



6.5 Policies and Implementing Actions

The Sciaroni Winery and Distillery dates from the 1880s.

A range of policies and implementing actions are outlined below and organized into the following topic areas:

1. Protected Historic Resources; and
2. Historic Resources Awareness

The policies mandate, encourage or allow certain actions to be pursued throughout the duration of the General Plan. Together, they serve as strategic directions for City staff and partners, highlighting where time and resources should be focused.

Policies

HR1.1 Preserve the City's historic and cultural resources, so that they may contribute to the special character and quality of the City and support its economic base.

HR1.2 Protect the historic resources that exist in the downtown commercial area.

HR1.3 Encourage the adaptive reuse, rehabilitation and retrofit of historic buildings in which the original use is no longer feasible.

HR1.4 Promote the application of sustainable building practices to the preservation of historic resources.

HR1.5 If historic resources are suspected by the City of being present on a proposed development site the City shall conduct a records search at the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System to determine if a project has the potential to affect an archaeological site and if additional project-specific study for cultural resources is recommended. The City may require additional cultural resources study if recommended by the NWIC, with the study addressing project-specific impacts on archaeological and paleontological resources. The City shall incorporate the study recommendations as project conditions of approval to ensure that impacts on archaeological and/or paleontological resources are mitigated.



St. Helena's historic and cultural resources contribute to its special character and quality of life.

Implementing Actions

HR1.A Adopt a historic preservation ordinance to implement the policies recommended in the Historic Resources Element.

HR1.B Adopt design review guidelines and/or form-based codes, standards and criteria for the alteration or rehabilitation of historic properties. The adoption of design review guidelines and/or form-based codes can assist City staff, the Planning Commission and City Council when reviewing permit requests and provide long-term regulatory consistency.

HR1.C Adopt design review guidelines and/or form-based codes that require new development in or adjacent to historic areas or buildings to be compatible in design and character with existing historic buildings.

HR1.D Develop an incentive program to encourage property owners to participate in historic preservation efforts. Potential program measures can include alternate building codes for historic structures and financial incentives, where necessary.

HR1.E Consolidate and update the existing inventories of historic buildings and houses, and develop criteria to add to the list.

HR1.F Develop sustainable development and green building guidelines for rehabilitation, retrofitting and adaptive reuse of historic resources. Identify incentives to encourage property owners to utilize these guidelines. (Also see the Community Design Element, Topic Area 1)

HR1.G Continue to develop and implement downtown design guidelines and/or standards to protect historic buildings and guide façade changes.

HR1.H Regularly update the Historic Resources Inventory to ensure that it includes a current list of historic structures in the City.

HR1.I Incorporate the preservation of historic resources into a citywide urban design plan.

HR1.J The City shall retain a qualified architectural historian, preservation architect, or preservation planner to assist with development of any neighborhood or citywide design standards, guidelines, or form-based codes that will be implemented in or adjacent to historic areas, e.g., the Downtown Commercial District, or adjacent to historic buildings.

HR1.K Require that rehabilitation or restoration of historical resources be done according to the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Preservation, Rehabilitation, Restoration, Restoration, and Reconstruction of Historic Buildings.

topic area

2 HISTORIC RESOURCES AWARENESS**Policies**

HR2.1 Strengthen public awareness of and support for the preservation and protection of the City's historic resources, while improving community access to information about local native american history.

Implementing Actions

HR2.A Expand community awareness about the value of historic preservation in order to build support among property owners and developers for the preservation and adaptive reuse of historic and cultural resources.

HR2.B In cooperation with the St. Helena Historical Society, develop a public education and awareness program to keep the community abreast of historic resource issues through a variety of programs, such as self-guided walking tours, home and garden tours, speakers' series and other public events. Through this program the Historical Society could work with owners of historic structures to install plaques outside structures to increase public awareness and community pride.

HR2.C Improve community access to information about available historic preservation funding sources and related resources. Provide information about sensitive ways to incorporate sustainable materials and design practices into historic rehabilitation projects.

HR2.D Conduct a survey of historic resources to determine different architectural types in the City and develop design guidelines specific to style and period.

HR2.E The City shall retain a qualified architectural historian, preservation architect, or preservation planner to assist with the development of any city-wide or neighborhood design standards, guidelines, or form based codes that will be implemented in or adjacent to historic areas, such as the downtown Commercial District, or adjacent to historic buildings.

HR2.F Require the rehabilitation or restoration of historic resources to be done in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the treatment of historic properties, with guidelines for the preservation rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction of historic buildings.



chapter seven
community design



The Community Design Element contains policies and actions that guide the quality and character of St. Helena's built environment.

- 1 introduction
- 2 land use and growth management
- 3 economic sustainability
- 4 public facilities and services
- 5 circulation
- 6 historic resources
- 7 community design**
- 8 open space and conservation
- 9 public health, safety and noise
- 10 climate change
- 11 housing
- 12 parks and recreation
- 13 arts, culture and entertainment

7.1 Purpose of the Element

The Community Design Element presents a framework of policies and implementing actions that integrates directly with other General Plan elements in determining the quality and character of St. Helena's built environment. In particular, this Element relates to the Land Use and Growth Management Element by setting forth a vision for the form, character and appearance of the community. It also correlates directly with the implementation of policies and actions included in the Circulation, Open Space and Conservation, Parks and Recreation, and Historic Resources elements. **By respecting established neighborhoods and historic assets, this Element provides guidance to preserve St. Helena's distinct history and rural small town character, while promoting new approaches to enhance future public and private development.**

The Community Design Element includes the following sections.

7.2 Rural Community Character in St. Helena. Identifies rural community character, architectural details and neighborhoods (p. 7-3).

7.3 Key Findings and Recommendations. Identifies key findings and recommendations based on an existing conditions analysis and extensive community outreach (p. 7-8).

7.4 Goals Defines overarching goals to guide policies and implementing actions (p. 7-12).

7.5 Policies and Implementing Actions. Identifies policies and implementing actions to ensure high-quality, sustainable and community-oriented design and construction and protect community character (p. 7-13).

7.2 Rural Community Character in St. Helena

Community character can be defined in a number of ways, but is often reflected in the physical form of the built environment and its relationship to the natural environment. A community's street pattern; the relationship of its buildings to streets; the location and design of its public spaces; and the architectural styles and landscape elements that characterize buildings, residences and open spaces are often collectively referred to as "community design." Community design is a visual representation of the character of a place, which evolves over time based on the lifestyle preferences of its residents and the public and private decisions that shape the human landscape. Community design in St. Helena clearly embodies and celebrates the rural character of the City. It can be best understood by exploring its architectural typologies and details, the identity and character of its many neighborhoods, and its rich agricultural heritage.

ARCHITECTURE

The concentration of well-preserved buildings in downtown St. Helena is important in establishing the City's historic character for new visitors. Many of the historic masonry and wooden structures built from stone, brick and timber and located along Main Street between Spring and Adams streets, were built during the City's second major period of growth in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. European settlement of the Napa Valley during this period was fueled by the arrival of Italian and Swiss immigrants, many of whom were trained stonemasons and quarrymen. These early settlers skillfully carved Napa County's colorful volcanic rocks and built barns, houses, fences and bridges. The architectural details of these structures, such as brick dentils, medallion insets, and window fenestration, lend character to the community just as do the materials from which they were constructed.



Downtown's historic character provides a sense of place for the City.



St. Helena's residential neighborhoods are often characterized by multiple architectural typologies along a single street.

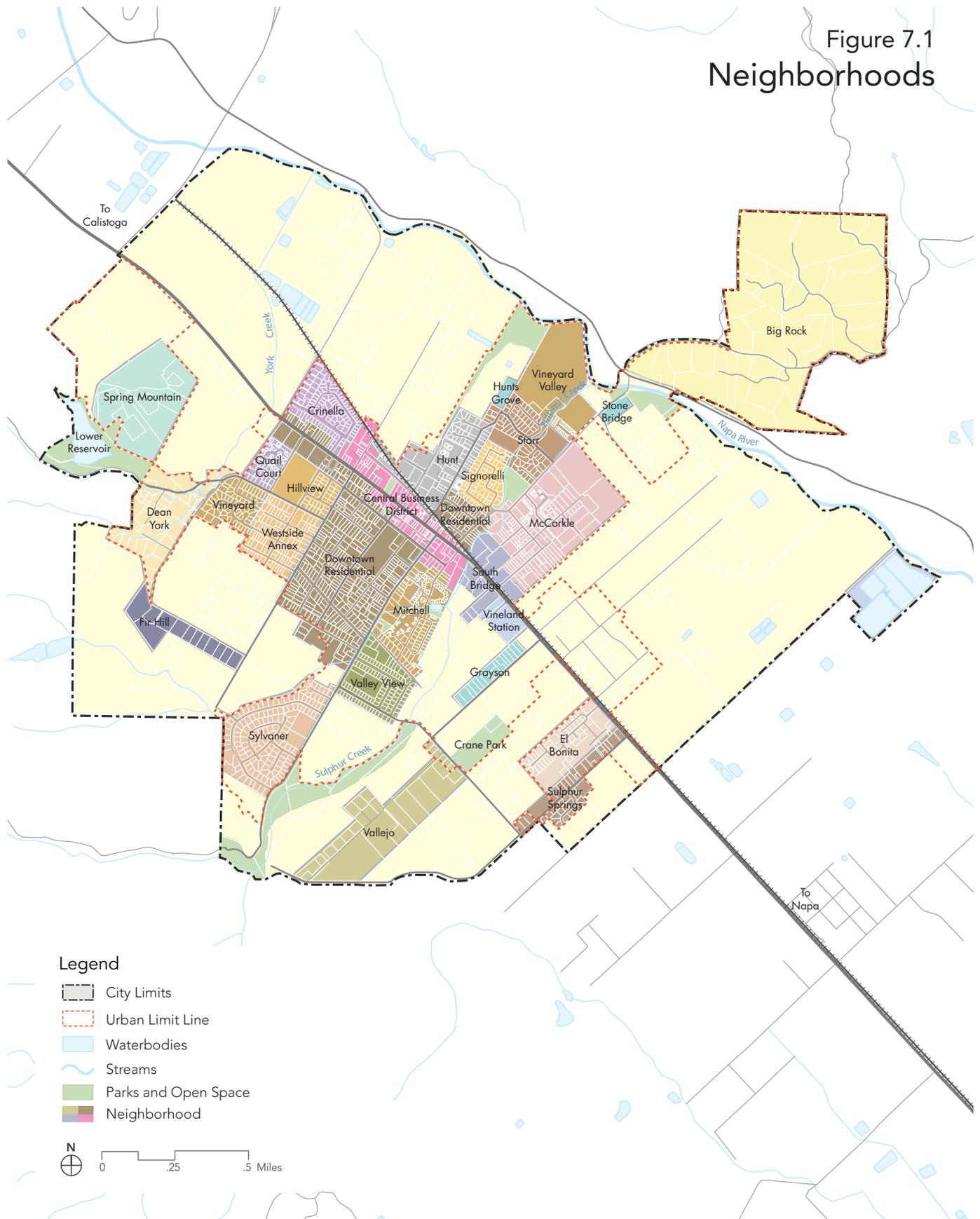


Pre-Prohibition-era housing largely typifies the City's character. St. Helena's residential neighborhoods are often characterized by multiple architectural typologies along a single street. Common residential architectural typologies include American Queen Anne, American Craftsman, California Bungalow, and vernacular farm houses. Later styles found in St. Helena include ranch-style homes and a variety of neo-eclectic architectural styles based on a combination of traditional shapes and details from different periods. Overlapping themes among both historic and modern homes include large, open-air porches supported by various interpretations of the basic column, and deeply overhanging eaves supported by exposed rafters or ornamental brackets.

NEIGHBORHOODS

During the General Plan Update, the General Plan Update Steering Committee (GPUSC) mapped the City's residential neighborhoods and identified their unique attributes. Twenty-four neighborhoods surround St. Helena's historic downtown. These neighborhoods are distinct in identity, characterized by design elements such as their street patterns, architectural typologies, land-

Figure 7.1
Neighborhoods

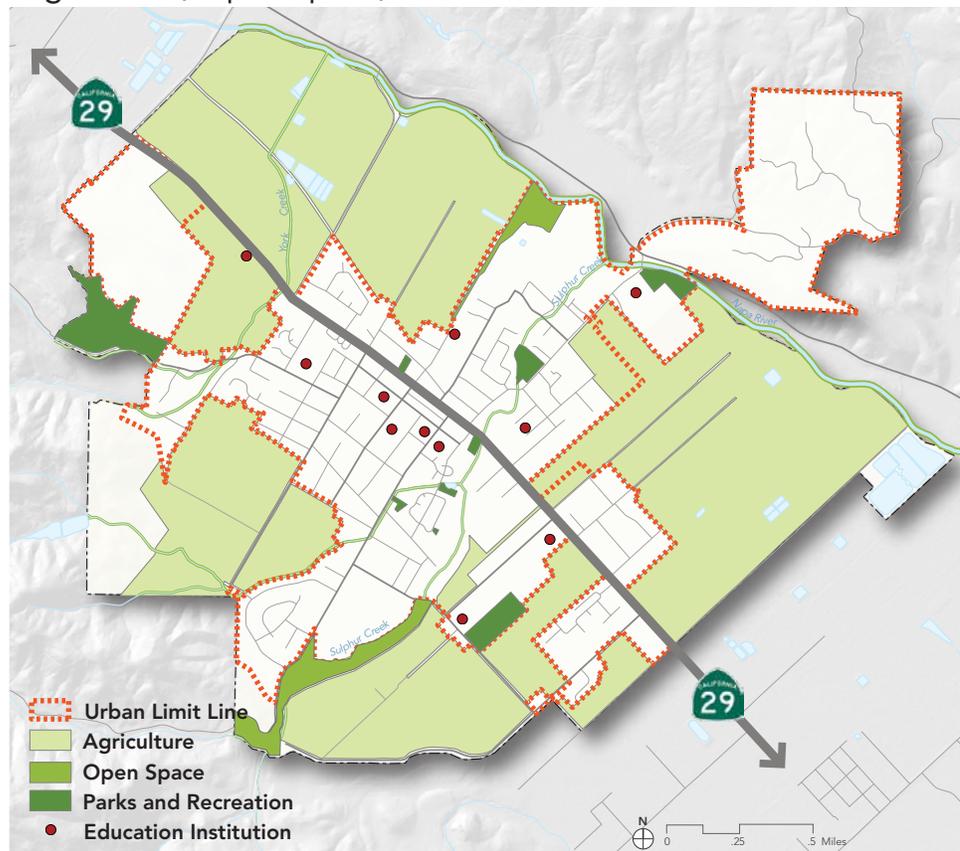


Source: City of St. Helena; Napa County
Map Revised: April 2016

scaping and other attributes that support St. Helena’s sense of place. Figure 7.1 highlights the City’s residential neighborhoods.

In addition to the architectural typologies common among many of the neighborhoods, other design elements and features are shared as well. In general, St. Helena’s sidewalks are well shaded by mature trees, with smaller trees in some of the new developments. Decorative fences are often used to establish the boundary between public and private spaces at the street level. These fences, more common in older neighborhoods, also create visual interest for pedestrians. Landscaping in the City’s residential neighborhoods is also colorful and highly textured, which helps to further enhance the pedestrian experience.

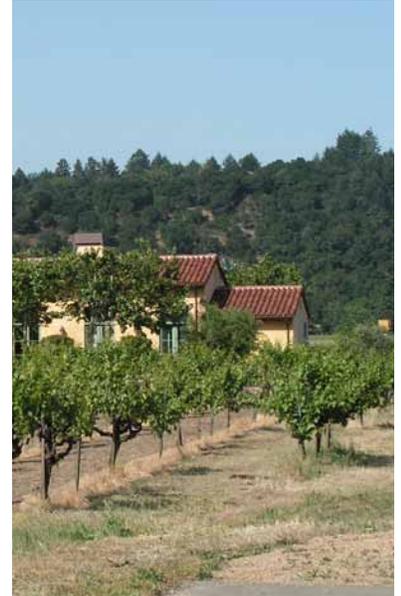
Figure 7.2
Agriculture, Open Space, Parks and Recreation



St. Helena’s residential neighborhoods also vary with respect to community design. Street patterns are an important component of the urban form that impact not only circulation and community access but also community layout and character. Neighborhood streets such as those in the Hillview and Westside Annex neighborhoods exhibit a traditional grid pattern, while the Big Rock, Fir Hill and Vallejo neighborhoods have rural and semi-rural street patterns.

AGRICULTURE, OPEN SPACE, PARKS AND RECREATION

The rural feel and abundant open spaces in and around St. Helena are very important elements of design that contribute to the overall character of the community. Agriculture and viticulture have influenced the nature of the surrounding landscape perhaps more than any other land use or economic activity. As a result, existing expanses of vineyards and agricultural lands — including “fingers” of green that reach into the urban environment — play a central role in maintaining the rural experience and a distinctly historic sense of place for City residents and visitors. Parks and other open spaces also contribute to this effect (see Figure 7.2). The City’s Urban Limit Line is an instrumental policy tool for maintaining clear definition of the rural/urban edge and preserving the City’s adjacent open spaces. Green spaces and vineyards within the Urban Limit Line also contribute to the rural environment, ensuring St. Helena’s agrarian heritage remains elemental to the character of the City, both inside and surrounding the city.



Agricultural uses in and around the City contribute to its character.

7.3 Key Findings and Recommendations

There are several challenges and opportunities facing St. Helena related to community design. The following key findings and recommendations are based upon comprehensive existing conditions analysis and community input.

- St. Helena’s built environment is characterized by a compact and historic downtown, tree-lined neighborhoods, breathtaking agricultural landscapes and a distinctive, early 20th century small-town character. By effectively guiding the built form of any potential new construction, the City can ensure that St. Helena preserves its unique qualities.
- St. Helena incorporates approximately 3,000 acres of land, of which 1,500 acres are located within the boundaries of the Urban Limit Line (ULL). The ULL helps define the City’s character by focusing evolution and change in the City’s central core. Careful development of areas within the ULL can help the City retain its historic and agricultural character while accommodating well thought out growth in coming decades in order to protect the agricultural uses and rural quality of both the City and surrounding areas.
- St. Helena’s historic downtown is cherished by residents and draws visitors from around the world. The City’s Main Street features a variety of shopping and dining venues. Encouraging new commercial and mixed-use projects that complement the area’s existing sense of place can enhance Main Street’s character while creating uses to serve residents, visitors and businesses.
- St. Helena boasts a number of well-preserved buildings along Main Street that help communicate the City’s character to those entering or passing through town, particularly from the north. Key landmark buildings include the Starr, Galleron, Ritchie, Oddfellows and Pritchard buildings. Preserving these structures and ensuring that new development complements their landmark status can help St. Helena maintain its unique character.
- Design Review of new homes and remodels should continue to promote, ensure and encourage new homes or remodels that reflect the scale, proportion and/or building materials that characterize the surrounding neighborhood. Following design guidelines and/or form-based codes for remodels and new construction can ensure that remodeled or new residences complement existing neighborhoods and contribute positively to St. Helena’s sense of place.



Residential neighborhoods possess unique identities and different types of architecture dating from various decades.

- Residential neighborhoods throughout the City possess unique identities and include types of architecture dating from various decades of the 20th and early 21st centuries. Establishing a flexible set of design guidelines and/or form-based codes for specific areas can ensure that new development and remodels complement the distinct characters of St. Helena’s existing neighborhoods, while allowing for design innovation to accommodate modern needs and tastes.
- St. Helena’s local character is strongly rooted in its agricultural heritage and location in the world famous Napa Valley winemaking region. By highlighting the importance of key viewsheds and agricultural lands to the community’s overall design, the City can maintain a strong visual connection to the essential role of agriculture in St. Helena’s past and future.

Although known for its historic downtown and rural charm, St. Helena faces the same modern concerns that larger, more urbanized cities face in terms of planning for global climate change and reducing the use of resources such as energy, and most particularly, water. By promoting sound construction practices and the use of high-quality materials, and encouraging building methods that minimize environmental impacts, St. Helena should ensure that high-

quality and sustainable design can ensure critical resources will be available long-term for new additions to the built environment. St. Helena's Main Street is State Route 29, a major north-south thoroughfare that runs through the Napa Valley. Residents consistently cite heavy traffic as one of the most pressing concerns facing the City and highlight a need to ensure that community design efforts reduce auto-related travel in favor of alternate transportation modes. Creating a community design framework that enhances St. Helena's human scale can ensure that the City remains a comfortable, safe and convenient environment for pedestrians, bicyclists and transit riders.

CONCEPTS, TRENDS AND IDEAS

Adams Street Property Visioning Project



TOP The site plan for the Adams Street Property includes key community objectives identified during the vision and land use alternatives processes.

BOTTOM The Adams Street property was identified as a good location for a farmer's market.

In conjunction with the City of St. Helena's General Plan Update planning process, the City initiated the Adams Street Property Visioning project in October of 2008. The process included several stakeholder interview sessions, consultation with the General Plan Update Steering Committee, and two community workshops. The Adams Street property is a catalytic site with the potential to meet a range of the community's needs, including open space, housing and retail.

Building on the community vision and informed by economic feasibility analysis, the Adams Street project provides overall vision and specific design direction, establishing a framework for guiding future public and private developments on the site, as well as public improvements, such as community open spaces and streetscape enhancements.

Design characteristics outlined in the project exemplify many of the Community Design Element's policies and implementing actions, including new community gathering spaces, preserving important views, green buildings and infrastructure, and an emphasis on bicycle and pedestrian connections.

Renewed discussion of an appropriate vision for the Adams property began again in late 2015, and explore additional possibilities for the Adams Street Property.

Detailed site master planning will occur when a specific development proposal comes forth for the Adams Street property.



St. Helena's downtown demonstrates its historic character and unique sense of place.

7.4 Goals

The goals of the Community Design Element are:

Respect St. Helena's Historic Character and Unique Sense of Place.

St. Helena is committed to enhancing and maintaining its existing community and agricultural character.

Promote a High-Quality and Sustainable Built Environment and Public Realm.

St. Helena is dedicated to maintaining a design framework that strengthens the physical form of the City by establishing a high standard of quality, context-sensitivity and ecological sustainability for the design, planning and construction of new and renovated structures, gateways, streets, public infrastructure and public spaces.

Encourage Community Design throughout the City that Helps to Build Community, Encourage Human Interaction and Support Non-Automobile Transportation.

St. Helena is committed to promoting community design that is human-scaled, comfortable, safe and convenient for pedestrian, bicyclist and transit use.

Strengthen the City's Neighborhoods to Retain Desirable Characteristics While Allowing for Smart Change and Evolution.

St. Helena recognizes the unique characteristics of individual neighborhoods and the potential for appropriate change within the context of a well-planned City. The City is committed to solving specific neighborhood problems and implementing neighborhood priorities to enhance livability.



7.5 Policies and Implementing Actions

A range of policies and implementing actions are outlined below and organized into the following topic areas:

1. High-Quality and Sustainable Design;
2. Commercial and Industrial Areas;
3. Residential Neighborhoods;
4. Open Space;
5. Gateways, Edges and Views; and
6. Street Pattern and Layout.

The policies mandate, encourage or allow certain actions to be pursued throughout the duration of the General Plan. Together they serve as strategic directions for City staff and partners, highlighting where time and resources should be focused.

High-quality and sustainable design is an important component of the overall community design for St. Helena. Incorporating sustainable design practices into site layout, building design, landscaping and public infrastructure is key to supporting projects that use less energy, water and have a smaller environmental impact. In addition, high-quality design contributes significantly to overall community design. Supporting sound construction practices and the use of high-quality materials will ensure long-lasting, well-built structures.



As the City changes and evolves, the following policies and actions will help guide new public infrastructure and private development in achieving sustainable, high-quality design.

Policies

CD1.1 Ensure high-quality design and construction through a robust design review process.

CD1.2 Promote the construction of sustainable buildings and landscaping in all public and private development projects.

CD1.3 Require construction and development practices that reduce energy demand through conservation and efficiency, such as the use of green building materials, site design to maximize passive heating and cooling and energy generation on site water reuse, water efficient landscaping and use of low-flow appliances, among others. (Also see the Climate Change Element, Topic Area 2)



Green building and landscaping, such as green roofs and green stormwater infrastructure, should be incorporated into new development.

topic area

1 HIGH-QUALITY AND SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

CD1.4 Strengthen water conservation measures for development or construction that result in significant reductions in local water use and the protection of local water resources.

CD1.5 Require stormwater management techniques that minimize surface water runoff in public and private developments. Utilize low impact development techniques such as bioswales and other best management practices to manage stormwater. (Also see the Open Space and Conservation Element, Topic Area 3)

CD1.6 Encourage the adaptive reuse, rehabilitation and retrofitting of historic buildings in which the original use is no longer feasible. (Also see the Historic Resources Element, Topic Area 1)

CD1.7 Promote the application of sustainable building practices to the preservation of historic resources. (Also see the Historic Resources Element, Topic Area 1)

CD1.8 Require, to the extent feasible, that all new development include underground utilities to minimize their negative visual impact. In addition, funding sources to underground electrical lines shall be sought so the undergrounding of existing overhead lines can occur over time.

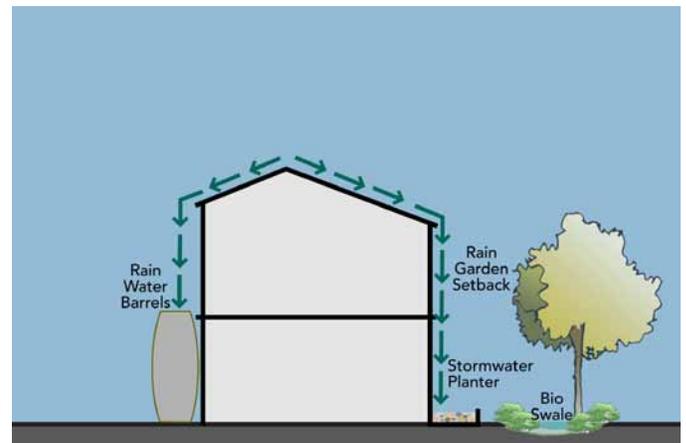
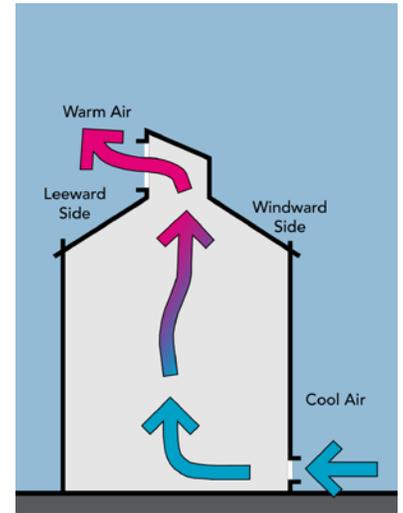


Buildings should utilize native landscaping, passive heating and cooling, and green roofs.

Implementing Actions

CD1.A Continue to implement the existing design review process for new development and remodels throughout the City. Create additional tools, including design guidelines and/or form-based codes, to inform decision-making and ensure high-quality, sustainable design that is compatible with and enhances community character. Consider formation of historic design review committee and/or policies.

CD1.B Adopt a Green Building and Landscaping Ordinance that establishes green building and landscaping site design standards customized to meet the unique climatic context of the community. Partner with third party agencies, such as PG&E, to encourage the inclusion of energy-efficient systems in remodels and retrofits of existing buildings and residences. Offer incentives for improving energy-efficiency in existing buildings. Landscaping standards should limit impervious paving and identify standards and incentives that encourage the use of locally-propagated native, low-water, drought-tolerant planting and integrated pest management practices.



Buildings should strengthen conservation measures and maximize passive heating and cooling.

topic area

2 COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL AREAS

The policies and actions detailed below provide guidance for the character of commercial and industrial uses. Commercial and industrial areas are located along Main Street and adjacent streets.

The Central Business District serves as the City's downtown and provides a variety of uses for residents and visitors. The district is characterized by historic buildings, an active pedestrian environment, street trees and other key defining streetscape elements, such as historic streetlights and special sidewalk treatments.

Other commercial and industrial areas are located along Adams Street, Main Street south of Sulphur Springs Creek and the areas surrounding Dowdell Lane and Vintage Avenue. In these service areas commercial, office and industrial land uses are less intense and often include on-site parking. Streets are typically two-lane and have minimal streetscape amenities.

