



GENERAL PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

The last comprehensive update to the Live Oak General Plan occurred in 1994 and included all elements required by state law. Some of the material from the 1994 General Plan is included in this updated General Plan. However, the bulk of the material in this General Plan update is new. The General Plan update includes three new elements, based on emerging community priorities: a Community Character Element; Public Utilities, Services, and Facilities Element, and an Economic Development element.

During initiation of the 2030 General Plan update, the City collected background information and prepared a series of background reports concerning each topic covered in the updated General Plan.

The background reports include:

- ✓ Air Quality;
- ✓ Biological Resources;
- ✓ Cultural Resources;
- ✓ Economy;
- ✓ Hydrology and Water Quality;
- ✓ Land Use, Population, and Housing;
- ✓ Minerals;
- ✓ Noise;
- ✓ Public Services and Facilities;
- ✓ Safety; and,
- ✓ Circulation/Transportation.

Each background report was made broadly available via the City's web site, at City Hall, and at various General Plan related public hearings and meetings.

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND INPUT

The City conducted a multi-media, multi-year public outreach program to support each phase of the 2030 General Plan Update. Public and decision maker input was used extensively in the development of:

- ✓ General Plan Technical Background Reports;
- ✓ The General Plan Vision Statement and Guiding Principles;
- ✓ General Plan Land Use and Circulation Conceptual Alternatives;
- ✓ General Plan Preliminary Policies;
- ✓ Draft General Plan Update and Draft General Plan EIR;
- ✓ Infrastructure Master Plans;
- ✓ Housing Element Update;
- ✓ Downtown and Highway 99 Design Plan; and,
- ✓ Other technical and policy documents supporting the General Plan update.



The City conducted a communitywide open house during initiation of the General Plan process. Members of the public were asked to identify key issues that should be carefully studied in the General Plan Technical Background Reports. Attendees were also probed for their thoughts on how to address key issues through policy. A visual preference survey was provided to the public to gather information on community design preferences.

Imagine the Future...
CITY OF LIVE OAK
General Plan Update

CITY OF LIVE OAK
COMMUNITY FESTIVAL
WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF LIVE OAK?
COME AND TELL US!

The City is updating its General Plan. The General Plan is the document regulating growth and development. We need you to help us find the right path to the future.

The Community Festival for the General Plan Update will be held on Tuesday, November 29th, 2005 from 4:30pm until 8:30pm. People can spend as much or as little time at this open-house style public outreach event. The Community Festival will be held at the Community Center, 10200 O Street.

COMMUNITY CENTER

UNIVERSITY
O STREET
PENNINGTON ROAD
GUM STREET
REBEL ROAD

The Communitywide Open House to kick off the General Plan was very well attended and provided valuable initial input.

A series of public workshops throughout the General Plan update process provided valuable input to the City in drafting the General Plan. The City appointed a General Plan Steering Committee, which consisted of two City Council members, two Planning Commissioners, and a diverse set of community leaders. The Steering Committee met frequently with the General Plan Update Team to hold workshops on different topics related to the General Plan.

Joint workshops with the City Council, Planning Commission, and Steering Committee were held also at certain key points in the General Plan Update process, such as selection of the preferred alternative. The City also conducted a technical workshop and a public visioning workshop to address the desired future of the community's core and the portion of the SR 99 corridor located in central Live Oak.

Throughout the General Plan Update process, the City invited and received public input via email, letters, fax, through the General Plan Update web site, and through in-person meetings. Stakeholder outreach involved property owners; interested land development groups; elected officials; community groups and organizations; community leaders; government agencies; neighborhood and business associations; and, other pertinent stakeholders.

After completing the initial phase of citizen and stakeholder outreach and compiling the General Plan background information, City staff and consultants summarized the consensus viewpoints in a General Plan Vision Statement and Guiding Principles document. This guiding document is presented in the material that follows.



A series of public workshops and community meetings provided extensive input for the 2030 General Plan.

