



## Agenda

- Project Purpose
- Parks and Open Space Element Overview
- Conservation Element Overview
- Community Engagement Plan
- Update Process
- Schedule
- Next Steps
- Questions



# Project Purpose





## General Plan

### General Plan

- A General Plan is a long-term policy document that guides a community's growth and development
- A collection of goals and policies related to community life
- Used for the basis of land use decisions

### Required Elements



Land Use



Circulation  
(Transportation)



Housing



Conservation



Open Space



Noise



Safety



Environmental  
Justice\*



## Regulatory Framework

### **SB 1425 and AB 1889**

- SB 1425
  - Requires every city and county to review and update its local open-space plan by January 1, 2026
  - Updates must include: social, economic, and racial equity, climate resilience, rewilding opportunities
- AB 1889
  - Requires the Conservation Element to consider the effect of development within the jurisdiction on the movement of wildlife and habitat connectivity

### **Executive Order N-82-20**

- Establishes the goal of protecting 30% of California's lands and waters by 2030
- Builds climate resilience, reduces risk from extreme climate events and contributes to the State's effort to combat climate change

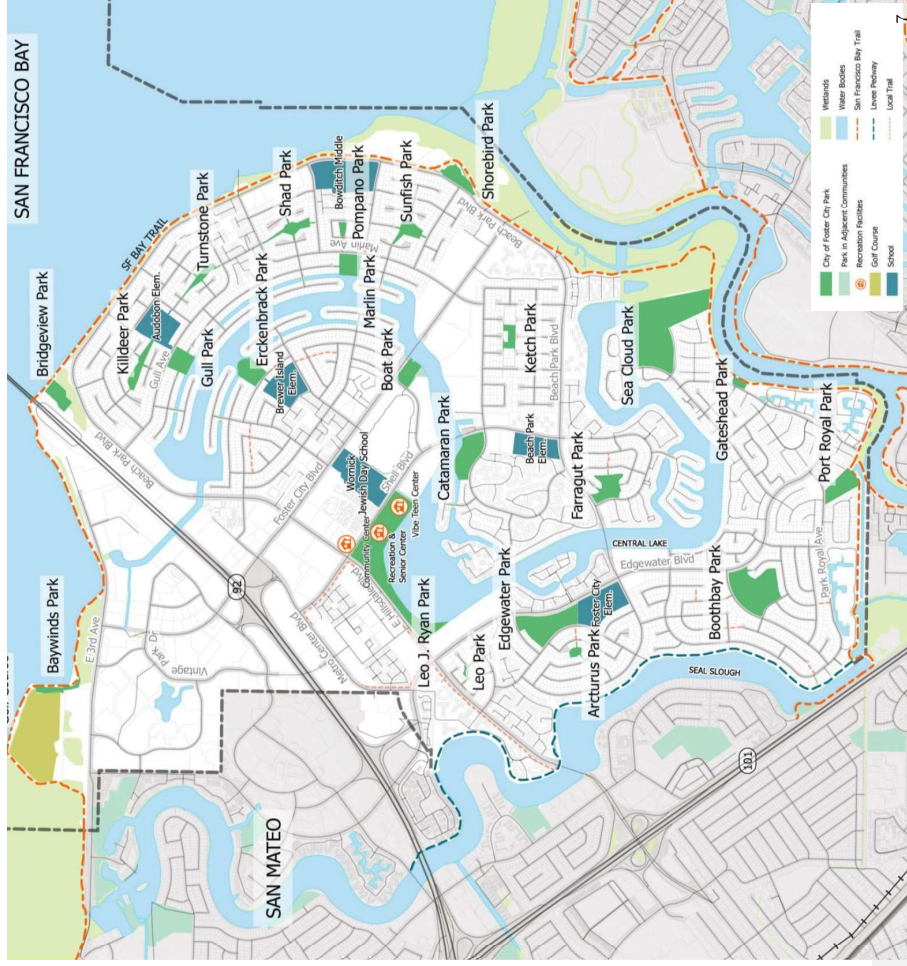


## Goals of the Element Updates

- Goals of the updated Elements
  - Comply with State requirements
  - Improve usability
  - Reflect trends in Foster City
  - Align with the Parks Master Plan and other City goals and vision
- The Elements will build off the work that's being done for the Parks Master Plan to maintain consistency and maximize efficiency