As St. Helena's commercial and industrial areas continue to evolve, the following policies and actions will help create sustainable, pedestrian and bicycle-friendly environments that respect the historic character of these areas.

Policies

CD2.1 Maintain the character and identity of the downtown by emphasizing strong street definition, creating active front setbacks with outdoor seating, locating parking on the side and behind buildings and maximizing entrances and transparency on building façades.

CD2.2 Within industrial and commercial areas outside downtown, allow flexible front setbacks while encouraging transparent and accessible front façades and parking on the sides and backs of buildings.

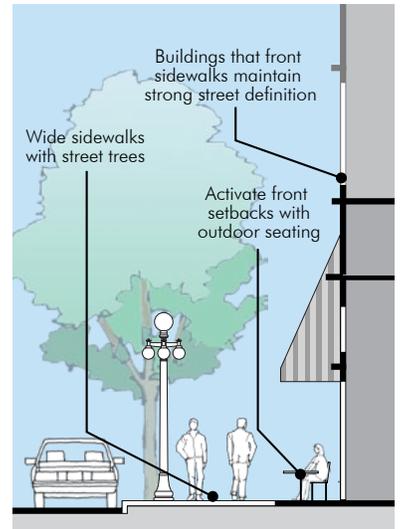
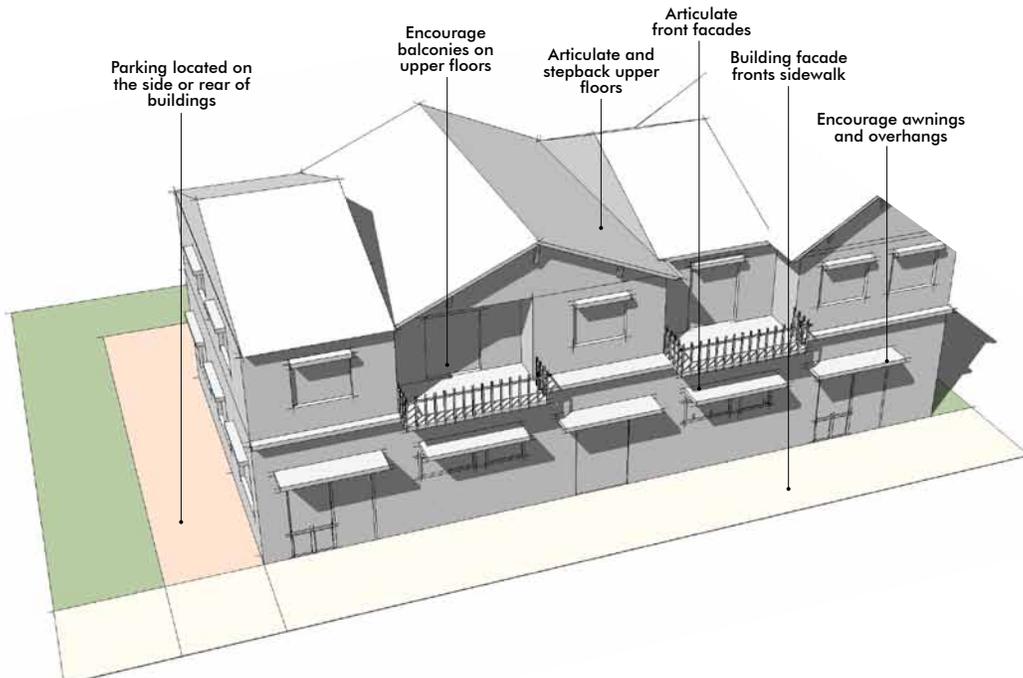
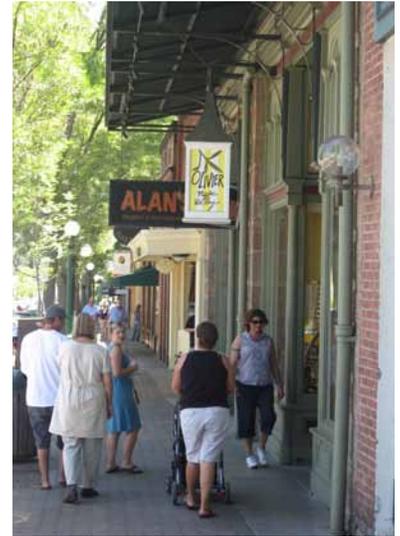
CD2.3 Encourage distinction within and between buildings by varying roof lines and articulating building façades.



Commercial and industrial buildings should be distinct with varying roof lines and articulated facades.

CD2.4 Ensure active and complete streets within commercial districts by providing sidewalk amenities, such as landscape buffers, berms, street trees, street furniture, outdoor dining, public art, signage and wayfinding.

CD2.5 Encourage property owners to improve façades and landscaping surrounding existing buildings through the implementation of beautification programs.



Central Business and Mixed-Use districts should emphasize strong street definition and active front setbacks with outdoor seating .

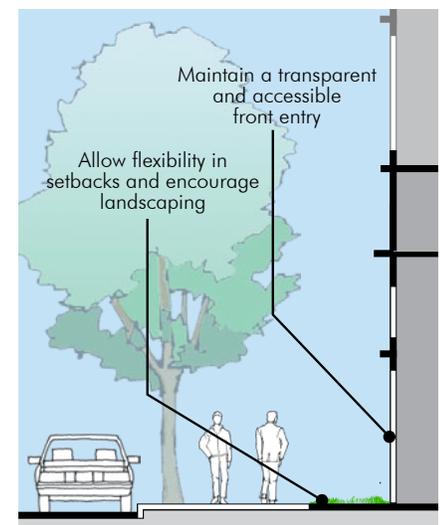
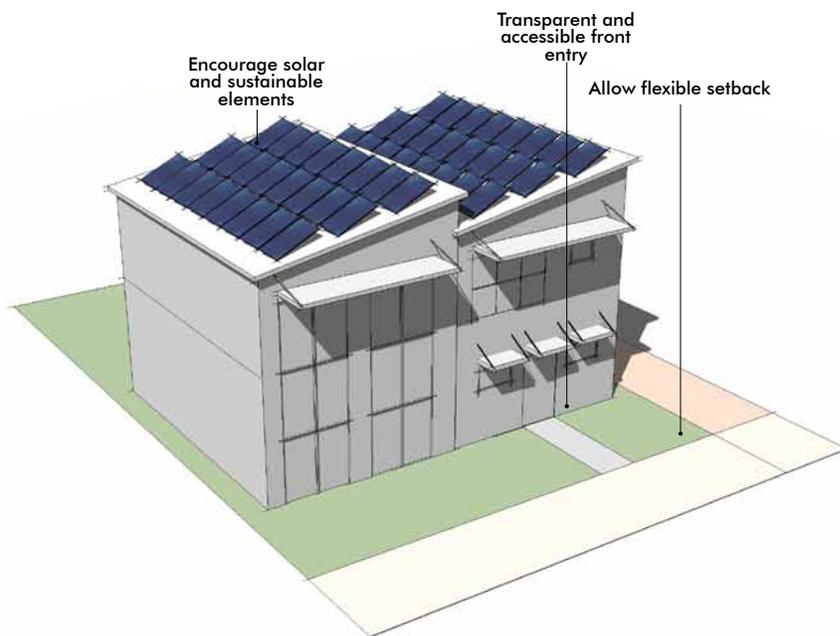
topic area

2 COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL AREAS**Implementing Actions**

CD2.A Develop and implement design guidelines and/or form-based codes, to provide oversight and guidance for new buildings and renovations. (Also see the following elements: Land Use and Growth Management, Topic Area 3; and Economic Sustainability, Topic Area 3)

CD2.B Require street tree plantings along the commercial streets east of Main Street to reflect Main Street's existing planting pattern, in order to provide visual continuity and to create a pleasant pedestrian environment.

CD2.C Install attractive and well-designed community amenities such as public restrooms, drinking fountains, benches, bicycle racks and trash and recycling containers in commercial districts. Ensure that community amenities are designed and installed to complement surrounding businesses and support the pedestrian-orientation of the street.



Industrial uses should allow flexible front setbacks while encouraging transparent and accessible front façades.

CD2.D Require businesses and structures to be of a scale commensurate with existing older buildings in the CB and SC land use areas.

CD2.E Adopt and implement façade and landscape beautification programs to provide assistance to owners of existing properties. Explore potential programs, such as commercial façade improvement programs and traffic calming incentive programs.

topic area

3 RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS

St. Helena contains several types of residential uses, including: single family units on large, rural lots; single family units on typical neighborhood lots; and attached medium-density units, including townhouses, condominiums and apartments. Various residential architectural styles can be found throughout the City that include favorable design components, such as front porches, abundant landscaping and façade articulation.

Streets within residential neighborhoods are often narrow, tree-lined and comfortable for pedestrians and bicycles. However, some streets, such as Starr Avenue, would benefit from a median, planting berm, dedicated bike paths, or other traffic calming strategies.

The following policies and actions seek to ensure that as new residential development occurs, the City's neighborhoods will remain pedestrian and bicycle-friendly and will respect the historic and agricultural character of existing neighborhoods.

Policies

CD3.1 Limit building envelope sizes and require adequate side and rear setbacks to preserve the character of existing residential areas and to avoid overbuilt lots. Require future development to conform to the pattern and density of the neighboring areas. In order to complement existing town character and protect against incursion into vineyard agricultural areas.



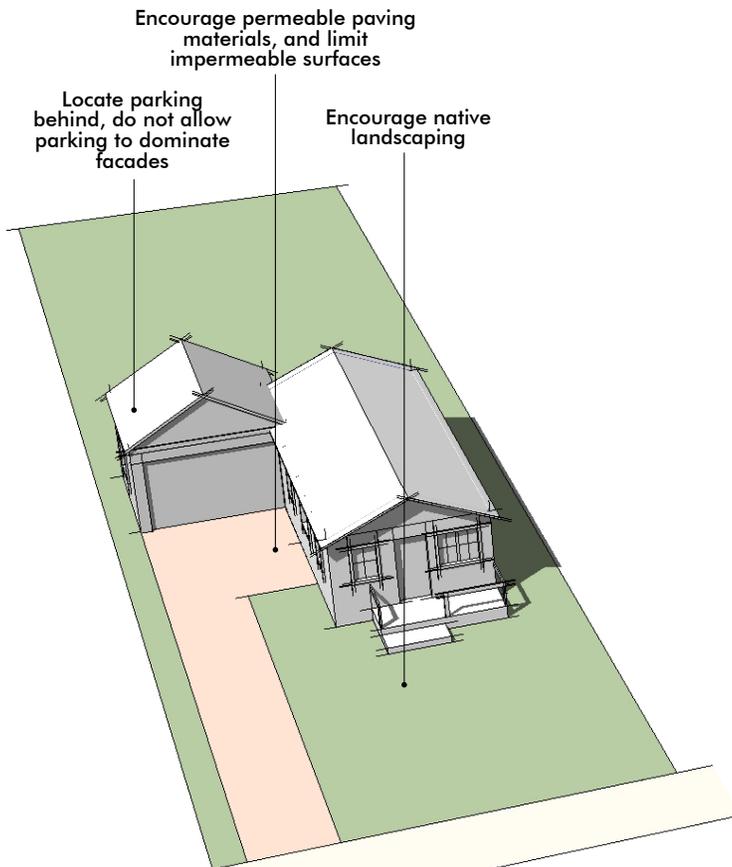
New development and remodeling should conform to the pattern and character of neighboring homes.

3 RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS

CD3.2 Ensure that new residential designs contribute positively to existing neighborhoods by complementing character and incorporating design features, such as front porches, façade articulation and stepbacks.

CD3.3 Encourage the use of landscaping and tree plantings as buffers between sidewalks and residential uses. Discourage the removal of existing trees. Support the adoption of a more comprehensive tree ordinance.

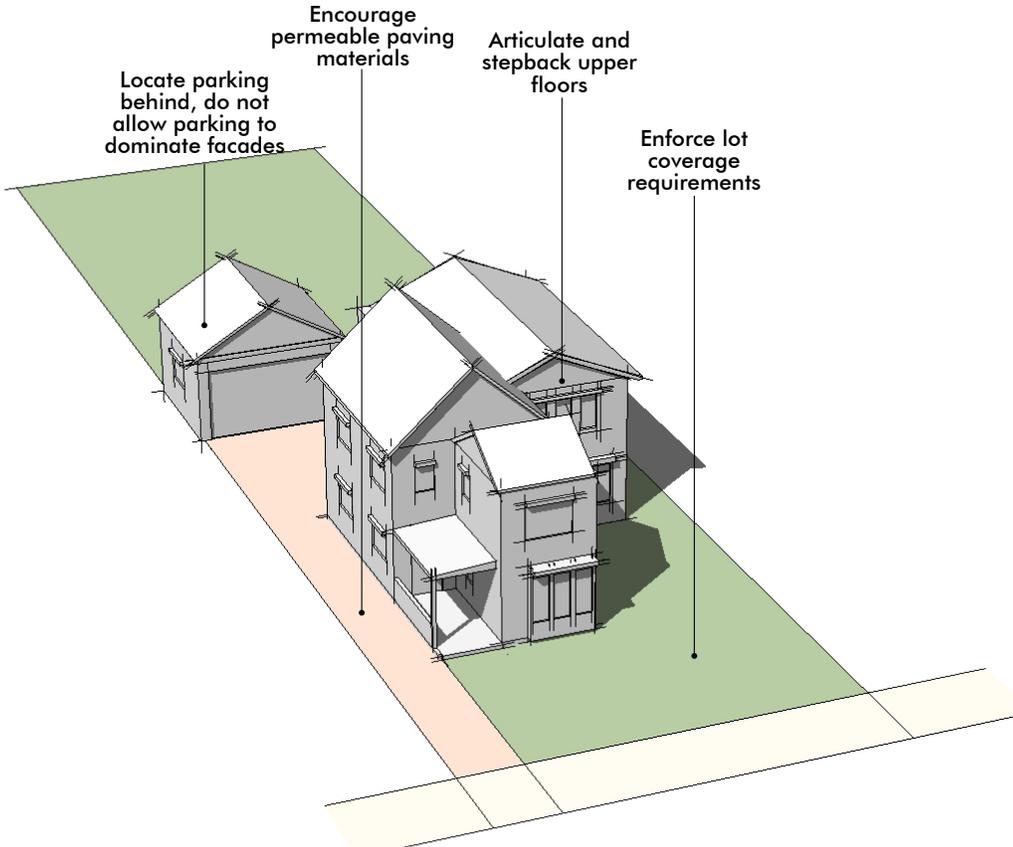
CD3.4 Ensure safe bicycle and pedestrian-friendly character on all residential streets. Consider retrofitting existing wide residential streets, such as Starr Avenue, with landscaped medians, wide sidewalks and adjacent Class I pedestrian and bicycle trails.



Low density residential.

topic area

3 RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS



Medium density residential.



Higher density residential.

Implementing Actions

CD3.A Develop and implement residential design guidelines and/or form-based codes, to provide oversight and guidance for new buildings and renovations. (Also see the Land Use and Growth Management Element, Topic Area 2)

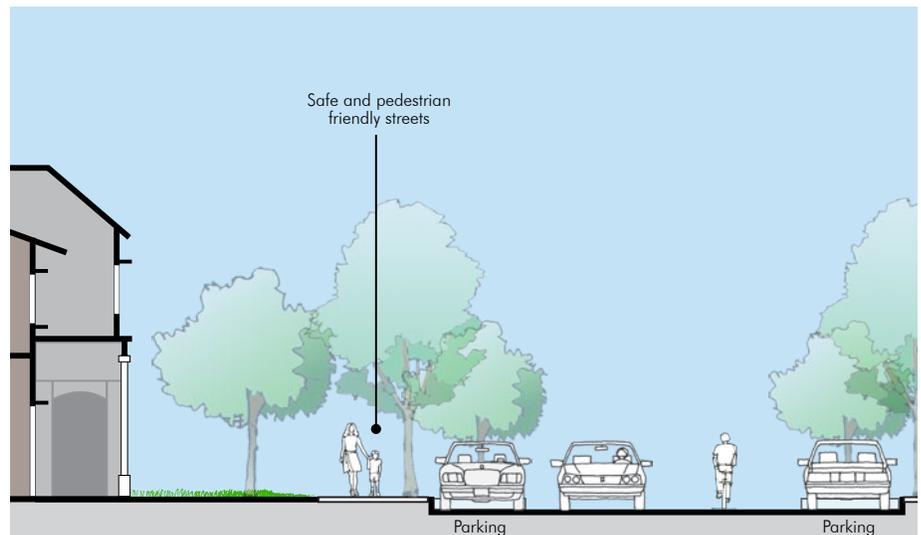
CD3.B Review the existing ordinance language limiting lot coverage/floor area ratio according to parcel size in residential areas in order to preserve neighborhood character, reduce adverse view and shade impacts on existing homes, improve groundwater infiltration, and avoid overbuilt conditions. At the same time, care needs to be taken that any ordinance revision does not impair the ability to build second units on existing lots where appropriate.

CD3.C Encourage the design and location of parking to minimize its appearance on front façades, locating it to the side or rear of the building, where feasible.

CD3.D Encourage property owners to install landscaping and tree plantings in front setbacks as a buffer between the sidewalk and residential uses.

CD3.E Require new development to include landscaping and street trees.

CD3.F Establish residential street guidelines that ensure a safe environment for families and children. Encourage traffic calming, street trees, wide sidewalks, and Class I or II bike lanes.



Encourage landscaping and street trees to create bicycle and pedestrian-friendly streets.

topic area
4 OPEN SPACE

CD3.G Explore a reduction in parking requirements for residential uses.

Open space is a defining characteristic of St. Helena. Parks, greenways, vineyards and other spaces surround the City and are interspersed throughout its neighborhoods. Open space incorporates several uses including parks for recreation and passive activities, natural areas, plazas and agriculture. The City's open space layout provides a distinct connection to the City's agricultural heritage.

Within the Urban Limit Line, parks, natural areas, plazas, community gardens and agriculture should be maintained and expanded to preserve the community's sense of rural character. Outside the Urban Limit Line, development is restricted to protect open space, especially agricultural and natural areas.

In addition to the policies and implementing actions listed below, the Parks and Recreation and Open Space and Conservation elements provide additional goals, policies and actions related to open space.



Plazas and community gardens are both examples of open space.

Policies

CD4.1 Encourage the development of public spaces for formal and informal gatherings, such as plazas, seating and small performance areas.

CD4.2 Integrate open space, including parks, community gardens, natural areas and agriculture into the community to strengthen the connection to St. Helena's agricultural heritage and provide a sense of openness.

CD4.3 Support agricultural and low-intensity uses beyond the Urban Limit Line. (Also see the Land Use and Growth Management Element, Topic Area 1)

CD4.4 Integrate bicycle and pedestrian trails adjacent to open spaces to enhance connectivity throughout the City and the region. (Also see the Parks and Recreation Element, Topic Area 6)

Implementing Actions

CD4.A Require private development to incorporate appropriate public open space into site designs.



Bicycle and pedestrian trails can be located adjacent to open spaces.

topic area

5 GATEWAYS, EDGES AND VIEWS

Gateways, edges and views throughout St. Helena create a sense of the City's rural character. Public views of the surrounding hillsides, Mount St. Helena, vineyards and older agricultural buildings provide valuable visual connections that strengthen the community's identity. Views are especially significant where agriculture is located along street edges.

Similarly, entries into the City provide important gateways that help establish St. Helena's sense of place. These gateways not only announce entry into the City, but also lend significance to the area. The northern gateway to the City from State Route 29, referred to as the "Tunnel of Elms," is attractive, with large, landmark trees lining the road. Historic winery structures and residences add character to this important City gateway. The southern entry is less pronounced, with service commercial uses, parking and limited landscaping adjacent to the highway.

The following policies and actions describe the importance and preferred character of gateways, edges and views within the City.

Policies

CD5.1 Preserve the visual and physical connection to agriculture by protecting views from streets, parks and open spaces to vineyards, agriculture and hillsides. Where new streets are extended adjacent to agriculture, encourage hillside and vineyard views by maintaining agricultural activities at the road edge. Existing east and west entries should be maintained in their current appearance, protecting and improving views of vineyards and the surrounding hillsides wherever possible.

CD5.2 Use public streets or pathways to form the edge of developed areas, allowing views of open space from streets.



Visual and physical connections to agriculture and open space provide views and act as edges.

CD5.3 Ensure that key gateways into the City receive special, character-defining treatments and landscaping. Consider establishing landmark trees along the roads that serve as gateways to the City. New commercial development on Main Street south of the Sulphur Creek bridge should be carefully designed to provide an appropriate gateway in to the downtown area.

CD5.4 Preserve and enhance the City's nighttime environment and quiet rural sounds of the night for residents and wildlife by limiting the negative effects of artificial lighting.

Implementing Actions

CD5.A Working with CALTRANS, design and install a landscaping treatment for the northbound (State Route 29 from Chaix Lane north to Sulphur Creek) and westbound (from Silverado Trail west along Pope, and any future roadway segment from the Trail to downtown) gateways into the City. Consider a tunnel of trees similar to those located at the northern gateway.

CD5.B Adopt a dark sky ordinance to preserve the City's rural character by limiting the negative effects of light pollution on wildlife and community aesthetics. Develop lighting design guidelines for new development that mitigate light pollution while ensuring adequate nighttime security.



A tunnel of trees provides a verdant gateway into the City.

topic area

5 GATEWAYS, EDGES AND VIEWS

CD5.C New development shall not result in significant light glare and noise that could affect residents, visitors, and wildlife. Lighting shall be shielded to reduce glare and shall be cast downwards. Outdoor lighting shall occur primarily for the purpose of security and safety. Upcast lighting shall be discouraged to minimize impacts on wildlife and to retain the agricultural ambience of St. Helena. All lighting shall conform to the Lighting Zone 2 requirements of Title 24 of the California Building Code.

CD5.D The City shall encourage the undergrounding of any new electrical lines required to serve new development. In addition, funding sources to underground existing electrical lines shall be sought so that undergrounding of existing overhead electrical lines can occur over time.

CD5.E The City shall investigate the possibility of designating all or a portion of State Route 29 that passes through the City of St. Helena as a scenic highway under the State's scenic highway program.



Visual and physical connections to agriculture and open space provide views and act as edges.

Similar to many western cities, St. Helena’s historic street pattern and layout is characterized by a traditional grid pattern, with variances that result from the intersection of railroad lines, creeks and regional roadways. As St. Helena grew during the latter part of the 20th century, a modified street pattern developed with wide curvilinear streets, cul-de-sacs, and fewer bicycle and pedestrian connections. Future development presents an opportunity to enhance street, bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, in part by using the City’s historic grid street pattern.

In addition to the policies and actions listed below, the Circulation Element identifies goals, policies and actions related to street connectivity.

Policies

CD6.1 Ensure a connected circulation system that maximizes pedestrian and bicycle connectivity.

CD6.2 Promote the inclusion of bicycle and pedestrian trails and bicycle lanes throughout the City, as well as connections to regional trail systems, such as the Napa Valley Vine Trail. (Also see the Parks and Recreation and Circulation elements for additional policies and implementing actions relating to bicycle and pedestrian trails and amenities.)

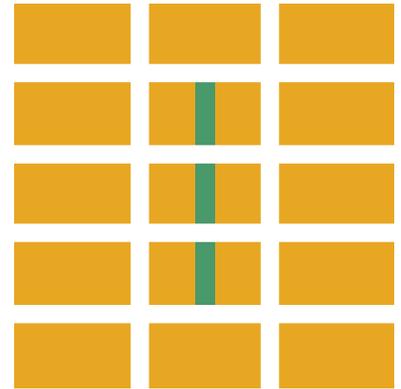
CD6.3 Require streetscape design that maximizes bicycle and pedestrian usage by providing safe and appropriately-lit streets.

topic area

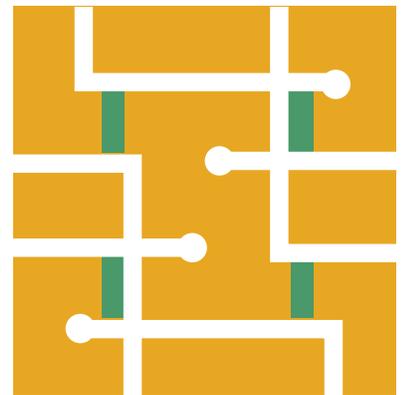
6 STREET PATTERN AND LAYOUT

Implementing Actions

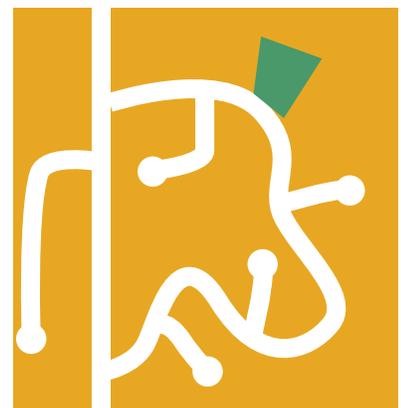
CD6.A Facilitate the safe and efficient flow of pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular traffic. Enhance and frame views of the hills and surrounding agricultural lands and incorporate appropriate traffic calming features to support and complement the neighborhood environment.



Acceptable: Traditional connected street pattern.



Acceptable: Connected bicycle and pedestrian street pattern.



Not Preferred: Disconnected street pattern.



chapter eight
**open space and
conservation**



Open Space is a critical component of St. Helena's character.

- 1 introduction
- 2 land use and growth management
- 3 economic sustainability
- 4 public facilities and services
- 5 circulation
- 6 historic resources
- 7 community design
- 8 open space and conservation**
- 9 public health, safety and noise
- 10 climate change
- 11 housing
- 12 parks and recreation
- 13 arts, culture and entertainment

8.1 Purpose of the Element

The Open Space and Conservation Element presents a framework for governing future decisions about how St. Helena will sustain open space and natural resources for today's residents, as well as future generations. It aims to protect, maintain and enhance St. Helena's natural resources and open spaces, while balancing community needs with conservation to benefit the common good.

The Open Space and Conservation Element includes the following sections.

- **8.2 Open Space and Conservation in St. Helena.** Identifies key open space and conservation areas and resources in St. Helena (p. 8-3).
- **8.3 Key Findings and Recommendations.** Identify key findings and recommendations based on an existing conditions analysis and extensive community outreach (p. 8-15).
- **8.4 Goals.** Defines overarching goals to guide policies and implementing actions (p. 8-18).
- **8.5 Policies and Implementing Actions.** Identifies policies and implementing actions to protect the City's natural areas and resources and expand and maintain a comprehensive open space and parks system (p. 8-19).

As a complement to the City’s Open Space and Conservation Element, the Parks and Recreation Element includes detailed descriptions of existing parks and recreational facilities, as well as policies and implementing actions related to their programming and improvement.

8.2 Open Space and Conservation in St. Helena

St. Helena boasts many natural resources and environments that contribute greatly to its biological health and the high quality of life enjoyed by its residents. Within its City limits, St. Helena encompasses a mix of agricultural uses, urban development and wooded hillsides. It incorporates a diverse array of vegetation communities, including aquatic, grassland, chaparral, oak woodland, riparian woodland, coniferous forest, agricultural croplands and developed lands.

The Napa River defines much of the City’s northern and eastern boundary, and its surrounding riparian corridor provides critical habitat for many plant and wildlife species. Two creeks, York Creek and Sulphur Creek, join the Napa River within the City limits to form an interconnected aquatic ecosystem.

St. Helena’s diverse natural communities host a number of sensitive ecological and biological resources, including 18 plant species and 17 wildlife deemed “special-status” species by the state and federal government. Special-status species are defined as plants and animals that are legally protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), California Endangered Species Act (CESA), or other regulations, and species that are considered sufficiently rare by the scientific community to qualify for such listing.

Key special-status wildlife species known to occur within a five-mile radius of St. Helena include:

- The northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*);
- The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*);
- The northwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata marmorata*);,



The Sulphur Creek corridor is a primary open space resource for St. Helena.

8 open space and conservation



Both agriculture and natural resource areas provide St. Helena with open space amenities.

- The central California Central Valley steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*);
- The California freshwater shrimp (*Syncaris pacifica*).

In addition, the California Native Plant Society has identified a number of special-status native plant species in the St. Helena area, including: Tables 8.2 and 8.3 provide a list of special status plant and wildlife species known to occur or potentially occur in St. Helena.

