

GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

Joint Commission Kickoff Study Session Meeting

June 25, 2026



Tonight's Agenda

1. Introduce Our Project Team
2. General Plan Update Overview
3. Engagement Strategy
4. Discussion on Key Issues, Outcomes, and Engagement for the GPU





Project Team

WALNUT CREEK 2050

City General Plan Team

- Planning staff leading the update, in collaboration with City departments
- Bringing together expertise across the City organization
- Supporting a community informed and inclusive process
- Working to keep the process clear, accessible, and coordinated



Community Development
General Plan Team

About Alta Community Planning

- Leaders in land use planning, urban design, environmental health, and sustainable communities
- Extensive experience in general plans, specific and precise plans, and zoning codes
- Leading the update of the State's Guidelines for General Plans
- Award-winning community engagement in diverse communities



Community
Planning team

Project Team

Alta Planning + Design

Project Management, Land Use and Parks Planning, Healthy Communities, Engagement



Harris & Associates

Noise, Open Space / Conservation, and
Environmental Impact Analysis Lead

Fehr & Peers

Transportation Lead



Community Engagement Lead

bae urban economics

Economic and Fiscal Analysis Lead



Arts and Culture Lead



General Plan Update Overview

WALNUT CREEK 2050

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

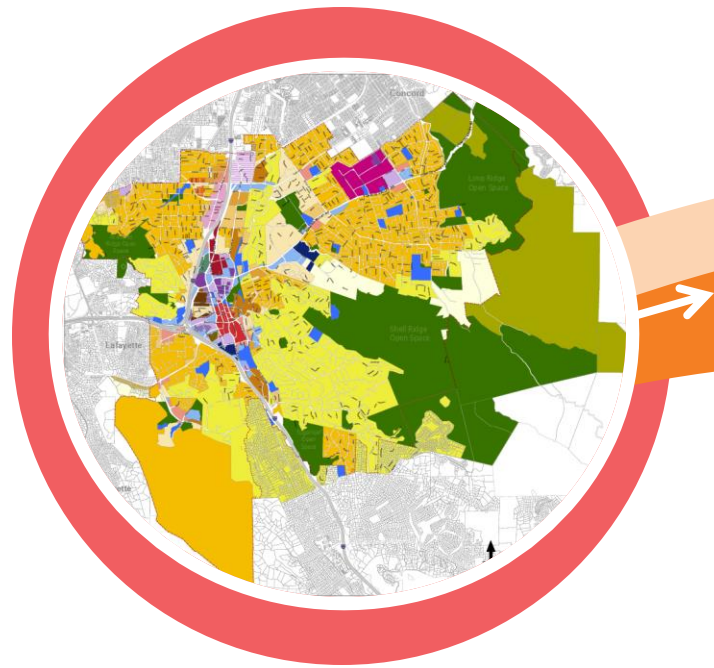
- Land Use + Community Design
- Transportation
- Open Space + Conservation
- Noise
- Safety (adopted May 2026)
- Housing (adopted October 2023)

