

GOALS, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS

GOAL CP-1

“ **Healthy Community:** Promote the health of all Vallejoans. ”

Vallejo is committed to being a healthy community. In 2011, the City Council adopted a resolution advocating and supporting the Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) Cities Campaign, joining a growing group of California communities choosing to address the relationship of the built environment and related matters to community health; and identified the General Plan as a primary vehicle to promote the well-being of all Vallejoans.

Health issues in Vallejo center on heart disease, cancer, stroke, asthma, diabetes, mental health, and substance abuse. Unintentional injury (including motor vehicle collisions and pedestrian injuries) and crime present other health concerns. For many of these causes, there are disparities based on location within Vallejo and associated social factors, especially income. In several pockets of the city, about one out of four residents survives below the federal poverty line. Residents in these neighborhoods are also more likely to be disabled and lack adequate health insurance.

While genetics, healthcare, and lifestyle choices affect health, so can land use patterns, transportation infrastructure, access to open space, economic success, and a variety of other factors, which in turn are guided and supported by the City and other partners, such as the Greater Vallejo Recreation District (GVRD), the Solano Public Health, and

local educational providers. The wide variety of programs supportive of public health, and their success, can be expanded through continued and enhanced community-wide collaboration with the Greater Vallejo Recreation District, Solano Public Health, other government agencies, foundations, non-profits, community groups, educational institutions, and the business and faith-based communities.

HEALTHY EATING

Nutrition influences the incidence of obesity, diabetes, and a variety of other diseases, as well as school achievement and quality of life generally. General plans can affect the eating habitats of a community by ensuring that all parts of the city are served by healthy retail food sources and promoting programs that support healthy eating. Fortunately, Vallejo can build on an extensive network of healthy eating advocates involved with farmers markets, community gardens, food banks, nutrition education, and other resources.

POLICY CP-1.1

Retail Food Sources. Strive to ensure that all households in Vallejo have easy access to retail sources of affordable healthy food, including organic options, such as full-service grocery stores, ethnic food markets, produce markets, and convenience stores.

Action CP-1.1A

Work with Solano Public Health, universities, and other partners to identify areas of Vallejo that lack affordable healthy food retail options, using retail food indices and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) "food desert" designation, and including maps that illustrate factors such as concentration of fast food restaurants and convenience food outlets, areas that lack affordable healthy food, areas with limited transportation options, and areas of poverty.





Action CP-1.1F Work with Solano Public Health and other partners to continue and expand the ability to use the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) program at farmers' markets and other sources of healthy food.

POLICY CP-1.2 Locally Grown Food. Collaborate with community partners to support and expand Vallejo's community gardens, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs, and urban agriculture.

Action CP-1.2A Work with community garden programs, Vallejo City Unified School District (VCUSD), Solano Community College, residents, and other local advocates, to establish a network of community gardens as sources of fresh produce, education, and social cohesion.

Action CP-1.2B Work with GVRD, residents, colleges and universities, Solano Public Health, and other community partners to identify community garden opportunities in parks or appropriate properties and on City-owned property.

Action CP-1.2C Consider leasing publicly owned, non-contaminated vacant land for agricultural use, and work with partners such as colleges and universities to identify potential sites.

Action CP-1.2D Develop City regulations that encourage urban agriculture and farm stands, as appropriate.

Action CP-1.2E Publicize and promote the availability of food grown in Vallejo.

Action CP-1.1B Update City regulations and explore incentives to attract a full service grocery store to South Vallejo and to any other identified "food deserts."

Action CP-1.1C In collaboration with Solano Public Health and other partners, consider a program to encourage markets to stock fresh produce and other healthy foods.

Action CP-1.1D Consider updating City regulations to limit the number of fast food outlets and mobile vendors serving primarily unhealthy food near schools and parks and in areas with existing fast food outlets.

Action CP-1.1E Work with Soltrans to improve bus service to food shopping; and with Soltrans or other partners to establish a shuttle program for seniors and other community members who may not drive.

POLICY CP-1.3 Healthy Eating Programs. Complement access to healthy food with programs to promote healthier eating.