- The Napa false indigo (*Amorpha californica* var. *napensis*);,
- The holly-leaf ceanothus (*Ceanothus purpureus*);
- The colusa layia (*Layia septentrionalis*);.
- Clara Hunt's milk-vetch (*Astragalus claranus*), a federally and state-listed threatened plant species, is found in a limited number of locations just outside the City limits.

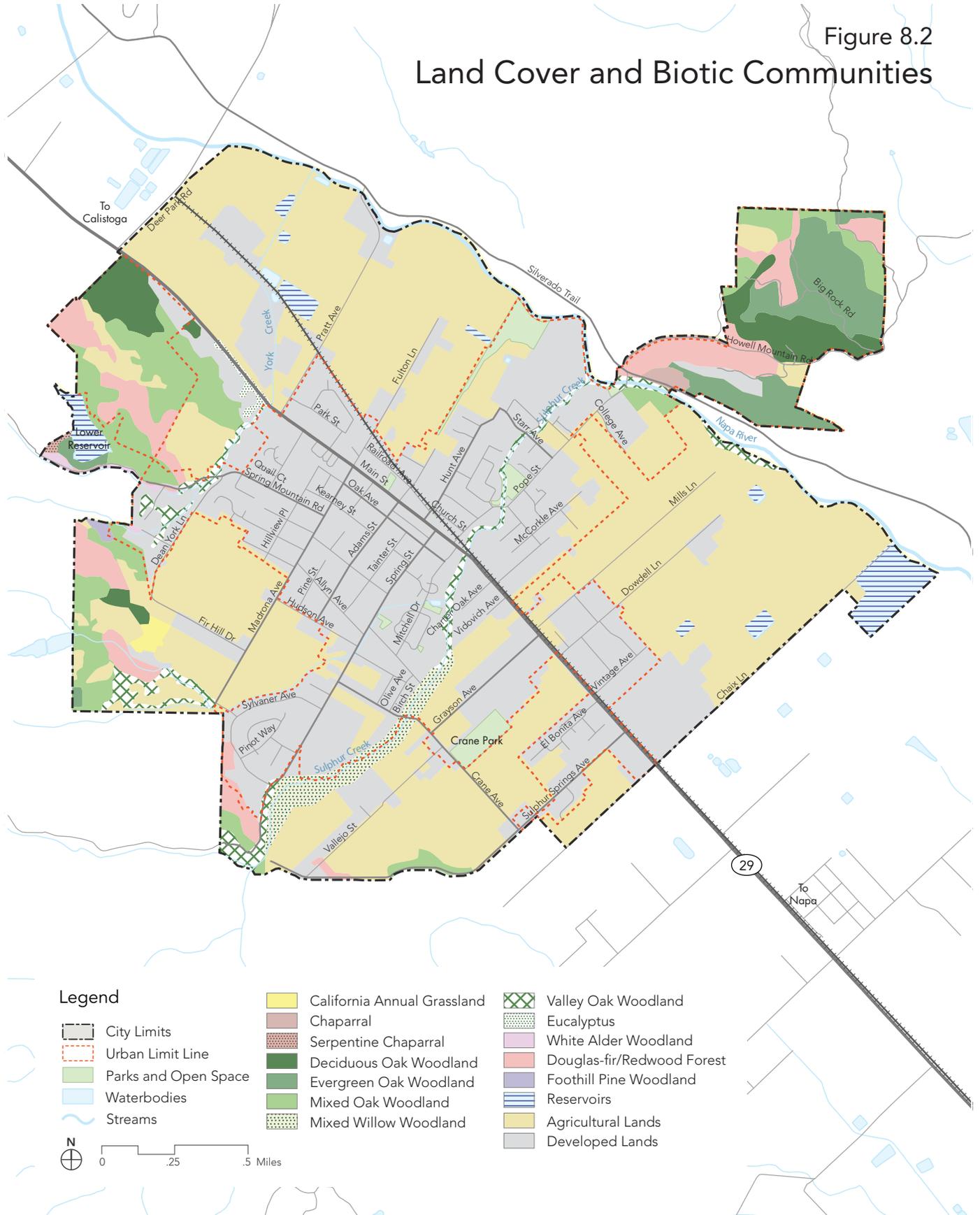
CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Creating effective policies to guide land use and open space planning is essential to conserving St. Helena's important natural resources. For instance, establishing policies and actions to protect wildlife corridors can help mitigate constraints to wildlife movement and migration posed by development, such as the loss of cover, fencing barriers, increased noise and the presence of domestic animals. Proactively addressing the need to protect wildlife habitat and migration corridors can have a broad impact on the area's biological diversity and the viability of local species. Moreover, ensuring that the Napa River and its tributaries flow continuously and function as a cohesive ecosystem will support the health of the City's aquatic species and riparian corridors, while providing additional support for local wildlife and contributing positively to the San Francisco Bay watershed.

TABLE 8.1: Biotic Communities and Associated Land Cover Types

Land Cover Type	Biotic Communities	Acres
Grassland	California annual grassland	51.1
Chaparral	Chaparral	4.8
Chaparral	Serpentine chaparral	2.4
Oak woodland	Deciduous oak woodland	75.5
	Evergreen oak woodland	102.3
	Mixed oak woodland	151.5
Riparian woodland	Mixed willow woodland	151.5
	Valley oak woodland	89.7
	White alder woodland	6.4
Coniferous forest	Douglas-fir/redwood forest	125.9
Aquatic	Streams and reservoirs	53.8
Agricultural cropland	Agricultural lands	1,311.9
Developed lands	Developed lands	1,128.6
Other	Non-native woodland	5.9
Total		3,150
<i>Sources: Napa County 2005, EDAW 2007.</i>		

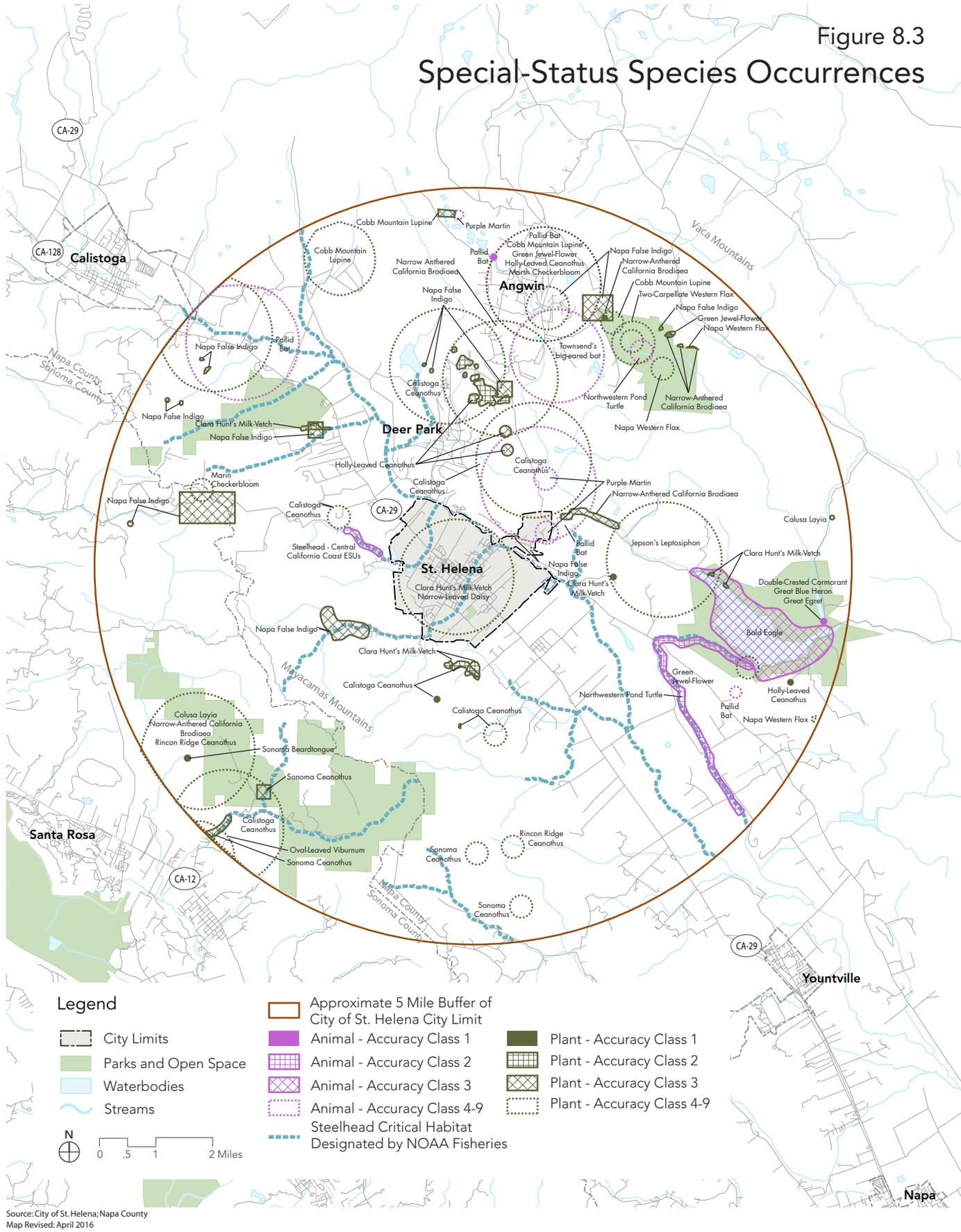
Figure 8.2
Land Cover and Biotic Communities



Source: City of St. Helena; Napa County
Map Revised: April 2016

Figure 8.3

Special-Status Species Occurrences



Legend

- City Limits
- Parks and Open Space
- Waterbodies
- Streams
- N
0 .5 1 2 Miles
- Approximate 5 Mile Buffer of City of St. Helena City Limit
- Animal - Accuracy Class 1
- Animal - Accuracy Class 2
- Animal - Accuracy Class 3
- Animal - Accuracy Class 4-9
- Steelhead Critical Habitat Designated by NOAA Fisheries
- Plant - Accuracy Class 1
- Plant - Accuracy Class 2
- Plant - Accuracy Class 3
- Plant - Accuracy Class 4-9

Source: City of St. Helena; Napa County
Map Revised: April 2016

TABLE 8.2: Special-Status Plant Species Known to Occur or Potentially Occur in St. Helena

Plant Species		Status		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Listing Category (USFWS)	State Listing Category (DFG)	California Native Plant Society Category
Clara Hunt's milk-vetch	<i>Astragalus claranus</i>	E	T	1B
Napa false indigo	<i>Amorpha californica</i> var. <i>napensis</i>	--	--	1B
Narrow-anthered California bodiaea	<i>Brodiaea californica</i> var. <i>leptandra</i>	--	--	1B
Rincon Ridge ceanothus	<i>Ceanothus confusus</i>	--	--	1B
Calistoga ceanothus	<i>Ceanothus divergens</i>	--	--	1B
Holly-leaf ceanothus	<i>Ceanothus purpureus</i>	--	--	1B
Sonoma ceanothus	<i>Ceanothus sonomensis</i>	--	--	1B
Narrow-leaved daisy	<i>Erigeron angustatus</i>	--	--	1B
Two-carpellate western flax	<i>Hesperolinon bicarpellatum</i>	--	--	1B
Napa western flax	<i>Hesperolinon</i> sp. nov. "serpentinum"	--	--	1B
Colusa layia	<i>Layia septentrionalis</i>	--	--	1B
Jepson's leptosiphon	<i>Leptosiphon jepsonii</i>	--	--	1B
Cobb Mountain lupine	<i>Lupinus sericatus</i>	--	--	1B
Marin checkerbloom	<i>Sidalcea hickmanii</i> ssp. <i>viridis</i>	--	--	1B
Marsh checkerbloom	<i>Sidalcea oregana</i> ssp. <i>hydrophila</i>	--	--	1B

8 open space and conservation

Plant Species		Status		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Listing Category (USFWS)	State Listing Category (DFG)	California Native Plant Society Category
Sonoma beardtongue	<i>Penstemon newberryi</i> var. <i>sonomensis</i>	--	--	1B
Green jewel-flower	<i>Streptanthus breweri</i> var. <i>hesperidis</i>	--	--	1B
Oval-leaved viburnum	<i>Viburnum ellipticum</i>	--	--	2

Notes: CNPS = California Native Plant Society; DFG = California Department of Fish and game; USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Legal Status Definitions
 Federal Listing Categories (USFWS):
 E Endangered
 T Threatened
 State Listing Categories (DFG):
 E Endangered
 T Threatened
 R Rare
 CNPS Categories:
 1A Plant species presumed extinct in California.
 1B Plant species considered rare or endangered in California and elsewhere (but not legally protected under the ESA or CESA).
 2 Plant species considered rare or endangered in California but more common elsewhere (but not legally protected under the ESA or CESA)
 3 Need more information about this plant (review list)
 4 Limited distribution (watch list)
 Sources: California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) 2007, DFG 2007, USFWS 2007

TABLE 8.3: Special-Status Wildlife Species Known to Occur or Potentially Occur in St. Helena

Animal Species		Status	
Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Listing Category (USFWS)	State Listing Category (DFG)
Invertebrates			
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle	<i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>	T	--
California freshwater shrimp	<i>Syncaris pacifica</i>	E	E
Fish			
Central Valley steelhead (distinct population segment)	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	T, NMFS	--
Chinook salmon, Central Valley (fall/late fall-run evolutionarily significant unit)	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	C, NMFS	CSC
Amphibians			
California red-legged frog	<i>Rana aurora draytonii</i>	T	CSC
Foothill yellow-legged frog	<i>Rana boylei</i>	--	CSC
Reptiles			
Northwest pond turtle	<i>Clemmys marmorata marmorata</i>	--	CSC
Birds			
Cooper's hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	--	CSC
Sharp-shinned hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	--	CSC
Black swift	<i>Cypseloides niger</i>	--	CSC
Yellow warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia brewsteri</i>	--	CSC
White-tailed kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	--	CSC
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	CSC
Double-crested cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	--	CSC

8 open space and conservation

Animal Species		Status	
Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Listing Category (USFWS)	State Listing Category (DFG)
Purple martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	--	CSC
Northern spotted owl	<i>Strix occidentalis caurina</i>	T	CSC
Mammals			
Pallid bat	<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	--	CSC
Pacific Townsend's big-eared bat	<i>Corynorhinus townsendii townsendii</i>	--	CSC
<p><i>Notes: DFG = California Department of Fish and Game; USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i></p> <p><i>Legal Status Definitions</i></p> <p><i>Federal Listing Categories (USFWS):</i></p> <p><i>E Endangered</i></p> <p><i>T Threatened</i></p> <p><i>C Candidate</i></p> <p><i>X Critical Habitat is designated for this species by USFWS</i></p> <p><i>NMFS Species under the Jurisdiction of the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service</i></p> <p><i>State Listing Categories (DFG):</i></p> <p><i>E Endangered</i></p> <p><i>T Threatened</i></p> <p><i>CSC species of special concern</i></p> <p><i>FPS Fully Protected Species</i></p> <p><i>Sources: CNDDDB 2007, USFWS 2007</i></p>			



Riparian corridors along Sulphur Creek, York Creek and the Napa River support a wide range of wildlife species.

OPEN SPACE FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION

St. Helena seeks to make full use of its open space resources to support public recreation while protecting the integrity of its natural habitats. The City envisions developing a comprehensive, integrated open space system that includes parks, trails and open spaces to serve the needs of residents and visitors. In particular, it also seeks to improve circulation and create opportunities for residents to walk and bicycle safely throughout the City by locating multi-modal trails along river, stream and other water corridors. These corridors are important open space amenities that can provide additional opportunities for public access and recreation.

Developing a multi-modal trail network along stream corridors can enable the City to increase the amount of open space acreage available to residents for outdoor recreation use. It can also provide opportunities to draw attention to the important role that the Napa River and its tributaries play in maintaining a high quality of life in the City. However, ensuring that these are designed and developed to protect critical riparian habitats and species is essential for the City to meet its long-term conservation goals.



Developing a multi-modal trail network linking open space areas with the rest of the community would provide the community with many benefits.

The Open Space and Conservation Element contains goals, policies and implementing actions that seek to balance the City's commitment to protecting its natural resources with its desire to expand residents' access to open space amenities. As a complement to the City's open space and conservation policy framework, the Parks and Recreation Element includes detailed descriptions of existing parks and recreational facilities, as well as policies and implementing actions related to their enhancement moving forward.

OPEN SPACE, CONSERVATION AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS

Additional opportunities to both utilize and protect open space resources can be found in St. Helena's developed commercial and residential areas. For instance, street trees and urban forests, though not located in designated open space areas, increase habitat for local and migratory birds, contribute to improved air quality and provide shade. Expanding efforts to maintain and increase street trees can support the City's broader conservation goals.

Water conservation and habitat protection concerns result from soil contamination generated by industrial, agricultural, commercial, residential or other uses that produce or utilize hazardous substances. Incorrect handling or disposal of these substances can compromise St. Helena's water quality, particularly when stormwater runoff occurs on contaminated sites. By promoting the clean-up of contaminated sites, ensuring new projects have environmentally responsible stormwater runoff systems, development practices and strengthening outreach efforts to educate the public about proper use and disposal of hazardous materials, the City can bolster its citywide conservation efforts and meet its long-term goals.

8.3 Key Findings and Recommendations

There are several challenges and opportunities facing St. Helena related to open space and conservation. The following key findings and recommendations are based upon comprehensive existing conditions analysis and community input.

- St. Helena enjoys a wealth of open space resources, ranging from wooded hillsides and cultivated agricultural areas to stream corridors.
- Recent efforts by local wineries to institute sustainable agricultural practices have contributed to the improvement of these resources. Through continued cooperation with the local farming and winemaking communities, St. Helena can ensure that its abundant natural resources are sustained, the quality of life in the City is improved, and it can meet its long-term sustainability goals.
- St. Helena's natural areas provide important wildlife habitat for 18 special status plant species and 17 special-status wildlife species. Urban encroachment and development have resulted in habitat loss and fragmentation. Protecting these lands can safeguard the City's and the region's natural rural heritage for future generations. As a City surrounded by mountains, streams, fields and agricultural lands, opportunities still exist to protect, restore and enhance the quality of these areas and ensure that they continue to support the area's extensive wildlife and native vegetation, particularly in the City's riparian corridors.
- The Napa River and its tributaries are key components of the City's open space network. The corridors surrounding these waterways provide important wildlife habitat and play an integral role in the City's natural flood protection. Preserving and protecting the Napa River, its tributaries and surrounding corridors is essential to maintaining these resources as healthy ecosystems, critical habitats and valuable open spaces.
- Agriculture is an essential part of St. Helena's history and identity. Agricultural lands comprise 42 percent of the City's incorporated area, with most acreage actively cultivated with vineyards. Preserving agricultural uses and protecting agricultural lands from urban encroachment are important steps to maintaining these highly productive and valuable open space resources.



Shade, habitat and improved air quality are all benefits provided by a healthy urban forest.

8 open space and conservation



Protecting and enhancing St. Helena's open space resources is a key component of the City's General Plan Vision.

- Creating a system of integrated parks and open space areas that serve the recreation needs of residents and visitors is essential to community well-being.
- Trees are an important part of St. Helena's natural character. Trees cool streets and public spaces, help control erosion, improve air quality and add to the aesthetics of the community. Preserving the City's tree resources, while planting new trees will enhance the high quality of life enjoyed by residents.
- The City should encourage the designation and preservation of heritage trees on public and private property.

CONCEPTS, TRENDS AND IDEAS

Integrated Watershed Management



An integrated management strategy should be utilized to protect and enhance St. Helena's water resources.

An integrated approach to aquatic restoration and management is a complex and multi-faceted process that comprehensively addresses the health of a watershed. The goal of this approach is to incorporate the specific issues of a local jurisdiction within a framework of broader environmental planning priorities. An integrated approach relies on partnerships between cities, counties, state and federal agencies, and local environmental groups to achieve mutual restoration and management goals.

Key watershed restoration and management strategies for St. Helena can include the creation and implementation of plans and projects to enhance watershed functions that affect the animal, plant and human communities within the area's watershed. Planning efforts and projects should be designed to address issues that affect the overall health and quality of St. Helena's watershed, such as: water supply; water quality; water recycling; drainage and flood control; stormwater runoff; ecosystem preservation and habitat protection; point and non-point pollution sources; and recreation and public access.



The recreation needs of the community can be met by developing a system of integrated parks and open space areas.

8.4 Goals

The goals of the Open Space and Conservation Element are:

Preserve, Enhance and Restore Natural Resources.

St. Helena is committed to preserving, enhancing and restoring its abundance of natural habitat, wildlife and open space resources.

Ensure Stewardship of Water Resources.

St. Helena is dedicated to promoting water conservation and ensuring its natural supply of water is properly managed and securely maintained. . improving water quality.

Expand Sustainable Agricultural Practices.

St. Helena is committed to continuing and enhancing its agricultural traditions by promoting and re-inforcing sustainable agricultural practices.



8.5 Policies and Implementing Actions

A range of policies and implementing actions are outlined below and organized into the following topic areas:

1. Natural Habitat and Biodiversity;
2. Open Space;
3. Water Resource Protection and Conservation; and
4. A Healthy Living Environment.

The policies serve as strategic directions for City staff and partners, highlighting where time and resources should be focused.

The open space areas of St. Helena include built elements like the historic Pope Street Bridge.



Policies

OS1.1 Preserve and enhance St. Helena’s riparian corridors for their value in providing wildlife habitat, biodiversity, natural drainage and visual amenity

OS1.2 Prohibit development, alteration and/or removal of native vegetation from riparian areas. Disallow invasive species that degrade habitat quality.

OS1.3 Protect and enhance contiguous corridors of riparian vegetation along the Napa River and its tributaries in order to support regional wildlife movement and enhance aquatic habitat.



OS1.4 Protect natural habitats that have the potential to support rare, endangered or special-status wildlife and plant species. Control invasive species that degrade habitat quality.

OS1.5 Restrict development of hillside areas in order to protect wildlife, vegetation, viewsheds and open space characteristics.

OS1.6 Manage invasive species that degrade habitat quality, especially along the Napa River and its tributaries.

OS1.7 Promote, encourage and require sustainable agricultural practices that are sensitive to natural habitat and do not harm wildlife.

Sulphur and York creeks along with the Napa River support the majority of St. Helena’s riparian vegetation.

topic area

1 NATURAL HABITAT AND BIODIVERSITY**Implementing Actions**

OS1.A Develop and adopt an ordinance for the protection, restoration and enhancement of creek corridors. The ordinance should consider the following:

- Establish setbacks for all new development projects to protect stream function and riparian habitat, while allowing for limited recreational uses and access to the stream corridor for maintenance and flood control;
- Limit use of herbicides and insecticides associated with aquatic toxicity in areas near and adjacent to creeks, and ensure best environmental management practices for all developments and industries;
- Provide access for creek maintenance and public use through easements and cooperative agreements with landowners;
- Establish sufficient buffer width adjacent to waterways to allow for wildlife habitats, trails and greenbelts;
- Adhere to Living River Principles that allow the river to meander, maintain its natural floodplain and retain natural channel features to support continuous fish migration and the health of riparian corridors;
- Encourage the use of bioswales, off-stream detention ponds and other green best practices for stormwater management;.
- Implement an Integrated Pest Management ordinance that includes provisions to minimize the reliance on pesticides that threaten water quality and to require the use of integrated pest management in municipal operations; and.
- Incorporate relevant actions and performance standards in TMDL implementation strategies for the Napa River to control discharges of pathogens and sediment.

OS1.B Restrict development on open space-designated parcels along Sulphur Springs Creek west of the Crane Avenue Bridge. All development must be outside the stream corridor and structures must be set back from the creek's edge, consistent with California Department of Fish and Game standards.

OS1.C Coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Game, the Living Rivers Council, the Regional Water Quality Control Board and other federal, state and local regional agencies with regulatory authority for water quality, protected plant and animal species, and streams and wetlands to restore and maintain creek corridors.

OS1.D Coordinate with the County, the California Department of Fish and Game and other regional agencies to augment water flow in the Napa River and its tributaries in order to enhance year-round fish habitat and minimize stagnation and pollution.

OS1.E Create a work plan for restoring sensitive habitat that has been degraded by agriculture or other past practices. Where applicable, encourage agricultural enterprises to participate in restoration efforts and in efforts to prevent further degradation.

OS1.F Create a set of guidelines for the protection of special-status species and sensitive natural communities. Guidelines can include appropriate survey methods consistent with the California Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries and CEQA requirements.

OS1.G Require a biological assessment of any proposed project site where species or the habitat defined as sensitive or special-status by the California Department of Fish and Game, NOAA Fisheries or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service might be present including the installation of new wind turbines for alternate energy. Avoid potential impact of sensitive resources as part of new development to the maximum extent feasible. Where complete avoidance is not possible, the project applicant must secure any required authorizations from jurisdictional agencies and provide adequate replacement mitigation to ensure there is no net loss in habitat acreage or values.

OS1.H Require all proposed projects adjacent to a creek corridor or located in the City's hillside areas to submit a management plan for protecting natural habitats, including provisions to:

- Employ supplemental planting and maintenance of grasses, shrubs and trees of similar quality and quantity to provide adequate vegetation cover to keep the watersheds on steep slopes and along streams in good condition, and to provide shelter and food for wildlife;
- Provide protection for wildlife habitat.

topic area

1 NATURAL HABITAT AND BIODIVERSITY

OS1.I Require new development to be sited to maximize the protection of native tree species, riparian vegetation, important concentrations of natural plants and sensitive wildlife habitat.

OS1.J Discourage and minimize the installation of deer fencing to maintain wildlife corridors and support regional wildlife movement.

OS1.K Require environmental review of new agricultural uses, including, but not limited to, farming, horticulture, floriculture and viticulture, animal husbandry and livestock farming. The environmental review shall ensure that no sensitive biological resources would be adversely affected. Viticulture review must include the replanting of existing vineyards in accordance with County regulations.

OS1.L Discourage removal of trees for agricultural or other development in hillside areas. Ensure Woodlands and Watershed restrictions are followed.

OS1.M Encourage local farmers to employ sustainable agricultural practices wherever possible. Support agricultural activities that incorporate best sustainable agricultural management practices including participation in local programs such as the Napa Valley Vintners - Napa Green Program and the California Certified Organic Farmers certification program.

OS1.N Conduct a study to determine if the natural build-up of gravel in Sulphur Springs Creek will result in a high risk of flooding. Limit development to non-flood risk areas using FEMA's 100 year flood zone at minimum, and help educate existing development to be aware of flood risks and available State and Federal insurance opportunities. Ensure that implementation measures contribute positively to the preservation of the creek and its corridor.

OS1.O As part of new development, avoid disturbance to and loss of bird nests in active use by scheduling vegetation removal and new construction during the non-nesting season (September through January) or by conducting a preconstruction



Signage programs can raise awareness about fragile natural systems.

survey by a qualified biologist if vegetation removal and construction is initiated during the nesting season (February through August). Surveys for nesting birds will be conducted no earlier than 14 days prior to tree removal and/or breaking ground, 2) in the event that nesting birds are found, the project applicant will consult with CDFG and obtain approval for nest-protection buffers prior to tree removal and/or ground-breeding activities, and 3) nest protection buffers will remain in effect until the young have fledged.

OS1.P Avoid potential impacts on jurisdictional wetlands and other waters as part of new development to the maximum extent feasible. Where complete avoidance is not possible, the project applicant must secure any required authorizations from jurisdictional agencies and provide adequate replacement mitigation to ensure there is not less in habitat acreage or values.

OS1.Q Carry out the removal of the Upper Dam on York Creek sufficient to allow the passage of fish, especially Central California steelhead, a threatened species, and complete the restoration of historical fish habitat above the dam.

topic area
2 OPEN SPACE

Policies

OS2.1 Maintain agriculture as the mainstay of the local economy by preserving agricultural lands as an invaluable and irreplaceable open space resource. (Also see the Land Use and Growth Management Element for additional policies and implementing actions relating to agriculture.)

