



THE

VIEW

Fall/Winter 2024

Biodiversity and Urban Forest Plan – a Strategy for Resiliency

The City of Mountain View kicked off the community outreach process this summer for the Biodiversity and Urban Forest Plan. The Plan will be the first of its kind in the Bay Area to provide a clear set of priorities, goals and objectives for increasing and supporting urban biodiversity for long-term community resilience.

The Plan will address the roles of mammals, pollinators, birds, plants and trees in guiding the City on a variety of efforts related to development, landscaping, parks, transportation, tree canopies and more.

What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is all of the different kinds of life you'll find in one area including the



The public is invited to participate in the Biodiversity and Urban Forest Plan through future workshops, an upcoming survey and more.

variety of animals, plants, trees and even microorganisms (like bacteria!). Each of these species and organisms that make up our natural world work together in ecosystems to maintain balance and support life.

How You Can Participate

There are numerous ways for the public to get involved. So far, community members have shared their thoughts at pop-up engagement stations at the local farmers' market and virtual and in-person community workshops in July and August, including a special youth and families workshop. Community members are invited to participate in future input opportunities, including additional workshops, a web portal for sharing ideas

and pictures, and an upcoming survey.

For more information, and to sign up for updates, visit BiodiversityMV.com.



How you can participate when visiting BiodiversityMV.com



Receive News Updates



Ask Questions



Provide Your Ideas



Take an Upcoming Survey



Message from City Manager Kimbra McCarthy

The City is continuing to advance efforts that will build the Mountain View of tomorrow.

Soon, the community will have an incredible new Aquatics Center to swim in and enjoy. Although we regret the opening was postponed this summer, we are embracing the use of new sustainable technology that will help us decrease our carbon footprint and energy usage.

I encourage you to get involved in our first – and the Bay Area’s first – Biodiversity and Urban Forest Plan. In this issue, you will find out how you can get involved in preserving and advancing Mountain View’s ecosystems.

Returning in October is the ever-popular Monster Bash where costumes are encouraged. In early November, residents and visitors alike can experience Día de Muertos, or Day of the Dead, which honors the deceased and is celebrated in Mexico and other parts of Latin America.

With elections coming up this November, a helpful resource – which includes factual details about the City’s revenue measure, Measure G – is available at MountainView.gov/Elections. Mountain View City Hall will also serve as an official ballot drop box location.

Learn more about Mountain View’s initiatives and programs in this latest issue of The View.



As with most municipalities, repairs, maintenance, and eventual replacement of facilities and infrastructure in Mountain View will continue to be an ongoing need in the future.

Mountain View Measure G

On June 25, 2024, the Mountain View City Council approved - by unanimous vote - the placement of a revenue measure on the ballot for the November 5, 2024 General Municipal Election for voter consideration. Provided below is the ballot language as it will appear on November 5, 2024:

“Shall the measure to provide additional funding for services that protect local property values, including 9-1-1 emergency medical/disaster response; street, sidewalk and pothole repairs; affordable housing support; and other general government services, by raising the City of Mountain View’s existing voter-approved property transfer tax, imposed on residential/commercial property sales above \$6,000,000 only, up to \$15.00 per \$1,000, generating about \$9,500,000 in locally controlled funding annually until ended by voters, with independent audits, be adopted?”

As with most municipalities, repairs, maintenance, and eventual replacement of facilities and infrastructure in

Mountain View will continue to be an ongoing need in the future.

The City Council came to consensus that the property transfer mechanism would have little impact on the average resident and would help to maintain critical services and plan for future needs.

On September 10, 2024, the City Council identified the following funding priorities for the next 10 years:

- Public Safety Facilities
- Parks, Open Space, and Biodiversity
- Affordable Housing
- Other general governmental services, including road maintenance, active transportation, small business support, and homelessness support service, among others.

The real property transfer tax is only paid when a property is sold. **Measure G only affects sales over \$6 million.** If passed, Measure G will create a guaranteed source of local funding that, by law, cannot be taken by the State.

For more information, visit MountainView.gov/MeasureG.

Aquatics Center Update

The planned summer opening of the Rengstorff Park Aquatics Center has been delayed due to construction challenges associated with the Center's cutting edge, eco-friendly design. Although staff and contractors are working diligently through the challenges, an exact date for the grand opening is still to be determined.

