



**Walnut
Creek 2050**
Rooted. Evolving. Thriving.

General Plan Update

PROS Study Session | October 5, 2026



**CITY OF
WALNUT
CREEK**

Tonight's Agenda

- General Plan Update Overview
- Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Existing Conditions
- What We Have Heard to Date
- Discussion on Key Issues and Outcomes for the GPU

General Plan Update Overview



What is a General Plan?

A General Plan guides how a city evolves to meet its housing, business, and amenity needs over time.

- Roadmap to guide long term and day-to-day decisions
- A shared vision for the future
- Keeps what we love about Walnut Creek and addresses what we don't
- Complies with new state laws



General Plan Elements

Mandatory Elements

- Land Use + Community Design
- Transportation
- Open Space + Conservation
- Noise
- Safety (adopted May 2026)
- Housing (adopted October 2023)

Additional Topics / Chapters

- Economic Development
- Arts + Culture
- Healthy Communities
- Implementation

Council and Commission Engagement



Project Website

- Allow for two-way communication
- Incorporate questionnaires + mapping exercises
- Connect users to upcoming meetings, project resources + videos

WalnutCreek2050.com



Home
Key Terms

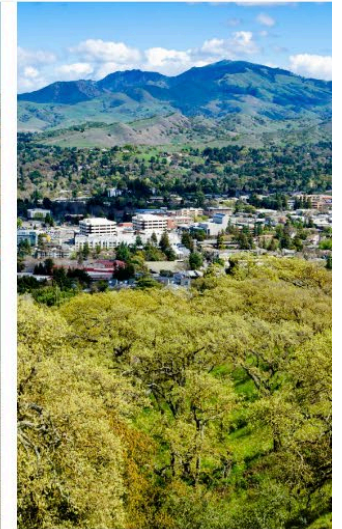
About Walnut Creek 2050
English

Rooted in History

How We're Evolving

Shape a Thriving Future

Search



Walnut Creek has an exciting opportunity ahead as we come together to help shape the future for our community!

Rooted in our shared values, the General Plan Update will inform how the City of Walnut Creek serves our evolving community for decades to come. Many of the places and services we use every day, including housing, parks, roadways, bike lanes, and more, are shaped by thoughtful planning decisions.

Your ideas and participation matter at every step. Whether you care most about the natural environment, housing affordability, access to jobs, traffic, or other community concerns, your voice will help shape Walnut Creek's future.

A Message from the Mayor



Project Updates

In April 2026, the City Council directed City staff and consultant partners to begin the General Plan Update. Together, the project team will combine local knowledge, technical expertise, and community input to guide the process. The team will launch the effort with the activities outlined below, followed by additional community events tentatively scheduled from July through September.

Check back here for updates on future activities!

Joint Commission Meeting

Jun 25, 2026 6:00 PM - Jun 25, 2026 8:00 PM

City Hall, 1666 N Main St, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

City Council Meeting

Engagement Activities

- **Pop-ups** at Locust Street Festival, Once Upon a Street, Downtown Farmers' Market, Shadelands Farmers' Market
- **Community workshop** at Civic Park Community Center (9/24)
- **Joint Commission + City Council** meetings
- 40+ **Community Partner** meetings



Share Your Ideas with Us!