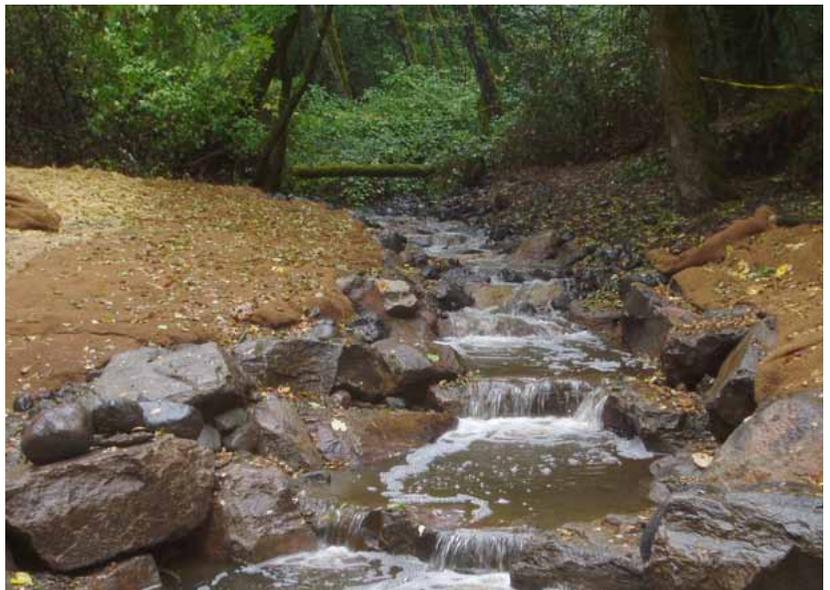
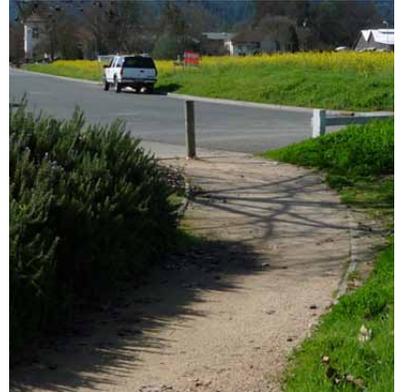
OS2.2 Preserve open space for mineral resources. Ensure compliance with State requirements in the preservation of known locations of mineral resources.

OS2.3 Preserve open space for recreational uses, including a bicycle and pedestrian trail system along creek corridors when compatible with riparian vegetation and wildlife habitat. Where possible, integrate stream corridors with trails and other recreational open space, provided that the vegetation, habitat value and water quality is not significantly impacted.

OS2.4 Ensure convenient public access between developed areas and stream corridors by providing access at frequent intervals.

OS2.5 Limit public access to habitat areas when public access will significantly impact the sensitivity of the habitat area.

OS2.6 Support floodplain management strategies that ensure adequate open space for flood management consistent with Living River Principles, FEMA and State requirements at a minimum. (Also see the Public Health, Safety and Noise Element for additional policies and implementing actions relating to flood management.)



The City of St. Helena should continue to develop relationships with State and Federal agencies to identify, fund and implement projects that increase the awareness of natural systems.

Implementing Actions

OS2.A Periodically update the bicycle and pedestrian master plan to establish alignments for proposed trails, design standards, amenities and phasing. Determine and pursue the appropriate funding mechanisms for initial improvements and the long-term maintenance of the trail system, such as a landscape assessment district, real estate transfer tax, transient-occupancy tax or bond measure. (Also see the following elements: Circulation, Topic Area 2; and Parks and Recreation, Topic Area 6)

OS2.B Adopt a land dedication ordinance that requires developers to provide land and improvements, such as trails and re-vegetation, along both sides of water corridors as a condition of subdivision approval for areas adjacent or in the vicinity of St Helena waterways. The width of dedicated corridors should be established in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Game.

OS 2.C Pursue easements to open space areas that do not have adequate access for maintenance and management purposes.

OS2.D Provide for open space opportunities by including passive and active public recreation areas within projects as they develop.

OS2.E Explore the possibility of public use or agricultural option of the wastewater treatment plant spray field in the form of trails and passive open space or other agricultural option.

Policies

OS3.1 Promote stormwater management techniques that minimize surface water runoff in public and private developments. Utilize low impact development techniques to best manage stormwater through conservation, on-site filtration and water recycling, and ensure compliance with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

OS3.2 Reduce stormwater runoff in developed areas to protect water quality in creeks. Incorporate sustainable low impact design features in the design of infrastructure.



St. Helena should strive to protect and enhance its natural resources.

Implementing Actions

OS3.A Manage stormwater runoff in compliance with the City’s Stormwater and Runoff Pollution Control Ordinance, Stormwater Management Standards for Construction and Post-Construction, and the Development Manual Stormwater Standards, to ensure compliance with the City’s NPDES permit. Implement a surface water quality monitoring program to evaluate the effectiveness of stormwater management program activities in reducing the discharge of pollutants to receiving waters to the maximum extent practicable.

OS3.B Prevent water pollution from point and non-point sources, including runoff from agriculture, through implementation of City adopted best management practices in applicable permits, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), and the Plan for California’s Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program. Continue to adopt new and more effective and efficient best practices and programs.

OS3.C Minimize stormwater runoff and pollution by encouraging low impact design features, such as pervious parking surfaces, bioswales and filter strips in new development projects. The City should be a model for incorporating low impact design elements as it implements streetscape and landscape improvements. In addition, The City should retrofit the existing public landscape with natural vegetative coverings or drainage systems that promote infiltration into the ground that can help detain stormwater and reduce pollution attributable to runoff. (Also see the Community Design Element, Topic Area 1)



Bioswales are a great example of a low impact design element.

topic area

3 WATER QUALITY AND CONSERVATION

OS3.D Maintain the City's water management program, for implementing water conservation efforts for households, businesses, industries, public infrastructure and agricultural activities. This program should include the following measures:

Identify building, plumbing and landscaping standards and technologies that conserve water, especially;

- during water shortages;
- Implement standards that require low-flow appliances and fixtures in all new developments; and
- Encourage and model the use of drought tolerant and native vegetation in landscaping.

OS3.E Promote the installation of drought tolerant and native plants in landscaping throughout the City. Potential measures include:

- An education program that details water conservation measures for use in local landscaping;
- Working with local nurseries to encourage education, demonstration and sales of drought tolerant and native plants, and water-wise irrigation systems. (Also see the Public Facilities and Services Element for additional policies and implementing actions relating to water conservation);
- Require City parks and properties to be landscaped with drought tolerant native plants that allow for high shade capacity wherever possible, and use water-wise irrigation systems as a model for residents and businesses.

(Also see the Public Facilities and Services Element for additional policies and implementing actions relating to water conservation).

OS3.F Provide appropriate permitting documents for project applicants requiring coverage under the Statewide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction and Industrial Permits.

Policies

OS4.1 Protect and enhance tree resources in developed and undeveloped areas. Efforts should include: adequate maintenance of street trees; requiring replacement trees where existing significant trees cannot be saved; and requiring street trees as a condition of new development.

OS4.2 Encourage the clean-up of contaminated sites to protect the environment and public well-being.

OS4.3 Promote best management practices that encourage protection of soil, groundwater and surface water resources from industrial, agricultural and other uses that produce or dispose of hazardous or toxic substances.

Implementing Actions

OS4.A Establish an urban forestry program to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive approach to maintaining and increasing the City's trees. Key program aspects will include the following:

- A tree planting program to ensure that new trees are planted regularly;
- A tree maintenance program to ensure that existing trees are healthy and pruned;
- A tree inventory to create a comprehensive listing of the City's trees and tree-related needs;
- A Tree Committee to oversee the implementation of the urban forestry program and approval of tree removals;
- A landmark tree list that identifies trees that require additional protection from damage and/or removal; and
- Appropriate Heritage tree deed restrictions.

topic area

4 A HEALTHY LIVING ENVIRONMENT

OS4.B Until implementation of the City-sponsored urban forestry program occurs, continue to use the Master Street Tree List as a guideline for all street tree plantings.

OS4.C Develop and adopt a Tree Ordinance for the purpose of protecting trees and identifying replacement trees. In coordination with an urban forestry program, existing, significant trees should be integrated into future development. In cases where existing trees cannot be saved, require the planting of replacement trees consistent with guidelines included in the Master Tree List.

OS4.D Explore the concept of establishing a City nursery program to enhance native species for preparation and planting throughout the city.

OS4.E Explore a city wide education opportunity for residents, businesses, industries and agricultural uses to obtain information on pollution prevention, disposal of hazardous waste and chemicals, liability and clean-up.

OS4.F Create a remediation plan which will include a comprehensive site identification, inventory and prioritization schedule, as well as a strategy for coordinating with State and Federal agencies, as necessary to identify the location and extent of contaminated sites in St. Helena.



chapter nine
**public health, safety
and noise**



The Public Health, Safety and Noise element identifies goals, policies and implementing actions to minimize risks to life and property associated with natural hazards.

- 1 introduction
- 2 land use and growth management
- 3 economic sustainability
- 4 public facilities and services
- 5 circulation
- 6 historic resources
- 7 community design
- 8 open space and conservation
- 9 public health, safety and noise**
- 10 climate change
- 11 housing
- 12 parks and recreation
- 13 arts, culture and entertainment

9.1 Purpose of the Element

The Public Health, Safety and Noise Element presents a framework for minimizing risks posed by environmental and human-caused hazards that may impact St. Helena residents' health and welfare. The **Public Health, Safety and Noise Element aims to promote protection for the St. Helena residents, workers and visitors are protected from negative exposure to flooding, fires, hazardous materials, air pollution and geologic and seismic hazards.**

The Public Health, Safety and Noise Element includes the following sections.

- **9.2 Public Health, Safety and Noise in St. Helena.** Summarizes key issues related to the public health and safety of St. Helena residents (p. 9-3).
- **9.3 Key Findings and Recommendations.** Identifies key findings and recommendations based on an existing conditions analysis (p. 9-19).
- **9.4 Goals.** Defines overarching goals to guide policies and implementing actions (p. 2-24).
- **9.5 Policies and Implementing Actions.** Identifies policies and implementing actions to minimize hazards and risks to life and property (p. 9-25).

9.2 Public Health, Safety and Noise in St. Helena

St. Helena is surrounded by natural beauty, hillsides, vineyards and waterways. While they are great assets, these natural features can present risks due to flood, fire, geologic and seismic hazards. In addition, human-caused risks, such as hazardous materials, air pollution and unhealthy noise levels can also pose risks to community health and safety. Effective planning to prepare for and mitigate the adverse effects of these natural and human-caused risks can help ensure that St. Helena maintains a high level of safety for its residents. Following is a discussion of the various risks facing St. Helena, and ways for the City to anticipate and manage their potential impacts.

FLOODING

The Napa Valley near the Napa River and along some of its tributaries is prone to flooding. The Napa River flows are largely influenced by precipitation. The peak flows generally occur in January and February. Some of the worst flooding in the immediate area of St. Helena has occurred in December and April, especially in and around Vineyard Valley, which is near the confluence of Sulphur Creek and the Napa River. The area experienced significant flooding in 1986, 1995, 1997 and 2005 with extensive property loss.

Flood hazards also exist in the York Creek and Sulphur Creek Watersheds in St. Helena. During the 2005 New Year's Eve storm event, flooding from York Creek significantly impacted residential and industrial properties, including buildings located on the properties of Beringer Winery and the Culinary Institute. The Beringer water treatment plant flooded and ponds overflowed into the creek. In addition, the creek flooded vineyards on both sides of its corridor, downstream of State Route 29 to the Napa River.

Flood hazards in the Sulphur Creek watershed are due primarily to channel bed aggradation in the lower reach where gravel mining was historically conducted. Sulphur Creek continues to supply and deposit substantial amounts of sediment in this reach. Consequently, the increased volume of sediment currently stored



Low-lying portions of Napa Valley are prone to flooding.

in the channel decreases the volume available for floodwater, potentially causing an increased flood hazard locally and within the City of St. Helena. Further study needs to be done of the Sulphur Creek area in order to prevent future flooding and to protect habitat for steelhead and salmon.

Recently, the City collaborated with the Napa County Board of Supervisors and the Napa County Flood Control District to study the Napa River's hydraulics between Deer Park Road and Pope Street. The resulting study identified the need for an extension of the 100-year floodplain beyond the areas previously identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Figure 9.1 identifies areas that fall within the City's 100-year (one percent) and 500-year (0.2 percent) floodplain; as identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 2012. Figure 9.2 includes areas in and around St. Helena that would be inundated in the case of dam failure.

Comprehensive Flood Control and River Restoration

In 2010, the City recently completed a Comprehensive Flood Control and River Restoration Project north of the Pope Street bridge and on the west side of the Napa River. The purpose of this project is to protect residential property in the floodplain from the 100-year storm events and restoring the Napa River and its surrounding habitat. The project is designed to reduce flood risk to approximately 470 homes, including the Vineyard Valley Mobile Home Park and the Hunt's Grove Apartment Complex, that are located in a FEMA-designated flood zone. The project site is about 36 acres. The project planning began in 2000, with actual construction starting in May 2009. Phase I of the project consisted of construction of a levee, along with a storm drain bypass and other related infrastructure improvements. Phase II, the final phase of the project, included construction of a floodwall that is roughly eight feet high where it is anchored to the levee. The floodwall gradually reduces in height as it continues south along the Napa River to the confluence of the river and Sulphur Creek. It then turns to the west and continues along Sulphur Creek, terminating at Paseo Grand Avenue. The wall is about three and a half

Figure 9.1
Flood Zones

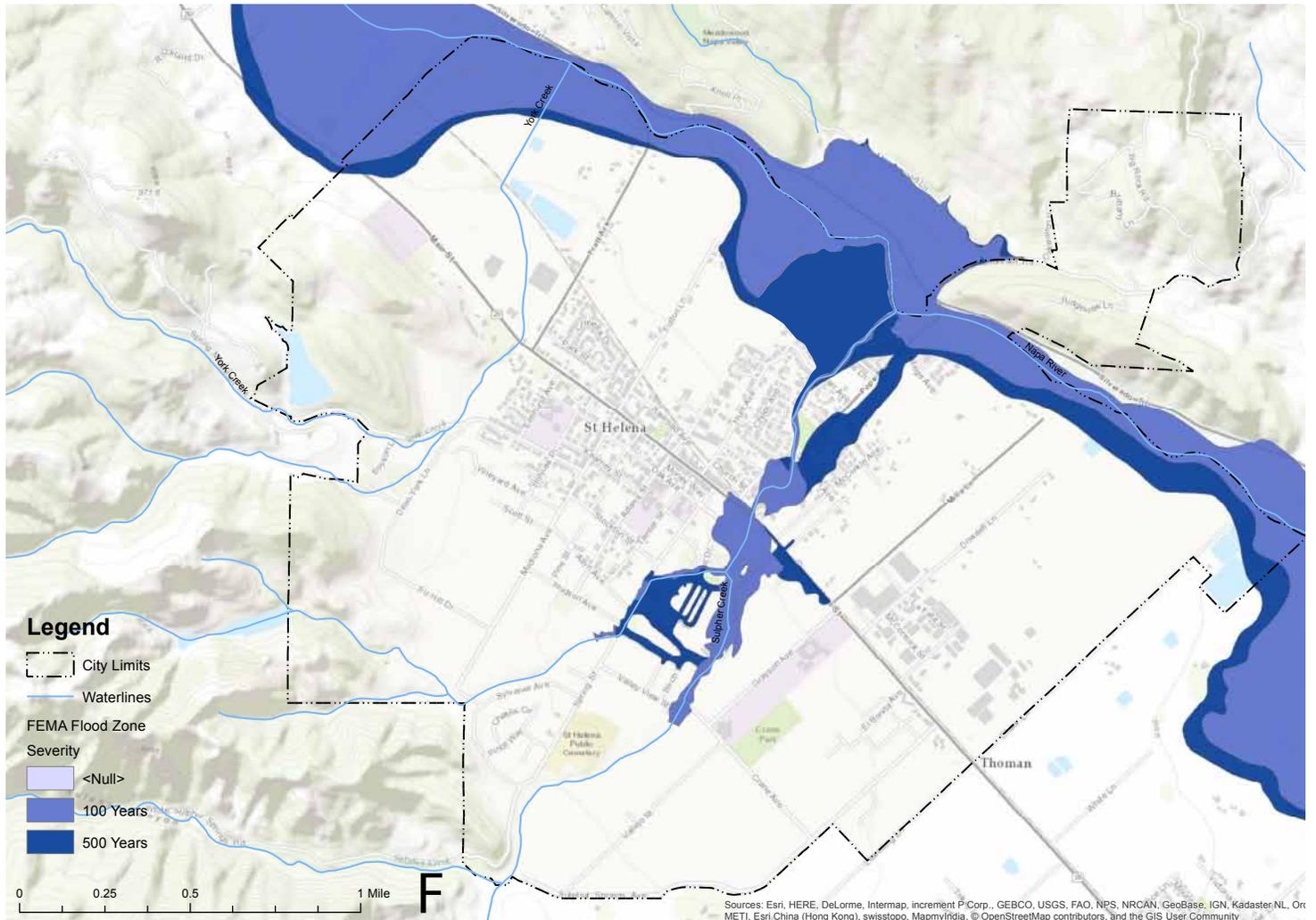
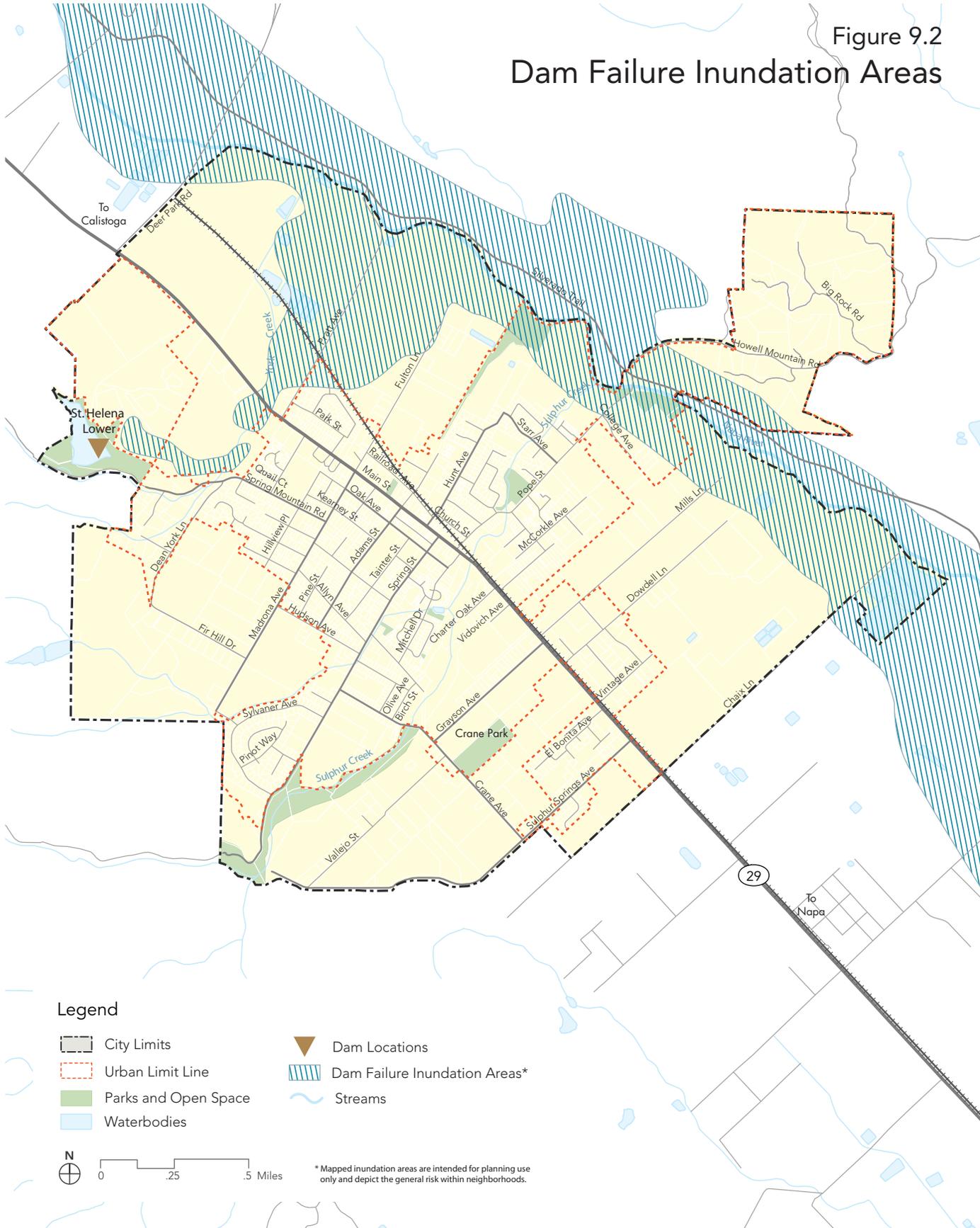


Figure 9.2
Dam Failure Inundation Areas



feet high at its terminus. The total project cost was is about \$32 million, with the cost of construction at about \$9.1 million.

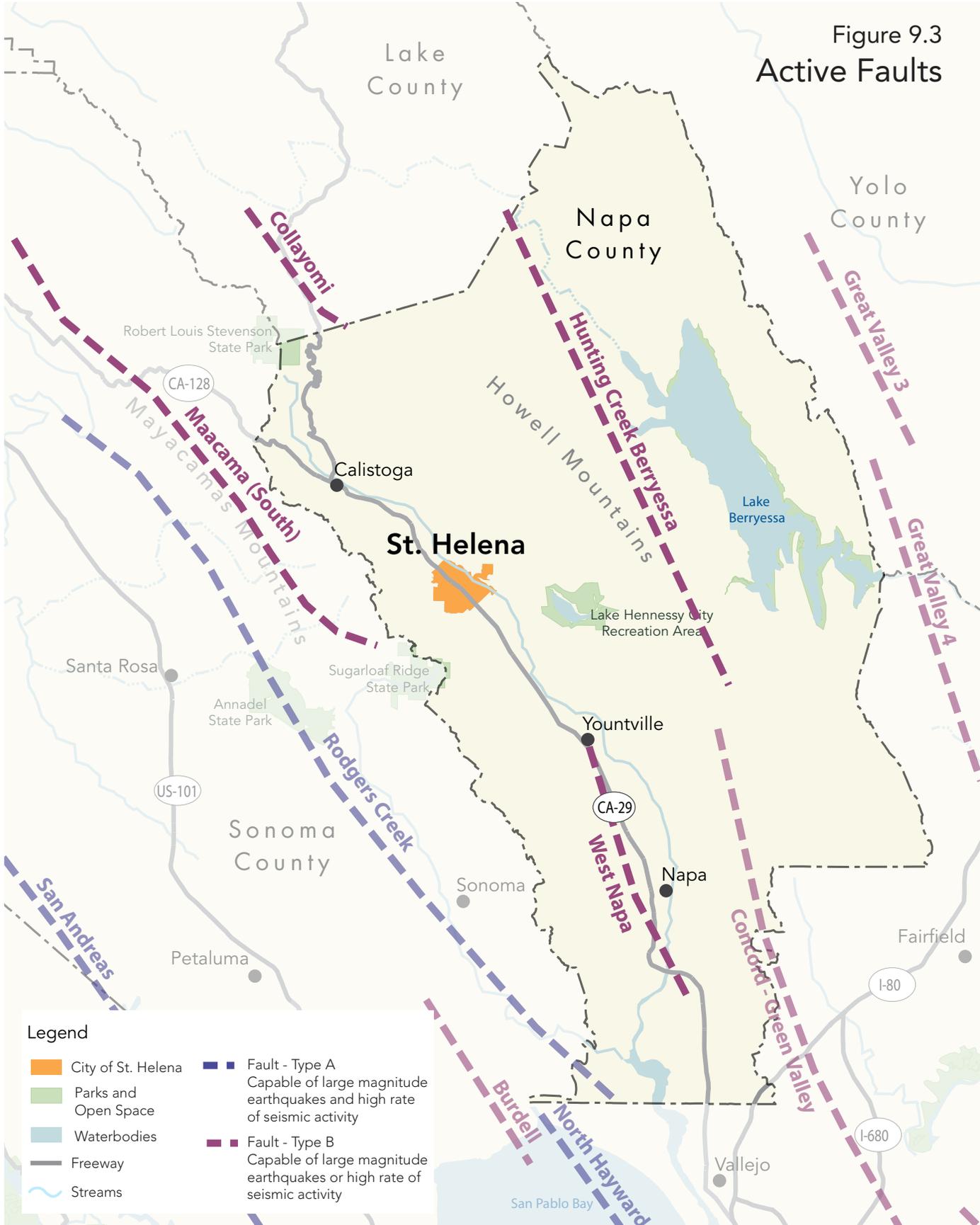
To balance the removal of land from the floodplain, the area known as “lower terrace B” was cut down significantly and widened to accommodate the large flood flows. In Phase II, this terrace was cut down to the level of the Napa River and is designed to carry significant amounts of flood water, should it become necessary.

The second half of this \$9.1 million project is the continuation of the flood wall around Vineyard Valley and habitat restoration in the “upper terrace B.” The proposed habitat restoration is a critical element of the overall plan, and includes the installation 40,000 plantings and anchoring of fallen trees into the terrace. This project also includes maintenance conducted according to a maintenance plan, irrigation and development of a pedestrian interpretive trail.

GEOLOGIC AND SEISMIC HAZARDS

Although St. Helena is located in a seismically active region, there are no known active faults located in the City (see Figure 9.3). Thus, the primary geologic hazards of concern are those that could result from excessive shaking effects stemming from earthquakes elsewhere in the region. For instance, a large earthquake event in the area could result in liquefaction in the City’s low-lying areas, and its sloped hillsides may be prone to landslides and debris flow (see Figure 9.4). Landslide concerns have arisen in response to development pressures in the City’s upland areas, which have often required the removal of trees and vegetation, and have left some hillsides susceptible to erosion and landslides during heavy rains. In August 2014, a 6.0 earthquake struck the Napa Valley, with the epicenter of the quake approximately 6 miles southwest of the City of Napa. While damage from the quake was substantial in Napa, particularly in Napa’s downtown area, St. Helena experienced very little to no measurable damage. In order to minimize the risks of injury and property damage due to landslides and erosion, St. Helena can implement policies to restrict development in the hillside areas and require prompt re-vegetation on slopes prone to instability. The use of best management practices during construction can also limit erosion and the risk of landslides.

Figure 9.3
Active Faults

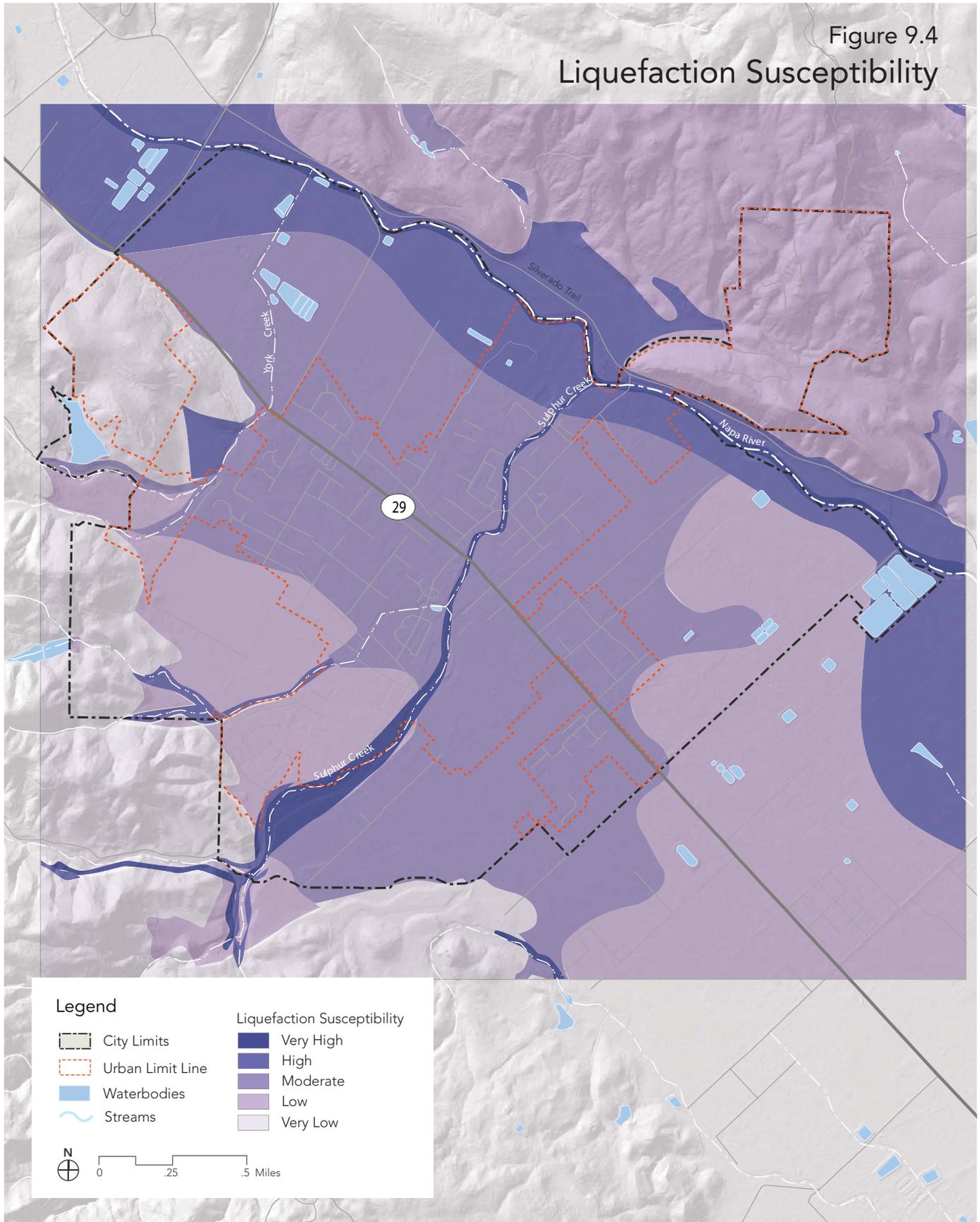


Legend

- City of St. Helena
- Parks and Open Space
- Waterbodies
- Freeway
- Fault - Type A
Capable of large magnitude earthquakes and high rate of seismic activity
- Fault - Type B
Capable of large magnitude earthquakes or high rate of seismic activity
- Streams

Source: City of St. Helena; Napa County
Map Revised: April 2016

Figure 9.4
Liquefaction Susceptibility



Source: City of St. Helena; Napa County, ABAG
Map Revised: April 2016



Air pollution from auto exhaust and dust, can pose health hazards among sensitive populations.