Embracing sustainability, the new aquatics center utilizes the latest in green building design, including an all-electric hot water system with a large array of heat-pumps as well as innovative solar panels that generate both photovoltaic and solar thermal energy. This system will efficiently heat nearly 500,000 gallons of pool water, as well as the water for the showers and other building uses, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions by relying on renewable energy.

The new aquatics center will be a significant upgrade from the original 1959 facility, with modern amenities including:

- 25-meter x 25-yard lap pool with 3-meter and 1-meter diving boards
- a recreation pool with water slide and two fun water features
- upgraded locker and shower facilities
- versatile multi-purpose room

This state-of-the-art facility accomplishes the City's vision to create a community-based aquatics center that caters to residents of all ages. With two bodies of water, the center will offer more diverse and expanded aquatic programs than before. Once open, popular activities will be offered, such as lap swim, water exercise, swim lessons and recreation swim.

Stay tuned for the grand opening of the Rengstorff Park Aquatics



The state-of-the-art Rengstorff Park Aquatics Center accomplishes the City's vision to create a community-based aquatics center that caters to residents of all ages. With two bodies of water, the center will offer more diverse and expanded aquatic programs than before.

Center, where modern amenities and community spirit come together to create a premier destination for aquatic fun and fitness.

To get the latest information on the City aquatics information, including the aquatics eNewsletter, visit MountainView.gov/Aquatics.

Día de Muertos Celebration

The City of Mountain View invites everyone to the fourth annual Día de Muertos celebration on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. This will be the first year the event will be held at Civic Center Plaza, located at 500 Castro St.

The event celebrates memories and is a ritual that "encourages remembering over forgetting." Join us to learn about the traditions of Día de Muertos and delight in the ofrendas and altars decorated with cempasúchil flowers, papel picado, sugar skulls and a myriad of colors created and inspired by community members. There will also be children's activities and live performances, including folkloric dancing groups from various regions.



For more information on the upcoming celebration, visit MountainView.gov/Dia-De-Muertos.

Be Prepared for Floods

As we have seen from the recent California wildfires, an extreme dry season can create hazardous conditions.

The same can be said for an exceptionally wet season, which can cause flooding to creeks, ditches and even to neighborhood streets and properties.

As we begin this year's rainy season,

residents should remain cognizant of any potential flood risks surrounding their property and be prepared for potential flooding.

Take some time to prepare for an emergency by following these nine essential tips, which will help you to plan, prepare, and protect your family and home:

9 Essential Tips to Get Flood Ready

1. Develop an Emergency Plan

Discuss with members of your household what to do during a disaster. Agree on a meeting spot in case you are separated and ensure everyone knows a safe route to higher ground in the event of flooding.

For tips on creating and practicing your emergency plan, visit MountainView.gov/FloodPrep or ValleyWater.org/FloodReady.

2. Put Your Three-day Emergency Kit Together

Create an emergency kit with tools and supplies, non-perishable food, and water to last for several days (remember you'll need one gallon of water per person, per day).

Keep a copy of your emergency plan in your kit. Visit Ready.gov/kit for a list of recommended emergency supplies.

3. Download Disaster Emergency Apps

You can sign up for Santa Clara County's official emergency alert and warning system, AlertSCC, online by visiting sccgov.org/AlertSCC. Another helpful tool is the American Red Cross Emergency App that helps you prepare to stay safe during emergencies. Visit RedCross.org/apps.

