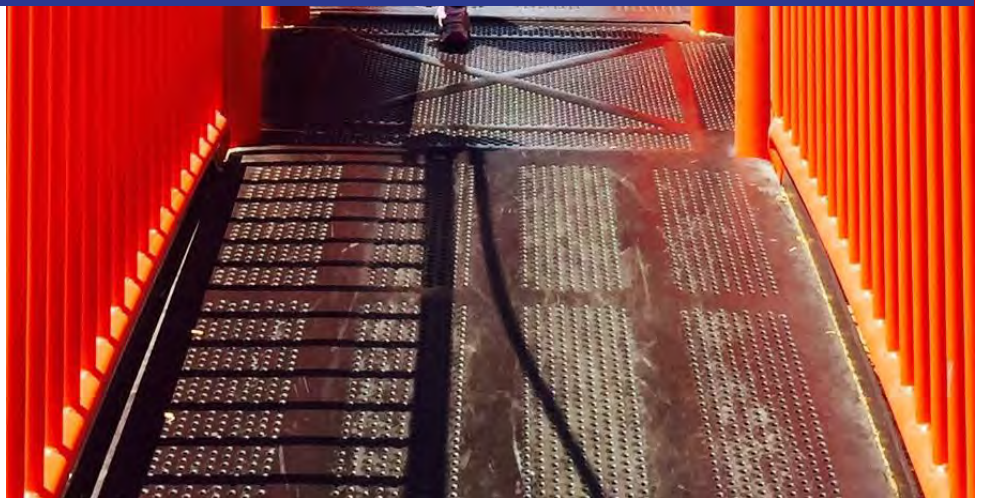


4



Health and Quality of Life



Health and Quality of Life

A healthy community promotes a positive physical, social, and economic environment that supports the overall well-being of its residents. While other parts of the General Plan also touch on aspects of health and quality of life, the purpose of the Health and Quality of Life Element is to promote a healthy lifestyle and improve residents' quality of life by ensuring access to parks and recreation, healthy foods, health care facilities, as well as resources and programming that enrich people's lives.

Increasingly, communities are facing the challenges of childhood and adult obesity, asthma, diabetes, and other health issues resulting from an unhealthy and sedentary lifestyle. Recent research has found that neighborhood conditions impact one's health and life expectancy. Where people live greatly determines their access to resources that enable them to be healthy, such as clean air and water, safe streets, nutritious foods, quality housing and educational opportunities, good jobs, and access to healthcare. Where people live also impacts their exposure to environmental risks. Focusing efforts on improving the quality of neighborhoods and communities can have a profound impact on the health of the community.

Beyond the built environment, an important component of community health is the programming and services that are available. The City has many community and agency partners that they work with and support to provide much needed social services to Union City residents.

Health and quality of life are multi-disciplinary issues. As a result, policies that address healthy living and good quality of life are found throughout this General Plan. The Land Use Element contains policies that encourage a built environment conducive to live/work balance through smart uses of land use mix. The Mobility Element addresses walkability, bikeability, and the accessibility of alternative modes of transit, all of which promote a more active lifestyle. The Environmental Resources Element promotes improved air quality, water quality, and the protection of open space resources. The Safety Element protects people and property from flooding, wildfire, and other hazards.

The purpose of the element is to also provide a policy framework to better support traditionally underrepresented and underserved populations living within Union City, address potential environmental justice issues within the community consistent with SB 1000, build social capital, and support efforts that foster a culture of inclusion, all of which assist in improving the quality of life for all residents.



Healthy Food Access

A healthy community promotes access to healthy food options, including stores that sell fresh food, farmers markets, and community gardens. The City has numerous grocery stores and small markets that sell fresh food, which are located within neighborhoods or in the City's shopping areas. In addition, the Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association operates a weekly farmers' market on Saturday mornings at Old Alvarado Park. A second weekly farmers' market is run by Kaiser Permanente and is located at the Union City Kaiser Medical Offices. Both farmers' markets are easily reached by public transit and accept food stamps, in the form of an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) and Women, Infants, Children supplemental nutrition program (WIC) coupons, making them more accessible to lower income residents. Union City has two community gardens. One is located along Mission Boulevard and the other is located near Seven Hills Park.

In addition to providing opportunities for residents to access fresh food, improving healthy food access can be accomplished in a number of other ways, such as limiting vending machines with junk food at institutions like schools and government buildings. The policies in this section aim to facilitate access to healthy foods to allow residents to make choices that can improve their health and quality of life.

Goal HQL-1: Ensure all residents have access to healthy foods. *(Source: New Goal)*

Policies

HQL-1.1 Regulations Allowing Healthy Food. The City shall ensure its Zoning Ordinance and other regulations allow for increased access to healthy foods by residents, including, but not limited to healthy food retail outlets, community gardens, farmers' markets, and the use of private yards for growing vegetable gardens or fruit trees. *(Source: New Policy)*

HQL-1.2 Encourage Community Gardens and Farmers Markets. The City shall encourage and support more community gardens and farmers, markets throughout the City, where appropriate. *(Source: New Policy)*

HQL-1.3 Support Alameda County Efforts. The City shall support Alameda County efforts to improve access to healthy foods and address food inequities. *(Source: New Policy)*

HQL-1.4 Support Acceptance of Government-Issued Vouchers. The City shall support the acceptance of WIC and CalFRESH food vouchers (via an EBT card) at food retailers and farmers' markets. *(Source: New Policy)*

HQL-1.5 Healthy Food at Government-sponsored Events. The City shall provide healthy foods at City-sponsored meetings and events. *(Source: New Policy)*

HQL-1.6 Nutritional Vending Machine Options. The City shall encourage nutritional options for vending machines in City-owned and -leased locations. *(Source: New Policy)*

Implementation Programs

HQL-1.A Amend Zoning Ordinance for Healthy Foods. The City shall review and amend its Zoning Ordinance, as appropriate, to increase opportunities for healthy foods, including healthy food retail outlets, community gardens, farmers markets, backyard gardens. The City shall also consider adopting limitations on fast food outlets near schools. *(Source: New Program)*

- **Responsibility:** Economic and Community Development Department
- **Time Frame:** FY 20-21



Parks and Open Space

About 58 percent of Union City's total land area (approximately 7,150 acres) is made up of parks, recreational facilities, trails, and other open space, with approximately 1,800 acres being publicly accessible. The majority of the open space is in the hillside areas to the east and the baylands to the west and are owned by the East Bay Regional Park District, Alameda County Flood Control District, and private entities. Figure HQL-2.1 shows parks and open space areas in Union City.