AIR POLLUTION AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Mitigating the public health and safety risks caused by air pollution and hazardous materials requires changing human behavior. Air pollution resulting from auto exhaust, tobacco smoke and dust creates unhealthy air conditions for residents and can pose particular threat to sensitive populations, such as children and older adults. Implementing measures to reduce auto trips, tobacco smoke exposure and construction-related dust can help St. Helena reduce residents' contact with air pollution. Mixed-use development patterns, facilities to encourage bicycle and pedestrian commuters, incentives to install solar panels are just a handful of ways that St. Helena can help improve regional air quality.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) is the public agency responsible for regulating stationary sources of air pollution in Napa County and the other eight counties surrounding San Francisco Bay. BAAQMD monitors air quality in the nine-county area and reports annually on County pollutant concentrations for comparison to state and national health-based ambient air standards.

The transportation sector, and primarily mobile sources, are the most significant source of air pollution in California. Senate Bill (SB) 375, approved by the Governor on September 30, 2008, seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions—and, consequently, other pollutants—from mobile sources by integrating land use and transportation planning at the regional level. (For a more detailed discussion of SB 375 and related opportunities see the Climate Change Element.)

Similarly, hazardous materials used by local businesses are often transported on the City's roadways and found present in smaller quantities in private homes in the form of solvents, cleaning fluids and other substances. Implementing policies to improve the safe use, transport and disposal of these materials can be instrumental in avoiding environmental contamination and human health impacts.

TABLE 9.1: Noise Land Use Compatibility Guidelines

Land Use Category	Completely Compatible ¹	Tentatively Compatible ²	Normally Incompatible ³	Completely Incompatible ⁴
Residential	< 55 dBA	55-60 dBA	60-75 dBA	> 75 dBA
Commercial/ Office	< 65 dBA	65-75 dBA	75-80 dBA	> 80 dBA
Industrial/ Agricultural	< 70 dBA	70-80 dBA	80-85 dBA	> 85 dBA
School, libraries, churches, hospitals	< 65 dBA	65-70 dBA	70-80 dBA	> 80 dBA
Playground, neighborhood park	< 67 dBA	67-70 dBA	70-75 dBA	> 75 dBA

a Expressed as Ldn or CNEL.

- 1. Completely Compatible – Specified land use is satisfactory, based on the assumption that any buildings involved are of normal conventional construction.*
- 2. Tentatively Compatible – New construction or development should be undertaken only after a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements is made and needed noise insulation features are included in the design. Conventional construction, but with closed windows and fresh air supply systems of air conditioning will normally suffice.*
- 3. Normally Incompatible – New construction and development should generally be discouraged. If new construction or development does proceed, a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements must be made and needed noise insulation features included in the design.*
- 4. Clearly Incompatible – New construction or development should generally not be undertaken.*

NOISE

Noise is a sound which is unhealthful or unwanted. It can be a human-caused public health hazard which includes excessive, intrusive or objectionable noises that disrupt daily life. Noise has been tied to physiological effects ranging from hearing loss, high blood pressure, and sleep disturbance, to communication interference, and general interruption and annoyance of normal daily activities. Definitions of acoustical terms used in this discussion are listed in Table 9.2.

Land uses have different levels of compatibility relative to noise, and the State of California mandates that general plans include noise level compatibility standards for the development of land as a function of a range of noise exposure values (see Table 9.1).

The ambient noise environment in the City of St. Helena is notable for being extremely quiet, especially in the evenings and at nighttime. With the exception of Main Street (State Route 29) and major collector roadways, the noise environment can be characterized as being that of a quiet rural setting. During the night the entire community is extremely quiet. Residential areas, away from

collector streets are shielded from highway and collector noise and register very low background sound levels typically in the range of 20 to 25 dBA.

Sleep disturbance and the annoyance of sound not only depend on the absolute sound level of a noise source but are related to the magnitude of the noise above that background sound levels present. This means that in particularly quiet rural environments, the control of extraneous, intrusive and annoying noise sources is important to maintaining the public health and a quality living sound environment expected in a rural area.

The land use compatibility standards of Table 9.1 relate transportation noise impact to development of different property uses. The major transportation noise source is Highway 29 and a few collector streets within the city. Figure 9.5 references the location and results of noise measurements conducted as part of the General Plan environmental review process.

Other sources which are intermittent and generally inconsequential to the noise environment are over-flying commercial aircraft at high altitudes, and small general aviation and helicopter flyovers. The Wine Train has an average of two trips to St. Helena per day, and emits a loud horn at crossings along with the low frequency rumble of the diesel engines. Maximum interior intermittent noise level criteria for public-use facility receptors are given in Table 9.3.

In an effort to protect residential areas from intrusive and annoying noise in excess of the low background sound levels which exist in these areas a standard is provided in Table 9.4 which defines the impact of intrusive noise for residential receptors. This standard is specific to the residential areas within St. Helena and regulates the amount of noise a specific sound source can emit relative to the typically low residential background sound levels.

Stationary noise sources which are typical in St. Helena relate to its agricultural activities, street sweeping and garbage/recycling pickup in the early morning, and the gravel processing operations at Harold Smith and Son, Inc. along Sulphur Creek. Noise impacts related to agricultural activities include noise from wind machines, tractors and sulphur blowers which are employed in the spring



Human-caused public health hazards include excessive, intrusive or objectionable ambient noises that disrupt daily life.

TABLE 9.2: Definition of Acoustical Terms

Term	Definition
Decibel, dB	A unit describing the amplitude of sound. Equal to 10 times the logarithm to the base 10 of the ratio of two like quantities.
Sound Pressure Level (SPL)	10 times the logarithm to the base 10 of the ratio between the square of the sound pressure to the square of the reference sound pressure of 20 μ Pascals. Sound pressure level is the quantity that is directly measured by a sound level meter and expressed in decibels dB.
Frequency, Hz	The number of complete pressure fluctuations per second above and below atmospheric pressure expressed in Hz (Hz). Normal human hearing is between approximately 20 Hz and 20,000 Hz.
A-Weighted Sound Level, dBA (LA)	The SPL in decibels as measured on a sound level meter using the A-weighting filter network. The A-weighting filter de-emphasizes low frequency components of sound in a manner similar to the frequency response of the human ear and correlates well with subjective response to sound.
Noise	Unwanted or unhealthful sound.
Equivalent Noise Level, LAeq	The average A-weighted sound level during the measurement period. The A-weighted equivalent continuous sound level.
L _{Amax} , L _{Amin}	The maximum and minimum A-weighted sound level during the measurement period with the sound meter using fast-time-weighting.
LA01, LA10, LA50, LA90	The A-weighted sound levels that are exceeded 1%, 10%, 50%, and 90% of the time during the measurement period.
Day/Night Noise Level, L _{dn}	The average A-weighted sound level during a 24-hour day, obtained after the addition of 10 decibels to levels measured at night between 10:00 pm and 7:00 am.
Total Sound	The composite of sound from all sources near and far.
Ambient Sound	The sound level measured in the absence of an intrusive or extraneous noise.
Intrusive Noise	That noise from a source of specific origin which intrudes above or within the existing background sound level. The degree of intrusiveness of a sound depends upon its amplitude, duration, frequency, time of occurrence, and tonal or informational content as in contrast to the prevailing background sound level which exists in the absence of the intrusive noise.
Background Sound Level	The LA90 of the ambient sound. It represents the ever present lower sound level due to distant sources which are individually indistinguishable, and in the absence of the Intrusive or Extraneous Noise.
Extraneous Noise	Specific or distinguishable intermittent sound from nearby sources such as mechanical devices, leaf blowers, pumps, vehicles horns, sirens, barking, talking, shouting, birds, wind and other similar individual sources, which don't normally exist on a continuous or regular basis.
Intermittent Noise	A noncontinuous sound consisting of a number of clearly distinguishable sound events of varying frequency and/or intensity.

TABLE 9.3: Maximum Interior Noise Level Criteria of Intermittent Noise for Public Use Facilities

Land Use	Maximum Intermittent Noise Level LAmax	Basis for Criterion
Concert Hall	25	Intrusion of noise may spoil artistic effect
Theater	30	Intrusion of noise may spoil artistic effect
School Auditorium	35	Minimize intrusion into artistic performance
School Classroom	55	Speech communication-20 ft.-raised voice
School Laboratory	60	Speech communication-6 ft.-normal voice
Church/Sanctuaries	45	Speech communication-50 ft.-raised voice
Library	55	Speech communication-3 ft.-normal voice

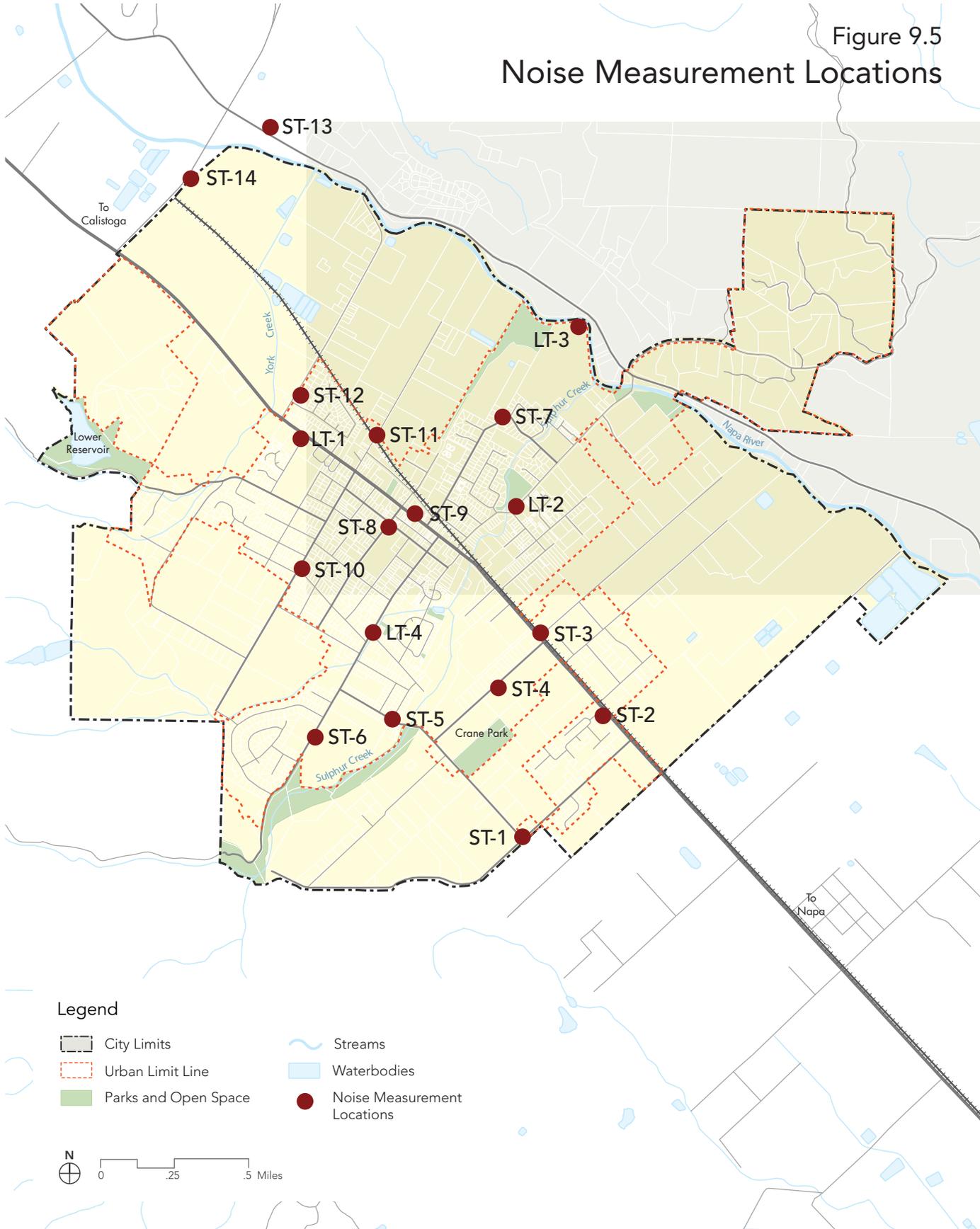
Source: Adapted from Table 2 in "Night Insulation Problems in Buildings," Paul S. Veneklasen & Associates, 1973; Noise Element of the Napa County General Plan, 1982.

in the early hours of the morning. Finally, the City has sirens at two locations associated with the Fire Department. These sound on an average of two to three times per day, with approximately half of them occurring during nighttime hours.

Noise concerns in St. Helena include enforcement and regulating new development, particularly commercial, to limit noise impacts on noise-sensitive uses such as residential areas. Of particular concern is the need to accommodate noises related to agricultural production under the city's right-to-farm provisions. The City can apply good neighbor policies through promoting communication between agricultural and winery activities and nearby residential locations.

Figure 9.5

Noise Measurement Locations



Legend

- City Limits
- Urban Limit Line
- Parks and Open Space
- Streams
- Waterbodies
- Noise Measurement Locations



Source: City of St. Helena; Napa County, November 2008
Map Revised: April 2016

TABLE 9.4: Standard and Adjustments for Determining Noise Impact of Intrusive Noise for Residential Receptors

<p>STANDARD</p> <p>The sound level of an intrusive noise shall not exceed the following values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 am – 7 pm (daytime) 45 dBA • 7 pm – 10 pm (evening) 40 dBA • 10 pm – 7 am (nighttime) 35 dBA <p>Or shall not exceed LA90 + 5 dBA whichever is greater. Background sound level shall be measured as LA90 of the ambient sound field in the absence of the intrusive noise at the appropriate time of noise impact.</p> <p>If the intrusive noise is continuous, its limit shall be defined by the metric LA. If the noise has impulsive, repetitious, or modulated characteristics, its limit shall be described by a short term LAeq measurement over a period of time representative of the entire noise event.</p> <p>The maximum noise level L_{Amax} of any intrusive noise shall not exceed the LAeq limits by more than 10 dBA.</p> <p>The limits for intrusive noise are to be corrected as indicated below.</p> <p>These noise limits apply to the nearest residential property line or at the nearest affected location on the receiver’s property.</p> <p>Refer to Table 9.2 for definitions of LA, LAeq, LA90, intrusive noise, background sound level, and ambient sound.</p>		
CORRECTIONS FOR INTRUSIVE NOISE		
Type of Correction	Circumstances of Correction	Correction ^a
Seasonal	Summer or year round operation	0 dBA
	December through March only	+ 5 dBA
Tone or Impulse	No tonal or impulse character	0 dBA
Characteristics	Tonal character ^b present in noise	- 5 dBA
	Impulsive ^c , repetitious or modulating ^d signal	- 5 dBA ^e
<p><i>Notes:</i></p> <p><i>a</i> Correction to be applied to the Standard’s limits for intrusive noise.</p> <p><i>b</i> Tonality exists when the 1/3 octave noise level of the tone is 5 dB greater than the average level of the two adjacent 1/3 octave frequency bands.</p> <p><i>c</i> Transient sound having a peak level of short duration typically less than 100 msec.</p> <p><i>d</i> Either in amplitude, frequency or duration including compressor “hammering” noise.</p> <p><i>e</i> In addition to correction for tonality.</p>		

FIRE

Lastly, key human-caused public health and safety hazards affecting St. Helena include structural fires, wildfires and other disasters that require advanced planning. Fires occurring in the heavily-wooded hillside areas can be difficult for firefighters to address due to traffic congestion on City streets, particularly when emergency vehicles must travel on or across State Route 29. Furthermore, traffic congestion can pose important challenges to St. Helena's collaboration with neighboring municipalities and agencies seeking to establish and implement regionally coordinated disaster planning for police, fire and emergency medical services. The City can work with local, regional and state agencies to address key traffic-related concerns on State Route 29 and County roads to ensure that adequate levels of fire protection are maintained, particularly on hillsides and in fire-prone areas, and to support regional collaboration for disaster preparedness. This ability to coordinate fire response is especially critical in the current drought conditions facing the region and the State.



St. Helena's fire and police departments respond to structural fires, wildfires and other disasters.

9.3 Key Findings and Recommendations

There are several challenges and opportunities facing St. Helena related to public health, safety and noise. The following key findings and recommendations are based upon comprehensive existing conditions analysis and community input.

Flooding

- Flooding in Napa County generally occurs within the low-lying Napa Valley floor. Between 1961 and 1997, flooding resulted in approximately \$540 million in property damages. St. Helena experienced three major flood events in 1986, 1995 and 2005 that caused an estimated combined total of \$95.6 million in damages in the City. Most flooding occurred in the vicinity of Vineyard Valley from Fulton Lane to Pope Street.
- The flood history of York Creek suggests that it is not of adequate size to convey larger storm events. During the 2005 New Year's Eve storm event, flooding from York Creek significantly impacted residential and industrial properties. The Beringer water treatment plant flooded and ponds overflowed into the creek. In addition, the creek flooded vineyards on both sides of its corridor, downstream of State Route 29 to the Napa River.

CONCEPTS, TRENDS AND IDEAS

Hazard Mitigation Planning



FEMA oversees hazard mitigation plans.

Hazard mitigation is defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as “sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and their property from hazards.” The goal of hazard mitigation is to ensure long-term resilience against natural and human-caused hazards.

Mitigation Plans form the foundation for a community’s long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction and repeated damage.

As a condition for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance, State, Tribal, and local governments are required to develop a hazard mitigation plan. Napa County, in cooperation with the cities of St. Helena, Napa, American Canyon, Yountville, and special districts, prepared a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) in 2007. The Napa County LHMP sets forth goals, mitigation strategies and mitigation action items for flooding, earthquakes, wildland fire interfaces and terrorism and technological hazards. Working together, local communities and jurisdictions in Napa County can reduce the long-term risks associated with natural and human-caused hazards. The Public Health, Safety and Noise Element is St. Helena’s primary policy tool for ensuring local action and St. Helena’s involvement in implementing regional hazard mitigation strategies.

- Until 2002, an aggregate mining operation, now discontinued, removed approximately 40,000 to 50,000 cubic yards of material from Sulphur Creek annually. Further study is needed to determine how aggregate buildup at Sulphur Creek may affect flooding issues in the area.
- In response to historic flood dangers, the City joined regional flood hazard planning efforts to study the Napa River's hydraulics and the potential need to designate additional lands as part of the 100-year floodplain. This also prompted a Flood Protection Project in the City to address additional flood-related concerns and mitigation measures, including floodwall and levee construction, terracing of the Napa River to accommodate greater flow, habitat restoration and development of an interpretive nature trail.
- Portions of St. Helena's residential, commercial and winery industrial areas are located within or near the 100-year floodplain. Requiring infrastructure and drainage plans to minimize risk in these areas, in compliance with state and federal requirements at a minimum, can promote the safety of residents and businesses. Moreover, restricting new development within the floodplain and prohibiting development in the floodway can minimize additional flood hazards and the need for further mitigation measures.



Between 1961 and 1997, flooding resulted in approximately \$540 million in property damages.

Seismic and Geologic Activity

- St. Helena is located in a seismically-active region, with seismic activity primarily related to movements in the San Andreas Fault Zone (SAFZ). Although there are a number of active faults in the region, there are no known active faults in St. Helena.
- Local earthquake hazard mapping suggests that a magnitude 7.9 or greater earthquake on the San Andreas Fault, or a 6.5 magnitude event on the West Napa Fault, could result in strong shaking in the City. As a result, St. Helena's susceptibility to liquefaction ranges from low in the upland areas west of downtown, to very high along the Napa River. United States Geological Survey (USGS) maps indicate that slope stability and landslide issues exist in St. Helena's upland areas, and a major earthquake event could result in significant debris flow. As noted previously, the recent August 2014 quake had a magnitude of 6.0, which resulted in no measurable soil liquefaction within the City of St Helena.

Restricting new development within the floodplain and prohibiting development in the floodway can minimize additional flood hazards and the need for further mitigation measures.



- By limiting the type and scale of new development in hillside areas, or areas subject to liquefaction, the City can limit the potential for property damage and loss of life as a result of major seismic activity. In addition, complying with the Universal Building Code (UBC) and adopting other standards for building safety along with emergency response disaster planning will help minimize the impacts of seismic and geologic disasters.

Air Pollution and Hazardous Materials

- The transportation sector is the largest generator of air pollution emissions in the County, with mobile sources – automobiles and trucks – providing the greatest level of emissions. A 2006 Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) report indicated that approximately 55 percent of GHG emissions in Napa County resulted from mobile source emissions. Mobile emissions are a significant source of other pollutants, as well, including carbon monoxide and particulate matter.
- The development of a Climate Change Element for the St. Helena General Plan is an important step forward in contributing to the effort to improve regional and local air quality. Napa County’s Communitywide Climate Action Plan and the Climate Change Element provide a strategic policy framework to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce air pollution derived from its multiple sources.

Noise

- The primary source of noise in the community stems from motor vehicle traffic and commercial activity, particularly in areas near major roads, such as State Route 29. Mitigating traffic noise can be difficult, particularly the noise generated along State Route 29 throughout the day. However, the City can adopt noise standards to address more infrequent noise sources, such as those related to off-hours delivery, commercial loading and unloading, and leaf blowing devices.
- Intrusive noises, such as those generated by passing trains and aircraft, periodically occur in St. Helena. There are few industrial noise sources in St. Helena. Agricultural operations generate noise on a seasonal basis, but should be considered acceptable according to local right-to-farm policies.
- Encouraging the regular communication of planned agricultural activities to surrounding residents can help address potential conflicts relating to noise compatibility. In addition, adopting noise compatibility standards for land uses will minimize the impacts of intrusive noise sources.

Fire and Emergency Response

- St. Helena's volunteer fire department provides fire protection services for wildland and structural fires within the City limits and in nearby unincorporated areas of Napa County. Although service levels within the City are generally adequate, the heavily-wooded and frequently dry hillside areas could create significant challenges for firefighters.
- By limiting the type and scale of new development in hillside areas, and requiring sufficient road widths and turning radii to accommodate emergency response vehicles, the City can limit the potential for property damage and loss of life due to fires.
- Traffic congestion can adversely impact emergency response time in St. Helena, particularly when emergency vehicles must cross or travel on, State Route 29. The City can work with emergency response providers to create solutions that address traffic-related emergency response challenges.



Emergency response is an important part of protecting residents and businesses.

9.4 Goals

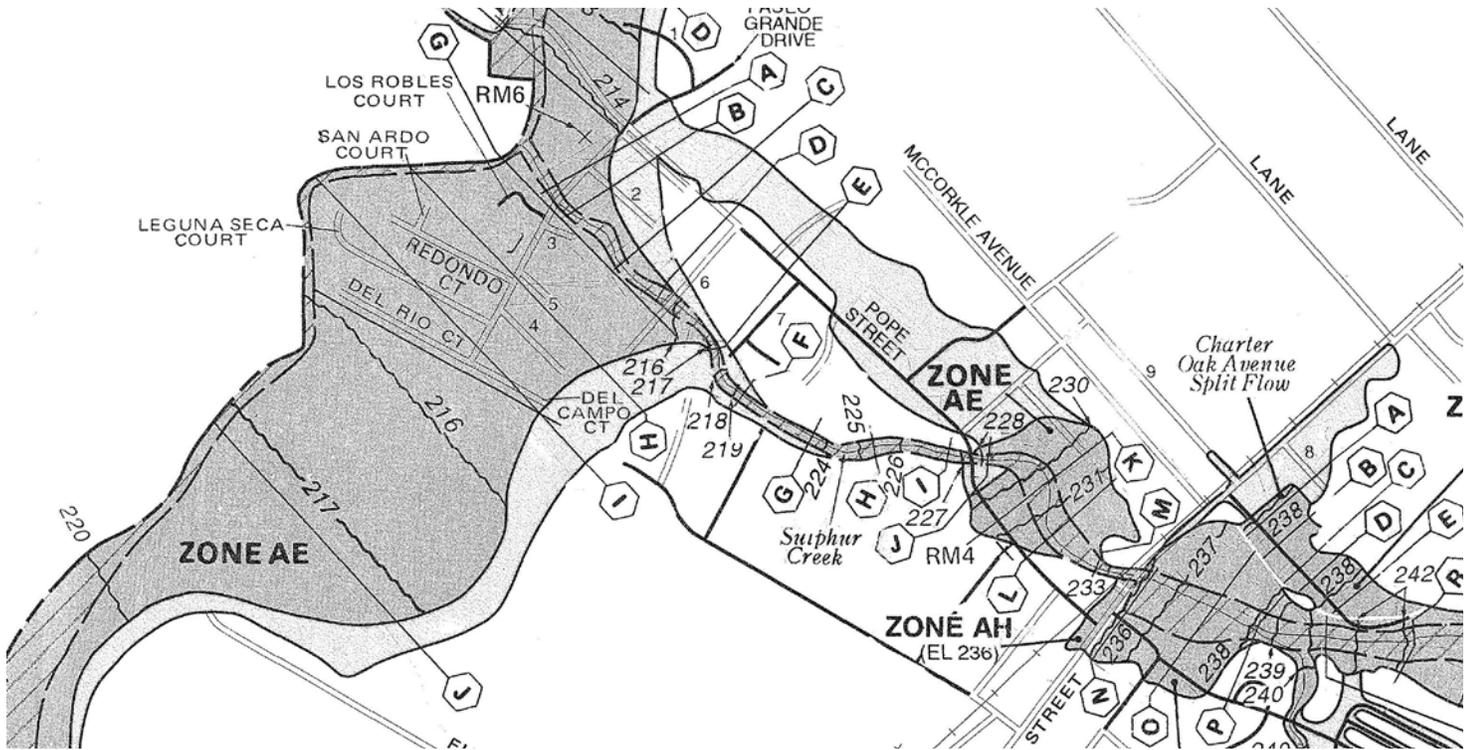
The goals of the Public Health, Safety and Noise Element are:

Maintain High Levels of Health and Safety.

St. Helena is committed to maintaining high standards of environmental health and public safety through anticipation and preparation for potential natural and human-caused hazards.

Effectively Coordinate Responses to Emergencies and Natural Disasters.

St. Helena is dedicated to protecting residents, businesses and the environment through efficient local emergency response efforts, public education and effective coordination with regional, state and federal agencies.



9.5 Policies and Implementing Actions

A range of policies and implementing actions are outlined below and organized into the following topic areas:

1. Air Quality;
2. Noise;
3. Seismic and Geologic Hazards;
4. Fire and Hazardous Materials;
5. Flood Hazards; and
6. Disaster Planning.