VISION STATEMENT AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Vision for the future of Live Oak is many things to many people. Each person visualizes the future of Live Oak based on his or her own life experiences, preferences, interests, and expectations. The City's history and that of the region influence the assumptions and expectations of its current and future residents. The vision for the future of Live Oak pertains not only to the physical development of City, but also to its social, cultural, and environmental elements. Although the General Plan Vision Statement focuses on the physical development of the City and the conservation of its natural resources as required by state law, the General Plan Update also considers the influence of the physical environment on social, cultural, economic, and other areas of interest to the community.



The Vision Statement represents the public's hopes, dreams, and expectations for themselves and future generations, with a focus on key issues that enjoy consensus in the community. The Guiding Principles presents shared community values which were used in guiding the development of policies in the General Plan.

The Vision Statement and Guiding Principles were used extensively throughout the General Plan Update process to provide direction to the General Plan Update Team. The first major use of the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles document was in the drafting of conceptual land use and circulation alternatives, which represent different paths to achieving the community's vision. The Vision Statement and Guiding Principles were also used throughout drafting of General Plan goals, policies, and implementation programs. Quick summary reminders of the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles were offered at public workshops and hearings throughout the General Plan Update process to help frame the discussion at hand.

VISION STATEMENT

Live Oak in 2026 has a unique, small-town character that continues to be the primary reason for its citizens' choice of residence. Live Oak has attractive and charming neighborhoods that each add to the whole community. There are pedestrian-friendly, neighborhood-scale shops and activity centers blended into both the City's older and newer neighborhoods. Live Oak is not the bedroom community it once was in danger of becoming. The City has encouraged economic development, including industrial, agricultural related, service sector, and professional offices. Now, instead of having to drive to another city for work, shopping, and entertainment, we can live, work, and play locally. Downtown Live Oak has been remade at the City's historic center, adding a variety of shopping, dining, and entertainment options. Downtown is the social and cultural heart of the community. The City's infrastructure, and public services and administration provide all of our citizens with safe and healthy neighborhoods, participation in local government decisions, and a high-quality living experience. Live Oak's historic core and new neighborhoods are safe and convenient for pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as drivers. Those who choose not to drive can easily walk, bicycle, or even use public transit to get to work, school, shopping, or a local park. Our streets are not merely corridors along which cars and trucks pass, but also pleasant public spaces that are landscaped, tree-lined, human-scaled places to be enjoyed by everyone.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

SMALL-TOWN CHARACTER

- ✓ Public spaces where people can meet and interact with friends and neighbors are essential.
- ✓ Small, locally-owned businesses are important to the City's unique character and a healthy and resilient local economy.
- ✓ Commercial corridors should be attractive, distinct, and pedestrian-friendly.
- ✓ Live Oak can grow without being overcome by traffic or other effects that would sacrifice the small-town character.
- ✓ Our City can grow in a way that promotes social interaction and self-policing.



- ✓ Our citizens can and should be actively involved in the community through public service organizations, neighborhood organizations, neighborhood watch programs, and in public meetings.

UNIQUE AND HIGH-QUALITY DESIGN, SENSE OF PLACE

- ✓ The entire community benefits from high-quality, unique neighborhoods with tree-lined, pedestrian-friendly streets and a strong sense of place.
- ✓ Compact, functional, neighborhood-scale shops can be compatibly integrated into primarily residential neighborhoods to provide a range of goods and services within walking distance.
- ✓ High-quality, unique design that creates livable communities with a strong sense of place will make Live Oak more competitive economically as jobs and capital become more mobile.
- ✓ The Sutter Buttes are a globally unique natural feature, views of which should be provided and protected as the City grows.
- ✓ Maintaining and improving our urban tree canopy is important to our air quality, climate, aesthetic enjoyment, and overall quality of life.

LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY LOCALLY

- ✓ Our community will not merely provide bedrooms for people that work in Sacramento, Chico, Yuba City, or anywhere else.
- ✓ Commercial, civic, recreational, and cultural opportunities will be available along with new residences.
- ✓ The City and community should support local social and cultural activities, facilities, and programs, encouraging universal respect for a diversity of beliefs and lifestyles.
- ✓ Our families have different sizes, ages, and incomes, and our existing and future residents should have a variety of local housing choices to best meet their needs and preferences.
- ✓ Our community should provide the opportunity for children to grow, for people to raise families, and for seniors to stay in the community as they age.