Garin/Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Park is partially located within Union City and Quarry Lakes Regional Park is located adjacent to the City's southerly boundary. There are two additional regional parks and one national wildlife refuge within five miles of the city. These include the Vargas Plateau Regional Park, the Coyote Hills Regional Park, and the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. In addition, the San Francisco Bay salt ponds are located directly west of the city limits in the Eden Landing Ecological Reserve.

The City maintains 35 City parks totaling over 138 acres that range from small pocket parks to larger community parks. The pocket parks are typically located in residential neighborhoods and provide low-use recreational facilities such as picnic sites and play equipment. The larger community parks provide recreational opportunities for more active uses and include court areas, multi-use sports fields, and performance areas.

School facilities provide other essential recreational assets in Union City. The New Haven Unified School District (NHUSD) maintains 62 acres of sports fields and outdoor recreation facilities. While owned and controlled by NHUSD, these facilities supplement City-owned facilities.

The City's primary mechanism for building new City parks or renovating / expanding existing City parks is through parkland dedication or fees paid by new residential development. The Quimby Act (California Government Code Section 66477) grants the City the authority to require developers to set aside land or pay parkland in-lieu fees when residential land is subdivided. The intent of the Quimby Act is to help cities retain current ratios of park acres per 1,000 residents into the future. Under State law, the dedication requirement ranges from up to 3.0 acres per 1,000 residents to up to 5.0 acres per 1,000 residents, depending on the amount of parkland the city currently has. The City's current (2018) parkland ratio is 1.8 acres per 1,000 residents. Consistent with State law, the City adopted the maximum allowed standard of 3.0 acres of parkland for every 1,000 new residents. Whenever residential land is subdivided for new ownership housing, the developer must dedicate land at the ratio of 3.0 acres per every 1,000 new residents or pay an equivalent in-lieu fee based on the fair market value of the land. The fees can be used to build new parks or improve existing parks. The City also collects a Park Facilities Fee on new rental housing, which can only be used to build new parks.

Figure HQL-2.1: Parks and Open Space Areas



On-site parkland dedication is most effective in larger single-family developments where sufficient land can be set aside to create a useable neighborhood park. Because Union City is almost fully developed, opportunities for new parks will be limited. Since there are very few sites available for larger, single-family development, it is expected that most future development will either pay the Parkland In-Lieu Fee (ownership housing) or the Park Facilities Fee (rental housing). These fees can be pooled and combined with other funds to acquire larger tracts of land for larger, more usable parks and recreation facilities. Fees on new development alone may not be sufficient to meet community desires for larger park spaces or larger facilities, such as soccer fields. Bond measures and other initiatives may be needed to develop larger, more substantial facilities and ensure maintenance keeps pace with the development of new parks.

Also, since much of the city’s future development will occur in high-density, transit-oriented development areas, the City will need to consider new and creative ways to expand parks and open space. Plazas, courtyards, pocket parks, parklets, pedestrian promenades, community gardens, rooftop patios, and civic spaces could provide space for outdoor events, farmers markets, and community gatherings. While not all of these improvements will count toward the City’s official parkland inventory, they can increase access to recreation and greenspace and enhance the quality of life in Union City.



Maintenance is one of the biggest challenges for parks in the city. The fees collected on new residential development cannot be used for parks operations and maintenance. Park maintenance is primarily paid for by two sources of funds: the Landscaping and Lighting District parcel assessment, which is an assessment levied on all parcels in the city, and the Community Facilities Parcel Assessment, which only applies to development that has occurred since 2006. As new parks are built in Union City, the City may need to consider increasing taxes or user fees or identifying creative new approaches to expanding park maintenance.

The General Plan provides a broad policy framework for parks and open space within the city. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which was prepared in 1999 and scheduled to be updated following the General Plan, provides a more detailed plan for the maintenance and development of parks and recreation facilities in the city.

The policies in this section focus on maintaining, improving, and expanding the City's network of parks and publicly accessible open space. The Natural and Cultural Resources Element contains policies guiding the protection of open space. The Special Areas Element contains policies related to parkland in specific areas in Union City, particularly within the Greater Station District.

Goal HQL-2: Maintain, expand, and improve Union City's parks and recreation facilities to meet existing and future needs. *(Source: New Goal)*

Policies

HQL-2.1 **Increase Parkland.** The City shall strive to increase the number and/or size of neighborhood and/or community parks. *(Source: Existing General Plan, Policy YFSH-E.1.3)*

HQL-2.2 **Parkland Dedication for Ownership Housing.** The City shall require new residential subdivisions (i.e., ownership housing) to dedicate parkland at a ratio of 3.0 acres per 1,000 new residents or pay an equivalent in-lieu fee to offset the increase in park needs resulting from new residents. Where on-site parkland is dedicated, it shall be improved by the developer and accessible to the general public. The City may use in-lieu fees to purchase land for new parks or to renovate or expand existing parks and recreation facilities. *(Source: New Policy to reflect existing City policy)*

- HQL-2.3 Park Impact Fees for Rental Housing.** The City shall continue to collect Park Facilities Fees on new multifamily rental housing to offset the increase in park needs resulting from new residents. Park Facilities Fees shall only be used to build new parks. *(Source: New Policy)*
- HQL-2.4 Acquire New Land for Parks and Recreational Facilities.** The City shall strive to meet growing recreational needs of residents and their neighborhoods through the acquisition of land for the addition of new parks and recreation facilities. *(Source: Existing General Plan, Policy YFSH-E.1.1)*
- HQL-2.5 Pursue Grant Funding for New Parks and Park Improvements.** The City shall continually seek and pursue grant funding for parkland acquisition and enhancements or replacement of existing facilities. *(Source: New Policy)*
- HQL-2.6 Financing Park Improvements.** The City shall consider the use of bond measures and similar financing programs for acquisition and improvement of park land and recreational facilities. *(Source: New Policy)*
- HQL-2.7 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.** The City shall comprehensively update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to take inventory of existing parks and recreational facilities; evaluate the recreational needs of Union City residents, workers, and visitors; and set priorities for the improvement of existing parks and development of new parks to accommodate the diverse needs of existing and future users. *(Source: Existing General Plan, Policy YFSH-E.2.13)*
- HQL-2.8 Creative Approaches to Providing Parks and Open Space.** The City shall encourage creative approaches to expand parks and open space in the city, including the development of plazas, courtyards, pocket parks, parklets, pedestrian promenades, community gardens, rooftop patios, and civic spaces. *(Source: New Policy)*
- HQL-2.9 School Collaboration to Maximize Access to Recreational Facilities.** The City shall collaborate with the New Haven Unified School District to maximize public access to school recreational facilities and grounds, as appropriate. *(Source: Existing General Plan, Policy YFSH-E.2.10, modified)*