Additional Topics / Chapters

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

General Plan Land Use Update

General Plan Land Use



Mobility



Placemaking



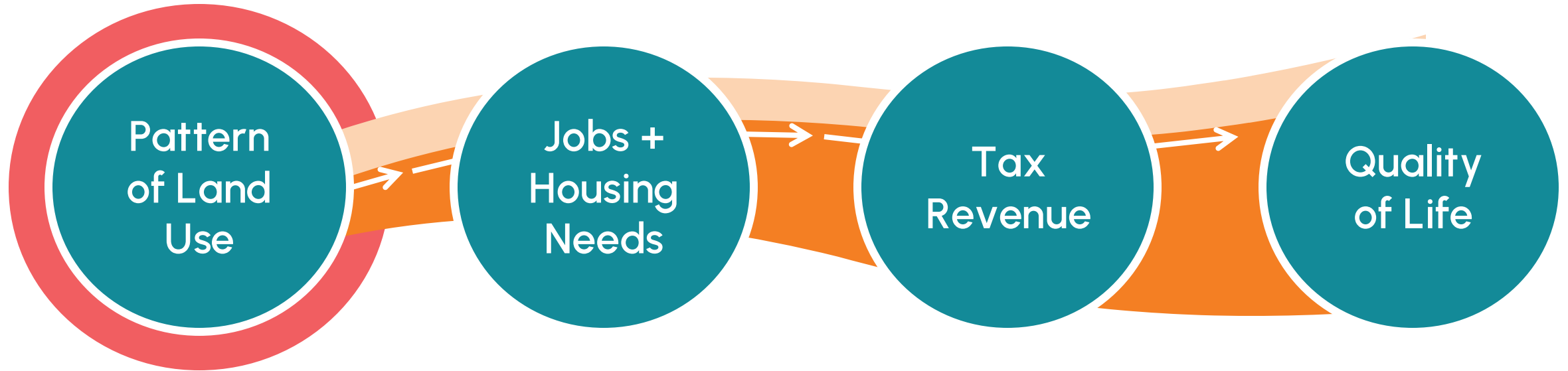
Sustainability



Wellbeing



How Does the General Plan Impact Me?



- Where, how far and by what mode we travel
- Physical activity + health
- Air + climate pollution

- School enrollment
- Public services
- Public infrastructure
- Public parks + open spaces

WALNUT CREEK

CALIFORNIA

2025 ANNUAL
COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

City of Walnut Creek | Economic Development
www.walnutcreekconnected.com

COMMUNITY PROFILE

INCOME

Source: Esri August 2025

\$191,336
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME

\$88,457
PER CAPITA INCOME

\$2,805,553
AVERAGE NET WORTH

\$ 130,939
AVERAGE DISPOSABLE HOUSEHOLD INCOME

EDUCATION

Source: Esri August 2025

73%
Bachelor's/Graduate/Prof Degree

17%
Some College

8%
High School Graduate & Equivalent

1%
No High School Diploma

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN

Source: Esri August 2025

Per U.S. Census Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish is not one of the origin categories as they may be of any race.

POPULATION

Source: Esri August 2025

70,432
POPULATION

DAYTIME POPULATION

Source: Esri August 2025
5 mile radius from city center

135,368
DAYTIME POPULATION

HOUSING ELEMENT 2023-2031

Approximate Units

458 UNITS COMPLETED

148 UNITS BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED or ENTITLEMENTS APPROVED

Source: City of Walnut Creek Housing Division as of 2025

HOUSING

Source: Esri August 2025

32,547
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS

64.4%
OWNER-OCCUPIED

35.6%
RENTER-OCCUPIED

#42/526
Best Suburbs to Live in California

#35/526
Best Suburbs for Young Professionals in California

#75/526
Best Suburbs to Raise a Family in California

Niche.com develops various rankings of places throughout the U.S. based on various datasets and community reviews from each area. Walnut Creek is proud to be in the top tier of Best Suburbs in California for a number of categories.(March 2025)

