

Sacramento | 2040

Draft Vision Statement and Guiding Principles Update

Vision Statement

In 2040, the City of Sacramento will be a national model of sustainable, equitable growth and community development.

Sacramento will continue to be a dynamic regional center of culture, diversity, jobs, food, and beautiful parks and trees, and will cultivate inclusive access to opportunity and healthy living. The General Plan seeks to direct growth and change into commercial and transit corridors, building on the city's existing assets and character. Pedestrian, bicycle and transit options will be prioritized over automobiles.

Every neighborhood will be a desirable place to live, with safe streets, extensive tree canopy, a range of housing choices, mixed-use neighborhood centers, great schools, parks and recreation facilities, and convenient connections to jobs, services, and nature. Every resident will feel the freedom to walk and bike safely and comfortably. Sacramento's neighborhoods will be affordable and inclusive, and every resident will have the opportunity to thrive.

As California's capital, Sacramento will continue to be a primary center for government, employment, education, and culture. The city's economy will continue to strengthen, diversify, and participate in changing global industries.

Sacramento will be a leader in bold, equitable climate action and the green economy, taking steps to cut waste, pollution, and carbon emissions. Through its continued progress toward Sacramento's 2045 climate neutrality goal, the city will also achieve other, interconnected goals: healthy, climate-safe homes, green spaces and tree canopy for all, an efficient zero-emissions transportation system, clean air, and a thriving, sustainable economy. Recognizing the future challenges of climate change, Sacramento will build resilience for all its communities, especially the most vulnerable.

Sacramento will ensure that residents of all ages and abilities have access to a range of reliable, environmentally responsible transportation options. Sacramento will invest in its aging infrastructure and prioritize carbon-neutral transport, and will have clean air, water, and "complete" streets.

Sacramento will ensure the just and equitable treatment of all neighborhoods and people, address historical inequities, and ensure broad community participation and ownership in public processes. Sacramento will continue to celebrate its cultural and ethnic diversity and will foster the arts, protect historic, cultural, and natural resources, and cultivate its extensive urban forest and riverways.

Guiding Principles

Sustainable and Responsible Growth

1. Concentrate new growth within Sacramento's existing footprint to promote a compact development pattern that supports efficient delivery of public services and infrastructure, while protecting surrounding open space lands.
2. Link new growth with access to high-frequency transit in order to optimize public investments and support an accessible, convenient network that offers a viable alternative to the automobile and promotes public health.
3. Guide robust investment in utility infrastructure to support sustainable growth with an emphasis on serving disadvantaged communities.
4. Cultivate a broad mix of housing types in all residential zones throughout the city to provide options for residents of all income levels, while protecting existing residents and communities from displacement.
5. Foster "complete neighborhoods" that provide for residents' daily needs within easy walking or biking distance from home and that promote regular physical activity.
6. Make Sacramento a model of sustainable living by promoting environmentally conscious and health-promoting design of buildings, parks and infrastructure, as well as careful conservation of energy, water, open spaces, trees, and other natural resources.

Resiliency and Climate Action

7. Take bold action to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 and become a leading voice in the effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.
8. Proactively prepare for the effects of climate change, including flooding, fires, drought, smoke, heat, and infrastructure failure, and empower residents and businesses to respond, adapt, and evolve as a community in the face of climate change.
9. Facilitate the use of innovative approaches and new technologies to dramatically reduce per capita energy use, waste, and pollutants.
10. Collaborate across City departments as well as with other public agencies and community organizations to effectively address environmental hazards and promote environmental health and resilience throughout the community.
11. Recognize the importance of Sacramento's extensive tree canopy, and integrate and invest in green infrastructure, parks, and gardens in all neighborhoods to protect against excessive heat, to improve air and water quality, and to sustain human and environmental health.
12. Prioritize the most vulnerable and under-served communities in developing climate solutions, and take action to build resilience at the household, neighborhood, and citywide scale.

