

12 HUMAN SERVICES ELEMENT

A. Introduction

Major land use and development decisions have important physical, economic, social, and environmental implications that must be considered by public officials during any planning process. A Human Services Element in the General Plan provides a venue for bringing human concerns into the physical planning process. Human Services are those services in the community, both public and private, designed especially to meet the social, health, safety, communication, education and artistic needs of people.

This Element expands upon the Town's role and responsibilities pertaining to the broad areas of human services and assessing needs for available resources. Through an effective Human Services Element the Town will be better able to assist individuals and families in achieving and maintaining high levels of social well-being, leading to a more positive and satisfied community.

The Town should be involved in meeting human needs, but may not necessarily be responsible for directly delivering all services. The Town recognizes the value of public and private agencies working together to effectively deliver services. The Town can be a leader in bringing agencies together and encouraging long-range planning. For services not directly provided by the Town, the Town may assume any of the following five roles to assist in developing more effective delivery of Human Services in Los Gatos: resource coordinator; educator; advocate; facilitator; and evaluator.

This Element is divided into the following sections:

- ◆ Youth Services
- ◆ Senior Services
- ◆ Schools
- ◆ Libraries
- ◆ Town Arts
- ◆ Public Health

Each of these components is divided into the following sections:

- ◆ **Background Information:** Provides background information about the various resources within Los Gatos.
- ◆ **Goals, Policies and Actions:** Provides guidance to the Town related to decisions affecting the resources addressed in this Element.

B. Public Health

The Town of Los Gatos wants to help ensure a healthy community through planning efforts that can directly enhance the wellness of the community.

1. Background

Public health and planning professionals now recognize that increasing individuals' physical activity is paramount to healthy populations, and that the built environment greatly influences lifestyle choices that promote such activity. Los Gatos strives to be an active, inclusive, and responsive community, where healthy habits are encouraged rather than discouraged by the environments we build. Goals, policies, and actions that promote active, healthy lifestyles are also found in the Land Use Element and Transportation Element.

Policies related to community health are also addressed in other sections of this General Plan, including:

- ◆ Emergency preparedness in the Safety Element.
- ◆ Parks and recreational opportunities in the Open Space Element.
- ◆ Water and air quality in the Environment and Sustainability Element.
- ◆ Fire and police services in the Safety Element.

2. Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal HS-1	To ensure resources and programs are available for the health needs of the entire community, including youth and seniors.
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Policies

- Policy HS-1.1 Encourage the retention of three nearby hospitals: El Camino Hospital Los Gatos, Good Samaritan Hospital, and Good Samaritan's Mission Oaks Campus.
- Policy HS-1.2 Promote health services provided by other agencies to local residents.
- Policy HS-1.3 Encourage a full array of health care professionals to locate their practices in Los Gatos.

Action

- Action HS-1.1 Annually review programs the Town supports to assure they meet the health needs of target groups.
- Action HS-1.2 Identify health services that are not readily available in Los Gatos and add them to the Town's economic vitality efforts.

Goal HS-2	To foster all residents' health and well-being.
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Policies

- Policy HS-2.1 Encourage safe and attractive places for recreational exercise within a half mile of every residence.
- Policy HS-2.2 Encourage the continuation of a farmers market in Town and community gardens in appropriate locations.

Policy HS-2.3 Encourage pedestrian routes and sidewalks to be integrated into continuous networks.

Policy HS-2.4 Provide safe and convenient access to disposal sites for expired and unused pharmaceuticals, needles, and related items.

C. Youth Services

Having community activities and services catering to young persons 18 years of age or younger is important for families in Los Gatos. The Town of Los Gatos strives to be a youth-friendly community and recognizes that youth services must be identified and developed to foster a healthy and active environment for youth growing up in Los Gatos.