Online feedback hub + virtual open house

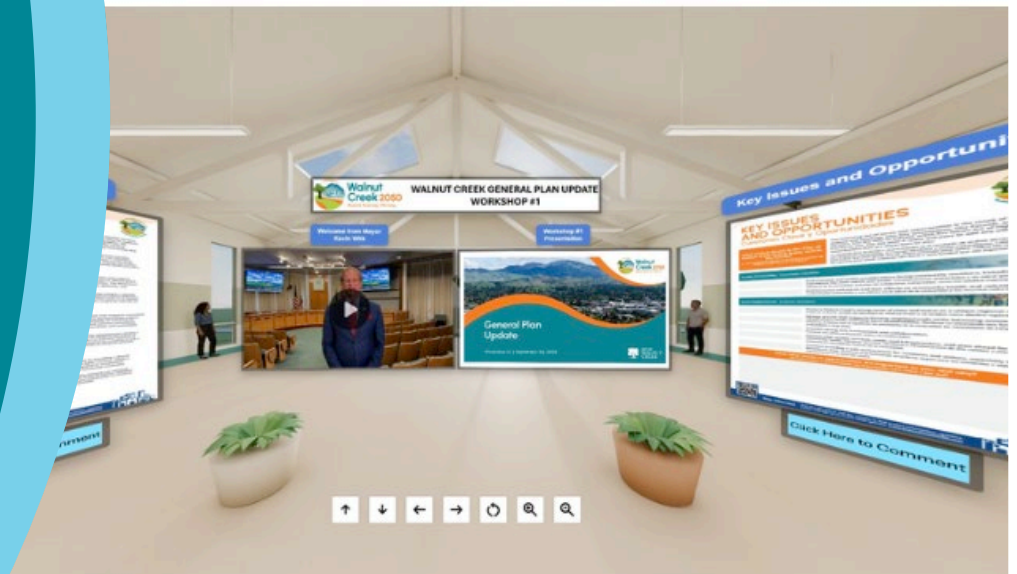
- Open from 9/25 to 10/25
- *WalnutCreek2050.com*



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AT OUR FIRST WORKSHOP!

Attend our first Community Workshop on September 24th, there's still time to share your ideas at the Virtual Workshop or go directly to the Online Engagement Hub both linked below. Review workshop materials and provide your comments. Your ideas will help inform the vision and goals that guide our community toward 2050. The online hub will be open until October 25th. We look forward to your participation!

CLICK HERE to watch the presentation and experience the workshop virtually!



CLICK HERE to directly enter the Online Engagement Hub!

What's Next?

- Commission meetings
 - 10/15 Transportation
 - 10/19 Arts
 - 10/22 Planning + Design Review
- 12/15 City Council



Draft Vision Statement

Walnut Creek is a welcoming and inclusive city defined by its cultural vibrancy, accessible open spaces, walkable Downtown, safe and livable neighborhoods, and innovative local economy.

It is a regional destination rooted in community, thoughtfully evolving to maintain a high quality of life where people can live, work, connect, and thrive.

