!

SAN RAFAEL

GENERAL

PLAN

2040

What kind of place will San Rafael be in 20 years?

Will the city look the same as it does today? Will people travel the same way they do now? Will there be new homes, new shopping places, new work places, and new parks? These questions point to an even bigger question: do we know where we want to go as a city—and how we will get there?

The purpose of the General Plan is to respond to these questions. The General Plan provides a vision for San Rafael's future, and the policies and actions to guide us to that vision. The Plan is a legal document required by State law. It includes the City's official policies for how land may be developed and how natural resources may be used. The City is in the process of updating its General Plan, looking ahead to the Year 2040. This brochure provides an overview of the project, and how you can help shape the outcome.

Why Now?

The last San Rafael General Plan was adopted in 2004 and looked ahead to the year 2020. That Plan has served the City well. It has guided important decisions about growth, investment, transportation, open space, and housing for more than a decade. However, the Plan does not fully reflect current issues and priorities in the city, or the challenges facing San Rafael in its next generation.

Since the 2004 Plan was adopted, San Rafael has adopted new plans and made important policy choices that are not reflected in the current General Plan. SMART trains now connect the city to Sonoma County, with an extension to Larkspur coming soon. Station Area Plans have been prepared for Downtown and Civic Center, and a Relocation Plan for the Downtown Transit Center is getting started.

The City is also working on a new Climate Change Action Plan, a Downtown Parking Plan, and a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. In the last few years, new initiatives have been launched on housing, sea level rise, transportation, sustainability, hazard mitigation, and community design. The General Plan Update creates a framework for these plans, making sure they add up to a coherent vision for San Rafael's future.



General Plan Contents

Every city in California is required to prepare a General Plan for its long-range development. The State requires that such plans address:

- **Land Use**, explaining how and where the city will grow in the next 20 years. This chapter includes policies for residential, commercial, industrial, public, and open space uses.
- **Circulation**, including policies for pedestrians, bicycles, motor vehicles, trucks, public transportation, parking, and traffic safety.
- **Housing**, describing how the city will meet the housing needs of its current and future residents, including persons with special needs and lower incomes.
- **Open Space**, including policies for managing parks and natural areas.
- **Conservation**, including natural resources such as wetlands, forests, and creeks, as well as topics such as energy conservation, tree planting, and wildlife.
- **Safety**, including policies on earthquakes, landslides, and flooding, and other hazards.
- **Noise**, covering sources such as cars, trains, planes, business activity, construction and heavy equipment.

San Rafael's General Plan addresses all of these topics. It also addresses other topics relating to the quality of life in the city, including **neighborhoods, economic vitality, community design, sustainability, culture and arts, parks and recreation, infrastructure, governance, and air and water quality**. Each chapter includes long-range goals along with policies to guide day-to-day decisions.



Timeline

The General Plan Update began in July 2017 and will take approximately 2-1/2 years to complete. The first phase of the project involves gathering data about San Rafael, and starting the conversation about the city's future. The second phase involves creating policies to shape the city's future. A 21-member Steering Committee made up of San Rafael residents and businesses will help guide this process.

Plan writing will take place in 2018, and a draft Plan will be completed by early 2019. We anticipate that an environmental impact report will be required, with technical studies covering issues such as traffic, utilities, and geologic hazards.

Opportunities for community input will be provided throughout the process, both through workshops, on-line tools, and hearings before the Planning Commission and City Council. Ultimately, the Council is expected to adopt the Plan in late 2019 or early 2020.