CITY OF WALNUT CREEK

NORTH DOWNTOWN
SPECIFIC PLAN

RETHINKING

MOBILITY

A Transportation Strategic Plan for the City of Walnut Creek

2024 Hazard Mitigation Plan

Contra Costa County, California

Walnut Creek
Local Roadway Safety Plan
A Path to Vision Zero
July 2023

2023–2031 HOUSING ELEMENT
August 2023

CITY OF WALNUT CREEK

WEST DOWNTOWN SPECIFIC PLAN

ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

Preliminary Feedback from Engagement



Walkability
Shopping Dining
Arts & Culture
Parks
Safety
Community



Infrastructure,
Technology,
Financial
Sustainability

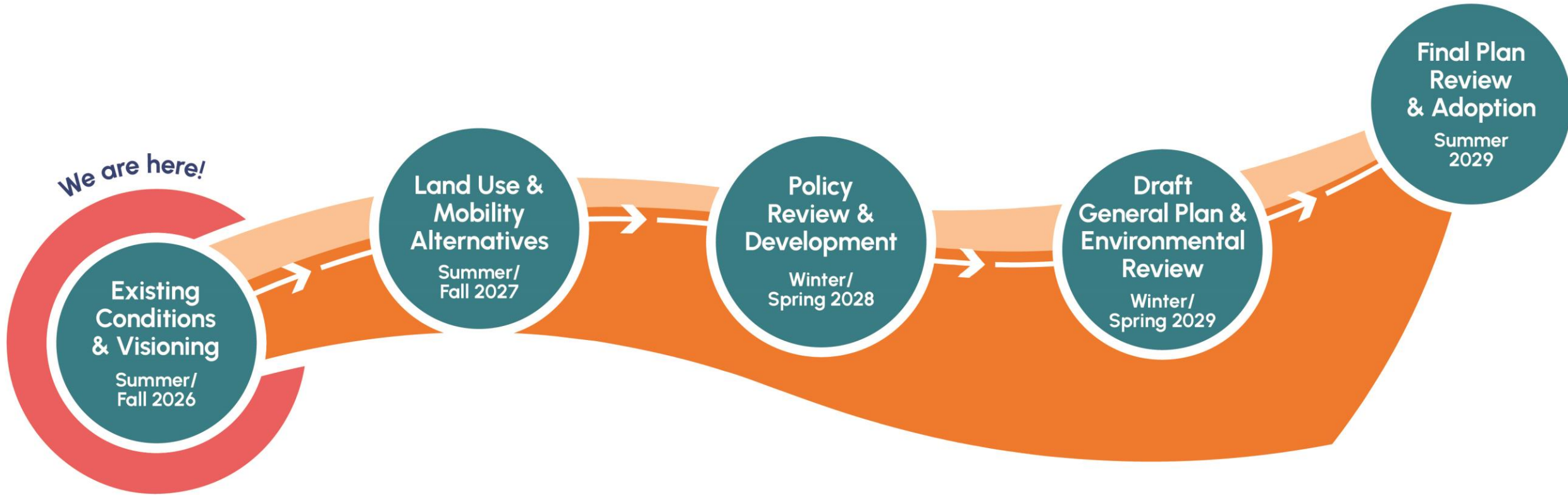
RFP Framework:
Topic-Based
Approach



Zoning Code
Updates,
Expand Business
Opportunities



Project Phases



Questions

Clarifying questions
for Staff and the
Project Team on the
process





Engagement Strategy

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Outreach Strategy + Engagement Activities

Outreach Strategy

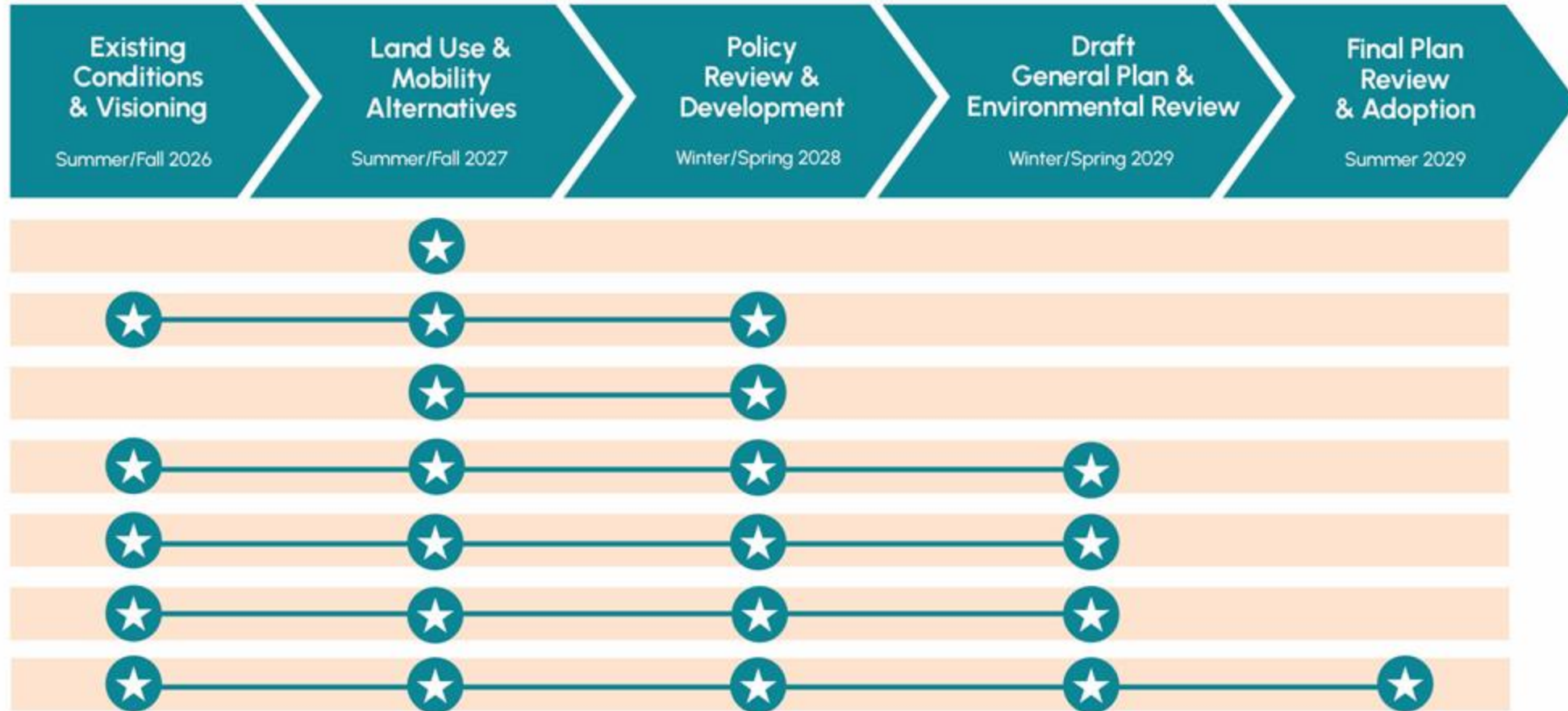
-  Communication + Engagement Plan
-  Project Branding
-  Interactive Website + Communication Strategy