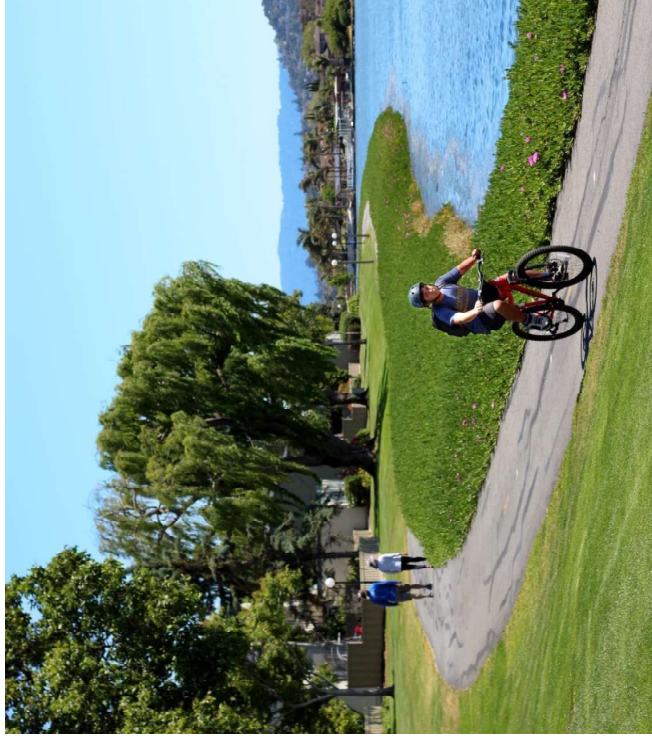


New Recreation Center rendering





## Foster City Setting



- Foster City has 24 developed parks, and is currently developing a Parks Master Plan to understand priorities and provide policies and standards for improved operations, funding, and maintenance
- Open Space resources include the San Francisco bay, Belmont Slough, the Lagoon and canals, and Baywinds Park
- Natural resource considerations include water quality in the Lagoon, shoreline resources and resiliency, wildlife corridors and habitat, and access to parks and open space resources



# Parks and Open Space Element





## Parks Master Plan and Parks and Open Space Element





## Parks and Open Space Element

- Outlines strategies for preserving, developing, and maintaining parks, recreation areas, and other open spaces
- Provides a framework for ensuring residents have access to quality outdoor space
- Includes an inventory of existing parks and open spaces and identifies broad strategies for improving facilities and access
- (NEW) Measures addressing equitable access, climate resilience, and rewilding opportunities, as well as other co-benefits of open space per SB 1425





## Parks and Open Space Element

- Guides the development and preservation of parks, recreation, and open spaces for community and environmental benefit
- It includes goals, policies, and implementation strategies to address any gaps and guide environmental conservation, recreational programs, and accessibility
- Foster City's Parks and Open Space Element was last updated in September 2009
- For Foster City, the Parks and Open Space Element is the overarching framework for preserving green spaces, protecting the waterfront, and promoting environmental conservation and resiliency. It helps ensure residents enjoy a high quality of life while enhancing climate resilience and access