Guiding Values



Economic Vitality



Well-Being



**Accessible
Housing
Opportunities**



Mobility Options



**Parks, Open
Spaces + Natural
Landscapes**



**Vibrant Arts +
Culture**



Safety + Resiliency



Setting the Stage

A Growing Population in Smaller Households

70,736

2025 population*

+4%

since 2015

33,359

2025
households*

+7%

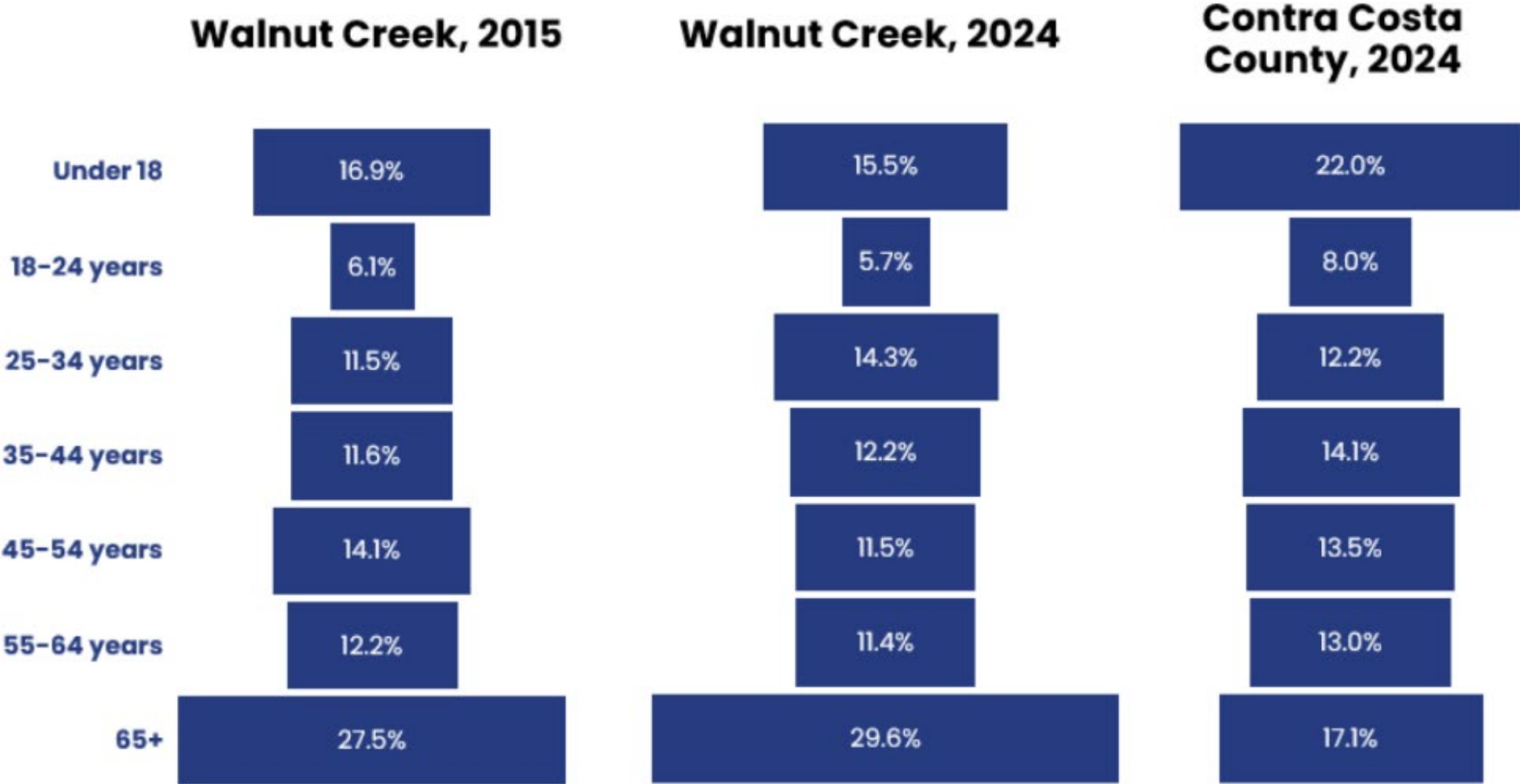
since 2015

2.08

2025 household
size*

*Data source: California Department of Finance, 2026; BAE, 2026.

Age Profile



Race/Ethnicity Profile

Walnut Creek, 2015



- Asian (14%)
- Hispanic / Latino (9%)
- White (71%)
- Black or African American (2%)
- All Other Races (4%)

Walnut Creek, 2024



- Asian (17%)
- Hispanic / Latino (12%)
- White (61%)
- Black or African American (2%)
- All Other Races (8%)

Contra Costa County, 2024



- Asian (19%)
- Hispanic / Latino (27%)
- White (38%)
- Black or African American (8%)
- All Other Races (8%)



Existing Conditions Parks, Open Space, and Recreation

Historic Context

- Over 3,000 acres of parks, open space, and recreational areas,
 - About 42.8 acres per 1,000 population
 - About 61 miles of trails
- Community involvement in preservation and protection



Parks and Special Use Areas

Parks

- 19 parks (237.6 acres)
- Range of park sizes, such as:
 - Remembrance Park (0.1 acres)
 - Heather Farm Park (87.8 acres)
- Located throughout the city

Special Use Areas

- 4 special use areas (173.8 acres)
- Active Recreation Opportunities
 - Organized play areas
 - Tennis court, swimming pool, etc.
- Passive Recreation Opportunities
 - Hiking, bicycling, horseback riding

