

General Plan Community Meeting

January 29, 2024



- General Plan Update Overview
- Activites
- Next Steps
- Questions and Comments



Community Vision

The General Plan Update is an opportunity to reaffirm and refine the Community's Vision for itself:

- Quality of life
- Preservation of Open Space and Agriculture
- Innovation and Sustainability
- Vibrant economy



WHY IS THE GENERAL PLAN IMPORTANT?

Comprehensive in Scope

The General Plan serves as the City's 'playbook' for land use and planning decisions relative to:

- Land Uses (residential, commercial, industrial, business parks, open space, etc.)
- Infrastructure Planning (roads, water, sewer, etc.)
- Public Services (police, fire, parks, libraries, cultural activities, etc.)
- Resource Conservation (clean air, sensitive habitat, waterways, groundwater, agriculture, etc.)



EXISTING GENERAL PLAN

- Last comprehensive update was 2006
 - -Circulation Element updated in 2017
 - -Housing Element updated in 2023
- Numerous changes to State law
 - -Climate change
 - Environmental justice
 - -Complete streets
 - Flood and Fire protection



GENERAL PLAN CONTENT

REQUIRED ELEMENTS

- Land Use
- Circulation
- Conservation
- Open Space
- Safety
- Noise
- Housing (updated in 2023)

OPTIONAL ELEMENTS

- Economic Development
- Sustainability and Climate Change
- Historic and Archaeological Resources
- Parks and Recreation
- Environmental Justice (Required for Disadvantaged Communities)
- Administration and Implementation



SUMMARY OF THE PROCESS

Public Participation

Existing Conditions Report

We are here!

Identify Community Priorities

Land Use Map Refinements

General Plan Goals, Policies, and Programs

Draft General Plan

Environmental Impact Report

Public Hearings - General Plan and EIR



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Planning Commission/City Council Study Sessions (4)
- Community Visioning Workshops (2) COMPLETE
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Community Open House Workshops (2)
- Public Hearings (3)
- General Plan Update Task Force
- Workshop "Toolkit" for staff use
 - Pop-up events Farmers Market
 - Coordination with Organizations/Businesses







COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- November 2, 2023 Community Visioning Workshop #1
- November 9, 2023 Chamber of Commerce
- November 13, 2023 Community Visioning Workshop #2
- November 16, 2023 Chamber of Commerce
- November 28, 2023 Community Center Leadership Meeting
- November 29, 2023 Sonoma Valley Community Advisory Commission
- December 3, 2023 Sonoma Valley Housing Group
- January 4, 2023 Moon Valley Garden Club
- January 10, 2023 Sonoma Valley Collaborative

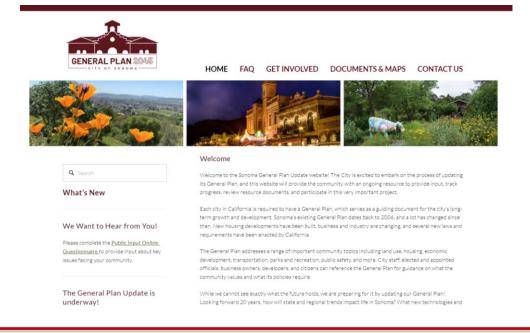
Farmers Markets

1/29/2024



DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

- Dedicated Website www.SonomaCity.GeneralPlan.org
- Leverage existing City social media accounts
- Online surveys
- Newsletters





"COMMUNITY CHARACTER"

- "Community character" refers to the distinct identity of a place. It is the collective impression a neighborhood or town makes on residents and visitors.
- Physical and social characteristics one values and most closely associate with their neighborhood or town.
- "Sense of Place" is the lens through which people experience and make meaning of their experiences in and with place.
- People may attribute various meanings to the same place in relation to its ecological, social, economic, cultural, aesthetic, historical, or other aspects.



POST-IT NOTE EXERCISE

Select a word, phrase, or place that describes the **City of Sonoma's Community Character** for each of the following categories. Place the word on the correct color post-it then on the wall under each category.

Built Environment

Urban Form – streets,

setbacks, building

types

Natural Environment
Natural Features –
vegetation, wildlife,
water bodies

People, Feelings,
Association



MAPPING ACTIVITY

At your table, ask yourself the following questions and identify and make notes on the map.

- Where are the places that represent the City of Sonoma's community character? (Built, natural, socio)
- Where do you take visitors or recommend visitors go in the City?
- Highlight places and networks that are important to you, for example, what paths do you use regularly for commuting and transportation, where do you visit often to eat, shop, live, work, or play.
- Are there certain areas in the City that are in need of attention, revitalization or change? What is needed?



NEXT STEPS

- General Plan Update Task Force Meeting February 6 - EOC
- Draft Existing Conditions Report Released
- Joint Planning Commission and City Council Meeting Spring

City of Sonoma



Questions and Comments





Thank You Staff Contact:

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