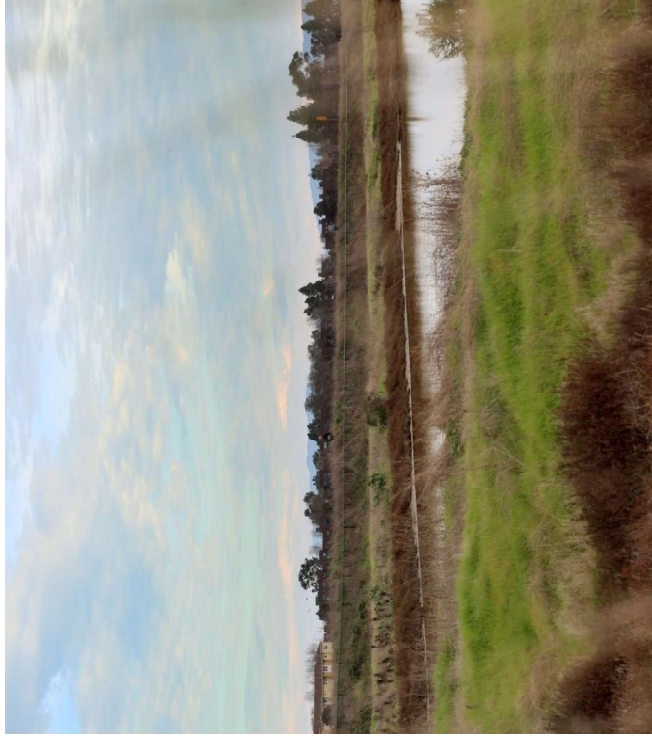


# Conservation Element





## Conservation Element



- Guides the protection, management, and sustainable use of natural resources, including water, air, soil, and wildlife, to support environmental health and long-term community resilience
- Outlines policies and strategies to conserve wildlife habitats, water resources, air quality, and other ecological features
- May also address issues such as energy conservation, climate resilience, soil preservation, and the management of natural areas
- (NEW) Measures to minimize impacts to wildlife connectivity and movement per AB 1889
- Goals are aimed at balancing the need for growth with the preservation of the natural environment



## Conservation Element

- Includes goals, policies, and strategies for protecting natural resources, managing land use in relation to the environment, preserving wildlife habitats, and conserving water and energy
- Foster City's Conservation Element was adopted in 2003 and reprinted in 2009
- For Foster City, the Conservation Element is essential for protecting natural resources, managing sustainable growth, and addressing environmental challenges in order to ensure the city's long-term resilience and quality of life through effective conservation practices