1. Background Information

Almost 30 percent of all households in Los Gatos have at least one youth under the age of 18. Young persons under the age of 18 represent approximately 20 percent of the total population in Los Gatos. Youth represent the future of Los Gatos, and providing and maintaining services for youth continues to be an important issue to the Town.

Information on youth organizations, library services, family and community events, and Town policies for youth can be found on the Town's website in the *Youth and Teen Resources* section. The Town of Los Gatos provides the following youth services.

a. Youth Commission

Formed in 2004, the Los Gatos Youth Commission includes 20 young persons who live in Los Gatos and go to schools throughout Santa Clara County. Youth on this Commission are in grades 8 through 12 and are formally appointed by the Town Council. The Youth Commission represents the youth community of Los Gatos and is supported by the Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Police Department. The purpose of this Commission is

to increase communication between adults and youth in Los Gatos, to give youth an avenue for expressing their voice in Town affairs and on issues related to youth in Los Gatos, and to encourage them to make civic engagement part of their adult lives.

b. Community Services Commission

Two of the nine members appointed to the Community Services Commission in Los Gatos are high school students. The Community Services Commission advises the Town Council on housing and community development issues in Los Gatos. This Commission develops partnerships with public and private agencies that can help support various housing and community programs.

c. Parks Commission

Two of the nine members of the Parks Commission are youth. The Parks Commission advises the Town Council on issues related to public parks, trails, grounds, street trees, and Town beautification.

d. Los Gatos Library

The Los Gatos Library provides collections and services specifically oriented toward children and teens. The new library opening in 2012 will have expanded seating and study areas specifically for Los Gatos youth.

e. Community Unity

The Town's volunteer recruitment and coordination service provides targeted opportunities for youth and family volunteer projects, internships, and other services in Town parks, trails, government offices, and other agencies and programs.

2. Goals, Policies, and Actions

Goal HS-3 To meet the needs of Los Gatos youth.

Policies

Policy HS-3.1 The Town shall interact with applicable agencies and entities that provide youth services to ensure that the needs of children and teens are met.

Policy HS-3.2 The Town shall encourage a broad array of child care facilities and services to meet the economic, geographic, and demographic diversity of Los Gatos.

Action

Action HS-3.1 Town staff shall meet with agencies as needed to identify the needs of children in the community.

Goal HS-4	To offer a wide range of youth programs and services within the Town.
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Policies

Policy HS-4.1 Continue to support organizations that offer recreational activities and events for youth.

Policy HS-4.2 Coordinate with public and private schools, local non-profits, service clubs, and other agencies to provide opportunities for youth to explore and enjoy sports, creative and performing arts, and future career paths.

Policy HS-4.3 Coordinate with local organizations to support and encourage youth and multi-generational volunteer opportunities.

Actions

Action HS-4.1 Coordinate with community partners to conduct a needs assessment for youth facilities, activities, employment

opportunities and programs; prioritize results; and implement as feasible.

Action HS-4.2 Encourage youth art by periodically displaying youth artwork in gallery space in the Town Council Chambers, Library, and the Civic Center.

Action HS-4.3 Continue to utilize traditional communication tools and new media and technology to promote youth programs.

Goal HS-5	To encourage civic involvement of all youth in the community.
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Policies

Policy HS-5.1 Continue to encourage the Youth Commission to explore youth concerns and opportunities, facilitate community forums, and undertake special projects.

Policy HS-5.2 Continue to challenge the Youth Commission to develop new youth-oriented initiatives such as the Youth-Friendly Business Program.

Policy HS-5.3 Continue to work with community partners to provide a variety of programs and events for Town youth.

Policy HS-5.4 Encourage students and families to attend Council, Commission and other public agency meetings.

Policy HS-5.5 Recognize exemplary youth who are actively involved in civic and community activities, events, services and programs.

Policy HS-5.6 Engage youth in Town beautification and other civic improvement efforts.



Actions

Action HS-5.1 Create additional opportunities to involve the Youth Commission with other Town Commissions.