Action CP-1.3A Work with schools, Solano Public Health, local hospitals, community health professionals and organizations active in urban farming, such as Loma Vista Farms, to develop a public education program highlighting the benefits of a whole foods, plant-based diet.

Action CP-1.3B Explore programs with the VCUSD, Solano Public Health, community garden groups, and other advocates to provide healthy foods in schools and other public institutions.

Action CP-1.3C Provide information on State and federal programs such as SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), WIC (Women, Infants, and Children), and school lunch programs at farmers markets and other community events.

Action CP-1.3D Work with Solano Public Health to enlist restaurants in the CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program.

POLICY CP-1.4 Active Recreation Facilities. Ensure all Vallejo residents are served by convenient and safe active recreation facilities that meet the needs of all ages, abilities, and interest groups.

Action CP-1.4A Include active recreation opportunities for a range of ages and interests as considerations in planning and projects for the central waterfront and shoreline areas.

Action CP-1.4B Assess on an on-going basis the safety of existing recreational facilities in Vallejo by mapping crime in areas near existing facilities and identify measures to increase safety.

Action CP-1.4C Explore opportunities for providing access to safe places for recreational in-water activities, such as boating, kayaking, paddle boarding, and swimming.

Action CP-1.4D Support GVRD and the Florence Douglas Senior Center in exploring the need for a multi-generational center that will provide opportunities for education, physical exercise, and other active living programs.

Action CP-1.4E Promote community “ownership” of active recreation facilities by establishing programs that encourage local residents and neighborhood organizations to "adopt," protect, and maintain parks, open spaces, and trails.

ACTIVE LIVING

Active living, a way of life that integrates physical activity into daily routines through community design,¹ is critical to health. Of the many dimensions to active living, recreation and transportation are key to healthier lifestyles, and they require safe and well-maintained places for the community to gather and travel. The benefits of a community designed to promote active living include enhanced pedestrian safety, especially for seniors and youth. In Vallejo, GVRD offers numerous programs to support active living, including recreation programs and parkland.

¹ Active Living Network Brochure, http://www.activeliving.org/files/aln_brochure_final.pdf.

POLICY CP-1.5 Active Recreation Programming. Support and expand active recreation programs in Vallejo.

Action CP-1.5A Support the GVRD, residents, and community partners to assess the need for recreation facilities, programs, and services and develop a strategy for addressing those needs.

Action CP-1.5B Work with local community groups and Solano Public Health to initiate walking, hiking, cycling, and other recreation clubs and activities to increase participation, safety, and social cohesion.

POLICY CP-1.6 Active Transportation Network. Promote the health benefits of walking and bicycling by providing a convenient and safe network of bicycle paths and routes, sidewalks, pedestrian paths, and trails, including connections with major destinations such as civic facilities, educational institutions, employment centers, shopping, and recreation areas.

Action CP-1.6A Identify problem locations in Vallejo regarding pedestrian/auto and bicycle/auto collisions, identify measures (e.g., traffic calming, improved street lighting) to reduce collisions, and develop a prioritized program for implementing identified measures.

Action CP-1.6B Support and expand Vallejo's Safe Routes to Schools program in collaboration with the VCUSD, Vallejo Police Department, Solano Public Health, and Solano Transportation Authority (STA).

Action CP-1.6C Encourage school siting decisions that take safe walking and bicycling access into account.

Action CP-1.6D Develop guidelines for public and private projects that promote safe, convenient, and attractive bike and pedestrian facilities, including amenities to enhance bike and pedestrian activity, such as bicycle racks, lockers, street trees, public art, and street furniture.

Action CP-1.6E Seek resources to increase police presence in and around bike and walking paths and pedestrian areas, through means such as reintroducing bike patrols by the Vallejo Police Department and re-establishing police substations in key areas.

Action CP-1.6F Work with neighborhood watch groups to improve safety for bicyclists and pedestrians and to increase the use of active transportation.

Action CP-1.6G Develop a "safe routes for seniors" program in collaboration with seniors' organizations.

URBAN GREENING AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

There is a recognized relationship between well-designed urban green space and physical and mental health. The most livable cities have important urban green spaces that offer opportunities for formal and informal recreation as well as benefits for public health and the environment. Collaboration will be fundamental to successful urban greening in Vallejo, including cooperation with the Greater Vallejo Recreation District (GVRD), Solano Resource Conservation District and other planning, implementing, and funding partners.