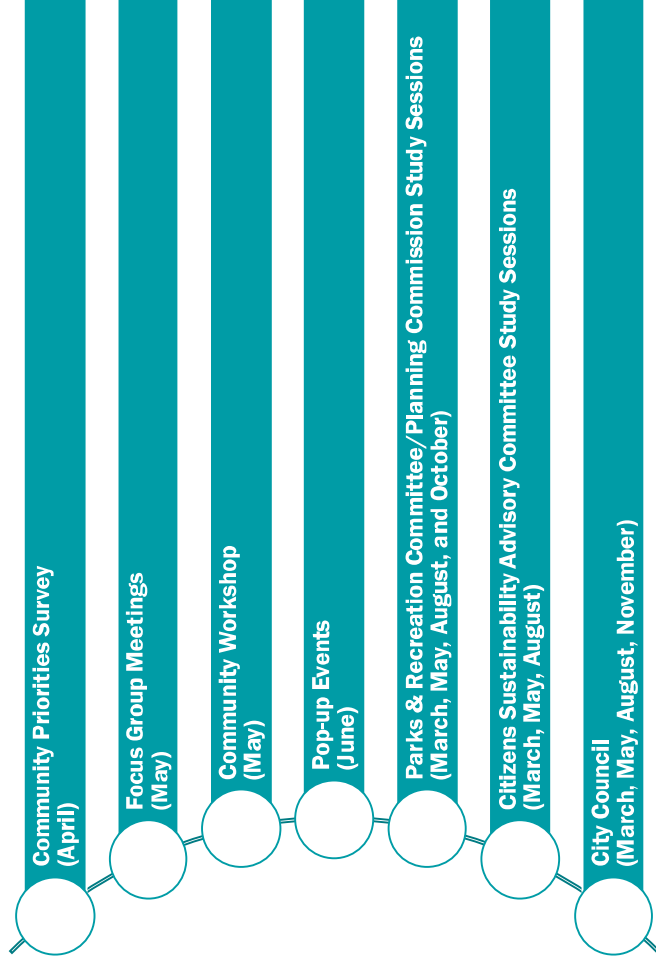


# Community Engagement Plan



## Community Outreach and Engagement

- The goals for public participation:
  - Provide clear communication on the Parks and Open Space and Conservation Elements and frames it as a separate, but connected, project to the Parks Master Plan
  - Allow for community input across projects that will be thoughtfully incorporated and reflected appropriately in each of the projects







## Community Engagement

Engagement Activity	Engagement Objectives	Target Audience
Community Priorities Survey	Expand on WRT's previous survey to gain insight on conservation, open space, resiliency, and equitable access priorities	All residents
Focus Group Meetings	Collect pointed information on the city's existing conditions and needs	Individual community groups or individuals with interests or expertise related to parks, open space, and conservation in Foster City
Community Workshop	Gain detailed insight on community priorities, needs, and challenges to parks and conservation	All residents
Pop-Up Events	Allow for interactive, one-on-one input on policy recommendations for the Element Updates	Neighborhood-focused



## Committee and Council Engagement

Engagement Activity	Engagement Objectives	Target Audience
Parks & Recreation Committee/ Planning Commission Joint Study Sessions	<p><u>Study Session 1</u>: Introduce the Project and Engagement Plan; discuss the city's future for parks, open space, and conservation</p> <p><u>Study Session 2</u>: Receive feedback on existing conditions assessments</p> <p><u>Study Session 3</u>: Receive input on drafted Elements and recommendations</p> <p><u>Planning Commission Hearing</u>: Hearing to recommend adoption by City Council</p>	Parks & Recreation Committee and Planning Commission
Citizen Sustainability Advisory Committee Study Session	<p><u>Study Session 1</u>: Introduce the Project and Engagement Plan; discuss the city's future for parks, open space, and conservation</p> <p><u>Study Session 2</u>: Receive feedback on existing conditions assessments</p> <p><u>Study Session 3</u>: Receive input on drafted Elements and recommendations</p>	Citizen Sustainability Advisory Committee
City Council	<p><u>Study Session 1</u>: Gather initial input on the issues, opportunities, and desired outcomes</p> <p><u>Study Session 2</u>: Gain insight into initial key policy topics</p> <p><u>Study Session 3</u>: Present the draft Elements</p> <p><u>City Council Hearing</u>: Hearing to adopt Elements</p>	City Council

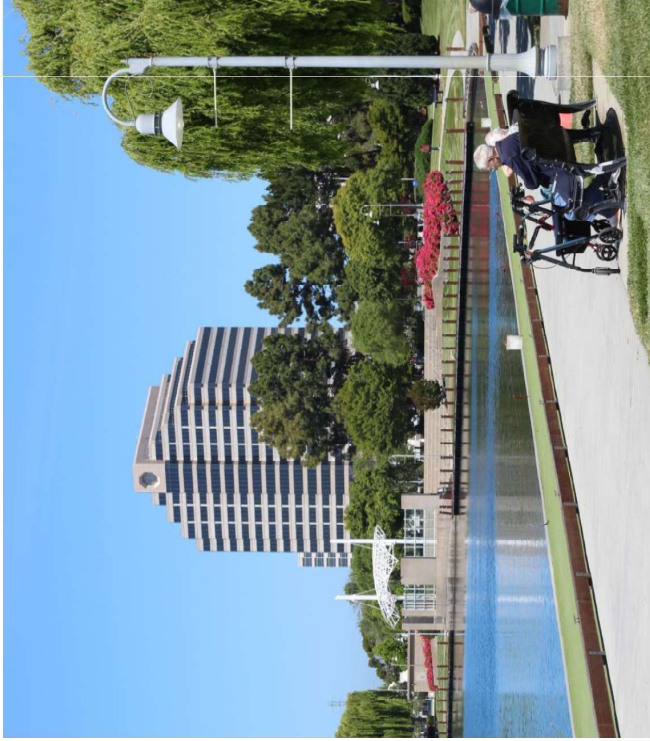


# Update Process





## Update Process



### Updating the elements will include:

Engagement with the community

Research on the condition of open space and natural resources today

Coordination with Parks and Recreation Department on information used for the Parks Master Plan