The policies mandate, encourage or allow certain actions to be pursued throughout the duration of the General Plan. Together, they serve as strategic directions for City staff and partners, highlighting where time and resources should be focused.

Policies and actions are set to protect the community against flood hazards.

Policies

PS1.1 Achieve and maintain clean, healthy air for the residents of St. Helena to preserve environmental quality and community health.

PS1.2 Support regional efforts to achieve and maintain state ambient concentration standards to protect public health, reduce adverse industrial plant effects and enhance the visual environment. In particular, provide local support for implementation of policies and measures set forth in the Napa County Congestion Management Program.

PS1.3 Encourage effective regulation of those sources of air pollution, both inside and outside of St. Helena, which affect air quality, by implementing as many of the recommendations of the Napa County Congestion Management Plan as is feasible.

PS1.4 Promote balanced land use development that minimizes cumulative air quality impacts from proposed developments.

topic area
1 AIR QUALITY

Implementing Actions

PS1.A Minimize local adverse air quality impacts related to construction by requiring dust abatement procedures for local projects.

PS1.B Develop an area bicycle plan and bicycle and pedestrian-related facilities (including bicycle storage racks). To create a meaningful alternative to automobile usage for short trips, bicycle paths should connect home-to-work or home-to-local shopping locations. Link neighborhoods and commercial areas on a bike path system and encourage bicycle travel.

PS1.C Encourage the use of EPA-approved wood stoves or fireplace inserts, rather than fireplaces, as a means of reducing emissions into the air.

PS1.D Review project proposals for their potential to generate hazardous air pollutants.

PS1.E Develop guidelines for locating new sensitive uses, including residences, schools and childcare facilities, away from air pollutant sources. The guidelines can include measures to mitigate air emissions from existing sources, as well as to design buildings to prevent exposure.



Air quality can be improved by implementing the Napa County Congestion Management Plan.

PS1.F Encourage and support regional efforts to use alternative modes of transportation.

PS1.G Consider a citywide network to help commuters arrange carpools, including online coordination capabilities and designated areas for parking and pick-up.

PS1.H Adopt the thresholds of significance contained in the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's (BAAQMD) Guidelines for Assessing the Impacts of Projects and Plans for determining the significance of project impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act.

PS1.I Continue to implement an ordinance to restrict exposure to environmental tobacco smoke in new and existing multi-unit dwellings, public events and outdoor areas, such as parks and playgrounds.

PS1.J Adopt a voluntary, employer-based transportation demand management (TDM) program for St. Helena businesses in compliance with the BAAQMD's 2000 Clean Air Program (CAP). Components of a TDM program should include measures to reduce the use of single-occupancy vehicles for work-related commuting, such as carpool/vanpool matching services and employer-sponsored transit passes.

PS1.K The potential for sources of odors that includes restaurants, auto body shops, or waste treatment facilities shall be considered when evaluating proposed residential projects and projects with sensitive recipients.

topic area
2 NOISE

Policies

PS2.1 Preserve the current low levels of noise in St. Helena to maintain the City's rural atmosphere.

PS2.2 Maintain a citywide environment that balances various City objectives while minimizing the impact of highway, railroad and industrial noise. The City should manage both indoor and outdoor noise levels to protect health and safety. A combination of noise standards and existing noise levels should be used to determine impacts and mitigation measures.

PS2.3 Minimize potential noise impact conflicts between land uses by regulating incompatible land uses. Encourage noise-generating uses to reduce their impacts while promoting land use patterns that avoid conflicts. Employ compatibility guidelines, interior noise level criteria, the City's noise standards and noise contour maps to determine the compatibility of land uses.

PS2.4 Require a reduction and/or control of the use of machinery, mechanical systems and other noise-making equipment and sources in and near residential areas where the noise impacts would be considered intrusive to adjacent residential property, unless consistent with the right-to-farm.

Implementing Actions

PS2.A Consider the environmental impact of transportation-related noise and other noise sources in the review of any new projects and approval of subdivision plans and requests for changes in the zoning ordinance.

PS2.B Enforce the Land Use Compatibility Standards presented in the State of California’s General Plan guidelines when siting new uses. These standards identify the acceptability of a project based on levels of noise exposure.

PS2.C Adopt and enforce Title 24 Standards for all types of new residential construction including single family dwellings, duplexes, apartments, and dormitories.

- An interior maximum noise level of LAdn-45 dBA in all habitable rooms for all dwelling units; A maximum allowable interior noise level for bedrooms of an hourly LAeq-35 dBA;
- A maximum noise level of LAdn-60 dBA for residential exterior activity areas; If interior noise standards are met by requiring windows to be closed, cooling and outside air exchange must also be provided in the building’s design.

PS2.D Require an acoustical study, prepared by a qualified acoustical consultant for:

- All proposed projects that are likely to be exposed to noise levels greater than the standards;
- All proposed projects that would generate noise where impacts on other uses would be greater than the standards;
- Any project exposed to outdoor noise at or above a day-night average sound level (Ldn) of 60 or for any noise source that could create such outdoor noise levels for adjacent uses; and
- Any project exposed to or that creates noise which may exceed the adopted City standards.



Noise can be mitigated by minimizing conflicts between land uses by regulating incompatible land uses.

topic area
2 NOISE

PS2.E Require new developments to implement noise mitigation measures when built in close proximity to noise sources, such as State Route 29 and the railroad tracks. These developments should consider the exterior and interior noise environment.

PS2.F Require construction operations to use noise suppression devices and techniques and limit noisy construction activities that can be heard at the property line to the least noise-sensitive times, as per the City's noise ordinance.

PS2.G Include appropriate noise attenuation techniques in the design of new streets. Such techniques could include the use of site planning, building orientation, buffer distances, quiet pavement surfaces and the use of correctly-engineered acoustical barriers and berms where necessary. Adopt the noise standard for intrusive noise at residences given in Tale 9.4.

PS2.H Amend the City's noise ordinance to regulate intrusive noise sources, such as the use of machinery and equipment, leaf blowers and other landscaping and property maintenance devices, animals, vehicles and motorcycles, and idling buses or trucks in or near uses sensitive to noise.

PS2.I Incorporate right-to-farm legal provisions relative to noise in all newly-created deeds where agricultural activities may pose noise impacts in the future. Require similar language in deeds for properties similarly impacted by the Harold Smith & Son plant operations.

Policies

PS3.1 Minimize risk of injury, loss of life and property damage from seismically-induced and other known geologic hazards.

PS3.2 Restrict the intensity of development and the level of landform alteration in the hillside areas in order to minimize the potential for slope failure.

PS3.3 The required soils and geologic reports for new development shall include geotechnical analysis for construction in areas with potential geological hazards and/or for purposes of environmental analysis. The analysis shall investigate all potential geo-hazard issues for the site where there is substantial evidence of a potential risk.

PS3.4 Geologic reports for new development shall describe hazards and include mitigation measures to reduce risks to acceptable levels. Where appropriate, an engineer's or geologist's certification shall be required stating that risks have been mitigated to an acceptable level.

topic area

3 SEISMIC AND GEOLOGIC HAZARDS

Implementing Actions

PS3.A Require a soils and geologic report to be submitted for new construction prior to the issuance of grading and building permits and the submission of final maps.

PS3.B Prohibit any development—including any land alteration, grading for roads and structural development—in areas of slope instability or other geologic concerns until mitigating measures are taken to limit potential damage to levels of acceptable risk.

PS3.C Require prompt re-vegetation of development areas on slopes prone to instability. Use native and drought-tolerant plant species for landscaping on slopes where excess watering might induce landslides and/or erosion.

PS3.D The City shall rely upon the most current and comprehensive geological hazard mapping available in the evaluation of potential seismic hazards associated with proposed new development.

PS3.E All development and construction proposals shall be reviewed by the City to ensure conformance to applicable building standards. Recommendations of the geotechnical analysis shall be implemented.



Earthquakes can cause damage to property and cause loss of life and injury.

topic area
4 FIRE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Policies

PS4.1 Maintain a transitional zone around industrial areas to protect the health and safety of residential neighborhoods.

PS4.2 Limit development in hillside areas where wildfire hazard is high to very low-intensity, or maintain them as open space in order to prevent the loss of lives, injuries and property damage due to wildfires.

PS4.3 Protect St. Helena residents from health and safety impacts related to the use, storage, manufacture and transport of hazardous materials.

PS4.4 Discourage new uses that rely extensively on the use of hazardous materials.

PS4.5 Facilitate communication and education about fire safety, non-point source pollution, household hazardous waste disposal and recycling opportunities.

PS4.6 Ensure that all streets and roads are adequate in terms of width, turning radius and grade in order to facilitate access by City firefighting apparatus, and to provide alternative emergency routes of ingress and egress.



The transitional zone around industrial areas protects the health and safety of residential neighborhoods.

topic area

4 FIRE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Implementing Actions

PS4.A Designate areas in St. Helena that are prone to fire hazards and make this information available to the community.

PS4.B Develop an ordinance to regulate development and building methods and materials used in fire-prone areas. Integrate best practices in fire resistance for all new and remodeled structures. Continue to require fire-resistant building materials and automatic sprinkler systems to be used in all new structures located in these areas.

PS4.C Require all structures in high wildfire hazard areas to maintain a clearance of flammable vegetation away from structures, and to use fire-resistant ground covers. The minimum clearance distance should be 30 feet.

PS4.D Require all new development to meet the minimum fire flow rates specified by the City's Fire Code.

PS4.E Require all new development plans to be approved by the Fire Department prior to the issuance of building permits, grading permits or final map approval.

PS4.F Develop a program to inform and educate the community about potential risks, resources and roles and responsibilities for addressing fire safety in St. Helena. Inform residents of homes adjacent to public lands of their responsibility to provide fire breaks adjacent to their homes.

PS4.G Review all new development proposals for their potential to introduce the production, use, storage and/or transport of hazardous materials, and require reasonable controls on such materials.

PS4.H Develop a Hazardous Materials Response Plan that includes guidelines, protocols and strategies to respond to a local hazardous materials spill.

PS4.I Strengthen regulations for the safe production, transport, handling, use and disposal of hazardous materials that may cause air, water or soil contamination. Require buffers for operations which handle substantial amounts of hazardous materials. When siting new facilities or expanding existing facilities, require buffer zones between hazardous materials facilities and residential uses, parkland, trails and open space facilities.

PS4.J Develop and launch a citywide education campaign to encourage the use of green products in order to reduce non-point source pollution. Target efforts towards the reduction of household chemical use and hazardous waste disposal.

PS4.K Require environmental assessments during the planning for development in areas previously used for agricultural, commercial, or industrial uses. Remediation of identified contamination that may result in health risks to construction workers and future owners and users shall be required prior to approval of construction, demolition, and grading permits for development.

topic area
5 FLOOD HAZARDS

Policies

PS5.1 Minimize the risk to people, property and the environment caused by flooding hazards. Site new development to minimize potential damage from a 100-year flood. Continue to require that any new development is constructed to FEMA standards. Prohibit the siting of uses within Flood Hazard Areas inconsistent with FEMA standards that could result in health and safety hazards, including those due to the release of chemicals or other substances as a result of inundation or erosion. Ensure that any new flood protection projects comply with State Department of Water Resources (DWR) standards.

PS5.2 Ensure that new development or existing lots of record within the 100-year floodplain are properly graded sited, and constructed to mitigate flood effects and do not cause increases or expansion of the flood area that increase flood risk.

PS5.3 Within the 100-year floodplain, encourage open space uses, such as parks or natural areas.

PS5.4 Ensure that construction of flood barriers does not adversely affect natural floodplains, stream channels and natural barriers that help accommodate or channel flood waters.

PS5.5 Prohibit new development within areas designated as Floodway in the current FEMA Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).

(Also see the Public Facilities and Services Element, Topic Area 3)

Implementing Actions

PS5.A Coordinate with the County Flood Control District to ensure that stream channels are routinely cleared of vegetation and debris which could impede stormwater flows, while protecting riparian habitat.

PS5.B Require developers with land adjacent to the Napa River to construct or contribute a fair share toward the construction of necessary flood control improvements.

PS5.C Strengthen and enforce regulations that prohibit the dumping of litter, fill and waste materials into creeks and waterways. Educate the public about flooding and health hazards associated with these activities.

PS5.D Require that sewer and water lines in areas subject to flooding are sited to avoid contamination and flooding when pipelines break.

PS5.E Prohibit the introduction of intensive urban development in designated Flood Hazard Areas.

PS5.F Review Municipal Code Chapter 15.52, Flood Damage Prevention, to ensure that regulations reflect best practices. Periodically update the City's flood hazard regulations in accordance with FEMA/NFIP regulations.

PS5.G Implement the requirements of FEMA and DWR standards as appropriate to construction in Special Flood Hazards Areas as illustrated on Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

PS5.H Implement low impact development practices for new development and redevelopment projects to reduce stormwater peak flow rates and volumes from smaller, more frequently occurring storm events.



Coordination with the County Flood Control District will ensure that stream channels are routinely cleared of vegetation and debris.

topic area
6 DISASTER PLANNING

Policies

PS6.1 Ensure that City emergency procedures are adequate in the event of potential natural or man-made disasters.

Implementing Actions

PS6.A Maintain and periodically update the City's Emergency Response Plan.

PS6.B Conduct periodic emergency response exercises to test the effectiveness of City emergency response procedures.

PS6.C Continue to collaborate with regional agencies and neighboring jurisdictions to develop and implement a regional emergency coordination plan and agreement for police, fire and emergency medical services.



chapter ten
climate change



Community farmers markets provide opportunities to purchase locally-grown foods close to home, reducing the miles food travels to the table.

10.1 Purpose of the Element

The Climate Change Element presents a framework to help the City respond to and plan for climate change. It aims to effectively address the City’s energy conservation concerns, renewable energy production and use, transportation issues, sustainable business development, and the responsible evolution of the City to reduce climate change impacts in St. Helena. The policies and actions included in this element seek to align with Napa County’s Community Climate Action Plan Framework and to chart a course that meets St. Helena’s specific needs.

The Climate Change Element includes the following sections:

- **10.2 Combating Climate Change in St. Helena.** Describes key climate change issues in St. Helena (p. 10-3).
- **10.3 Key Findings and Recommendations.** Identifies key findings and recommendations based on the latest conditions analysis and extensive community outreach (p. 10-8).
- **10.4 Goals.** Defines overarching goals to guide policies and implementing action (p. 10-10).
- **10.5 Policies and Implementing Actions.** Identifies policies and implementing actions to accomplish St. Helena’s climate change objectives (p. 10-11).

- 1 introduction
- 2 land use and growth management
- 3 economic sustainability
- 4 public facilities and services
- 5 circulation
- 6 historic resources
- 7 community design
- 8 open space and conservation
- 9 public health, safety and noise
- 10 climate change**
- 11 housing
- 12 parks and recreation
- 13 arts, culture and entertainment

10.2 Combating Climate Change in St. Helena

Climate change, also known as global warming, refers to the increase in the Earth's average temperature that has occurred since the middle of the 20th century. This increase in temperature is widely attributed to a buildup of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from human-made sources that have proliferated and accelerated since the age of Industrialization. Many scientists project that global temperatures will likely increase in the future, raising broad concern about the effects of temperature change on the Earth's climate. Potential risks include rising sea levels, changing precipitation patterns, expanding desertification and increasing greenhouse gas emissions. Although debate continues about how the United States should engage in the global climate change discussion, many state and local governments have adopted policies to address climate change concerns. By adopting this Climate Change Element, St. Helena can take steps to forward the global climate change agenda at the local level. Moreover, as climactic conditions shift in the coming decades – potentially requiring policy responses unknown today – St. Helena will be position to adapt to and accommodate new federal, state and regional planning requirements as they arise.

St. Helena joined the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) in 2008. In coordination with the ICLEI program and the Climate Protection Campaign, the City developed the 2009 City of St. Helena Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Action Plan Analysis Final Report.¹ In 2012, the City completed a GHG emissions inventory of Citycontrolled operations and activities. Available data indicate that, in 2010, the City of St. Helena municipal operations emitted 3,506 metric tons of equivalent carbon dioxide (CO₂e). Municipal GHG emissions varied by end-use sector, with water and wastewater operations and employee commutes generating the largest proportions of total emissions. The remainder of the City's GHG emissions included City buildings, vehicle fleet, streetlights, water transport facilities, and government-generated solid waste disposal.²

¹ Tellus Applied Sciences, Inc. *The City of St. Helena Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Action Plan Analysis Final Report. 2009*

² Association of Bay Area Governments and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability USA, *City of St. Helena 2010 Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory, October 9, 2012.*



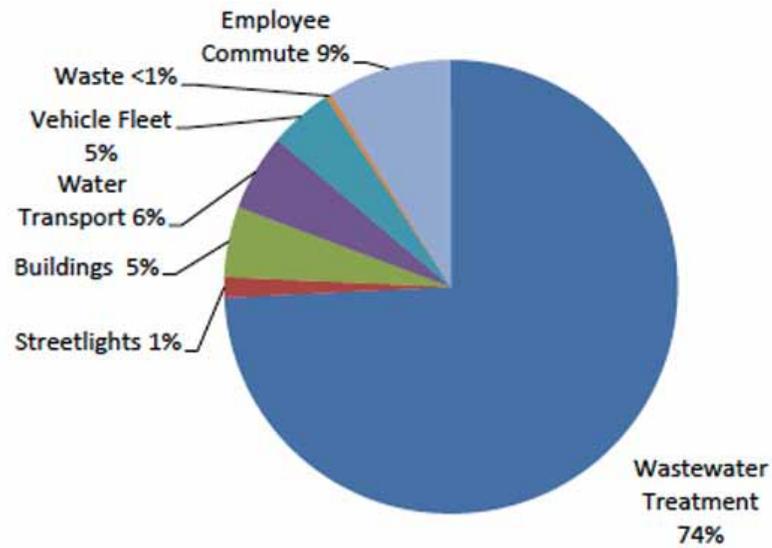
Canopies of urban street trees create shade and help enhance quality of life while mitigating the impact of the built environment on natural systems.



Innovative systems can capture and reuse rainwater and make use of rooftop spaces for agriculture or plantings.

Figure 10.A Government Operations Emissions by Sector, 2010

Table 10.1 presents 2005 and 2010 GHG emissions data for the St. Helena community. In 2005, emissions community-wide emissions totaled 43,831 metric tons CO₂e; in 2010 emissions totaled, 44,008 metric tons CO₂e, a small increase of 0.4 percent. Table 10.1 shows the breakdown of emissions by sector. The largest source



of emissions is from the commercial/industrial sector, which contributed 35 percent of total community-wide emissions in 2010, followed by the transportation sector (29 percent), residential sector (25 percent), offroad vehicles and equipment (5 percent), agriculture (3 percent) and waste (2 percent). Emissions were reduced in all sectors except the transportation sector, which increased 36 percent. Emissions from the transportation sector are generated by automobiles and trucks travelling on local roads and include pass-through traffic.³

In 2012, the City adopted a GHG reduction target of 20 percent below 2005 levels by the year 2020. This target is consistent with the State’s goal to reduce California emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020. Through Assembly Bill 32 and other legislation, the State is implementing measures that will reduce emissions by improving fuel efficiency in vehicles, reducing the carbon intensity of

³ Association of Bay Area Governments and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability USA, City of St. Helena 2005 and 2010 Community-Wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory, 2012.

transportation fuels, increasing the use of renewable power, and other actions. However, local action is needed to ensure St. Helena meets its reduction target.

Targeting climate change policies to reduce vehicle miles traveled on local roads is essential to achieving the City's long-term GHG reduction goals. Moreover, strengthening policies to improve commercial and residential building efficiency, conserve energy, and eliminate organic waste from landfills can reduce community emissions.

Within government operations, improving building efficiency, utilizing renewable energy, and replacing vehicles with more fuel-efficient models can significantly reduce GHG emissions.

In 2009, St. Helena joined with other Napa County jurisdictions to prepare the Napa Countywide Community Climate Action Framework. The Framework, adopted by the Napa County Transportation and Planning Agency in 2010, provides a consensus-based context for further planning efforts by the individual cities and towns. It outlines a suite of actions that, when translated into locally specific programs and projects countywide, will help meet climate protection targets. Many of the implementing actions contained in this Climate Change Element are based on the actions identified in the Framework.

TABLE 10.1: Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions in St. Helena

Sector	2005 Emissions (MTCO ₂ e)	2010 Emissions (MTCO ₂ e)	Change (MTCO ₂ e)	Percent Change
Commercial/Industrial	16,588	15,444	-1,144	-7%
Transportation	9,520	12,907	3,387	36%
Residential	11,169	10,946	-223	-2%
Off-road Vehicles and Equipment	2,248	2,191	-57	-3%
Agriculture	1,622	1,468	-155	-10%
Waste	2,684	1,053	1,631	-61%
TOTAL	43,831	44,008	177	0.4%

Source: City of St. Helena. DRAFT Napa County Carbon Footprint Results. 2009

CONCEPTS, TRENDS AND IDEAS

Planning Regionally as a Solution to Climate Change

The single-largest source of greenhouse gases in California is emissions from passenger vehicles. This means that in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce our contribution to climate change, California must revisit existing policies and the way communities are designed in order to reduce the number of vehicle miles traveled by the State's residents, therefore reducing vehicle emissions.

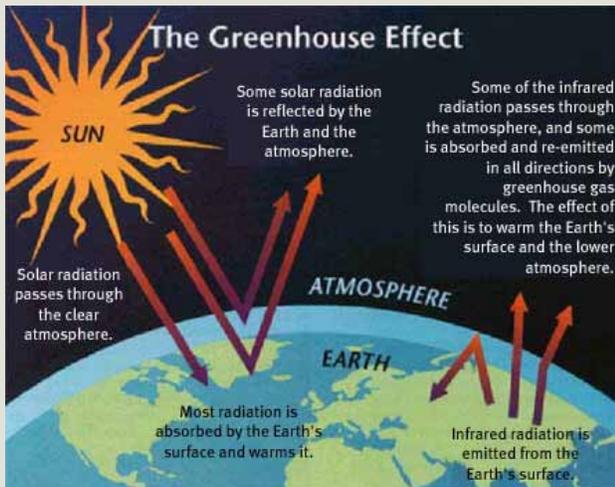
In 2006, the Governor signed The Global Warming Solutions Act into law to do just that. Often referred to as Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32), the Global Warming Solutions Act requires the State of California to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) to 1990 levels no later than 2020. SB 375 takes AB 32 to the next step by requiring California's regional land use and transportation authorities to work with local agencies to achieve more compact growth patterns, thereby reducing the quantity of greenhouse gases emitted by passenger vehicles.

SB 375 has five key features:

1. It mandates that regional planning agencies establish regional targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions tied to land use, and therefore driving patterns.
2. It requires that regional planning agencies create a plan to meet those targets.



Although many Californians can picture the long-term dire consequences of climate change, there are also many near-term dangers to the state's wetlands as changing weather patterns affect wildlife habitats and life cycles.



The greenhouse effect has been studied for many years, but California is the first state in the nation to take specific action to combat the effects of greenhouse gas emissions.

3. SB 375 requires that regional transportation funding decisions be consistent with this new plan.
4. It integrates regional transportation planning and housing allocation efforts for the first time.
5. It establishes new California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemptions and streamlining for development projects that conform to the new regional plans.

The Sustainable Communities Strategy

SB 375 requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to establish GHG emission reduction targets related to transportation for each Metropolitan Transportation Organization (MTO) region by September 30, 2010. The Metropolitan Planning Commission (MTC) is the designated MPO for Napa County and the greater Bay Area region.

Under SB 375, each MPO must then add a new element to its long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) called a "Sustainable Communities Strategy," or SCS. The SCS seeks to achieve the targeted reductions in greenhouse gas emissions if there is a feasible way to do so, planning for compact growth and matching transportation improvements.

10.3 Key Findings and Recommendations

There are several challenges and opportunities facing St. Helena related to climate change. The following key findings and recommendations are based upon comprehensive existing conditions analysis and community input.

- St. Helena is currently implementing a program to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from City facilities based on findings in the City of St. Helena Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Action Plan Analysis (Final Report April 22, 2009). The City's goal is to reduce citywide emissions by 15% below 2005 levels by the year 2020.
- The City of St. Helena municipal operations emitted 3,506 metric tons of equivalent carbon dioxide (CO₂e) during the year 2010. Water and wastewater operations and employee commutes generated the largest proportions of total emissions (74 percent and 9 percent, respectively). Water transport facilities accounted for 6 percent of emissions, followed by City buildings (5 percent street lights (1 percent) and government-generated waste (less than 1 percent)). By implementing measures for future action relating to building and equipment energy efficiency, fuel efficiency, alternative fuel options and alternative energy generation, the City can make strides to meet its GHG reduction goals and be a model for other businesses and institutions seeking to reduce long-term emissions levels.
- The City is in the process of adopting the Napa Countywide Community Climate Action Framework (Draft December 2009) which included an inventory of city-wide emissions from various sources for each of the five cities and the unincorporated area of Napa County. The framework contains 53 consensus-based actions that will guide the collective county to meeting GHG reduction goals. The collaborative process was managed by the Napa County Transportation and Planning Agency.
- The Napa Countywide Community Climate Action Framework will be used as a springboard for preparation and adoption of the City of St. Helena Climate Action Plan which will present city specific goals and actions.



Green jobs programs can help to build local capacity for solar installations and other energy saving strategies for homeowners.

- In 2010, St. Helena's estimated community-wide GHG emissions totaled 44,008 metric tons CO₂e, and per capita emissions were 7.57 metric tons CO₂e. Emissions rose 0.4% from 2005 levels. While commercial and industrial sources represented the greatest share of community-wide emissions in 2010, emissions from these sources decreased 7 percent between 2005 and 2010. On the other hand, transportation emissions, which accounted for the second largest source of emissions in 2010, increased 36 percent. Emissions from residential buildings, off-road vehicles and equipment, agricultural operations, and waste disposal all decreased between 2005 and 2010. These reductions, however, were only enough to compensate for the significant rise in transportation emissions.
- Approximately 29 percent of community-wide emissions in St. Helena result from on-road vehicles. Effective land use planning that reduces vehicle miles traveled and promotes alternate modes of transportation is essential to mitigating climate change. By focusing on improving bicycle and pedestrian connections across the City and reducing commute and truck trips, St. Helena can address auto-related emissions levels at both the local and regional levels.
- St. Helena relies primarily on surface water runoff and groundwater sources for its water supply. This dependence on rainfall could leave the City vulnerable to



Innovative landscaping like rain gardens can beautify impermeable surfaces like parking lots while addressing water runoff concerns.

water shortages if rainfall frequency were to decrease due to climate change. Fully integrating water resource conservation policies and implementation measures into the City's Climate Change Element is essential to ensuring that St. Helena will have adequate water supplies to meet its future needs.

- Approximately 32 percent of St. Helena's economy relies on markets that may be adversely affected by climate change, most importantly agriculture and tourism. By considering the water supply in future climate change scenarios, and supporting measures to recycle and reuse water as much as possible in the near future, the City can begin to strengthen the viability of its industries, markets and employment into the future.
- St. Helena has commissioned a local Climate Protection Task Force (CPTF) to advise the City Council on steps St. Helena can take to reduce the negative impacts of global warming.
- Currently, St. Helena does not have a comprehensive recycling program for City departments and facilities, nor has it established waste-reduction targets for waste generated in City operations. Creating a recycling program and setting waste-reduction targets for City operations can enable the City to lead by example in citywide waste-reduction efforts.
- The City has adopted a goal to reduce community-wide emissions by 15 percent below 2005 levels by the year 2020, provided that attainment of such a goal is economically feasible and an appropriate use of City resources.



10.4 Goals

The goals of the Climate Change Element are:

Increase Citywide Transportation-Related Energy Efficiency.

The City seeks to reduce demand for fossil fuels by decreasing vehicle miles traveled, improving transit options and the fuel efficiency of vehicles, supporting the use of renewable energy-powered vehicles, and creating a bicycle and pedestrian-friendly environment.

Reduce Energy Demand Through Improved Building and Design.

St. Helena is dedicated to reducing energy demand by promoting development and construction that improve resource conservation and efficiency, and to improving the energy supply by switching from fossil fuels to renewables.

Reduce Consumption and Divert Waste.

The City is committed to achieving waste diversion of 75 percent to 90 percent by year 2020.