Parks and Special Use Areas Map

Parks

1. Alma Park
2. Arbolado Park
3. Castle Rock Sports Park
4. Civic Park
5. Diablo Shadows Park
6. El Divisadero Park
7. Heather Farm Park
8. Lar Rieu Park
9. Larkey Park
10. Northgate Park
11. Old Oak Park
12. Pine Creek Park
13. Remembrance Park
14. Rudgear Park
15. San Miguel Park
16. Tice Valley Park
17. Valle Verde Park
18. Walden Park
19. Ygnacio Heights Park

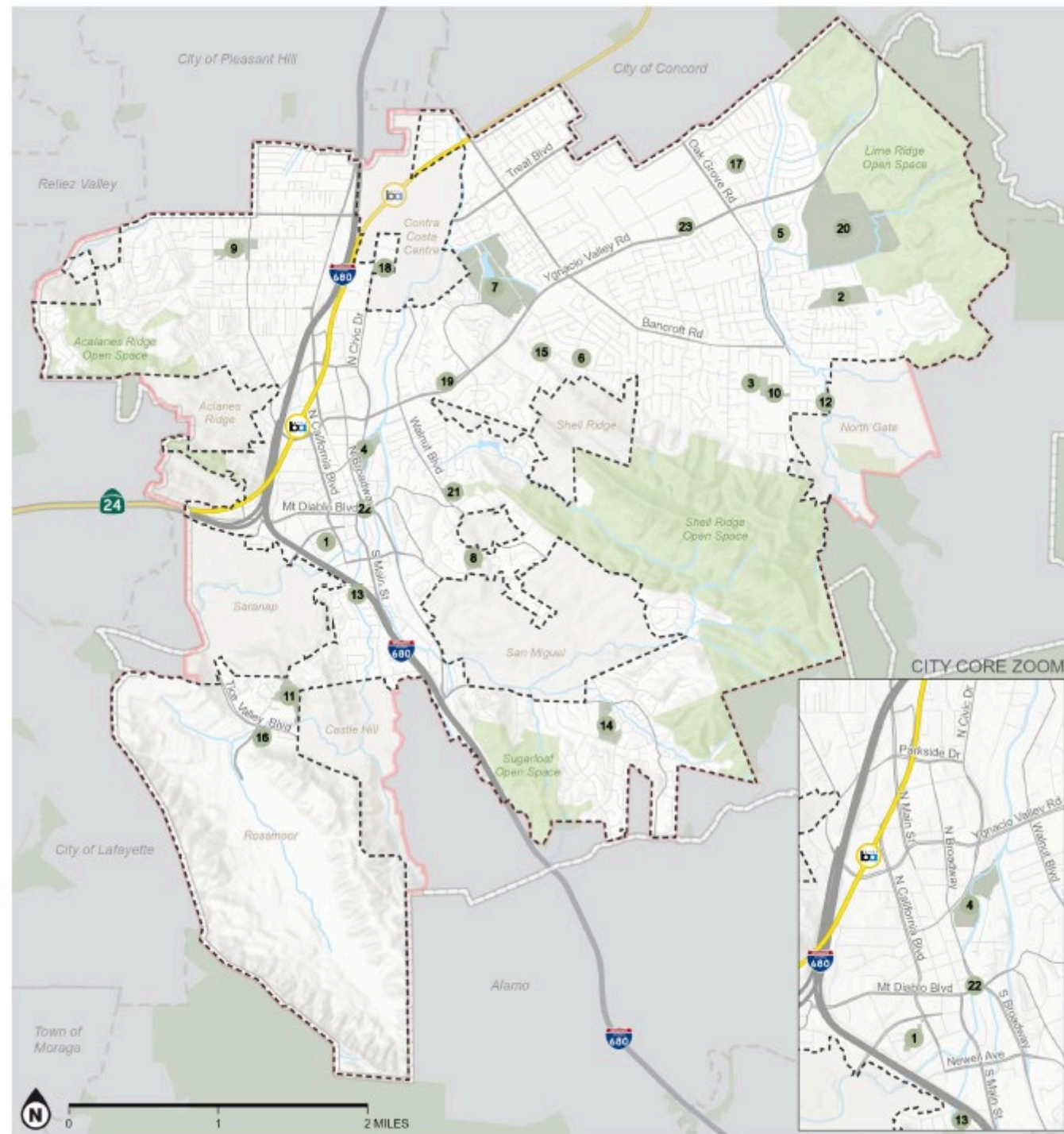
Special Use Areas

20. Boundary Oak Golf Course