Identification of gaps, needs, and issues

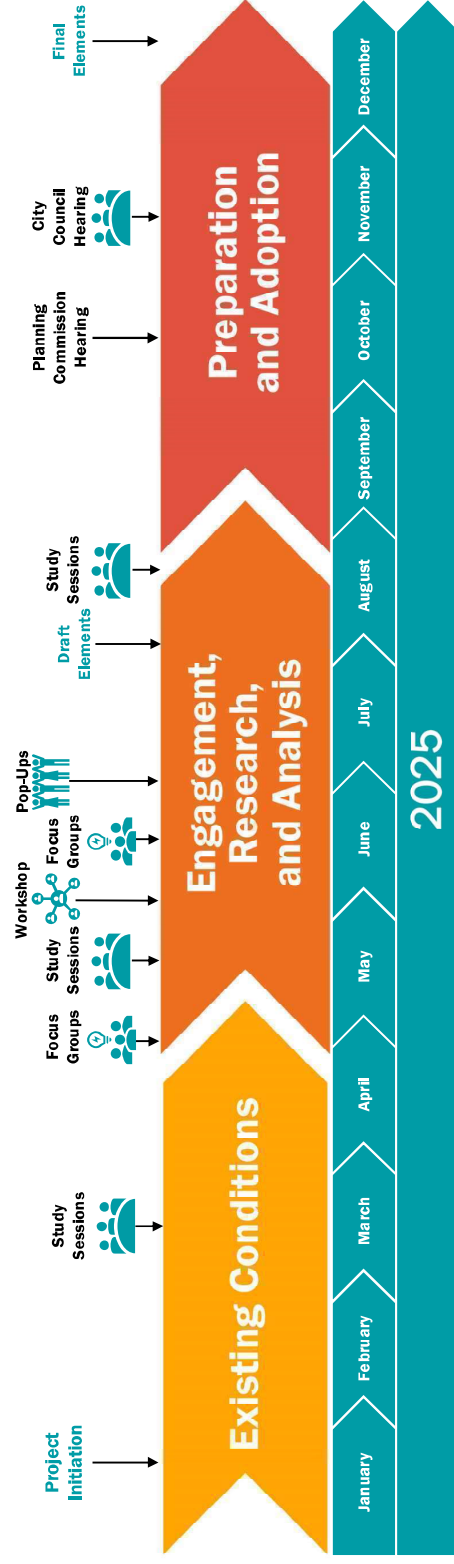
Updating strategies in the General Plan Parks and

Open Space Element and Conservation Element

Final Adoption



## Project Timeline





# Next Steps





## Next Steps

- Study Session #2 in May 2025 to gain insight on the initial key policy topics and findings from the following reports:
  - Community Assessment
  - Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment and Inventory
  - Open Space and Conservation Assessment and key takeaways
- Study Session #3 in August 2025 to gain input on Draft Elements



**Questions?**





## Conservation Element Discussion

- What issues regarding conservation and sustainability are most important to the future of Foster City?
- What barriers to improving conservation and sustainability exist currently?
- What do you imagine conservation and sustainability will look like in Foster City over the next 10 to 20 years?



## Parks and Open Space Element Discussion

- What issues regarding parks and open space are most important to the future of Foster City?
- What barriers to improving parks and open space exist currently?
- How do you imagine parks and open space will look in Foster City over the next 10 to 20 years?



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# Thank you!