- HQL-2.10** **Review Maintenance Standards.** The City shall review maintenance standards regularly to ensure compliance with mandated safety regulations. *(Source: Existing General Plan, Policy YFSH-E.4.1)*
- HQL-2.11** **Funding for Park Maintenance and Improvements.** The City shall strive in the budget process to allocate funds for capital improvements, operations, and maintenance, to accommodate City standards for parks and community facilities. *(Source: Existing General Plan, Policy YFSH-E.4.3)*
- HQL-2.12** **Park Maintenance.** As new parks are built, the City shall consider new approaches to expanding park maintenance (e.g., taxes, user fees) to continue to ensure the regular and systematic maintenance of parks and recreation facilities. *(Source: New Policy)*
- HQL-2.13** **Increase Use of Underutilized Parks.** The City shall strive to increase the use of underutilized parks by renovating or replacing outdated facilities and equipment with new facilities and/or equipment that are safe, attractive, and more responsive to the diverse needs of existing and future residents. *(Source: New Policy)*
- HQL-2.14** **Promote Park Stewardship.** The City shall promote pride of ownership in local parks by involving residents and neighborhood groups in park maintenance and improvements, recreation programs, community outreach, and special events. *(Source: New Policy)*
- HQL-2.15** **Improve Lighting in Existing Parks.** The City shall pursue the enhancement and/or installation of lighting in parks where needed to accommodate evening sports activities and /or improve safety. Lighting installation shall consider the potential for impacts on nearby neighborhoods, impacts on the visibility of the night sky (e.g., dark sky considerations), and the ability to mitigate adverse impacts through site planning, lighting design, and scheduling. *(Source: New Policy)*

HQL-2.16 Collaborate to Expand Regional Parks. The City shall collaborate with the East Bay Regional Park District, Alameda County Flood Control District, and other regional agencies to expand access to regional parks and open space in and around Union City, promote greater public awareness of regional parkland, and improve access to regional park facilities. *(Source: New Policy)*

HQL-2.17 Support Expansion of Regional Trail System. The City shall support the expansion of a regional trail system in and around Union City, including the Bay Trail and the Ridge Trail. The City shall work with the appropriate regional agencies to improve access from Union City neighborhoods to these trails by improving existing trails, and developing new trail connections, bike lanes, parking, and signage. *(Source: New Policy)*

The Mobility Element contains additional policies to work with East Bay Regional Parks District on regional efforts to implement trails.

Implementation

HQL-2.A Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The City shall periodically update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to address a variety of issues related to the City's parks and recreational facilities, including but not limited to:

- An inventory of potential sites for future parks or recreational opportunities, which includes a high-level feasibility assessment that takes into consideration a variety of factors including, but not limited to, configuration, location, access, current use, availability, and ownership. The assessment shall also provide feedback on the types of parks or recreational facilities most appropriate for the site. The inventory of potential sites shall include, but is not limited to, the Turk Island landfill site, lands owned by Masonic Homes located east of Mission Boulevard, a portion of the Caltrans site identified in the Land Use Element for new residential housing and a park, and open space lands west of Union City Boulevard.
- An assessment of existing parks and recreational facilities to determine what improvements or renovations are needed to address the diverse needs of existing and future users. This shall include developing guidelines that recognize the life span of various park components and a time line for replacement. *(Source: Existing General Plan, Implementation YFSH-B.2 and Implementation Program YFSH-E.1, combined and modified)*



- **Responsibility:** Community and Recreation Services, Economic and Community Development Department, Public Works Department
- **Time Frame:** FY 20-21, and periodically thereafter, dependent upon budget availability

HQL-2.B Update Park Facilities Fee. The City shall update the Park Facilities Fee to better reflect current costs and needs. Any future nexus study conducted to justify a revised park impact fee should also consider the feasibility of expanding it to apply to commercial and industrial development. Adoption of a nonresidential fee should be contingent upon a market study indicating the amount of the fee that would be feasible without affecting the City's economic development goals. *(Source: New Program)*

- **Responsibility:** Finance Department, Community and Recreation Services, Economic and Community Development Department
- **Time Frame:** FY 20-21