DOWNTOWN

- ✓ Downtown should be remade as the social, civic, cultural, and economic heart of our community.
- ✓ Downtown must not be left behind as the City grows.
- ✓ Commercial land uses in other parts of the City should be carefully planned so as to not duplicate the role of Downtown.
- ✓ Downtown should be safe and convenient for walking and biking, including east-west travel.



- ✓ The entire community will benefit from a vibrant, pedestrian-scaled downtown commercial center that reflects our community's unique identity and small-town character.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

- ✓ Workers should be able to find jobs in Live Oak that pay a living wage.
- ✓ Local employment that is in balance with the local population is essential to a functioning and fiscally healthy community.
- ✓ "Balance" means residents who desire to work locally can find jobs that match their education, skills, and career objectives and employers who desire to hire local residents can find workers who meet their needs.
- ✓ City government should play an important role in attracting employment-generating businesses.
- ✓ Approved land development projects should contribute to the City's economic health and fiscal sustainability.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC SERVICES

- ✓ New development will generate sufficient public revenue to pay for the public facilities and services required to meet minimum service standards set by the City.
- ✓ Existing residents will not pay for the cost of new or expanded public facilities or services to serve new development projects.
- ✓ Livable neighborhoods and a healthy citizenry require adequately maintained parks and open space, cultural and recreational activities and programs, and active neighborhood involvement in such facilities and programs.
- ✓ Adequate law enforcement services are important to our community, especially for traffic safety and crime prevention.
- ✓ Adequate fire prevention/suppression and emergency response services are required for our community's safety and security.
- ✓ We need a safe and reliable water supply and high-quality sewer service and stormwater drainage.
- ✓ Our community needs an appropriate administrative structure, staffing, and resources to provide high-quality public services and facilities, and to coordinate between citizens and City departments providing the services.
- ✓ The long-term viability of Live Oak depends on high-quality educational services, and the City and community should support programs to improve the quality of public and private education for all ages.



PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY AND CONVENIENCE

- ✓ Though we enjoy the independence and convenience provided by our automobiles, our City should be designed to meet the needs of our people, and not our cars.
- ✓ Our downtown will be more successful and our neighborhoods more livable if the City is designed as to be safe and convenient for pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as drivers.
- ✓ It is important to provide alternatives to automobile travel for work, school, shopping, and recreation.

GENERAL PLAN LAND USE ALTERNATIVES

A fundamental part of the process of preparing or updating a general plan is the selection of a possible course of action for future growth, development, conservation, and reinvestment in a community.

Alternative concepts for future growth were developed and examined before writing the 2030 General Plan. This process was designed to enable a community to weigh possible directions for the future. Alternatives were crafted based on discussions with the community, direction from the General Plan Steering Committee, direction from the Planning Commission and City Council, the City's Vision and Guiding Principles, and stakeholder outreach.

FRAMEWORK COMPONENTS OF THE ALTERNATIVES AND GENERAL PLAN

There were several key ideas embodied in each of the General Plan alternatives. Many of these same concepts are described as framework components of different Elements of the General Plan. A description of these concepts follows.

NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER FOCUS

In both new and existing neighborhoods, neighborhood centers will be established or strengthened. Higher-activity land uses, such as schools, parks, shops, civic institutions, and higher-density housing will be located in a central core, with intensity and density decreasing as one moves out from that core. This approach is based on the City's Vision Statement and Guiding Principles. Some features of the neighborhood center approach follow:

- ✓ There will be an easily identifiable activity center in each neighborhood. This could be a town square, park, plaza, or simply an important intersection.
- ✓ There should be transit service in neighborhood centers.
- ✓ Neighborhood centers should be pleasant and inviting places to spend time and as such, should be pedestrian and bicycle friendly.
- ✓ Buildings at the neighborhood center should be located close to the sidewalk and close to each other to create a hub of activity, an "outdoor public living room" feel, and a human-scale to the urban environment.