POLICY CP-1.7

Green Space. Promote community physical and mental health through provision and preservation of the urban forest, natural areas, and “green” infrastructure (i.e. best practices water management).

Action CP-1.7A *Seek funding to develop and implement an Urban Greening Plan that identifies needs, opportunities, projects, and potential funding, in collaboration with community partners.*

Action CP-1.7B *Regularly maintain the health of City street trees.*

Action CP-1.7C *Support efforts by stewardship agencies to preserve wetland and open space areas.*

Action CP-1.7D *Work with partners, including Solano Public Health, universities, and other groups to develop and maintain maps that illustrate access to green spaces within Vallejo neighborhoods.*

Action CP-1.7E *Continue to implement green infrastructure practices that draw upon natural processes to address storm water drainage and flood control and potentially add to Vallejo’s network of green spaces.*

providers, the City, and community organizations will be critical to promoting community health by addressing intertwined social factors.

POLICY CP-1.8

Strong Schools, Engaged Students and Families. Support efforts by schools to reduce the dropout rate in recognition that education is a predictor of health.

Action CP-1.8A *Support the VCUSD, Solano Community College, other community partners, and parents helping keep students in and graduate from school.*



SOCIAL FACTORS AFFECTING HEALTH

The connections between a host of social factors, such as education and employment, and individual well-being are well established, and the strengthening of such factors is an important theme throughout the General Plan. One cornerstone of a healthy community is youth that successfully complete and even enjoy secondary education. Recognizing and growing partnerships between educators, employers, social service

TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL

Tobacco use and alcohol abuse can have significant effects on the community, well beyond the harm they can cause directly to users. Reasonably controlling the effects and availability of these potentially harmful substances can greatly improve the quality of life citywide through policies and actions to reduce exposure to second-hand smoke and third-hand smoke (residual nicotine and other chemicals left on indoor surfaces reacting with common indoor air pollutants) and regulate tobacco and alcohol sales.

Vallejo has the benefit of a strong network of existing partners working on tobacco and alcohol related matters, including Solano Public Health and non-profits in the community.

POLICY CP-1.9 Secondhand Smoke. Limit exposure to secondhand smoke, including from electronic smoking devices.

Action CP-1.9A Work with GVRD and Solano Public Health to expand the City's existing ordinance prohibiting smoking in its parks to: 1) include electronic smoking devices; and 2) apply it to transit stops and other public outdoor spaces.

Action CP-1.9B Work with Solano Public Health and other community partners to consider adopting an ordinance regulating smoking in new and existing multi-family units.

POLICY CP-1.10 Tobacco Sales and Children. Protect children by restricting the location of tobacco sales.

Action CP-1.10A Amend City regulations to require use permit review to consider the potential negative impacts of uses proposing to sell tobacco in proximity to schools and other youth-serving facilities, and in areas with existing tobacco retailers.

Action CP-1.10B Consider establishing an annual fee on tobacco retailers to fund a regular monitoring program to increase compliance with tobacco related laws.

POLICY CP-1.11 Responsible Alcohol Sales. Promote responsible alcohol sales through regulation and education.

Action CP-1.11A Consider establishing an annual fee on alcohol retailers to fund a regular monitoring program to increase compliance with alcohol sale laws.

Action CP-1.11B Continue to support responsible beverage service training through the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

Action CP-1.11C Consider amending City regulations to limit the number and density of convenience stores selling alcohol, including those within close proximity to one another and to schools and other youth-serving facilities.

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

As basic and critical as they are to healthy living, clean water and air are not guaranteed in any community. Improving air and water quality requires constant vigilance, significant expenditures, and often changes in behavior, especially as the impacts of human activities become more pervasive. A healthy environment is especially important, when we consider that climate change impacts tend to disproportionately affect more vulnerable populations such as the elderly and already ill populations. Higher temperatures, wildfires and droughts often increase air contaminants and related respiratory diseases.

POLICY CP-1.12 Clean Air. Protect the community from harmful levels of air pollution.