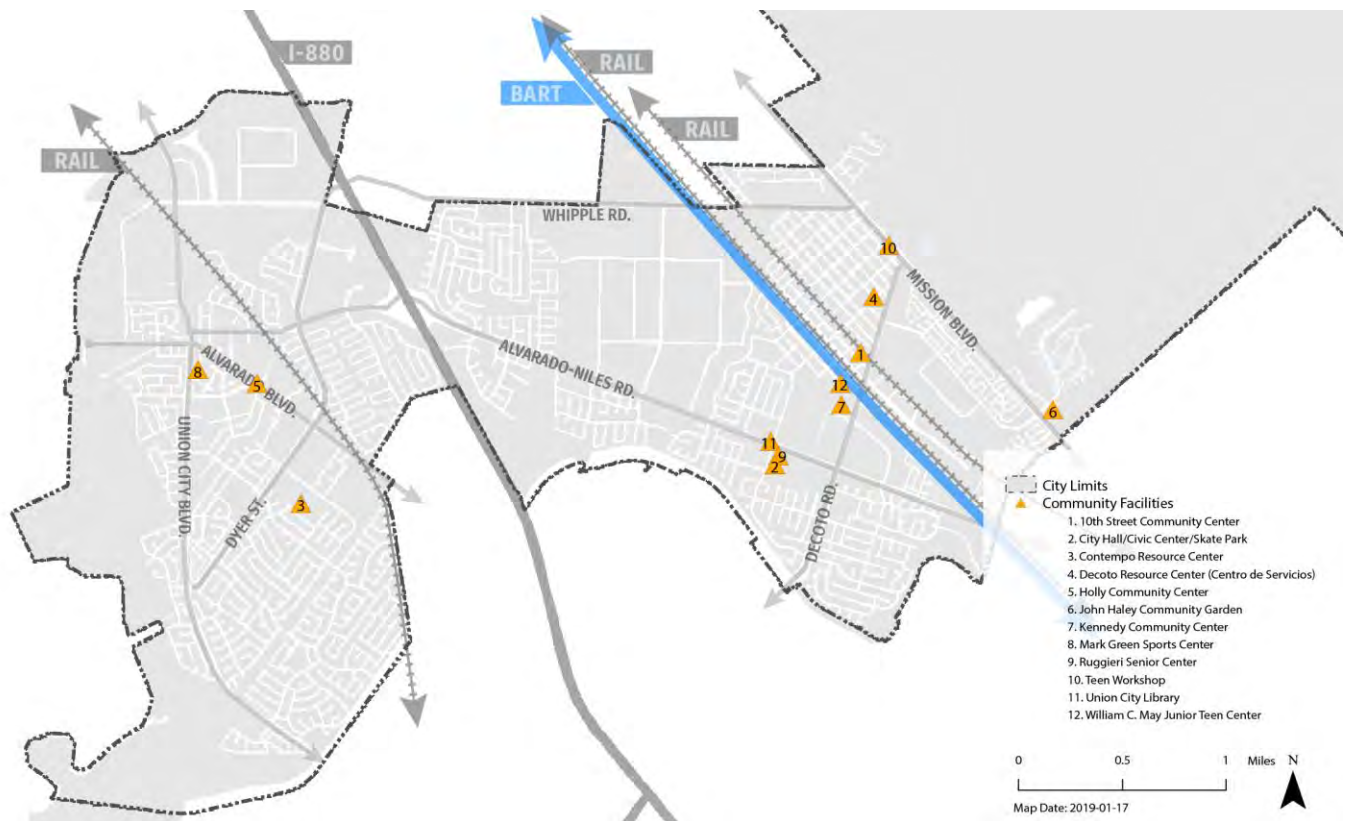
HQL-2.C Joint Use Agreements with NHUSD. The City shall work collaboratively to update joint use agreements with the New Haven Unified School District to maximize public access to school recreational facilities and grounds during non-school hours. The City shall emphasize agreements that: (a) provide access to facilities which are currently lacking in existing City parks; and (b) benefit areas that currently lack neighborhood or community parks. *(Source: New Program)*

- **Responsibility:** Community and Recreation Services, Economic and Community Development Department
- **Time Frame:** Ongoing

Recreation, Arts, and Cultural Programs

Community programs provide opportunities for community building, exercise, arts, music, and cultural exchange that all contribute to the individual and community well-being and quality of life. The Union City Community and Recreation Services (CRS) Department provides a variety of recreation and leisure services to the community. CRS operates the Holly Community Center, Kennedy Youth Center, Ruggieri Senior Center, Mark Green Sports Center, William C. May Jr. Center, Decoto Neighborhood 10th Street Center, and the Larry Orozco Teen Workshop, and shares Logan High School’s Dan Oden Swim Complex during the summer (see Figure HQL-3.1 showing community facilities). CRS also operates day camp facilities located at Kennedy Park, William Cann Neighborhood Park, and Old Alvarado/Cesar Chavez Park; the Alvarado Resource Center in Contempo Park and the Decoto Resource Center. CRS offers a broad array of programs for community members of all ages and abilities including: preschool, day camps, after-school programs, aquatics, arts, dance, sports, and special needs programs for people with physical and mental disabilities.

Figure HQL-3.1: Community Facilities





Goal HQL-3: Ensure that recreation, arts, culture, and other community programs reflect the diverse needs of the community and are available to all residents.
(Source: Existing General Plan, Goal YFSH-E.2, modified)

Policies

- HQL-3.1 Programs for All.** The City shall provide community programs that are appropriate to a wide variety of ages, interests, and backgrounds which reflect Union City’s cultural diversity. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy YFSH-E.2.1 and Policy YFSH-E.2.2, combined and modified)
- HQL-3.2 Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities.** The City shall provide recreation programs accessible to those with disabilities and strive to improve accessibility to existing recreation programs. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy YFSH-E.2.7, modified)
- HQL-3.3 Accessibility for Persons of All Income Levels.** The City shall continue to make all programs available regardless of participants' ability to pay, through scholarships, fee waivers, program cost underwriting, and other available methods. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy YFSH-E.2.6)
- HQL-3.4 Coordinate Programs with Transit Service.** The City shall coordinate programs with transit service to ensure access, especially for youth, seniors, and persons with disabilities. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy YFSH-E.2.12, modified)
- HQL-3.5 Community-based Organizations.** The City shall work with community-based organizations to expand services. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy YFSH-E.3.7, modified)
- HQL-3.6 Increase Awareness of Facilities and Programs.** The City shall continue to provide information about available recreational and community services and strive to make all residents aware of its parks, programs, and facilities through the City’s Activity Guide, website, Cable Channel, and various social media outlets. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy YFSH-D.1.4 and Policy YFSH-E.2.4, combined and modified)

HQL-3.7 Sports Advisory Committee. The City shall continue to support the Sports Advisory Committee to advise the Parks and Recreation Commission on sports programming and facilities. *(Source: Existing General Plan, Policy YFSH-E.2.11, modified)*

HQL-3.8 Assess Programs for Children and Youth. The City shall continually assess its programs and resources for children and youth and expand as necessary to ensure that their needs are being met. *(Source: Existing General Plan, Policy YFSH-B.1.1, YFSH-B.1.3, YFSH-B.1.4, combined)*

HQL-3.9 Youth Innovation Space. The City shall explore the feasibility of establishing a drop-in youth innovation and maker space that provides an opportunity for youth to create, collaborate, and explore a wide variety of disciplines including technology, science, and art. *(Source: Existing General Plan, Policy YFSH-B.1.18, modified)*

HQL-3.10 Support Union City Historical Museum. The City shall support the Union City Historical Museum. *(Source: New policy)*

HQL-3.11 Art Programming. The City shall maintain and strive to expand opportunities to develop art programming and facilities. *(Source: Existing General Plan, Policy YFSH-E.3.5, modified)*

HQL-3.12 Revolving Enterprise Fund. The City shall use its Revolving Enterprise Fund (REF) to expand fee-based recreational programming. *(Source: Existing General Plan, Policy YFSH-E.2.9, modified)*

Implementation Programs

HQL-3.A Community and Recreation Services Activity Guide. The City shall prepare and distribute an Activity Guide of Community and Recreation Services. *(Source: Existing General Plan, Implementation Program YFSH-D.1, modified)*

- **Responsibility:** Community and Recreation Services, Economic and Community Development Department, City Manager’s Office
- **Time Frame:** Annually



Social Services

The City provides programming and funding to support a variety of social services within the community. The programming and City-managed social service are led through the Community and Recreational Services (CRS) Department by the Youth and Family Services (YFS) division. YFS provides youth violence prevention and intervention services. YFS generally serves youth and young adults ages 14-24, and provides family support services as well. The purpose is to empower people to be successful in the workplace, in society, and at home. YFS provides services in Spanish and English and operates two City-maintained resource centers.