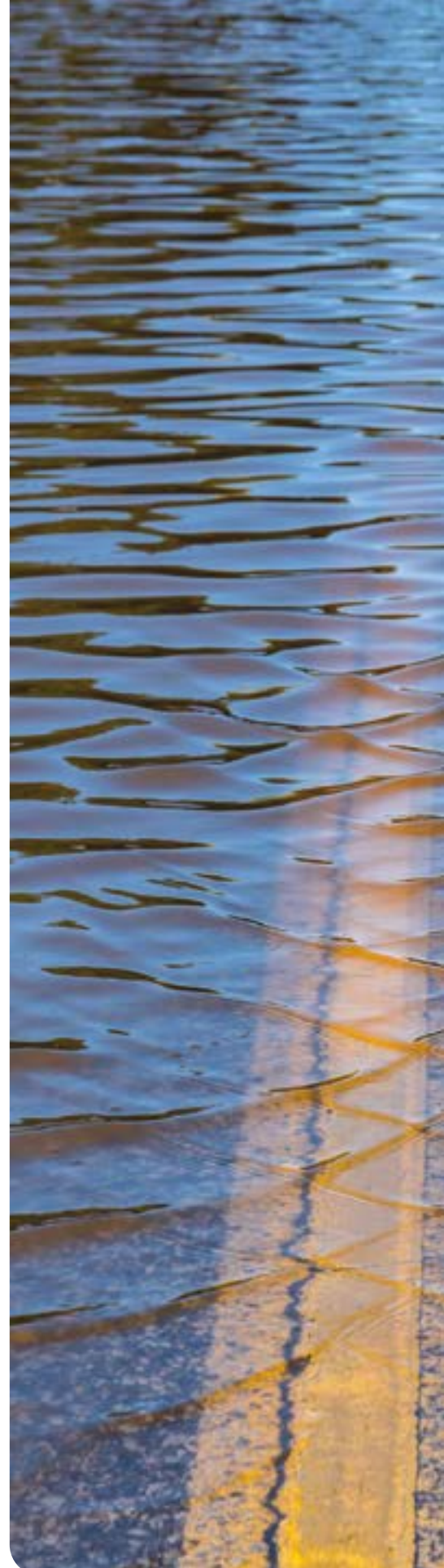
4. Know Your Flood Risk

You don't have to live next door to a creek to be impacted by flooding. Visit MountainView.gov/FloodPrep or ValleyWater.org/FloodZone to check whether your house or business is in a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA).

Call the City at 650-903-6311 or log a request at Ask MV, MountainView.gov/AskMV, for more information on your property's flood risk. The City will provide information about flood depth, special flood-related hazards, sea level rise, natural floodplain function areas, flood insurance information and elevation certificates.

5. Get Flood Insurance Ahead of Time

If you live in a FEMA-designated SFHA and have a federally insured mortgage, you must insure your property from flood hazards. Most typical homeowners' and renters' insurance policies don't cover damage from natural disasters like floods or earthquakes. According to FEMA, floods are the most common natural disaster. The chance of a 1% flood* occurring during the lifetime of a typical 30-year mortgage is greater than 1 in 4.





You can still purchase flood insurance even if you don't live in an SFHA. Renter's insurance is also available through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

To find a local agent, call 800-427-4661, visit FloodSmart.gov or ValleyWater.org/flooding-safety/flood-ready/flood-insurance.

** 1% flood - A flood that has a 1% or greater chance of occurring in any given year.*

6. Protect your property from flood threats

Free sand and sandbags are available to Mountain View residents at the City's Municipal Operations Center, 231 North Whisman Road. Bring a shovel to fill the sandbags. Call 650-903-6329 with any questions.

For a list of other sandbag distribution sites and tips on proper placement, visit ValleyWater.org/Sandbags or call the Valley Water sandbag hotline at 408-630-3300.

7. Keep Our Storm Drain System and Creeks Clean and Flowing

Healthy, flowing storm drains and creeks reduce flood risks by carrying stormwaters away from properties and roads. Don't pollute, dump or drain anything in storm drains or creeks. Dumping is illegal: it affects water quality and creek habitat, and can cause blockages, increasing flood risks.

Help prevent street flooding and storm drain clogs by removing leaves. Call the Public Services Division at 650-903-6329 to report flooding or standing water during and after hours or on weekends.

Report downed trees and limbs by calling the Forestry and Roadway Landscape Division at 650-903-6273 during normal business hours and 650-903-6329 after hours.

8. Avoid Floodwaters (Turn Around, Don't Drown)

Never walk or drive through flooded areas, no matter how shallow. Six inches of moving water can cause an adult to fall. One foot of water can float away a vehicle, including SUVs and pick-up trucks. Never drive around the barriers blocking a flooded road.

Floodwaters can also be contaminated with oil, gasoline or raw sewage and hide power lines that are down and may have electrically charged the water. Never allow children to play in floodwaters.

9. Build Responsibly in Floodplains

Construction within SFHA zones is subject to special permit requirements from the City. Before you build or begin upgrades to your property, contact 650-903-6311 to check with the Public Works Department to ensure compliance.