Action CP-1.12A Convert the City fleet of street sweepers and other large-scale equipment from fossil fuel to alternative fuel types, and work with service providers to convert refuse and recycling trucks to alternative fuels, in conformance with Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) requirements for fleets.

Action CP-1.12B Update City regulations to set BAAQMD-recommended limits for particulate emissions from construction, demolition, debris hauling, and utility maintenance.

Action CP-1.12C Provide information regarding advances in air-quality protection measures to schools, homeowners, and operators of “sensitive receptors” such as senior and child care facilities.

Action CP-1.12D Periodically review and update City regulations to comply with changes in State law and BAAQMD Guidelines pertaining to coal or wood-burning devices.

Action CP-1.12E Periodically review the Building Code for consistency with the latest California Green Building Standards Code, and assess the need for updates to require new construction and remodels to employ best practices and materials to reduce emissions, both during and after construction.

Action CP-1.12F Update City regulations to prohibit grading operations when wind speeds (as instantaneous gusts) exceed 25 miles per hour, or require the use of water trucks to wet soil.

POLICY CP-1.13 Clean Water. Provide a safe, adequate water supply citywide.

Action CP-1.13A Periodically assess the need to repair or replace aging water supply infrastructure, and incorporate upgrades and improvements into the Capital Improvement Program as needed.

Action CP-1.13B Develop a plan to upgrade and finance water infrastructure improvements.

Action CP-1.13C Maintain a water rate structure that adequately funds water infrastructure maintenance and replacement projects as required by federal, State, and local regulations.

Action CP-1.13D Continue to provide information on water conservation best practices to residents and businesses in Vallejo.

Action CP-1.13E Support the efforts of federal, State, regional, and local agencies to clean up impaired water bodies in Vallejo.

POLICY CP-1.14 Healthy Economic Development. Consider healthy community criteria and environmental health standards in efforts to attract new businesses to Vallejo.

Action CP-1.14A Consider developing and adopting a “healthy development checklist” to evaluate potential new development under appropriate criteria, which might include exposure to harmful levels of air pollution, effects on the noise environment, relationship to the active transportation network and the safety of that network, and effects on social cohesion.

POLICY CP-1.15 Water Quality. Maintain and improve water quality in a way that provides public and environmental health benefits.

Action CP-1.15A Require new development to incorporate site design, source control, and treatment measures to keep pollutants out of stormwater during construction and operational phases, consistent with City of Vallejo Municipal Ordinance.

Action CP-1.15B Encourage new development to incorporate low impact development (LID) strategies, such as rain gardens, filter strips, swales, and other natural drainage strategies, to the greatest extent feasible, in order to reduce stormwater runoff levels, improve infiltration to replenish groundwater sources, reduce localized flooding, and reduce pollutants close to their source.

Action CP-1.15C Consult with appropriate regional, State, and federal agencies to monitor water quality and address local sources of groundwater and soil contamination, including possible underground storage tanks, septic tanks, and industrial uses, as necessary, to achieve State and federal water quality standards.

Action CP-1.15D Require new development to connect to the Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District sewer system for treatment of wastewater rather than septic systems, which are not allowed.

GOAL CP-2

“ **Safe City:** Protect personal safety in Vallejo’s neighborhoods and public spaces. ”

Public safety and emergency response are top priorities in Vallejo. The City provides law enforcement, fire protection, and emergency medical services to all areas of Vallejo and to the incorporated Solano County enclaves. The location of public safety facilities is shown on Map CP-1.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIME PREVENTION

The Vallejo Police Department (VPD) provides professional law enforcement services that enhance, protect, and promote the quality of life for local residents, businesses and visitors. VPD is committed to community policing and works in partnership with more than 200 active Neighborhood Watch groups, providing public information and training services to support citizen participation in crime prevention.

Crime rates in Vallejo have at times exceeded Bay Area and California averages, with property crimes such as burglary, larceny, and robbery accounting for the majority of occurrences. To fight crime and improve public safety, VPD is increasingly making use of technology, with a computer-aided dispatch and records management system that allows rapid access to crime data, as well digital cameras and automated license plate readers in patrol cars. VPD has also successfully used special tactical initiatives to target