The City also provides grant funding to several non-profit, social service organizations that serve Union City residents. General funds, coupled with Community Development Block Grant funds, support much-needed programs that target homelessness and housing services, and youth, family and senior services.

Along with funding social service organizations that provide services for the homeless, the City works with community partners to address issues of homelessness. The City partners with Union City Family Center, New Haven Unified School District, and various non-profit organizations and churches to provide homeless families a safe place to park their cars and sleep for the night. The program, referred to as “CAREavan,” includes access to facilities, laundry, showers, and meals. The City also partners with Alameda County on their efforts to address homelessness.

Affordable and accessible housing for all income levels continues to be an important concern for the community. The City recently (2018) enacted several housing-related initiatives, including establishing an eviction protection ordinance and rent mediation ordinance. The eviction protection ordinance limits the conditions under which landlords can evict a tenant, and the rent mediation ordinance safeguards against excessive rent increases. The City also updated its affordable housing ordinance and increased the affordable housing fees that are levied on new construction. Other housing and homelessness policies can be found in the City’s adopted Housing Element, which is updated every eight years.

The policies in this section support the provision of programs for youths and families in Union City that enhance quality of life and promote a sense of community. This section also provides support for social service programs provided by other agencies and non-profit organizations.

Goal HQL-4: Facilitate the provision of social services for all Union City residents.
(Source: New Goal)

Policies

- HQL-4.1 At-Risk Youth Programs.** The City shall promote, expand, and ensure access to programs for at-risk youth. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy YFSH-B.1.5, modified)
- HQL-4.2 Case Management.** The City shall continue to work one-on-one with families to assess their specific needs and identify resources to boost their quality of life. (Source: New Policy)
- HQL-4.3 Family and Youth Counseling.** The City shall continue to provide youth and families short term counseling to help people improve family relationships, address academic or behavior issues, and provide support around crisis and traumatic events through the Youth and Family Services program. (Source: New Policy)
- HQL-4.4 Youth Employment Assistance.** The City shall continue to work to connect youth and young adults to local jobs and internship opportunities and provide job readiness and life skills training to help young people be prepared for the workforce. (Source: New Policy)
- HQL-4.5 Crisis Intervention Services.** The City shall continue to provide crisis intervention services for families in need, including assistance with temporary housing, family conflict resolution, information on available social services in the area, and other appropriate assistance for families experiencing a crisis. (Source: New Policy)
- HQL-4.6 Childcare.** To support working families, the City shall continue to provide quality, licensed childcare for pre-school aged children, after-school care for school aged children and day camps when schools are not in session. (Source: New policy)
- HQL-4.7 Childcare Facilities.** The City shall encourage the development and accessibility of child daycare facilities in appropriate areas in the community. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy YFSH-C.1.7, modified)



HQL-4.8 Support of Homeless Programs. The City shall continue to work with community partners and Alameda County to address homelessness in Union City. *(Source: New Policy)*

HQL-4.9 Public Service Grants. The City shall continue to use public funds to assist social and health services that serve Union City residents and are provided by non-profit agencies. *(Source: Existing General Plan, Policy YFSH-A.1.2)*

Implementation Programs

HQL-4.A Maintain List of Social and Community Services. The City shall periodically update the City's website to maintain a current list of local social and community services. *(Source: Existing General Plan, Implementation Program YFSH-D.1, modified)*

- **Responsibility:** Community and Recreation Services, Economic and Community Development Department, City Manager's Office
- **Time Frame:** Annually

HQL-4.B Public Service Grants. The City shall provide funding to nonprofit organizations that provide community and health services programs in Union City. The City shall collect grant applications and distribute funding on a bi-annual basis as part of the City budgeting process. *(Source: New Implementation Program)*

- **Responsibility:** Economic and Community Development Department, City Council
- **Time Frame:** FY 19/20, and biennial thereafter

HQL-4.C Public Service Needs Assessment and Funding Strategy. The City shall periodically update the Public Services Needs Assessment and Funding Strategy Report to establish funding priorities for the Public Service Grants Program. *(Source: New Implementation Program)*

- **Responsibility:** Economic and Community Development Department, City Council
- **Time Frame:** FY 20/21, and every five years thereafter

Healthcare

Access to health care is a critical component of community health. Union City is served by regional and local medical providers. Regional providers include Kaiser Permanente in Union City, St. Rose Hospital in Hayward, and Washington Hospital in Fremont. There are also several organizations that serve the Tri-city area, including the Tri-City Health Center, Nakamura Clinic, the University of the Pacific Dental Care Center, the Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, and others. Alameda County operates a wide variety of health care services, including mental health and medical care. Additionally, the City provides some health care screening at the Ralph and Mary Ruggieri Senior Center. Some faith-based organizations are also establishing facilities to meet the growing need for day care and long-term care for seniors. Union City also has over 40 State-licensed adult residential care facilities. These facilities are located within residential homes and provide 24-hour care for adults and elderly patients. These facilities offer an alternative to other institutional settings.

The largest care provider in Union City is the Masonic Homes of California, which includes Masonic Homes and Acacia Creek. Masonic Homes is a non-profit, licensed continuing care retirement facility and a skilled nursing facility offering independent living, assisted living, memory care, skilled nursing care, and short-term rehabilitation. Masonic Homes currently serves 320 residents, who are primarily eligible California Master Masons and their wives or widows, as well as other members of the community who are admitted for short term rehabilitation. Acacia Creek is a licensed continuing care retirement community that offers independent and assisted living, geared toward active seniors. Acacia Creek is co-located on the Masonic Homes campus and currently serves 225 residents, including Masons and non-Masons.

The policies in this section promote the provision of adequate health care to meet the needs of Union City residents.