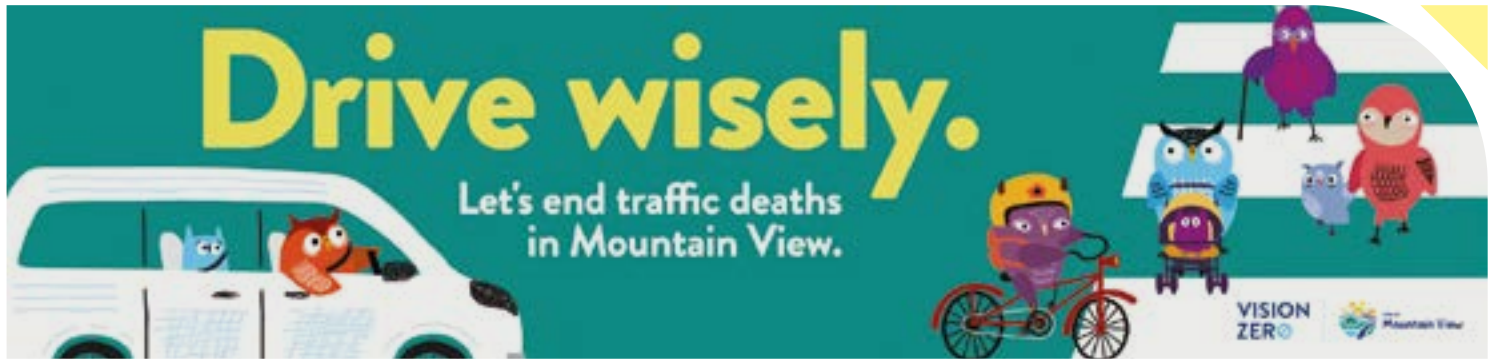
For additional resources on flood protection and keeping your home and business safe, visit ValleyWater.org/FloodReady.



If you live in a Special Flood Hazard Area and have a federally insured mortgage, you must insure your property from flood hazards. The City's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System earns Mountain View residents a 15% discount on insurance rates.

Drive Wisely

Vision Zero is helping make roads safer in Mountain View



The City of Mountain View has a vision of a future with zero traffic deaths.

That's why the City is launching its own Vision Zero Action Plan. Vision Zero is an international initiative that has successfully eliminated traffic deaths in cities across the globe.

Through Vision Zero, Mountain View is making roads safer by improving intersections, increasing visibility at crosswalks, lowering speed limits and more. The City is also engaging with the public about steps we all can take to protect each other.

How can you help? Follow these tips...

Drive wisely: Take it slow, yield to people crossing, and give bikes at least three feet of space when passing. When passing, cars must change lanes to give bikes more space on a multi-lane road.

Walk wisely: Use paths and sidewalks, stick to crosswalks and take a few extra seconds to check all directions before crossing.

Bike wisely: Cycle in the same direction as traffic, yield to pedestrians, use hand signals to indicate stops and turns, and of course—always wear a well-fitting helmet!

You can help create a culture of safety by talking to your friends and neighbors about your choice to drive, walk and bike wisely. Research shows that we are more likely to listen to the people closest to us, so be a Vision Zero Hero and spread the word!

Find more resources and information at MountainView.gov/VisionZero.

VISION ZERO

Street Parking Regulations

Pay attention to posted signs and be aware of a new state law

Street parking regulations promote safety and ensure access to parking. Vehicles may park where curb space is available at the time of arrival and must abide by all California Vehicle Code, posted sign and municipal code regulations.

Please remember these regulations when parking on City streets:

- Do not park within 15 feet of a fire hydrant regardless of the presence of a red zone.
- Do not obstruct driveways.

- Observe red zones and posted parking prohibitions.
- Observe posted time limits.
- Do not block travel lanes.

In addition, be aware of a new state law:

Do not park within 20 feet of the approach side of unmarked or marked crosswalks or 15 feet of any crosswalk where a curb extension is present regardless of the presence of a red zone.

Warnings are being issued in 2024 but, starting Jan. 1, 2025, violators can be cited.



Business Ambassador Program

Another way the City is helping small businesses



This free program has been designed to provide businesses with personalized guidance on permits and regulations for a variety of scenarios.

The City of Mountain View recently launched the Business Ambassador program, dedicated to helping businesses better understand and navigate the City's permitting application processes.

Led by the Economic Development Division the ambassador team meets every other week to discuss current or future projects in the City's permitting process. This multi-departmental team aims to outline the required permits needed for a project as well as flag any tricky or unique components that may require additional steps or review. The Economic Development team will then provide a consolidated one voice follow up response to the small business.