21. Howe Homestead Park
22. Liberty Bell Plaza
23. Shadelands Ranch

Total Area: 412 acres

FEATURES + BOUNDARIES

- City Boundary
- Sphere of Influence
- Planning Area
- Parks (numbered)
- Open Space
- Waterbodies
- Freeways
- BART Stations



Open Space and Trails

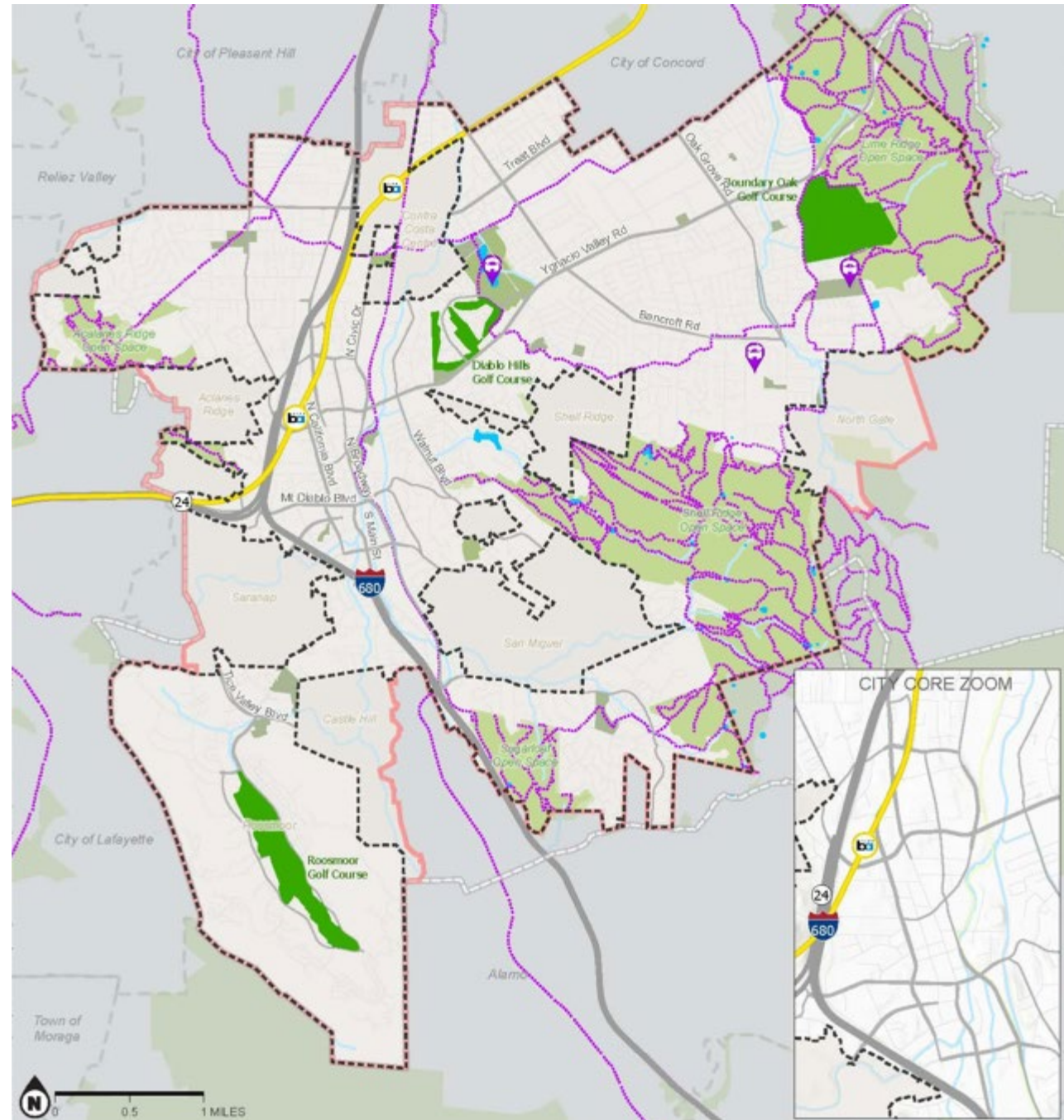
- About 2,700 acres of open space
 - Shell Ridge
 - Sugarloaf
 - Lime Ridge
 - Acalanes Ridge
- 53 trailheads
 - 46 City Trailheads
 - 7 Regional Trailheads