Goal HQL-5: Facilitate the provision of accessible, affordable, and appropriate health care to all Union City residents. *(Source: Existing General Plan, Goal YFSH-F.1, modified)*

Policies

HQL-5.1 Assess Health Needs. The City shall support efforts by hospitals, the Alameda County Public Health Department, and local private and non-profit providers in their efforts to assess the root causes of health concerns and needs of residents in Union City. *(Source: New Policy)*



- HQL-5.2 Expand Health and Social Services and Programs.** The City shall support efforts by the private and the non-profit sector to expand health, mental health, and social services and programs in Union City, especially for vulnerable and underserved populations. *(Source: Existing General Plan, Policy YFSH-F.1.1 and B.1.14, modified)*
- HQL-5.3 Provide Information on Services.** The City shall provide information on health care and social services in the area, including hospice care and home health care, through its outreach channels. *(Source: Existing General Plan, Policy YFSH-F.1.1, modified)*
- HQL-5.4 Mental Healthcare Access.** The City shall work with the Alameda County Department of Public Health and local healthcare service providers to ensure mental healthcare services that are accessible in all parts of the city and at convenient hours. *(Source: New Policy)*

Seniors

There are currently over 10,000 seniors (65 and older) in Union City, making up nearly 15 percent of the population (2016 American Community Survey). Union City's senior population will continue to grow in the coming years as the current "baby boomer" population ages. By 2030, 1 in 5 Alameda County residents will be in the 65 plus age group, and by 2040, the number of older adults will substantially outstrip the number of children under the age of eighteen

The physical and psychological changes that happen with aging mean that older adults will likely need support in managing disabilities and chronic illnesses. Seniors are also more active than prior generations. Many older adults also face the challenge of living in the Bay Area on a fixed income where housing and costs for food and services are more expensive than other regions of the country. Services for the senior population must therefore be able to grow, accommodate, and be sensitive to the increasing health, well-being, economic and social needs of this quickly expanding population.

The Union City Community and Recreation Services (CRS) Department operates the Ralph and Mary Ruggieri Senior Center. The Center provides extensive programs designed to meet the needs of older adults, including health screenings, health fairs, educational classes (e.g., computer training, painting, and nutrition), recreational classes (e.g., dance, yoga), overnight and day trips, and a lunch program. Union City collaborates with the Alameda County Advisory Commission on Aging and the Tri-City Elder Coalition (TCEC), which is an affiliation of over 65 organizations in the region that provide programs, services, and opportunities for older adults living in Union City, Fremont, and Newark.

While Union City has significantly expanded senior services and senior housing in the last several years, demand for senior services continues to grow. The policies in this section focus on providing opportunities for seniors to maintain a high quality of life in Union City now and in the future.

Goal HQL-6: Meet the quality of life needs of Union City’s seniors through recreational, educational, housing, and daycare opportunities. *(Source: Existing General Plan, Goal YFSH-C.1, modified)*

Policies

- HQL-6.1 Assess Senior Program Resources.** The City shall periodically assess the City's programming for seniors to ensure that their needs are being met, which may include conducting surveys with seniors in the community. *(Source: Existing General Plan, Policy YFSH-C.1.2)*
- HQL-6.2 Partner to Provide Programs for Seniors.** The City shall pursue partnerships with other senior programs and commissions to expand reach, leverage resources, and provide additional programming for seniors in Union City. *(Source: New Policy)*
- HQL-6.3 Facilitate the Development of Senior Housing.** The City shall facilitate the development of a range of housing types for seniors, including affordable housing, independent living, and assisted living. *(Source: Existing General Plan, Policy YFSH-C.1.5)*
- HQL-6.4 Public Transit Accessibility.** The City shall ensure public transit services are provided at or near senior housing and the Ralph and Mary Ruggieri Senior Center and shall explore further reducing fares for seniors. *(Source: Existing General Plan, Policy YFSH-C.1.4)*
- HQL-6.5 Senior Daycare Facilities.** The City shall encourage the development and accessibility of senior daycare facilities in appropriate areas in the community. *(Source: Existing General Plan, Policy YFSH-C.1.7, modified)*
- HQL-6.6 Partnerships for Senior Care.** The City shall pursue partnerships with local health service providers to provide programs such as health screening, medication monitoring, senior abuse education/prevention, adult day care/support for care givers, and in-home assistance. *(Source: Existing General Plan, Policy YFSH-C.1.1)*



HQL 6.7 **Age Friendly Community Initiatives.** The City shall strive to implement “Age-Friendly Community” initiatives that address the following 8 domains of livability: outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, communication and information, community support and health services.

AARP is working with communities across the nation to create age-friendly or livable communities. These are communities that have walkable streets, housing and transportation options, access to key services, and opportunities for residential to participate in community activities. AARP has developed a Network of Age-Friendly Communities that encourages local communities to prepare for the aging of the population by paying more attention to the environmental, economic, and social factors that influence the health and well-being of older adults. Membership in the network gives communities access to resources, information, and partnerships to promote age-friendly places.

Implementation Programs

HQL-6.A **Guide to Senior Services.** The City shall prepare and distribute a Union City Resource Guide for Seniors. *(Source: New Implementation Program)*

- **Responsibility:** Community and Recreation Services
- **Time Frame:** FY 20-21

Building Social Capital Through Citizen Engagement

An important measure of community well-being is called “social capital.” This refers to the ability for residents to feel a sense of belonging in their community and to have a meaningful connection to the place where they live. The positive effects of social capital include higher levels of social support, close relationships, and interpersonal trust. These effects are associated with better self-rated physical health, improved mental health, reduced stress, and increased life satisfaction and happiness. Social connections are fostered by a place, and planning can help foster neighborhood- and district-scale connections. Programming for meeting and gathering spaces are helpful, as is programming spaces for interaction, such as festivals, sporting events, and club meetings.

The City supports several commissions to address the community’s broad interests and diverse needs, including the Senior Commission, Youth Commission, Human Relations Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, and the Public Art Board. The role of the commissions and board is to advise and make recommendations to the City Council on various topics, programs and projects.

Studies have also shown that well-rounded public engagement processes increase social capital in projects and promote equitable community development. Union City continually strives to involve the public in the decision-making processes, sending out notices and inviting the public to participate at meetings and workshops. While other sections of this Element discuss programming and services for the community, which also help develop social capital, this section is devoted to policies that builds social capital through engagement and empowerment of the public, emphasizing citizen participation, transparency, and inclusion.