Depending on the projects and agenda topics, the Small Business Ambassador team meetings can be attended by small businesses as well.

This free program has been designed to provide businesses with personalized guidance on permits and regulations for a variety of scenarios:

- Existing businesses undertaking improvements to their space (Ex.

Building an addition on their property.)

- Existing businesses seeking to modify their business type or use of their space. (Ex. Food manufacturer looking to add an onsite café.)
- Businesses, brokers, or developers exploring new projects or new locations. (Ex. A local retailer looking to open a second location in Mountain View.)

The City is dedicated to supporting businesses at every stage of the process. Whether you're an entrepreneur looking to launch your dream venture or an established business seeking expansion opportunities, the City offers a range of resources to help businesses flourish. This includes programs (Outdoor Patio Equipment Grant, Façade Improvement Program, Window Display Assistance and Social Media Toolkit), introductions to small business service providers (SBDC, SCORE, Renaissance Centers), guidance on permits and regulations, and data and economic information on Mountain View.

To learn more, email Econ.Dev@mountainview.gov.

Election Information for Mountain View Residents

Registered voters will begin receiving vote-by-mail ballots on Monday, Oct. 7 for the November 5 Presidential General Election. Voters can return their completed ballot by mail or by dropping it off by 8 p.m. on election night, November 5, in one of several ballot-drop boxes that will be placed in Mountain View including outside City Hall, 500 Castro St., and throughout Santa Clara County.

Mountain View residents' ballot will include a City Council race and a revenue measure. City of Mountain View councilmembers are elected at-large and voters will choose from nine candidates who have qualified for the ballot to fill four open seats, each with a four-year term. More information can be found at MountainView.gov/Elections.

The last day to register to vote is Thursday, Oct. 21. To register to vote, update your registration or locate a ballot drop box or vote center near you, visit sccvote.sccgov.org. Residents who are eligible to vote but miss the deadline can register and vote at any of the accessible in-person voting locations.

These locations will be open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2, Sunday, Nov. 3 and Monday, Nov. 4; and from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. on Election Day (Tuesday, Nov. 5).

For more election information, contact City.Clerk@mountainview.gov.



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Become a Learner with the Library

Achieve your life goals by joining the Learners Program at the Mountain View Public Library!

The Learners Program aspires to help adults build their reading and writing skills through free, confidential, one-on-one tutoring. Rather than a one-size-fits-all approach, tutoring is structured to help learners achieve their own specific goals such as filling out a job application, reading to their kids at night or applying for a driver's license. The Library provides resources, support and space, and learners decide which skills they'd like to improve at their own pace.

The Library has begun to connect enthusiastic learners and tutors, but there's room for more. All adults age 18 and above who are not currently enrolled in school are invited to participate.

Learner Requirements:

- Must be 18 years old or older and



The Learners Program aspires to help adults build their English reading and writing skills through free, confidential, one-on-one tutoring.

- not concurrently enrolled in high school
 - Must live in Mountain View
 - Must be able to complete the intake interview in English
 - Must have established one or more personal learning goals
 - Must commit to six months or more of learning
- The focus of the Learners Program is to enhance literacy among English-speaking residents. Residents who speak English as a second language are welcome to practice their English skills in small groups at the Library's ESL Conversation Club every Wednesday at 4 p.m. or visit the Library during open hours to speak with a librarian who can direct them to ESL print and digital resources.

Ready to start learning?
Complete the Learner Interest Form at MountainView.gov/LearnersProgram or contact Literacy@mountainview.gov for more information.

THE VIEW

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MountainView.gov/Social

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Vice Mayor Lisa Matichak
Councilmembers:
Margaret Abe-Koga
Alison Hicks
Ellen Kamei
Lucas Ramirez
Emily Ann Ramos

City Council Appointees

Kimbra McCarthy, City Manager
Jennifer Logue, City Attorney
Heather Glaser, City Clerk

City Vision

A welcoming, vibrant city that plans intentionally and leads regionally to create livable, sustainable neighborhoods, access to nature and open spaces, and a strong innovation-driven local economy.

2023-2025 Strategic Priorities

- Community for All
- Intentional Development & Housing Options
- Mobility & Connectivity
- Sustainability & Climate Resiliency
- Livability & Quality of Life
- Economic Vitality
- Organization Strength & Good Governance



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