Existing Open Space and Trails

FEATURES + BOUNDARIES

-  City Boundary
-  Sphere of Influence
-  Trails
-  Creeks
-  Sports Field
-  Golf Course
-  Open Space
-  Surrounding Open Space (Source: CPAD)

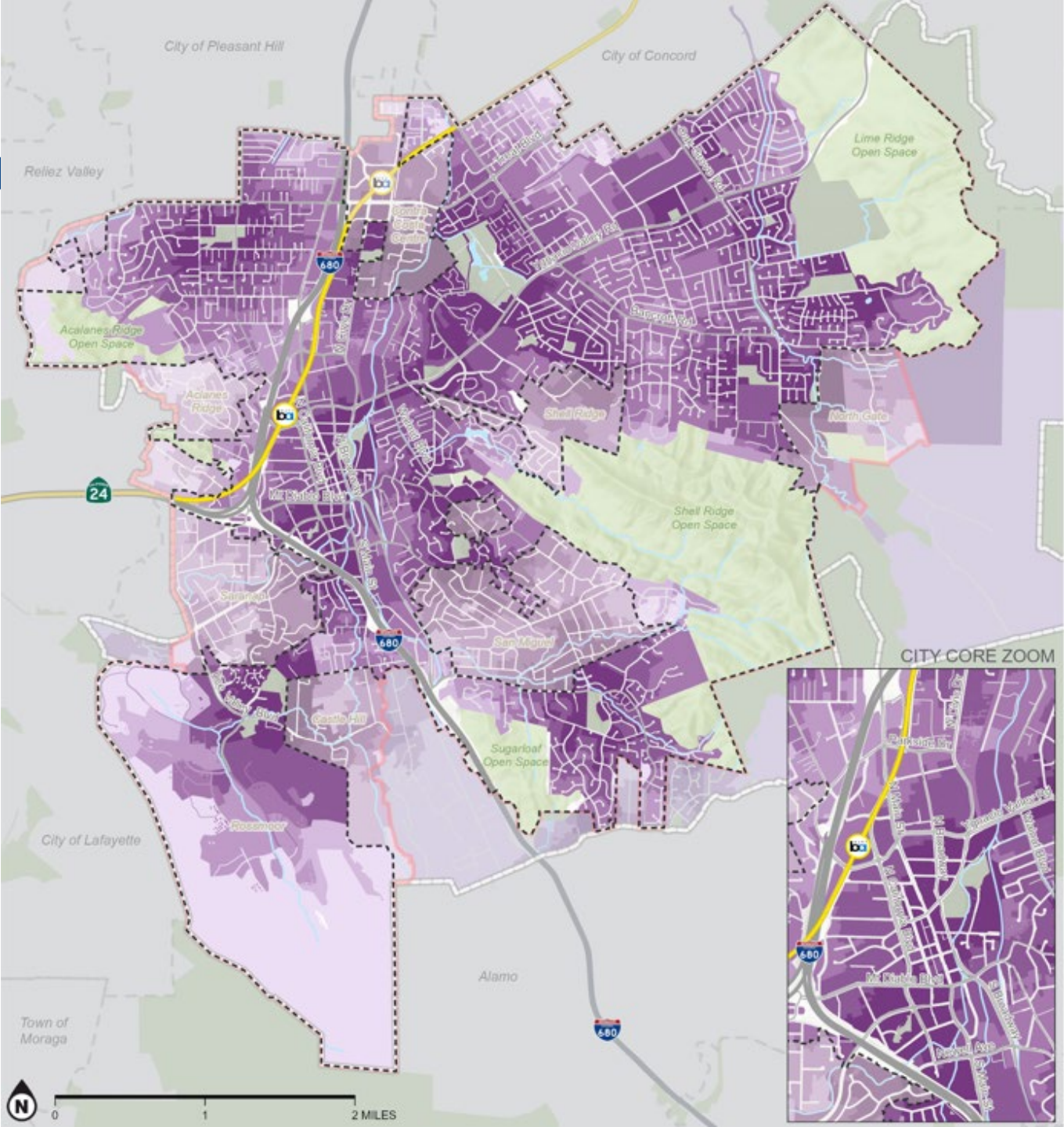


Walking Access to Parks

WALK TIME TO NEAREST PARK



FEATURES + BOUNDARIES



Existing Policy

- General Plan Chapter 3: Natural Environment and Public Spaces
- 2008 Open Space Vision Project
- 2013 East Bay Regional Park District Master Plan
- Your Parks Your Future (YPYF)
- 2023 Sustainability Action Plan

Examples of New State Legislation to Address in the GPU

Legislation	Description
Senate Bill 1425	Requires updates to open space element to address rewilding, equity, and adaptation.
Assembly Bill 1889	Requires local jurisdictions to incorporate considerations for wildlife movement and habitat connectivity.
Senate Bill 1000	Requires jurisdictions to identify DACs and reduce health risks while promoting equity and engagement, including parks and recreation.
Executive Order N-82-20	- Creates CA Biodiversity Collaborative - Natural & Working Lands Strategy - Sets a conservation goal: 30x30 CA.



What We've Heard So Far

Preliminary Issues and Opportunities

Issues

- **Climate Resilience**
 - Air quality, drought, extreme heat, flooding, landslides, wildfire, etc.
- **Balancing Recreation and Preservation**
 - Diverse recreational uses
 - Popular regional destination for recreation
 - Protection and management of parks and open space

Opportunities

- **Vulnerability Assessment**
 - Will help inform potential strategies to increase climate resilience
- **Informed growth and management**
 - Project growth
 - Identify sensitive resources for protection

Community Engagement: Key Issues

Parks + Rec Facilities

- Preserve creeks, existing parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities.
- Expand access to community gathering spaces, parks, and open space.
- Update parks and recreational facilities.

Open Space

- Balance recreational needs in open spaces with habitat management.
- Protect wildlife and natural resources.
- Maintain and improve connections.

Arts + Programming

- Preserve the connection between parks and open space, and the arts.
- Expand art throughout the city.
- Maintain high-quality programming and services and support education.

Sustainability + Resilience

- Maintain and expand tree canopies and landscaping.
- Reduce vulnerability from wildfire particularly in open space areas.

Discussion Questions

- Are there any pressing park, open space, or recreation issues or opportunities that are missing from this list, and why are they important?
- What strategies could help bridge the gap between the key issues and draft General Plan vision statement and guiding values?



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Stay Connected



General Plan 2050 Website:
walnutcreek2050.com

Visit the website to find project
information, updates, events, and
sign up to receive email updates

✉ **Email: walnutcreek2050@walnutcreekca.gov**

Send an email with any questions, comments, and feedback