Engagement Activities

-  Informational Forums (x3)
-  Community Partner Meetings (x30)
-  Topic Specific Focus Groups (x10)
-  Community Workshops + Open Houses (x4)
-  Online Questionnaires
-  Community Pop-up Events



Project Phases



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Council + Commission Engagement



Innovative + Self Directed Virtual Open House



Project Website

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

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[Home](#)
[Key Terms](#)

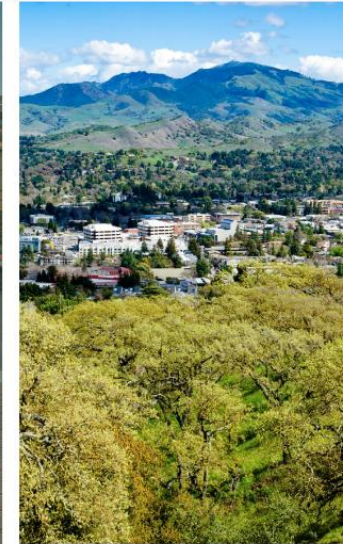
[About Walnut Creek 2050](#)
[English](#) ▾

[Rooted in History](#)

[How We're Evolving](#)

[Shape a Thriving Future](#)

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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

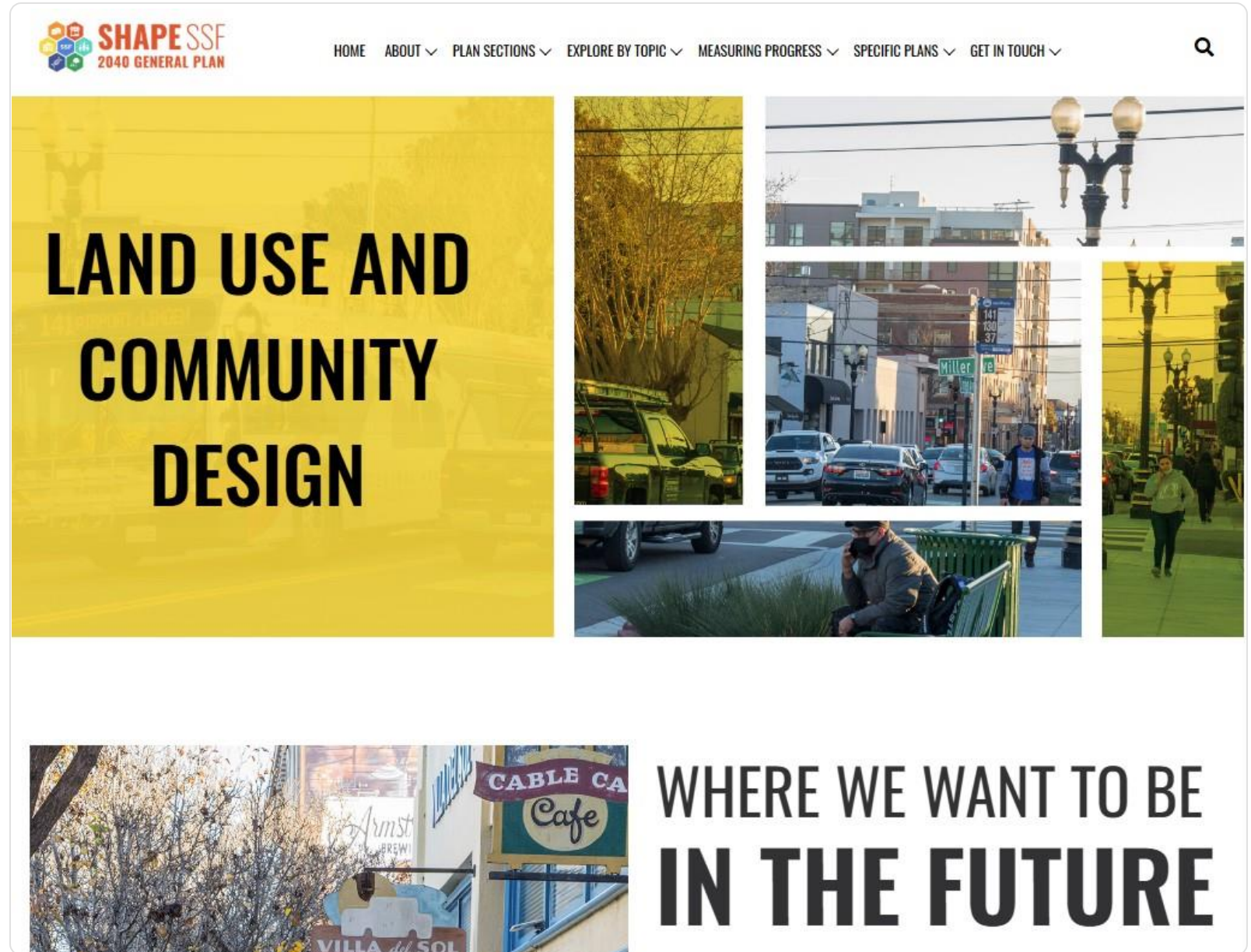
City Council Meeting

visit: www.walnutcreek2050.com

E-Plan

- Track + monitor implementation + success stories
- Incorporate dynamic maps + visualizations
- Browse GP in a more intuitive way

WALNUT CREEK 2050



Looking Ahead

Community Engagement

- City Council kick-off meeting on 7/21
- On-going community partner meetings
- Community pop-up events
- Workshop #1 - Visioning
- Online questionnaires

Existing Conditions Reports

- Economic, Demographic, and Fiscal Analysis
- Land Use, Parks, Public Facilities Inventories
- Community Design + Mobility/Access
- Open Space + Conservation
- Community Health Indicators
- Noise

Questions

Clarifying questions
for Staff and the
Project Team





Discussion

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Discussion Questions

Unique + Special

- What aspects of Walnut Creek's character, identity, and quality of life should be carried forward and strengthened as the community evolves?

Critical Issues

- What are the most pressing issues facing Walnut Creek today and in the future?
- How can Walnut Creek evolve overtime to address those issues?

Project Outcomes

- What outcomes are important to guide the GPU related to the arts, housing, the environment, business, inclusion, or other topics?

Community Engagement Discussion Questions

Community Partners

- Who are the non-traditional populations we should engage in the process?
- What are some effective methods to reach those groups?

Measuring Success

- How should we measure the success of our outreach and engagement efforts?



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

Stay Connected

Email: walnutcreek2050@walnutcreekca.gov

Visit: www.walnutcreek2050.com