Action HS-5.2 Continue the Community Unity program to encourage youth and adult volunteer opportunities and access to resources.

Goal HS-6	To promote safe, youth-friendly environments within the Town.
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Actions

Action HS-6.1 Work with the Town of Los Gatos Library, Police Department, and Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation District to create a program to educate youth about internet use safety.

Action HS-6.2 Work with local schools and other community organizations to educate and encourage positive behavioral choices.

Action HS-6.3 Support continuation of positive parenting and family relationship courses and programs provided by regional agencies and other resources.

Goal HS-7	To ensure that bicycling and walking is safe for youth throughout the Town.
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Policies

Policy HS-7.1 Promote educational programs for youth that encourage safe and fun bicycle commuting and recreational riding and pedestrian safety.



Policy HS-7.2  Promote the Safe Routes to School program, which supports safety improvements that encourage safe walking and bicycling to school.

Policy HS-7.3  Coordinate with local businesses, organizations and school districts to develop innovative programs, such as “Walking School Buses” and “Bicycle Trains” that encourage youth to commute to and from school in groups.

Actions

Action HS-7.1 Coordinate with local organizations and school districts to develop a program to offer bicycle and pedestrian safety and education classes for youth.

Action HS-7.2  Identify safety improvements that will allow for safe walking and bicycling to schools.

Action HS-7.3 Coordinate with schools and the police department to develop and implement a teen driver safety program.

D. Senior Services

Seniors, or persons age 65 and older, are a significant and growing population group in Los Gatos. In Santa Clara County, seniors are the fastest growing population segment, expected to number more than 300,000 by 2020. The Town of Los Gatos strives to be a senior friendly community and recognizes that, as this population group continues to grow and age, services must be identified and developed to accommodate the needs of older adults.

1. Background Information

The Los Gatos population is growing older. In 2010, the median age of the Los Gatos population is estimated to be 45 years, while in 1970 it was estimated to be 30 years. The older population is evidenced by the increasing

proportion of the Los Gatos population who are age 65 and older. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the number of seniors in Los Gatos has increased from 11 percent of the total population in Los Gatos in 1970 to 15 percent by 2000. Currently, it is estimated that seniors represent 17 percent of the total population in Los Gatos and could be at 20 percent by 2020.

The Town of Los Gatos contracts with the Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation District for services, information, and activities for seniors living in Los Gatos. Many of these services are provided at the Los Gatos Adult Recreation Center at 208 E. Main Street in Los Gatos.

a. Healthcare and Social Services

Los Gatos provides a majority of its healthcare and social service programs for seniors through the Los Gatos Adult Recreation Center. The Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department also offers a daily senior check-in program called Operation C.A.R.E.

i. *Los Gatos Adult Recreation Center*

The Adult Recreation Center is a gathering place for seniors in Los Gatos and provides several senior healthcare and social services. The Center provides case management services to seniors. This service includes advice and referrals to social service agencies and assistance in completing applications for social services. The location of the Center is shown on Figure HS-1.

Through the Adult Recreation Center, volunteer counselors give assistance to seniors interested in drawing up a “durable power of attorney,” or health care power of attorney. Volunteer counselors also provide other services such as neutral healthcare insurance advice and information and income tax assistance.

ii. *Operation C.A.R.E. Program*

Operation C.A.R.E., or Caring About Resident Elders, is a program run by the Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Police Department that offers a free, daily phone call to check-in on the welfare of seniors who may be living alone. A

Police Dispatcher will call at an agreed-upon time with the senior and if unable to reach the senior or any of the senior's emergency contacts, a Police Officer will be sent to the home to check on his/her welfare. Seniors can register for this free service through the Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Police Department.

b. Housing

The Town of Los Gatos strives to provide a variety of housing alternatives to allow seniors to live independently and age in place as they so choose. These housing types include not only single family homes, town homes, condominiums and apartments, but also life care communities, affordable housing, shared housing, and below market rate properties.