Ensure the Sustainable Management of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Urban Forests.

St. Helena is dedicated to protecting and increasing the amount of vegetation

Creating walkable streets and shopping districts can help to reduce dependence on automobiles as residents and visitors walk and bicycle more.

and biomass in local soils, reducing emissions from agricultural sources, encouraging responsible and sustainable agricultural and landscaping practices, and significantly reducing water use to protect local water resources.

Increase Community Engagement and Advocacy.

The City seeks to increase participation in greenhouse gas reduction efforts through marketing programs and community outreach. In addition, they are committed to engaging and advocating for collaborative policy and legislative solutions at the local, regional, state, federal and global levels.

Improve the Efficiency of Local Government Operations.

St. Helena is dedicated to reducing fossil fuel consumption by local government operations, improving the energy efficiency and reduction of carbon emissions of City and County facilities and operations, and reducing solid waste attributable to City and County operations and facilities.



Top: California's rail system provides regional transit connections throughout the state.

Bottom: Innovative solutions for parking lots can create self-sustaining spaces with less impact on the natural environment.

10.5 Policies and Implementing Actions

A range of policies and implementing actions are outlined below and organized into the following topic areas:

1. Transportation and Mobility;
2. Buildings and Energy;
3. Consumption and Solid Waste;
4. Agriculture, Natural Resources and Urban Forests;
5. Community Engagement; and
6. Local Government Operations.

The policies mandate, encourage or allow certain actions to be pursued throughout the duration of the General Plan. They draw directly from the Napa Countywide Community Climate Action Plan Framework, and reflect St. Helena's commitment to coordinating its climate change measures with county-wide efforts to address climate change. Together they serve as strategic directions for City staff and partners, highlighting where time and resources should be focused.

Policies

CC1.1 Promote a “walkable” and “bikeable” city.

CC1.2 Support transportation planning efforts to optimize fuel efficiency and reduce vehicle miles travelled on local roads.

CC1.3 Seek initiatives that provide efficient modes of transportation for visitors and residents.

Implementing Actions

CC1.A Adopt and implement pedestrian and bicycle networks within St. Helena that may connect to a countywide multi-use trail that extends from Calistoga to American Canyon.

CC1.B If feasible maintain and enhance existing express bus, local bus and para-transit services. Provide shuttle service between the three upvalley towns. Support the establishment of a northbound express bus during peak commute hours. Ensure that these services provide opportunities to connect with proposed countywide service improvements, such as a centralized transit center in Downtown Napa.

CC1.C Expand Park and Ride areas and other support facilities to encourage public transportation use, and car and van pooling.

CC1.D Evaluate truck and freight rail routes through the City. Based on these findings, develop policies and strategies to improve circulation and neighborhood compatibility issues.

CC1.E Adopt and implement transportation plans in accordance with the Napa County Transportation and Planning Agency’s (NCTPA) Strategic Transportation Plan to increase transit service and ridership in St. Helena and connections with County transit services.

topic area

1 TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY

CC1.F Establish programs to reduce vehicle miles traveled by supporting local hiring, food production, farmers' markets and community-based "buy local" campaigns. For General Plan purposes, "local" includes St. Helena and its residents, as well as the residents and areas of the surrounding towns and unincorporated County that have traditionally been served by St. Helena's commercial and retail services.

CC1.G Evaluate parking standards to help reduce vehicle miles traveled by reducing vehicle idling.

CC1.H Increase walkability and bikeability to encourage a reduction in local auto trips. Strengthen outreach to increase awareness of pedestrian and bicycle amenities throughout the City.

CC1.I Require discretionary development projects to assess and mitigate the impacts of vehicle miles traveled using transportation demand management programs, including providing transit amenities.

CC1.J Initiate programs that encourage car-free tourism through incentives, outreach, awareness and creating a bicycle and pedestrian-friendly environment.

CC1.K Adopt and implement programs to assist businesses and organizations switch from fossil fuel-powered fleet vehicles to vehicles powered by clean, renewable energy sources.

CC1.L Develop parks and open spaces in support of efforts to create walkable, bikeable mixed-use neighborhoods, especially to complement higher-density development and connect lower-density areas.

CC1.M Design and operate the public street system to optimize fuel efficiency. Consider fuel efficiency in the design of street extensions, connections and right-of-way controls at intersections, and monitor and adjust traffic signals.



Transit agencies in some parts of the state are building their fleets with buses that use natural gas and other alternative fuel sources.

Policies

CC2.1 Encourage measures to reduce energy demand through conservation and efficiency.

CC2.2 Support local efforts to improve the energy supply by switching from fossil fuels to renewables.



New building technologies make it possible to reduce energy consumption and generate new energy using solar, wind, and water sources.

Implementing Actions

CC2.A Partner with the County of Napa to implement an AB811 program that makes funding available to residential and commercial property owners seeking to improve their properties to conserve energy and water, and to generate solar energy.

CC2.B Pursue state and federal funding programs designed to reduce energy demand through conservation and efficiency.

CC2.C Implement improved energy conservation (Title 24) standards for new buildings, and other state building code standards for high performance “green” buildings, beginning in 2011. Utilize established green building standards, such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and Build it Green.

CC2.D Continue to reduce energy use by promoting domestic water conservation and requiring water-efficient landscape improvements associated with new construction.

CC2.E Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from buildings and energy use. Require or request that new development projects analyze greenhouse gas emissions due to energy use, and incorporate energy and safe yield water conservation measures into projects.

CC2.F In support of countywide energy generation efforts, increase local renewable energy generation. Adopt production standards for the City based on quantifiable measures that increase per capita generation levels.

CC2.G Remove regulatory impediments and economic disincentives associated with the generation and use of energy from renewable sources, such as wind, geothermal and solar energy.

CC2.H Establish programs that encourage owners to retrofit existing structures to incorporate energy-efficient and “green” building standards. (Also see the Community Design Element, Topic Area: 1)



Wind turbines offer new opportunities for climate-friendly energy generation.

topic area

3 CONSUMPTION AND SOLID WASTE**Policies**

CC3.1 Enhance recycling, composting and source reduction services for residential and commercial uses to support Napa County's countywide waste reduction goal to achieve overall waste diversion of 75 percent to 90 percent by 2020. (Also see the Public Facilities and Services Element, Topic Area: 4)



TOP Local gardens help reduce the footprint of fruits and vegetables.

BOTTOM A boatload of trash illustrates how much waste enters natural ecosystems.

Implementing Actions

CC3.A Establish programs and create incentives to achieve a 75 to 90 percent citywide construction and demolition debris waste diversion level by 2020.

CC3.B Establish programs and create incentives to achieve a 75 percent organic (food and green) waste diversion level by 2020.

CC3.C Establish citywide collection services for segregated food waste from commercial sources.

CC3.D Encourage home composting of organic waste.

CC3.E Create and support other programs, such as the Napa County Green Business Program and the green restaurant program, that help achieve the 75 to 90 percent overall waste diversion goal.

CC3.F Adopt environmentally-preferable purchasing measures and explore joint-purchasing agreements with partner agencies and businesses.



Incentives programs can help to encourage everything from green roofs to composting and recycling to reuse of materials.

topic area

4 AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND URBAN FORESTS**Policies**

CC4.1 Support efforts to protect and increase the amount of vegetation and biomass in soil, and reduce emissions from agricultural sources.

CC4.2 Encourage responsible and sustainable agricultural and landscaping practices.

CC4.3 Strengthen water conservation measures that result in significant reductions in local water use and the protection of local water resources. (Also see the Community Design Element, Topic Area: 1)

CC4.4 Support efforts to expand and improve the City's managed urban forest program in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve overall air quality. (Also see the Open Space and Conservation Element for additional policies and implementing actions relating to urban forests.)

CC4.5 Promote community gardens to reduce emissions generated in food transportation.

Implementing Actions

CC4.A Establish programs to support and encourage local agriculture, food production and school and community gardens.

CC4.B Promote edible landscaping where possible.

CC4.C Establish programs and plans that create and enhance urban forests and greenways.

CC4.D Assess the impact of land use changes, new vineyards and urban development on carbon sequestration.

CC4.E Support efforts by local growers and restaurants to produce and use locally-grown food and remove associated regulatory hurdles.

CC4.F Revise ordinances to further protect habitat and mitigate the conversion of oak woodlands, natural resources, riparian habitat and other important natural communities by permanently protecting similar habitats.

CC4.G Support and promote the Napa Green Certified Winery Program and the Napa Green Certified Land Program.

topic area

4 AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND URBAN FORESTS

CC4.H Adopt landscape ordinances that promote drought resistant plants, and limit or restrict lawns and other high-water-demand plants unless irrigated with reclaimed or grey water systems.

CC4.I Develop and adopt energy-saving and environmentally-sound domestic water conservation plans.

CC4.J Establish an urban forestry program to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive approach to maintaining and increasing the City's trees especially native varieties when possible.



Farmers markets and community gardens provide residents with direct connections to the food supply.

Policies

CC5.1 Support local efforts to market programs and conduct community outreach through schools, non-profit groups, community organizations and the business community to increase participation in greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction efforts.

CC5.2 Engage and advocate for collaborative programs, policies and legislative solutions at the regional, state, federal and global levels to reduce global GHG emissions.

CC5.3 Expand local awareness about gardening, composting and agriculture.



Community programs can help engage both adults and children in learning about their environments and about the impact of greenhouse gas emissions on the climate.

Implementing Actions

CC5.A Partner with the St. Helena Unified School District, private schools, community-based non-profit organizations and others to undertake public outreach and education efforts that broaden community involvement in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

CC5.B Market and encourage participation in incentive programs that improve energy efficiency.

CC5.C Foster and build public-private partnerships that help achieve greater energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

CC5.D Promote programs designed to advance sustainable business practices in St. Helena. Use the Napa County Green Business Program as a model for a City-based effort.

CC5.E Participate in and help develop effective regional, state and federal solutions to reduce emissions.

CC5.F Engage and assist local agencies and utility companies toward achieving greenhouse gas reduction targets.

CC5.G Enable long-term solutions by investing in and supporting science and engineering education.

CC5.H Support the United States' participation in international greenhouse gas reduction efforts.

CC5.I Establish an outreach program to raise public awareness about gardening, composting and agriculture. Utilize public access television, the City's website, public notices and workshops to engage a broad and diverse range of residents.

topic area

6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Policies

CC6.1 Ensure that the City leads by example in managing its local government operations while implementing the following policy directions:

- Encourage the reduction of fossil fuel consumption by local government operations.
- Improve energy efficiency, implement alternative and renewable energy solutions and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in City and county facilities and operations.
- Reducing solid waste from City and County operations and facilities.



Collaboration between governmental entities, residents and community groups ensures that actions have significant impacts.

Implementing Actions

CC6.A Transition City fleets to vehicles powered by clean, renewable energy sources.

CC6.B Install electric vehicle charging stations with funding from state and federal sources.

CC6.C Encourage alternatives to agency employees' use of single-occupancy vehicles by providing bicycle racks, preferential parking permits for carpools and vanpools, commuter information and other incentives.

CC6.D Conduct audits and regularly monitor the effectiveness of City and County energy efficiency implementation measures and adapt them to meet targets.

CC6.E Convert street lighting, water pumping, water treatment and other energy-intensive operations to more efficient technologies.

CC6.F Ensure that new municipal or substantially-renovated municipal facilities incorporate cost-effective strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving energy and water and utilizing sustainable construction practices.

topic area

6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

CC6.G Consider carbon emissions from the production, transportation, use and disposal of goods as a criterion for City purchasing decisions.

CC6.H Establish a comprehensive, user-friendly recycling program that involves all City departments and facilities. Recover 70 to 85 percent of all waste generated in City operations.

CC6.I Install renewable energy systems at City facilities.

CC6.J Review and update the implementation actions recommended by the City's Climate Protection Task Force (CPTF) on an annual basis.



chapter twelve
parks and recreation



A comprehensive network of parks and open spaces brings many benefits to the St. Helena community.

12.1 Purpose of the Element

The Parks and Recreation Element presents a framework for developing and maintaining a comprehensive system of quality parks, pedestrian and bicycle trails recreational facilities and programs. It aims to effectively manage the City's parks and recreation programming and to support community members' health, entertainment and high quality of life. Key to these efforts is increasing the overall acreage of useable publicly accessible park space in St. Helena, and creating and maintaining a network of bicycle and pedestrian trails that establishes connections from residential neighborhoods to parks, schools, and goods and services.

The Parks and Recreation Element includes the following sections.

- **12.2 Parks and Recreation Framework for St. Helena.** Summarizes key issues related to parks and recreation in St. Helena (p. 12-3).
- **12.3 Key Findings and Recommendations.** Identifies key findings and recommendations based on an existing conditions analysis and extensive community outreach (p. 12-9).
- **12.4 Goals.** Defines overarching goals to guide policies and implementing actions (p. 12-10).

- 1 introduction
- 2 land use and growth management
- 3 economic sustainability
- 4 public facilities and services
- 5 circulation
- 6 historic resources
- 7 community design
- 8 open space and conservation
- 9 public health, safety and noise
- 10 climate change
- 11 housing
- 12 parks and recreation**
- 13 arts, culture and entertainment

- **12.5 Policies and Implementing Actions.** Identifies policies and implementing actions to expand and maintain a comprehensive parks and recreation system (p. 12-11).

To supplement the policies and implementing actions included here, additional policies and actions associated with the provision of trails, the urban/agricultural interface, and the maintenance of open space for recreation can be found in the Open Space and Conservation Element.

12.2 Parks and Recreation Framework for St. Helena

The St. Helena community has expressed the desire for a comprehensive and integrated system of parks and recreational facilities to meet residents' diverse recreational needs. The system can include parks, open spaces and community facilities linked together along natural creek corridors and pedestrian-friendly streets. In addition, these parks and recreational resources can develop concurrently with pedestrian and bicycle improvements that link neighborhoods and connect the community to key destinations throughout the City. Figure 12.1 is a map that illustrates the array of parks and recreation facilities that currently exist in St. Helena. Together, these assets present opportunities to build the desired network of parks, open spaces and recreational amenities for current and future City residents.

NETWORK OF PARKS AND RECREATION AMENITIES

A comprehensive parks and recreation system includes parks of various sizes, community gardens, community orchards, community and recreational facilities, a variety of natural features, and connectors such as paths, trails and green streets. By enhancing these amenities and connections and linking all components together, St. Helena can create a valuable resource system that helps to fulfill the desired characteristics that residents have identified for their community. These include equitable access to open space and community facilities, a strong connection to agriculture, environmental sustainability and community livability.



The historic gazebo at Lyman Park is a favorite site for parties and events.

PARK CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

This General Plan establishes a parks classification system for St. Helena. The park classification system is composed of three general park types: parklets, mini parks, neighborhood parks and community parks (see Table 12.1). The classification system identifies park functions to serve a wide range of leisure and recreation activities appropriate to their surrounding context, including suggested acreages and service area radii. St. Helena’s citywide park land service goal specifies a minimum of 10.5 acres of park land per 1,000 residents. Park land access standards specify a need for parks to be located with a 10-minute walk of residential neighborhoods, ensuring convenient access for all. A comprehensive parks master planning process will provide an opportunity to further delineate St. Helena’s park land types, identify long-term goals for the community, describe current and future needs and community preferences, and prioritize parks and recreational facilities improvement needs.

TABLE 12.1: St. Helena Parks by Park Category

Category	Park	Acres	Site Characteristics
Mini	Baldwin Park	1.00	Mowed grass; picnic tables; handicapped accessible from Voorhees Circle.
	Lewis Station	0.13	"Pocket Park" with picnic tables, benches and restroom.
	Lyman Park	1.00	Picnic tables; grassy areas; childrens' play area; gazebo for events; one restroom.
	Mary Fryer Park	1.00	Picnic tables; play equipment designed for pre-school-aged children.
	Stonebridge Park	0.25	Located on the Napa River; grassy areas with limited parking.
Neighborhood	Jacob Meilly Park	4.00	Play field; heritage orchard, picnic area, children's playground, and restroom.
	Wappo Park	6.20	Undeveloped.
Community	Crane Park	12.00	Six lighted tennis courts; six lighted bocce courts; two Little League baseball fields; horseshoe pits; childrens' playground; two restrooms; picnic areas; Farmer's Market; and skate park.

Figure 12.1
Parks and Recreation



Source: City of St. Helena; Napa County
Map Revised: April 2016

CONCEPTS, TRENDS AND IDEAS

The Many Benefits of Parks and Recreation

In recent decades, cities and counties have paid greater attention to the many benefits of parks, and have adapted their marketing strategies to focus less on the defining physical features of parks and more on how parks benefit the entire community. The Benefits Movement, of which this shift is a part, was introduced by the National Recreation and Park Association in the mid-1990s, and has been defined as “an ongoing process by leisure service providers to identify desirable individual, economic, community and environmental benefits derived from recreational experiences, including the assignment of resources to address and promote these benefits and their outcomes.”

Personal and Community Benefits

Evidence indicates that when people have access to parks they exercise more, increasing health and reducing the risk of many physical, life-threatening conditions. Studies also show that providing access to parks and the outdoors creates benefits for psychological health. Physical activity is commonly known to relieve symptoms of depression and anxiety.

Parks provide spaces for outdoor play for children and in turn support the physical, behavioral and cognitive development. By providing engaging recreational opportunities for St. Helena’s children and youth, parks and recreation systems can promote healthy and active play.



Children’s play environments support physical, behavioral and cognitive development and promote healthy and active play.



Top: The St. Helena's Farmers Market attracts residents and visitors in support of local and regional agriculture and commerce.

Bottom: Parks designed to showcase natural amenities can bring life to a neighborhood and provide important environmental benefits.

Economic Benefits

A healthy parks and recreation system is very important to local economic development. For many, the availability of accessible open space is a central quality of life issue, and access to open space is an important factor that they consider when choosing where to live or establish their business. Recreational amenities, including parks and green spaces, can help increase the value of nearby properties. In other words, parks bring economic benefits to individual property owners and businesses and, in so doing, strengthen the local tax base, generating more revenue for public services and facilities, including new parks and open spaces.

Environmental Benefits

Open space and park lands can provide multiple environmental benefits for local communities. Parks help preserve ecologically and historically significant natural resources, in part through the preservation of wildlife habitat. Parks can also help to protect significant historic features of the natural landscape and play an essential role in protecting water and air quality. Green spaces help filter and reduce storm water run-off from more developed areas. Parks with healthy tree canopies help capture carbon dioxide and other polluting gases. By working to build an interconnected network of green corridors and open spaces, parks planners can help repair and restore ecosystems rather than detract from them.



The St. Helena Skatepark, located in Crane Park, is a popular spot for teens.

RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

The City of St. Helena offers an array of recreational programs and services to residents. Programs include youth sports and summer enrichment programs, a middle school teen program and recreational opportunities for adults and seniors. Local community centers, schools, parks and recreation facilities host many of these programs. Key recreational facilities include a newly-constructed skate park, teen center, bocce courts, athletic fields, a dog park, a community garden, a public vineyard, and a community swimming pool.

As the City evolves, it will be important to ensure that these programs and services respond to the changing demographic interests and needs of residents. By conducting regular citywide needs assessments in conjunction with the creation of a parks and recreation master plan, the City can update, revise and develop new programs to accommodate the evolving needs of the community.

In addition, conducting regular needs assessments will provide opportunities to evaluate the location of parks and recreation facilities in the City to ensure that residents have safe, walkable and equitable access to key recreational facilities, and that these facilities continue to provide a high level of service.

12.3 Key Findings and Recommendations

There are several challenges and opportunities facing St. Helena related to parks and recreation. The following key findings and recommendations are based upon comprehensive existing conditions analysis and community input.

- Since the 1993 General Plan Update, the City has developed a number of new parks. Meily Park, located on Pope Street, is centrally located on the east side of State Route 29. The Constantini property was added to Crane Park, creating the space for additional parking and improved vehicular access. Wappo Park which includes a dog park was completed in 2012.
- Despite these additions, St. Helena currently has a deficiency of parks, with 4.3 acres of park land per 1,000 residents. This figure is below both the municipal and the national standards. The state through legislation known as the “Quimby Act” limits the maximum park ratio to 5 acres per 1000 population for purposes of formulating a park impact fee for new development. Developing designated park areas wherever possible should be a high priority. The Lower Reservoir and open space areas along Sulphur Creek can add significant acreage to the park system, and help the City achieve local and national park standards. The General Plan Land Use Element identifies adequate acreage for future parks to meet the target of 5.0 acres per 1,000 established in this Plan.
- The City lacks adequate active recreation facilities to accommodate community needs. In particular, community members have strongly voiced the need for increased and improved soccer facilities. Work with local schools to identify new park sites where soccer facilities may be located and developing additional fields can help the City meet community demand.

St. Helena offers a variety of recreational programs; including adult and youth sports leagues and camps, bocce, belly dancing, dog obedience and summer programs for students at a range of grade levels. Recent efforts to raise funds for a skate park were successful and the park was opened in the fall of 2009. Expanding offerings to include programs in the creative and performing arts for residents of all ages and abilities can augment the City’s current programs, and encourage even greater participation.



Residents enjoy a sunny day of bocce ball at Crane Park.

12.4 Goals

Provide High-Quality Parks and Recreation Services. St. Helena is dedicated to providing high-quality park facilities and recreation programs that meet the needs of residents of all ages and abilities, while efficiently managing fiscal resources and accommodating community priorities.

Achieve at a minimum the City's standard of 5.0 acres of parkland per 1000 population, which is the maximum park ratio that can be used in establishing a park impact fee under the State legislation known as the Quimby Act. Despite the limitations imposed on the City by the Quimby Act, it is the City's ultimate goal to attempt to achieve the nationally recommended standard of 10.5 acres of park land per 1000 residents.

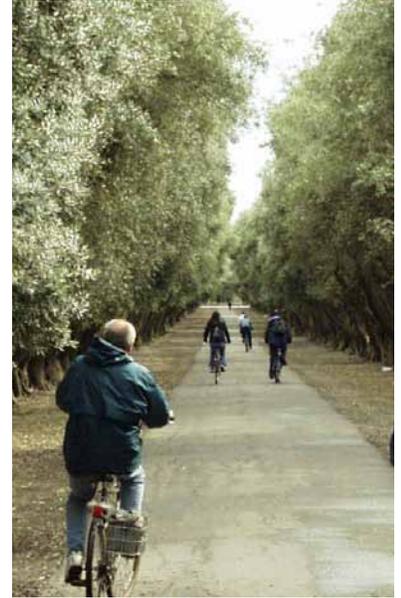
Develop a System of Interconnected Bicycle and Pedestrian Trails. The City is committed to providing residents and visitors with opportunities to walk or bicycle throughout the City and the Napa Valley region, while promoting citywide efforts to encourage participation in active, healthy alternate modes of transportation.

12.5 Policies and Implementing Actions

A range of policies and implementing actions are outlined below and organized into the following topic areas:

1. A Comprehensive and Interconnected System of Parks;
2. Equitable Park Distribution and Access;
3. Urban/Agricultural and Parks Interface;
4. Park Facilities and Recreation Programs;
5. Community Participation and Partnerships; and
6. Bicycle and Pedestrian Amenities.

The policies mandate, encourage or allow certain actions to be pursued throughout the duration of the General Plan. Together, they serve as strategic directions for City staff and partners, highlighting where time and resources should be focused.



St. Helena envisions a complete network of bicycle and pedestrian trails that connect residents and visitors to the places they want to go.



“Pocket parks” such as Lewis Station are fundamental to a comprehensive and interconnected parks system, especially in communities with limited opportunities to develop large, multi-acre parks.

Policies

PR1.1 Retain the park standard from the 1993 General Plan of 5.0 acres of parkland per 1000 residents , while striving for the nationally recommended standard of 10.5 acres per 1000 residents.

PR1.2 Enhance the community’s quality of life and ensure a widely accessible environment through the provision of a citywide system of parks and open spaces. Identify and develop linkages, corridors and other connections to provide an aesthetically pleasing and functional network of parks, open space areas and bike paths throughout the City.

PR1.3 Identify park land opportunity sites to ensure that the City can meet and possibly exceed its park land standard of 5.0 acres per 1,000 residents. Locate new parks to ensure that City park facilities are equitably distributed throughout all areas of the City and residents of all ages can access them safely and conveniently.

PR1.4 Require park land dedications or civic improvement fees on all new residential, commercial and industrial developments to meet the standard of 5.0 acres of parks per 1,000 residents.

topic area

1 A COMPREHENSIVE & INTERCONNECTED SYSTEM OF PARKS

PR1.5 Ensure adequate funding to acquire new park lands as they become available.

PR1.6 Develop new parks only after existing parks have received adequate funding and maintenance.

Implementing Actions

PR1.A Develop a comprehensive, long-range Parks and Recreation Master Plan to aid the City in creating an integrated system of parks. The plan should be updated periodically to address changing recreation interests, trends, needs and priorities. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan should:

- Identify long-term goals for the Parks and Recreation Department and the community;
- Describe current and future needs, interests and community preferences for improving new parks and community facilities, and expanding or initiating new programs and services;
- Present a long-range plan for physical park and community facility improvements;
- Refine performance standards and further develop park design guidelines and criteria;
- Prioritize projects;
- Identify the proportion of Civic Improvement Fees that will be contributed to the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities; and



Funding and maintenance of existing parks and development of new parks are both necessary to ensure safe and convenient access to outdoor recreation.

topic area

1 A COMPREHENSIVE & INTERCONNECTED SYSTEM OF PARKS

- Outline funding mechanisms and strategies for managing the City's commitments, so that new requests and initiative are considered in light of existing commitments.

Subsequent actions in this Element may be included in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

PR1.B Create opportunities to develop additional parks at the following locations:

- The City-owned land along the Napa River and Pratt Avenue for passive recreational uses;
- Land adjacent to York and Sulphur Creeks, as well as the Napa River levee;
- The water treatment plant site;
- The Lower Reservoir area for a water-oriented community recreation facility.
- Ensure that new parks are developed to include bicycle and pedestrian trails

PR1.C Identify a variety of funding sources for new parks and park improvements, including park land dedication, in-lieu fees, and regional, state and federal grant programs, public/private partnerships, public/public partnerships with the SHUSD, Conservation easements for public use, as well as other City funding sources..

PR1.D Strive to acquire additional park land to meet or exceed the City's 5.0 acres of developed park land per the 1,000 residents standard..

PR1.E Develop a comprehensive network of bicycle and pedestrian trails that links the City's parks and enhances bicycle and pedestrian connectivity throughout the City and the region.

PR1.F Mandate City park land dedication requirements for new infill projects. Include specific park acreage and use requirements according to the type, scale and population and increase of new development. Consider in-lieu fees for small infill projects..



The interconnection and accessibility of parks and facilities should be central goals of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Policies

PR2.1 Distribute parks and recreational facilities throughout the City to ensure that all residents have convenient access to parks and recreational programs and facilities.

PR2.2 Construct new parks and recreation facilities to accommodate community needs.

PR2.3 Ensure that parks and recreation programs have safe and convenient access.

Implementing Actions

PR2.A Prioritize the construction of new parks and recreation facilities to ensure that they are distributed equitably to all areas of the City. Park and recreation facility development studies should include the potential impacts of development on surrounding natural resources and agricultural areas.

PR2.B Encourage the inclusion of pocket parks that include amenities, such as picnic tables, restrooms, shade and recreation spaces near retail, commercial and industrial areas.

PR2.C Locate parks and recreation facilities in areas that are easily accessible by public transportation, as well as cars, bicycles and pedestrians.

PR2.D Where possible, ensure that recreation programs and access to facilities are provided at costs affordable to all St. Helena residents.

PR2.E Develop and implement a list of planned parks and recreation facilities.

PR2.F Identify community locations that are not within a 10-minute walk of a park or recreation facility. Develop parks in the identified areas to ensure an equitable distribution of parks citywide.

PR2.G Encourage the development of parklets throughout the City.

PR2.H Encourage the development of linear parks throughout the City.

topic area

3 URBAN/AGRICULTURAL AND PARKS INTERFACE**Policies**

PR3.1 Ensure that the design and development of parks and recreation facilities preserves viewsheds and creates a buffer between urban and agricultural uses, where necessary.

PR3.2 Protect sensitive habitat, agricultural land and open space when planning and maintaining City park lands.

PR3.3 Support local wildlife conservation efforts by incorporating habitat elements in urban/agricultural interface areas and ensuring the protection of migration corridors.