Goal HQL-7: To ensure residents are given opportunities to participate in the land use planning and decision-making process through clear communication of information and engagement opportunities. *(Source: New Goal)*

Policies

HQL-7.1 Citizen Participation. The City shall strive to expand opportunities for all citizens to participate in City governance through use of communication technologies, including the City website, mobile applications, and social media. *(Source: Existing General Plan, Policy PF-H.1.2, modified)*



- HQL-7.2 Transparency.** The City shall provide a transparent process for public engagement and citizen participation through the expanded and innovative use of media campaigns to provide the public with information, public service announcements, and cultural programming. *(Source: Existing General Plan, Policy PF-H.1.3, modified)*
- HQL-7.3 Leadership Development.** The City shall support existing leadership development programs for youth and adults to enhance the understanding of the government's role in the development of their community and to empower citizens to engage and influence planning and policy decisions. *(Source: New Policy)*
- HQL-7.4 Support for City Commissions.** The City shall continue to seek public participation in the decision-making process by recruiting and appointing members of the public to the various City commissions. *(Source: New Policy)*

Unity in Diversity

Union City is one of the most diverse cities in California, comprised of many different cultural, racial, ethnic, and religious groups who live together in peace and are tolerant of one another. The racial makeup of Union City is 53.2 percent Asian (19.5 percent Filipino, 16 percent Indian, 9.5 percent Chinese, 3.6 percent Vietnamese, 1.0 percent Korean, .5 percent Japanese, and 3.2 percent Other Asian); 21 percent White; 12.4 5 percent Black; 1.6 percent Pacific Islander; and 0.5 percent Native American. The remaining 18.6 percent of residents identify themselves as “some other race” (12.4 percent) or two or more races (6.2 percent). Approximately 21 percent of the total population (all races) identify themselves as Hispanic or Latino.

A unique feature of Union City is that the community is unified through its diversity. Union City is represented by a diverse City Council that values tolerance and inclusion and ensuring the community is safe for all residents irrespective of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or immigration status. The City has a Human Relations Commission whose purpose is to create an environment in which residents may live, learn, work, and play in harmony, and in which each person may realize their highest potential unhampered by discrimination.

The policies in this section focus on efforts to improve the quality of life of Union City residents by discouraging prejudice and discrimination and creating an environment where differences are respected and embraced.

Goal HQL-8: GOAL: The City shall celebrate its diversity and work towards creating a community that is free of prejudice and discrimination where residents feel safe. *(Source: New Goal)*

HQL-8.1: Facilitate a Culture of Inclusion. The City shall support efforts that facilitate a culture of inclusion, tolerance and unity within Union City. *(Source: New Policy)*

HQL-8.2: Compassionate City. The City shall continue to maintain its designation as a Compassionate City by not partnering with federal authorities to enforce federal civil immigration law and to continue its practice of treating everyone equally. *(Source: New Policy)*

HQL-8.3: Sister Cities Festival. The City shall support efforts by the Sister Cities Commission to hold its annual Sister Cities festival, which highlights the culture of Union City's Sister Cities that include: Santa Rosalia Mexico; Baybay, Philippines; Pasay City, Philippines; Liyang, China; Jolandhar, India; Asadabad Afghanistan; and Chiang Rai, Thailand. *(Source: New Policy)*

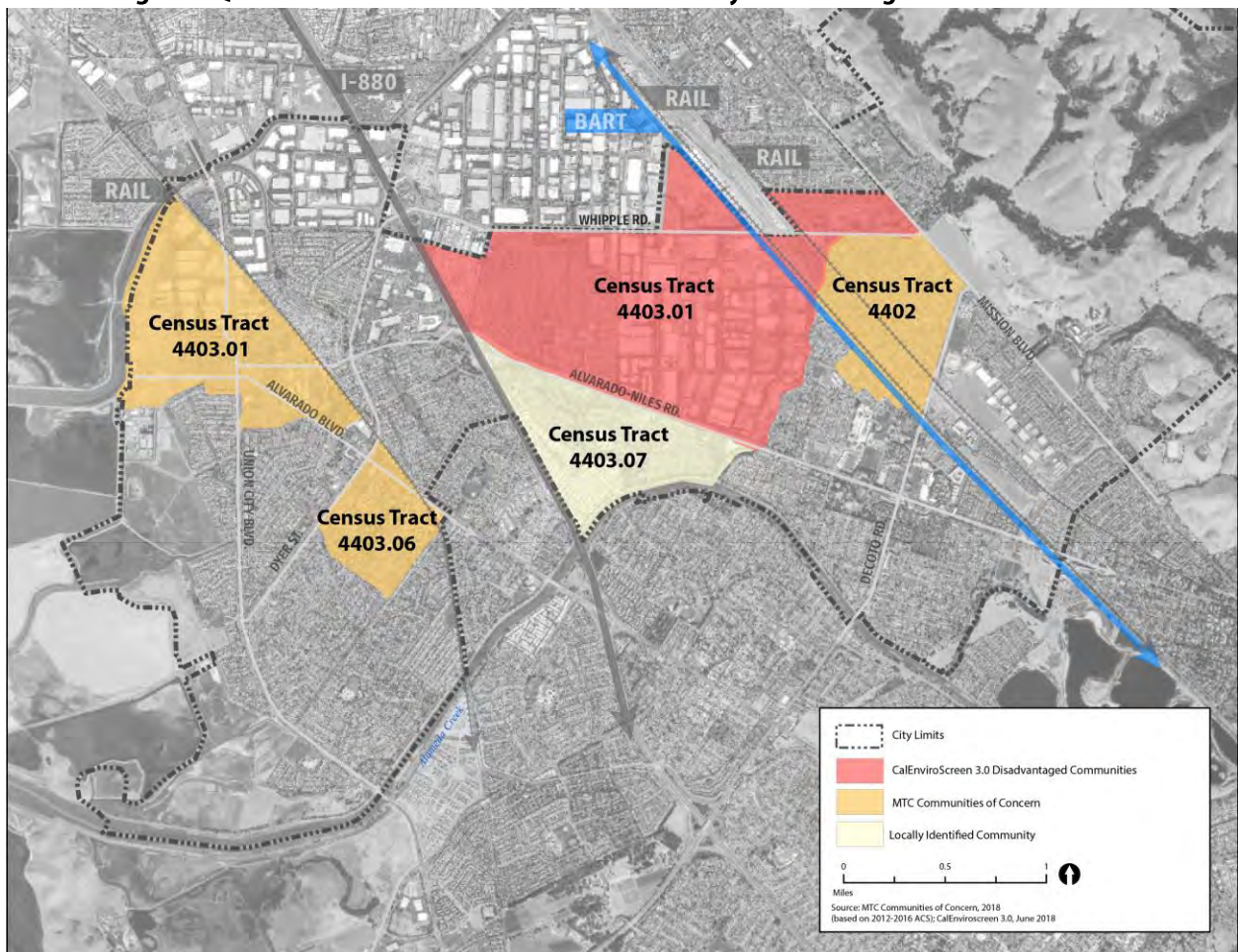


Environmental Justice

Environmental justice (EJ) seeks to minimize and equalize effects of environmental hazards among the entire community regardless of income, ethnicity, or race. The California Government Code (Section 65040.12) defines environmental justice as: “The fair treatment and meaningful participation of people of all races, culture and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”