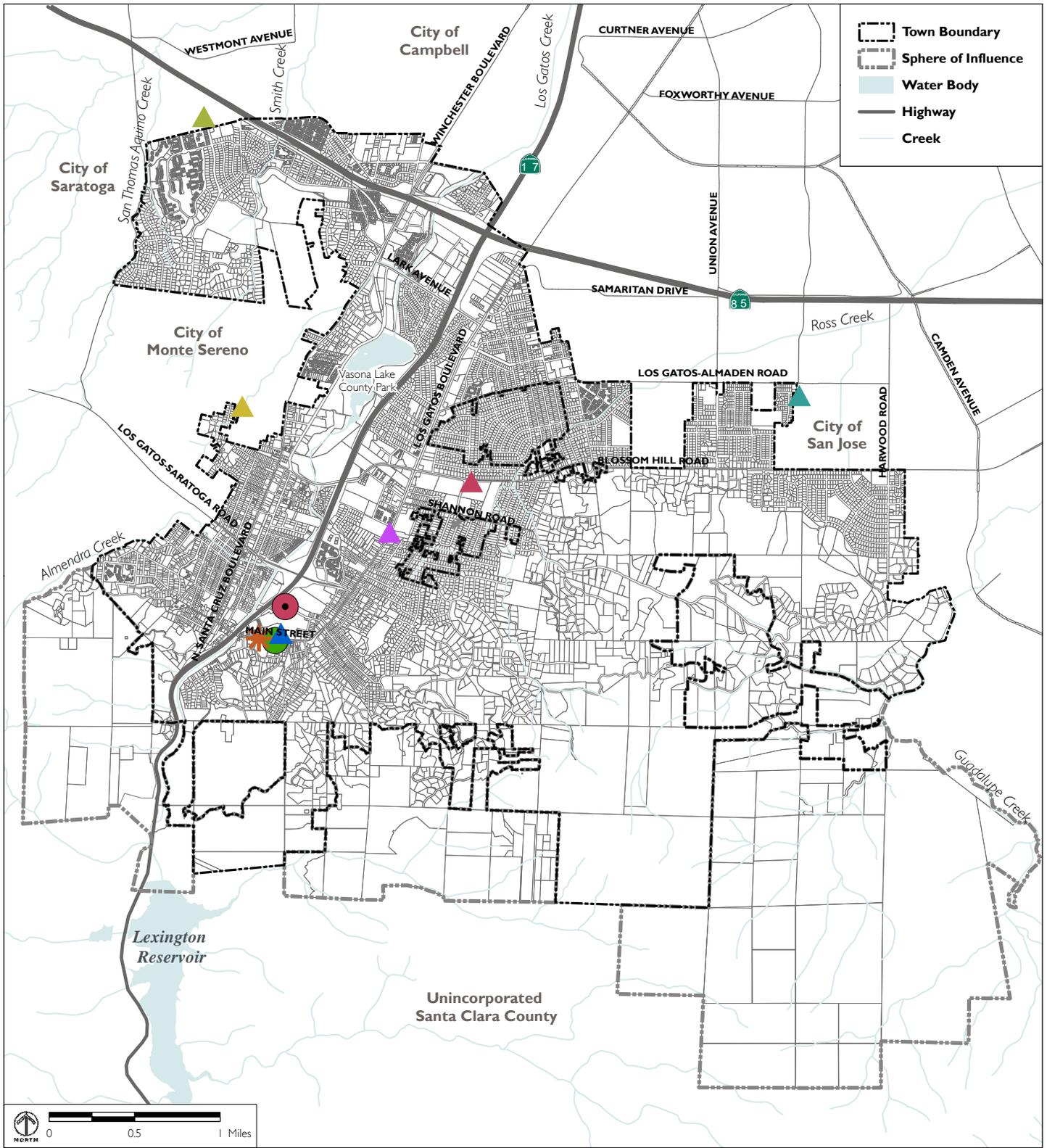
Villa Vasona, Blossom Hill, and Anne Way offer affordable senior units to Los Gatos residents, while the Terraces of Los Gatos, a senior residential care facility run by American Baptist Homes of the West, offers 59 beds and has independent living, assisted living, and skilled nursing programs on site. Twenty-nine of the senior units at the Terraces of Los Gatos are Below Market Price (BMP) units under the Town's BMP program.