Safe, Equitable, Inclusive, and Just City

13. Work to ensure that Sacramento is an equitable, inclusive, and just city for people of all ages, abilities, races, gender, sexual identity, incomes, and cultures, such that everyone can achieve their full potential here.
14. Prioritize safety in Sacramento's neighborhoods, public spaces, streets, on public transit, and in decision-making.
15. Provide law enforcement that collaborates with and is accountable to residents and businesses through community policing strategies and proactive efforts to build trust and common understanding.
16. Direct community resources towards historically disadvantaged communities in an equitable manner.
17. Provide responsive public services that are accessible to and inclusive of residents of all ages, abilities, cultural, and linguistic backgrounds.
18. Holistically address the needs of and prioritize care for the homeless, directing resources in a compassionate way that facilitates the transition back into permanent housing.
19. Celebrate Sacramento's diverse, multicultural communities and promote tolerance and respect among all residents. Foster a spirit of collaboration and working together to build up the city and the people in it.

Regional Economic Hub

20. Strengthen Sacramento's role as a regional economic center that attracts and retains a broad range of living-wage jobs in a diverse range of established and emerging industries with opportunities for advancement throughout the city.
21. Foster entrepreneurship with a focus on small local businesses, home-based businesses, and other opportunities that increase workforce participation.
22. Empower Sacramento's workforce for success and build a "cradle-to-career" pipeline, collaborating with public agencies, educational institutions, and community groups to provide the education, training, and resources necessary to thrive.
23. Support workforce participation by improving access to efficient, affordable transportation, training, childcare, and senior care.
24. Encourage equitable economic development and investment that create opportunity for existing residents and businesses in underserved neighborhoods, while also taking action to prevent displacement.
25. Promote Sacramento as the civic and cultural hub of the Central Valley with world class destinations throughout the City that draws people from around the region and the state.

Livability and Sense of Place

26. Ensure that Sacramento is a clean and safe city, with inclusive civic engagement and vibrant, diverse, welcoming public spaces where everyone feels comfortable.
27. Promote pride of place by respecting the unique character of established neighborhoods while also welcoming compatible high-quality infill development that provides options for people at all stages of life.

28. Focus resources on maintaining and improving existing neighborhoods, community assets, and essential infrastructure.
29. Cultivate community character throughout Sacramento by promoting public art and festivals; fostering walkable mixed-use places with active street life; and preserving and enhancing historic, cultural, and natural resources.
30. Expand access to nature and provide trees and parks in every neighborhood, as well as public access to rivers, green spaces, and the regional open space network.
31. Recognize Sacramento's rivers as a vital community asset, ensuring ecologically appropriate activities and providing public access, parks, recreational opportunities, and well-maintained trails all along the Sacramento and American Rivers.
32. Promote healthy, physically active lifestyles and community access to fresh food, water, sanitation, parks, green spaces, and clean air.
33. Work to ensure that Sacramento is a family-friendly city, with family-oriented destinations, accessible childcare, and neighborhoods that promote active lifestyles and are safe and livable for young and old alike.
34. Expand recreational opportunities and programs for residents of all ages, including lifelong learning opportunities for adults and after-school activities for children and youth.
35. Foster a thriving local arts community where residents and visitors can enjoy and create music, theater, dance, and visual arts throughout the city.

Interconnected, Accessible City

36. Strengthen connections between Sacramento neighborhoods, to neighboring communities, and to the wider region by expanding and enhancing the range of transportation options for people of all ages.
37. Reduce reliance on single-occupant vehicles, and prioritize active transportation, high-occupancy transport, and zero-emission vehicles over private vehicle use.
38. Improve the efficiency of the multi-modal transportation system and plan infrastructure that can flexibly accommodate rapidly emerging modes of transportation.
39. Recognize that traffic deaths and serious injuries are a public health issue and make the safety of human life the City's highest priority, taking proactive, preventive steps.
40. Include equity as a prioritization tool to ensure investment in underserved neighborhoods to improve equity in transportation, mobility, and other public service investments. Include all affected communities in transportation planning decisions.
41. Leverage information and communication technologies to enhance the quality and performance of urban services, including energy, transportation, and utilities.
42. Bolster digital connectivity for residents and businesses, recognizing that it underpins almost every aspect of modern living, from work to travel, leisure and health.