SB 1000, signed into law in 2016, requires local governments with disadvantaged communities to address environmental justice in their general plans to reduce the disproportionate health risks in disadvantaged communities. Prior to the State law requirements, the City also prepared a General Plan Background Report on Community Health and Quality of Life that analyzed many of the topics related to environmental justice. The City updated the Background Report in 2019 to identify potential disadvantaged communities and include an analysis of pollution burden within the city. Figure HQL-9.1 shows the Census Tracts identified as potential disadvantaged communities.

Figure HQL-9.1: Census Tracts Identified as Potentially Disadvantaged Communities



Part 2: Goals and Policies

While the other goal sections in this element address many issues associated with environmental justice by promoting equal access to healthy foods, physical activity, civic engagement, the policies in this section more explicitly address issues relative to disadvantaged communities. The policies in this section should be read in the context of the other elements of the General Plan, as policies throughout this General Plan promote healthy, livable communities, which help achieve environmental justice for all. Table HQL-1 shows policies in other General Plan elements and within the other sections of this element that address environmental justice.

Table HQL-1: General Plan Policies Addressing Environmental Justice

Element	Policy Topic	Policy Number
Economic Development	Supporting local and minority-owned businesses	ED-7.6, ED-7.7
	Workforce development	ED-8.1, ED-8.2
Land Use	Enhance existing neighborhoods	LU-4.1, LU-4.2, LU-4.3, LU-4.4, LU-4.5, LU-4.7
	Affordable/accessible housing	LU-5.1., LU-5.10
	Crime prevention	LU-5.6, LU-5.7
Community Design	Walkability, connectivity, crime prevention	CD-1.6, CD-1.7, CD-1.9
	Neighborhood compatibility	CD-1.10, CD-2.3
Mobility	Complete streets	M-1.1, M-1.3, M-1.4, M-1.6, M-1.7, M-1.9, M-1.10
	Pedestrian and bicycle safety	M-2.1, M-2.2, M-2.4, M-2.9, M-2.10, M-2.11, M-2.12, M-2.13, M-2.15, M-2.18
	Transit accessibility	M-3.13, M-3.14, M-3.19, M-3.20, M-3.21, M-3.22
	Truck traffic	M-7.1, M-7.2
Public Facilities and Services	Equitable distribution of public facilities	PF-1.13
	Access to open government	PF-2.8
	Safe utility siting	PF-7.3
	Access to internet and public services	PF-8.3, PF-8.9, PF-12.3
Resource Conservation	Air quality and emissions reduction	RC-5.1, RC-5.2, RC-7.1, RC-7.2
Safety	Hazardous materials	S-7.1, S-7.2, S-7.3, S-7.4
	Emergency preparedness and response	S-2.8, S-2.11



Table HQL-1: General Plan Policies Addressing Environmental Justice

Special Areas	Buffers and compatibility of land uses	SA-4.15, SA-10.1
	Affordable housing	SA-9.8
	Decoto neighborhood improvements	SA-10.1, SA-10.2, SA-10.3, SA-10.4, SA-10.5, SA-10.6, SA-10.7, SA-10.8
	Historic Alvarado District neighborhood improvements	SA-11.15
Health and Quality of Life	Healthy food access	HQL-1.1, HQL-1.2, HQL-1.3, HQL-1.4
	Access to parks and recreation	HQL-2.1, HQL-2.2, HQL-2.3, HQL-2.4, HQL-2.5, HQL-2.6, HQL-2.7, HQL-2.9, HQL-2.13, HQL-2.14, HQL-2.15
	Healthcare and supportive services	HQL-4.1, HQL-4.2, HQL-4.3, HQL-4.4, HQL-4.5, HQL-4.6, HQL-4.7, HQL-4.8, HQL-4.9, HQL-5.1, HQL-5.2, HQL-5.3, HQL-5.4
	Government transparency, citizen engagement, and capacity building	HQL-7.1, HQL-7.2, HQL-7.3, HQL-7.4
Housing	Affordable housing development	HE-A.9, HE-B.1, HE-B.2, HE-B.4, HE-B.5, HE-B.7, HE-B.8, HE-B.9
	Affordable housing services	HE-C.1, HE-C.2, HE-C.3
	Neighborhood preservation and housing rehabilitation	HE-D.1, HE-D.2, HE-D.3, HE-D.4, HE-D.5, HE-D.6, HE-D.7, HE-D.8
	Fair housing	HE-E.1, HE-E.2, HE-E.3
	Special needs housing	HE-F.1, HE-F.4, HE-F.5, HE-F.6, HE-F.7, HE-F.8

Goal HQL-9: Ensure all members of the community have equal access to a clean and healthy environment. *(Source: New Goal)*

Policies

HQL-9.1 Equal Access to Decision Making Process. The City shall ensure that low-income and minority populations have equal access and influence in the land use decision-making process through such methods as bilingual notices, posting bilingual notices at development sites, conducting community meetings with interpreters, holding meetings in accessible locations, etc. *(Source: New Policy)*

HQL-9.2 Communicate Potential Impacts from Commercial and Industrial Developments. The City shall ensure that low-income and minority populations understand the potential for adverse pollution, noise, odor, vibrations, lighting, and glare when new commercial and industrial developments are proposed adjacent to residential neighborhoods. *(Source: New Policy)*

HQL-9.3 Communicate Potential Toxic Materials or Emissions. The City shall ensure that low-income and minority populations understand the potential effects of land uses that involve toxic materials or emissions. *(Source: New Policy)*

HQL-9.4 Increase Access for Underserved Communities. The City shall strive to increase access to transit, shopping, jobs, parks and open space, and healthcare facilities for traditionally underserved communities. *(Source: New Policy)*