Active recreation is an important part of community life for many St. Helena residents.

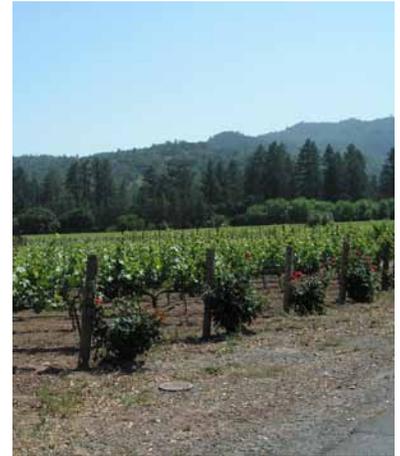
Implementing Actions

PR3.A Develop design guidelines for recreational facilities that preserve viewsheds and maintain a transition buffer between urban and agricultural uses. Include specific design criteria regarding recreational trails and picnic areas adjacent to agricultural uses.

PR3.B Identify locations where new recreational programs and facilities may be constructed.

PR3.C Design and locate new parks to minimize noise and activity impacts on nearby agricultural and residential uses. This includes requiring context-sensitive site designs that minimize negative impacts on surrounding uses, such as pathway and picnic area locations, ball field usage and park lighting.

PR3.D Provide habitat elements in urban/agricultural interface areas. Habitat elements may include roosting trees and nesting boxes for birds, bats and other wildlife, as appropriate.



Protecting sensitive agricultural land and preserving viewsheds are important elements of park and facility design and development.

4 PARK FACILITIES AND RECREATION PROGRAMS

Policies

PR4.1 Develop systematic and comprehensive plans to guide the development and operation of City parks and recreational programs.

PR4.2 Balance preservation, education, recreation and public health and safety in park and open space planning.

PR4.3 Provide park areas for residents of all ages to meet a variety of recreational and social needs, including: seniors; formal, active uses; passive uses that allow for interaction with natural landscapes; and interpretive programs that highlight geomorphology, ecology, cultural resources, agricultural heritage and historic preservation.

PR4.4 Ensure that all parks and recreational facilities are attractive, safe and well-maintained with adequate lighting.

PR4.5 Prioritize park acquisitions and improvements that expand and enhance St. Helena's active recreation facilities and programs to accommodate diverse community needs and interests.

Implementing Actions

PR4.A If feasible, revise and update the City’s recreation program in order to enhance existing programs and/or develop new programs.

PR4.B Promote design guidelines for the development of parks and recreation facilities. Design parks and recreation facilities that are attractive, safe and easy to maintain. This action may be included in a Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

PR4.C Identify locations to accommodate active recreational uses to meet city-wide needs. Potential locations include:

- Bicycle and pedestrian trails, interpretive areas, trail heads, and comfort stations along York and Sulphur creeks and the Napa River; and
- A community park at the City-owned Lower Reservoir area.

PR4.D Support opportunities to involve children and youth in a participatory planning process for the planning, design, construction and maintenance of City parks.

PR4.E Design children’s play areas to include shade and wind protection.

PR4.F Provide multi-purpose event spaces for events in the park system, where possible.

PR4.G Install art designed by local artists in parks, where possible.

PR4.H Encourage the development of soccer fields, multi-sport facilities and, open access to a community pool.

PR4.I Identify key improvements to existing parks, such as parking, picnic facilities, restrooms, tot lots with play structures and multi-modal access points. This action may be included in a Parks and Recreation Master Plan.



The St. Helena Teen Center provides opportunities for youth to create and give back to the community, to make healthy choices, to learn, and to grow.

topic area

5 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND PARTNERSHIPS**Policies**

PR5.1 Encourage partnerships with local organizations and the private sector to provide, develop and maintain parks, recreation facilities and programs.

PR5.2 Ensure that a broad cross-section of St. Helena stakeholders participates in the planning, design and maintenance of parks and recreational amenities.

PR5.3 Encourage volunteerism, mutual responsibility and community spirit to set the tone that St. Helena’s public parks and open spaces belong to everyone.



Jacob Meily Park’s playground and turf area accommodate active recreational uses for children and adults alike.

Implementing Actions

PR5.A Emphasize joint planning and cooperation with all public agencies as the preferred approach to meeting St. Helena’s parks, facilities and program needs.

PR5.B Mandate City parkland dedication requirements for new infill projects. Include specific park acreage and use requirements according to the type, scale and population and increase of new development. Consider in-lieu fees for small infill projects.

PR5.C Provide local organizations, the St. Helena Unified School District and the private sector with opportunities and support for creating and implementing solutions to meet the City’s parks and recreation facilities’ needs.

PR5.D Cooperate with local groups in designing and constructing recreation facilities. Where possible, coordinate recreation and child care programs and facilities with school district programs.

PR5.E Negotiate joint-use agreements for recreation facilities with the St. Helena Unified School District.

PR5.F Involve the private sector in providing and maintaining parks and recreation facilities through formal agreements with the City and in sponsoring increased volunteerism.

PR5.G Investigate the feasibility of creating a non-profit foundation to seek and receive funds for the support of parks and recreation programs. Look to St. Helena’s successful library foundation as a local model.

PR5.H Foster neighborhood park planning committees, including neighborhood residents, business owners and representatives from local groups to help plan, design and maintain parks and recreational facilities.

topic area

5 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

PR5.I Work with community members and representatives of local sports organizations to define facilities needs as community needs change with time.

PR5.J Develop a public outreach program to involve community members in park maintenance and upkeep, and in mitigating vandalism. Create park signage to encourage responsible use of parks, and partner with the police force to support enforcement efforts.



Community volunteerism and stewardship are essential to creating safe, clean and accessible parks and recreational facilities for St. Helena residents.

Policies

PR6.1 Promote walking and bicycling as safe and convenient modes of transportation.

PR6.2 Develop a comprehensive network of bicycle and pedestrian trails to enhance bicycle and pedestrian connectivity throughout the City and the region. (Also see the Community Design Element, Topic Area 4)

PR6.3 Promote the inclusion of bicycle and pedestrian trails, and bicycle lanes throughout the City, as well as connections to regional trail systems, such as the Napa Valley Vine Trail.

PR6.4 Carefully evaluate whether new bicycle and pedestrian trails can be developed and enjoyed without significant environmental risk to nearby sensitive habitat, including fish habitat.

PR6.5 Ensure that new bicycle and pedestrian trails near actively farmed agricultural areas are developed in a manner that minimizes risk of injury to pedestrians and cyclists from active farming operations.

Implementing Actions

PR6.A Develop and adopt a citywide bicycle and pedestrian master plan to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety, and to encourage community members to walk and bike more often. Build on St. Helena's existing partnership with the Napa County Transportation and Planning Agency (NCTPA) to ensure that the City's master plan is consistent with countywide transportation planning efforts (Also see the following elements: Circulation, Topic Area 2; Open Space and Conservation, Topic Area 2)

PR6.B Develop guidelines for the design, construction and maintenance of bicycle and pedestrian trails in St. Helena. Include guidelines for installing context-sensitive and solar lighting, and mitigating noise impacts from the trails. Include guidelines for wayfinding and interpretive exhibits that use signs, art and other visual clues to enhance users'

topic area

6 BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN AMENITIES

experiences. Highlight the rich history of the City and provide education and information for users. Coordinate the guidelines with Napa County or regional trail connections.

PR6.C Develop and adopt an ordinance that requires new development and redevelopment projects to provide bicycle and pedestrian improvements and amenities.

PR6.D Endeavor to secure easements or title to land along Sulphur Creek, York Creek, and the Napa River.

PR6.E Coordinate with countywide efforts to establish regional trail systems through the City limits.

PR6.F Develop a maintenance and operations plan for the City's trail network. Provide a high level of service to users by preventing deterioration, encroachment of vegetation, vandalism and crime. Consider including an Adopt-a-Trail program, and invite local businesses to participate in trail maintenance. Include a funding program to support the plan.



Bicycle amenities in parks encourage community members to bike more often.



chapter thirteen
**arts, culture and
entertainment**



Visual arts and music represent the two largest segments of the arts and culture sector in Napa County.

13.1 Purpose of the Element

The Arts, Culture and Entertainment Element presents St. Helena’s approach to reinforcing the City’s unique identity and character through integrating arts, culture and entertainment into the community’s everyday life. The intent of the Element is to preserve and protect the community’s heritage and cultural resources, celebrate its vibrant social fabric, and expand opportunities for arts enrichment. By supporting City leadership, active community participation and strategic partnerships, this Element creates the foundation for ensuring that the arts flourish and reinforce St. Helena’s unique character and identity.

The Arts, Culture and Entertainment Element includes the following sections..

- **13.2 Arts, Culture and Entertainment in St. Helena.** Describes key community arts, culture and entertainment issues (p. 13-3).
- **13.3 Key Findings and Recommendations.** Identifies key findings and recommendations based on an existing conditions analysis (p. 13-8).
- **13.4 Goals.** Defines overarching goals to guide policies and recommendations (p. 13-11).

- 1 introduction
- 2 land use and growth management
- 3 economic sustainability
- 4 public facilities and services
- 5 circulation
- 6 historic resources
- 7 community design
- 8 open space and conservation
- 9 public health, safety and noise
- 10 climate change
- 11 housing
- 12 parks and recreation
- 13 arts, culture and entertainment**

- **13.5 Policies and Implementing Actions.** Identifies policies and implementing actions to stimulate arts, culture and entertainment programming and contribute to the City’s livability (p. 13-12).

13.2 Arts, Culture and Entertainment in St. Helena

Napa County has a rich arts, culture and entertainment sector that includes independent artists, theater companies and arts organizations. Regional arts and cultural resources are rooted in a long-standing and celebrated history of craftsman and artisans. St. Helena shares an important part of this history and is closely connected with regional organizations, including the Arts Council Napa Valley and the Napa County Arts Commission.

The City of St. Helena has the greatest number of arts resources per capita in the Napa Valley and is home to the County’s largest community of arts practitioners, particularly in the fine, visual, performing, literary and culinary arts. In addition, the City is a culturally diverse community that has drawn residents from around the world since its earliest days. St. Helena strives to continue to be a place where artistic expression and cultural diversity can flourish, and where an array of multi-faceted and ever-evolving art forms are created, performed, taught and exhibited.

ARTS, CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT FOR COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The arts can play a central role in strengthening community pride, engaging community members in social and cultural activities and events, and increasing community awareness about the histories and legacies of the Valley’s natural landscape and its people. The arts also bring people together to celebrate, learn about and preserve the contributions of many to the City’s contemporary culture, economy and urban form. Opportunities in St. Helena to facilitate this type of interaction and exchange abound.



Arts provide opportunities for intergenerational collaboration and can serve as important outlets of expression for youth.

For example, in 2008, more than 450 people attended the first St. Helena Dia de los Muertos celebration, a jointly-hosted event sponsored by local arts and family organizations. The event not only featured arts and crafts, but also highlighted the heritage of the City's vibrant Latino community. Opportunities also exist to reach further back into the City's history. St. Helena was first settled by members by the Native American Yukian group who occupied much of Northern California, including present day Napa County. When Spanish soldiers arrived in the area, they called the Yukians Guapo, meaning "courageous", a term that later became Wappo. Until the 19th century, approximately 7,000 Wappo Indians resided in the Napa Valley and along the sides of Mt. St. Helena. Today, there is little evidence remaining of the area's Native American inhabitants and their culture. However, by partnering with the St. Helena Historical Society and local Native American groups, St. Helena can encourage the development of a series of historical tours, interpretive walks and special events to celebrate the City's earliest history and people.

In addition to celebrating cultures and histories, arts provide opportunities for intergenerational partnerships and collaboration and can serve as an important outlet of expression and creativity for youth. Arts community representatives have expressed the need to reconnect young people to the arts. According to an Arts Council Napa Valley survey conducted in 2007, fewer than six percent of Valley artists are under age 35. In effect, the future of the arts community depends on engendering arts appreciation and participation in local youth. Local artists seek to strengthen art programming in local schools and build partnerships between schools and local arts organizations. The City can provide additional support for school and after school-based arts programming through expanded Recreation Department arts offerings, and increase funding to local arts organizations who offer arts programs to youth.¹

¹ *Arts Council Napa Valley. A Community Cultural Plan for Napa County. 2007.*



The performing arts are important for St. Helena both socially and economically.

Tourism is a strong economic driver of the Napa Valley and St. Helena economies. Known primarily as a world-class food, wine and lifestyle destination, the Valley's arts sector has not received the same attention. However, national data indicate that cultural tourists tend to spend more and stay longer than other tourists. By encouraging public arts funding, installations and events, including the earmarking of public funds, the City can capitalize on the potential of the arts to generate cultural tourism and contribute to economic development efforts that support local artists and businesses.

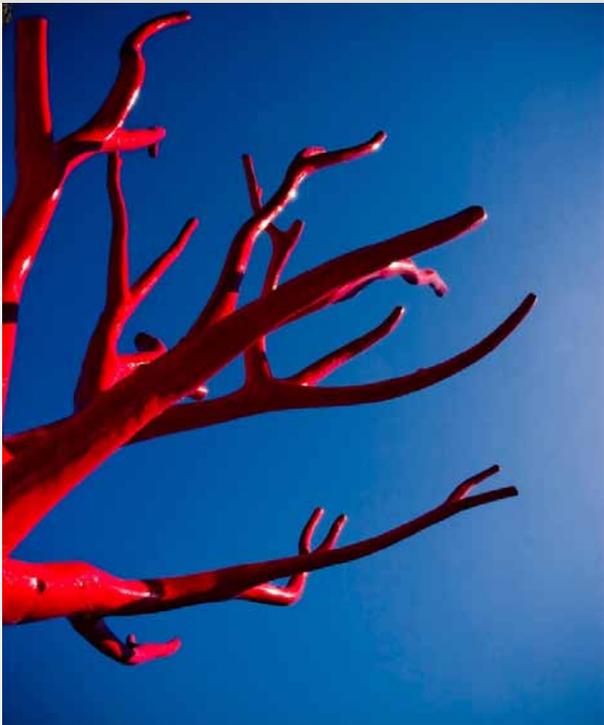
Artistic and cultural festivals, performances and exhibitions are significant both socially and economically, for visitors and residents alike. They provide opportunities to celebrate the City's rich history and creative talent. In turn, St. Helena residents stand to benefit from the exposure to new ideas that may result from participation in such events and activities.

For example, St. Helena's Napa Valley Upper Campus hosts the annual Napa Valley Writers' Conference, and internationally-recognized literary gathering and education event that attracts world-class poets and authors. Strengthening public awareness about the conference and supporting linkages between local schools and arts organizations can maximize the educational, cultural and eco-

conomic development impacts of this important event to the City. Public art can play a significant role in enhancing community design, creating visual interest in a neighborhood or area and also showcasing regional or local talent. Creating an Art in Public Places Program can help advance the goal of the City to establish the arts as integral to St. Helena's identity. This program can also attract national attention to something other than food and wine, demonstrate the City's commitment to leadership in public arts and provide a mechanism for meaningfully involving citizens in the design of the City's public spaces.

CONCEPTS, TRENDS AND IDEAS

The Benefits of Art in Public Places



Top: Public art can add color to an urban setting and create a visual point of interest for passersby.

Bottom: The Cultural Citizen Tree in San Jose's St. James Park is a 14-foot high mixed-media sculpture that symbolizes growth and change.

"Art in public places" refers to publicly accessible artwork that is integrated into the design of public or private property. Public art may draw from a city's unique identity and character through integrating arts, culture and entertainment into the community's everyday life. Also, public art can commemorate and interpret historical contributions, reflect unique identity and help to define a city's gateways, focal points and public or private uses.

Art installations and programs can support economic development and redevelopment goals by enhancing community livability and identity and by contributing to a stimulating cultural environment for both residents and visitors. St. Helena is dedicated to strengthening the arts and cultural sector, beautifying the environment, and ensuring that the arts flourish and reinforce St. Helena's unique character and identity through ongoing financial support for local visual, performing, cultural, literary and culinary arts.



Creating an Art in Public Places Program can help advance the City's goal of establishing the arts as integral to St. Helena's identity.

13.3 Key Findings and Recommendations

There are several challenges and opportunities facing St. Helena related to arts, culture and entertainment. The following key findings and recommendations are based upon comprehensive existing conditions analysis, stakeholder interviews and community input.

- The arts and culture sector contributes significantly to the national economy by generating approximately \$166.2 billion in total economic activity nationwide each year. In addition, the arts support 5.7 million jobs, generate \$29.6 billion in tax revenue and contribute \$104.2 billion to household incomes. By strengthening its arts sector, St. Helena can ensure that it grows as a key economic driver in the local economy.
- Visual arts and music represent the two largest segments of the arts and culture sector in Napa County, comprising 39 percent and 23 percent, respectively.
- Theater, dance, film, media, literary and cultural programming make up the remaining 38 percent, creating a varied and diverse arts landscape across the County. In addition, the City hosts world-renowned culinary arts resources that contribute greatly to the local economy and cultural community.
- Ensuring that City arts, culture and entertainment policies support a wide array of media can broaden the overall impact of the arts on St. Helena's cultural growth and local economic development efforts.²

St. Helena has the greatest number of arts resources per capita in the Napa Valley. Although the City's population is only five percent of the Valley's total population, St. Helena's artists and arts organizations account for 18 percent of the Valley's total. In a recent Arts Council Napa Valley survey, 78 percent of St. Helena's artists reported that they worked in their homes and supplemented their art income with alternate employment. Twelve percent of St. Helena's artists described themselves as full-time, professional artists. Many reported that they chose to live in St. Helena for its small-town charm and beauty, but find the high costs of living, studio and rehearsal spaces challenging and limiting to their artistic pursuits. The City can help strengthen its arts community by iden-

² Arts Council Napa Valley. *A Community Cultural Plan for Napa County*. 2007



City policies that support an array of media can broaden the overall impact of the arts on St. Helena's local economic development efforts.

tifying locations for affordable studio, rehearsal and performance spaces, and reducing regulatory barriers that limit artists' abilities to live, create, exhibit and sell their works from their homes.³

- St. Helena's arts and culture sector is strongly affected by the strength and vitality of the arts sector in the Napa region. Artists and arts organizations across the Napa Valley compete for attendance, local support and resources.
- In an Arts Council Napa Valley survey, arts community representatives highlighted a need for increased marketing and communications focused on the area's arts offerings. They also cited the need for artists to have places to gather and communicate about upcoming events and partnership opportunities. By encouraging arts gatherings, events and public art installations, the City can assist local artists in marketing their work and collaborating to share information about upcoming events. They can also facilitate interaction between artists and the local business community. Possible City actions can include posting arts announcements on the City's website, installing a downtown kiosk to distribute local arts information to the wider community, and hosting events where artists and arts organizations can gather to share information with local business owners.

³ Warshawski, Morrie. *Executive Summary: Town Hall Meetings. Prepared on behalf of the Arts Council Napa Valley. 2007*

- Members of the arts community expressed a need for additional community arts, performance and exhibition spaces to meet the needs of emerging artists. They cited a need for venues in which to screen films, videos and multimedia exhibits, and performing venues able to accommodate smaller dance or theatre companies. As part of a broader effort to strengthen the local arts and cultural communities, St. Helena can undertake an arts facility inventory to identify possible locations for a cultural arts center designed to meet current unmet needs.
- The City can increase its support for the arts, culture and entertainment sector by creating a public funding mechanism to support public art and art events; reducing regulatory barriers such as licenses and permits that can be prohibitively expensive for emerging artists; and loosening zoning regulations that limit live/work studio spaces and artists' ability to sell work from their homes and studios.
- Currently, the City lacks a designated body to organize, oversee and guide arts and cultural programming in St. Helena. Establish a St. Helena Arts Committee to direct funding, work with the City to streamline permitting and approvals, provide design review and/or ensure adherence to form based code requirements, and liaise with the Napa County Commission for Arts and Culture and other regional efforts can strengthen collaboration and coordination within the local arts and culture sector to ensure its maximum contribution to St. Helena's high quality of life and unique sense of place. In addition, including representatives of a wide range of arts media and cultural groups on the Arts Committee can ensure that St. Helena pursues an equitable and balanced arts program.

13.4 Goals

The goals of the Arts, Culture and Entertainment Element are:

Celebrate Arts, Culture and Entertainment.

St. Helena is committed to celebrating the contribution of its visual, performing, culinary and entertainment artists who help define the City's unique identity and the high quality of life.

Strengthen and Expand Arts, Culture and Entertainment.

St. Helena is dedicated to strengthening the arts and culture sector, improving the economic health of the City, beautifying the environment and incorporating the arts into the daily life of the City through ongoing financial support for local visual, performing, cultural, literary and culinary arts.

Honor Culture and Heritage.

St. Helena seeks to venerate the past and present contributions of its residents and their diverse cultural and historic contributions to the City.



This stained glass greenhouse incorporates art into daily life in the Napa Valley.



Local poetry readings provide opportunity for youth to showcase writing and performance skills for a live audience.

13.5 Policies and Implementing Actions

A range of policies and implementing actions are outlined below and organized into the following topic areas:

1. Community Enhancement and Economic Development;
2. Inclusive Programs;
3. Awareness, Education and Outreach; and
4. Civic Leadership.

The policies mandate, encourage or allow certain actions to be pursued throughout the duration of the General Plan. Together they serve as strategic directions for City staff and partners, highlighting where time and resources should be focused.

topic area

1 COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**Policies**

AC1.1 Ensure widespread opportunities for arts exposure by integrating them physically and socially into community life in order to establish the arts as an integral part of St. Helena’s identity.

AC1.2 Promote arts and culture as key components of St. Helena’s historic, current and future identity.

AC1.3 Support collaboration between local business organizations to incorporate public art into the City’s economic development strategies.

AC1.4 Increase the contribution of arts, culture and entertainment to cultural tourism and local economic development efforts through partnerships with regional arts organizations.



Parades and festivals help to integrate celebration of art, history and culture into community life.

Implementing Actions

AC1.A Develop a program to expand major festivals and events that celebrate arts, culture and history while contributing revenue to the City. Potential events include:

- Endeavors that feature the youth in arts, such as communitywide student recognition concerts and a youth arts festival;
- Theater-in-the-park performances;
- Dance;
- Outdoor film screenings;
- Art shows and art walks;
- Poetry readings;
- Holiday and cultural parades;
- Culinary and harvest celebrations;
- Open studios;
- Music festivals; and
- Art-based competitions.

AC1.B Develop and implement a marketing/public relations campaign that highlights artists and events in St. Helena. Pursue opportunities to increase revenue due to cultural tourism. Partner with regional arts organizations to maximize the effectiveness of marketing and cultural tourism efforts.

AC1.C Adopt an Art in Public Places program and ordinance to ensure that public art projects occur efficiently and in a way that meets citywide objectives.

AC1.D Identify existing locations that can be used as studio, rehearsal, exhibition and performance spaces. Support efforts to make these spaces affordable to local artists.

AC1.E Provide public performance spaces for musicians, dancers and other performing artists.



Local museums and sculpture gardens serve as an attraction for cultural tourists.

topic area

1 COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

AC1.F Identify locations, where public or private, sponsored arts, cultural and entertainment events can be held and activities can occur. Locations may include the St. Helena library, new development on Adams Street and the Cameo Theatre.

AC1.G Provide zoning and developer incentives to encourage and reward the creation and retention of affordable spaces for artists to create and present work.

AC1.H Encourage development of public-private partnerships with culinary institutions to support local emerging chefs, bakers, specialty food makers and other local emerging culinary artists.

AC1.I In cooperation with the St. Helena Historical Society, develop a public education and awareness program to promote the City's historical and cultural resources. Program components can involve self-guided walking tours, plaque identification programs, home and garden tours, speakers' series and other public events. (For additional policies and implementing actions regarding historic and cultural education and outreach, see the Historic Resources Element.)

Policies

AC2.1 Encourage emerging art forms, artists and diverse cultural traditions.

AC2.2 Promote affordable, relevant and accessible cultural offerings for all St. Helena residents.



St. Helena supports diverse cultural traditions and emerging artists and forms of art.

Implementing Actions

AC2.A Identify artists and outlets for diverse cultural offerings.

AC2.B Identify and direct funding to support artists who represent the diversity of the St. Helena community.

AC2.C Encourage the participation of all arts organizations in citywide marketing and promotional opportunities.

AC2.D Encourage performing arts organizations to make empty seats available at low or no-cost to St. Helena residents who cannot otherwise afford to attend performances.

AC2.E Conduct outreach about local arts opportunities and events to non-English speaking groups, particularly the Spanish-speaking community.

AC2.F Consider a series of City-sponsored events that enable artists and cultural organizations to gather and exhibit works.

AC2.G Develop an incentives program to grow the capacity of local artists and arts organizations. Encourage affordable, strategically located studio workspaces, performance and exhibit spaces in underutilized buildings; encourage professional exhibitions or demonstrations and sales; and provide tools and resources to secure support for their work.

AC2.H Make City property available for the public display of art.

Policies

AC3.1 Support community-based arts organizations that make significant contributions to the St. Helena community.

AC3.2 Nurture creativity and artistic talent through a rich offering of well balanced and equitably-distributed arts and cultural education programs and services.

AC3.3 Increase local awareness of the arts sector.

AC3.4 Support expanded arts programming in schools and strengthen youth arts opportunities provided by arts organizations.



Community-based arts make important contributions to the St. Helena economy and quality of life.

Implementing Actions

Encourage the creation of a St. Helena Arts committee to embrace these concepts:

AC3.A Consider attracting world-class artists and research what is being done with successful art-based communities in other destinations in order to enhance the community and revenue.

AC3.B Engage local and regional media in generating interest and excitement about the importance of arts to the St. Helena community.

AC3.C Conduct and publish results of an arts in education survey of programming available through local schools and organizations. Using this research as a foundation, create an Arts Education Master Plan for St. Helena.

AC3.D Actively pursue joint-use agreements with the Napa County Office of Education, St. Helena Unified School District, faith organizations, public

topic area

3 AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

agencies, private entities or nonprofit organizations that own or operate facilities within the City to maximize the use of facilities in the community for arts and entertainment purposes.

AC3.E Develop an effective outreach program for all City programs and services in order to ensure the successful delivery of information about arts program availability to the general public. Ensure that all materials are made available in Spanish and other languages spoken in the community.

AC3.F Encourage “artists-in-residence” programs in schools and arts organizations in order to expand opportunities for youth to experience the arts.

AC3.G Partner with the Arts Council Napa Valley and other arts organizations to support a centralized information bank and resources for schools, artists and arts organizations for arts programming.

AC3.H Provide funding and support for artists and teachers to develop best practices.

Policies

AC4.1 Support improved coordination and communication between arts organizations.

AC4.2 Support the arts in partnership with the City and business communities.

AC4.3 Build a coalition of informed arts advocates who can generate support for key arts issues within the City.

AC4.4 Create public funding sources for the arts.

AC4.5 Partner with Napa County and regional arts endeavors to ensure that the City's support for arts, culture and entertainment are integrated others in the area.

AC4.6 Create locations for public displays of art and facilitate its use on public property.

AC4.7 Create a permitting process that facilitates the art installation on public property.

topic area

4 CIVIC LEADERSHIP**Implementing Actions**

AC4.A Encourage the creation of a St. Helena Arts Committee to oversee art installations, proposals, funding strategies, education and public relations efforts. The Arts Committee can facilitate connections between artists and the business community, and oversee City-sponsored efforts.

AC4.B Consider how to create a sustainable public funding system, such as a percentage allocation of development fees and/or transient occupancy taxes (TOT), to support the City's efforts to promote arts, culture and entertainment. Conduct a survey to identify additional models of public support for artists and arts organizations, and consider a plan to implement appropriate policies. (Also see the Economic Sustainability Element, Topic Area 1)

AC4.C Consider a local arts funding strategy to increase private funding and resources that support artists, and local art institutions and organizations in the City. Identify key donors to participate in public-private partnerships to support arts and culture citywide.

AC4.D Encourage incentives and rewards for partnerships and cooperation through funding policies and resources development.

AC4.E Provide opportunities for arts leaders to build partnerships and develop joint projects, including revenue-generating events.

AC4.F Explore opportunities to build partnerships with other municipalities and the County to support regional arts and culture promotion efforts.

AC4.G Create a simple user-friendly permitting process for artist to display their works.



Partnerships between artists and the business community are critical to developing sustained support for arts, culture and entertainment in St. Helena.