The Town also has Los Gatos Meadows Life Care Retirement, run by Episcopal Senior Communities, which has 170 units of studios, apartments, and cottages that house approximately 200 residents.

The Town also supports a Housing Conservation Program which offers no-interest and low-interest loans to income-eligible Los Gatos residents, including seniors, for home rehabilitation projects. The program is administered by the Santa Clara County Housing and Community Development Department and makes home rehabilitation loans available to qualified Los Gatos renters and owners.

c. Transportation

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) operates up to six public transit bus lines that run through the Town and several park-and-ride



Source: Town of Los Gatos, 2010.

- ★ Los Gatos Public Library
- The Venue Teen Center
- Los Gatos Adult Recreation Center
- ▲ Blossom Hill Elementary
- ▲ Daves Avenue Elementary
- ▲ Van Meter Elementary
- ▲ Rolling Hills Middle School
- ▲ Leigh High School
- ▲ Los Gatos High School

FIGURE HS-1

YOUTH AND SENIOR PUBLIC FACILITIES

lots. The community relies primarily on non-profit organizations to provide transportation services and education for seniors in Los Gatos. The OUTREACH Senior Transportation Program provides public paratransit services as an alternative for seniors who are unable to access or use fixed-route public transit. The American Association of Retired People (AARP) hosts a quarterly senior driver safety course called the 55 Alive Driver Safety Program.

The Los Gatos Adult Recreation Center in Los Gatos offers information on the OUTREACH Senior Transportation Program. The Center also provides discounted BART tickets for seniors in Los Gatos.

d. Recreational and Social Activities

The Los Gatos Adult Recreation Center is a central gathering place that often hosts local activities for seniors. The Center also publishes a free bi-monthly newsletter with information on local events, programs and announcements geared toward seniors.

The Center hosts a number of events for seniors in Los Gatos, including:

- ◆ A weekly Town-sponsored walking group to promote exercise;
- ◆ A weekly bingo night, sponsored by the Live Oak Senior Nutrition and Service Center;
- ◆ A Live Oak Nutrition Lunch, followed by a free movie, held on the fourth Wednesday of every month;
- ◆ A weekly board games and table games event, sponsored by the Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation District's 55 (and over) Program;
- ◆ An annual Senior Thanksgiving dinner with food from local restaurants; and
- ◆ Senior picnics at local parks.

The Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation District offers several classes geared toward seniors, ranging from dance and exercise to writing, language and

technology education. The Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation District publishes a monthly newsletter and also organizes day and extended day trips for seniors. Information on such trips offered through other senior centers can also be obtained through the Los Gatos Adult Recreation Center.

The Los Gatos Public Library offers several programs and services for seniors, seven days a week. A monthly book club, Internet classes, a weekly knitting group, and quarterly evening programs featuring special guests are among the many free programs offered to all. The Library offers a variety of materials including a magnified and large type section.

Several non-profit agencies also provide assistance and support for seniors in Los Gatos. Senior programs managed by non-profit agencies include:

- ◆ Live Oak Adult Day Services
- ◆ Long-Term Care Ombudsman
- ◆ Operation Brown Bag
- ◆ The Health Place, San Jose State University's School of Nursing
- ◆ Meals On Wheels

2. Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal HS-8	To ensure programs and facilities for social interaction for senior citizens.
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Policies

Policy HS-8.1 The Town shall act as a clearinghouse for social programs provided by other agencies and groups that provide aid for social problems.

Policy HS-8.2 Regularly consult with older adults and seniors on the services and programs they desire and need.

- Policy HS-8.3 Encourage the Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation District and other service providers to provide a wide variety of senior services and programs, including daily opportunities for seniors to have physical activity, social interaction, and mental stimulation.
- Policy HS-8.4 Coordinate with local organizations to support opportunities for seniors to interact with youth in Los Gatos.
- Policy HS-8.5 Encourage new development to include intergenerational spaces, such as cafés or family-oriented outdoor spaces.
- Policy HS-8.6 Encourage the establishment and operation of a dedicated space for seniors.

Actions

- Action HS-8.1 Annually review social programs offered by the Town and other agencies to determine if they meet the needs of seniors.
- Action HS-8.2 Collaborate with the Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation District and other local organizations to develop a program to provide additional recreational and fitness programs for seniors.
- Action HS-8.3 Explore ways to increase the focus on senior needs in existing commissions and consider establishing a separate or broader commission focusing on senior issues.
- Action HS-8.4 Develop or identify an existing facility for a full service senior center.
- Action HS-8.5 Connect seniors with existing resources in the community.

Action HS-8.6 Annually set funding priorities which include funds for senior needs.

Action HS-8.7 Continue to utilize traditional communication tools and new media and technology to promote senior programs as best suited to meet their needs (e.g., larger type for ease of reading).

Goal HS-9	To improve mobility and access to care and services for seniors.
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Policies

Policy HS-9.1 Ensure that seniors have convenient access to social and medical services, commercial areas, and transportation by coordinating with senior shuttle service providers.

Policy HS-9.2 Encourage all new senior housing developments to provide transportation services.

Policy HS-9.3 Encourage businesses and health care providers that serve seniors to locate in Town.

Action

Action HS-9.1 Seek funding and coordinate with Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) to provide lower, subsidized public transit fares for seniors.

Goal HS-10	To encourage a wide variety of types of senior housing, including independent living, residential care facilities, and affordable housing within the Town.
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Policy

Policy HS-10.1 Encourage new development or substantial remodels to incorporate barrier-free design principles to ensure access for people of all ages and abilities.

Action

Action HS-10.1 Identify incentives for the development of a variety of types of senior housing, including independent living and residential care facilities.

Goal HS-11 To ensure safe environments for Los Gatos seniors.
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Policies

Policy HS-11.1 Identify isolated seniors who may need assistance in natural disasters such as earthquakes or floods.

Policy HS-11.2 Continue daily public safety outreach and communications to seniors and their families requesting such support.

E. Schools

Quality education is important to the residents of the Town. However, while local land use and development decisions may impact school facilities, mitigation for school impacts required of developers may be limited by State legislation or other factors.

1. Background Information

Six different school districts serve the residents of the Town of Los Gatos. These are the Los Gatos Union School District, the Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District, the Campbell Union School District, the Campbell Union High School District and the Cambrian Union Elementary District. In addition, nearby West Valley Community College, located in the

City of Saratoga, offers academic and career programs. The location of the elementary and high schools that serve Los Gatos students is shown on Figure HS-1. Elementary and high school district boundaries are shown in Figures HS-2 and HS-3, respectively.

a. Los Gatos Union School District

The Los Gatos Union School District has four elementary schools and one middle school providing educational services to the children of Los Gatos:

- ◆ Blossom Hill Elementary School (16400 Blossom Hill Road)
- ◆ Daves Avenue Elementary School (17770 Daves Avenue)
- ◆ Lexington Elementary School (19700 Old Santa Cruz Highway)
- ◆ Van Meter Elementary School (16445 Los Gatos Boulevard)
- ◆ Raymond J. Fisher Middle School (19195 Fisher Avenue)

All the elementary schools serve kindergarten through grade 5. Raymond J. Fisher Middle School serves Los Gatos students in grades 6 through 8.

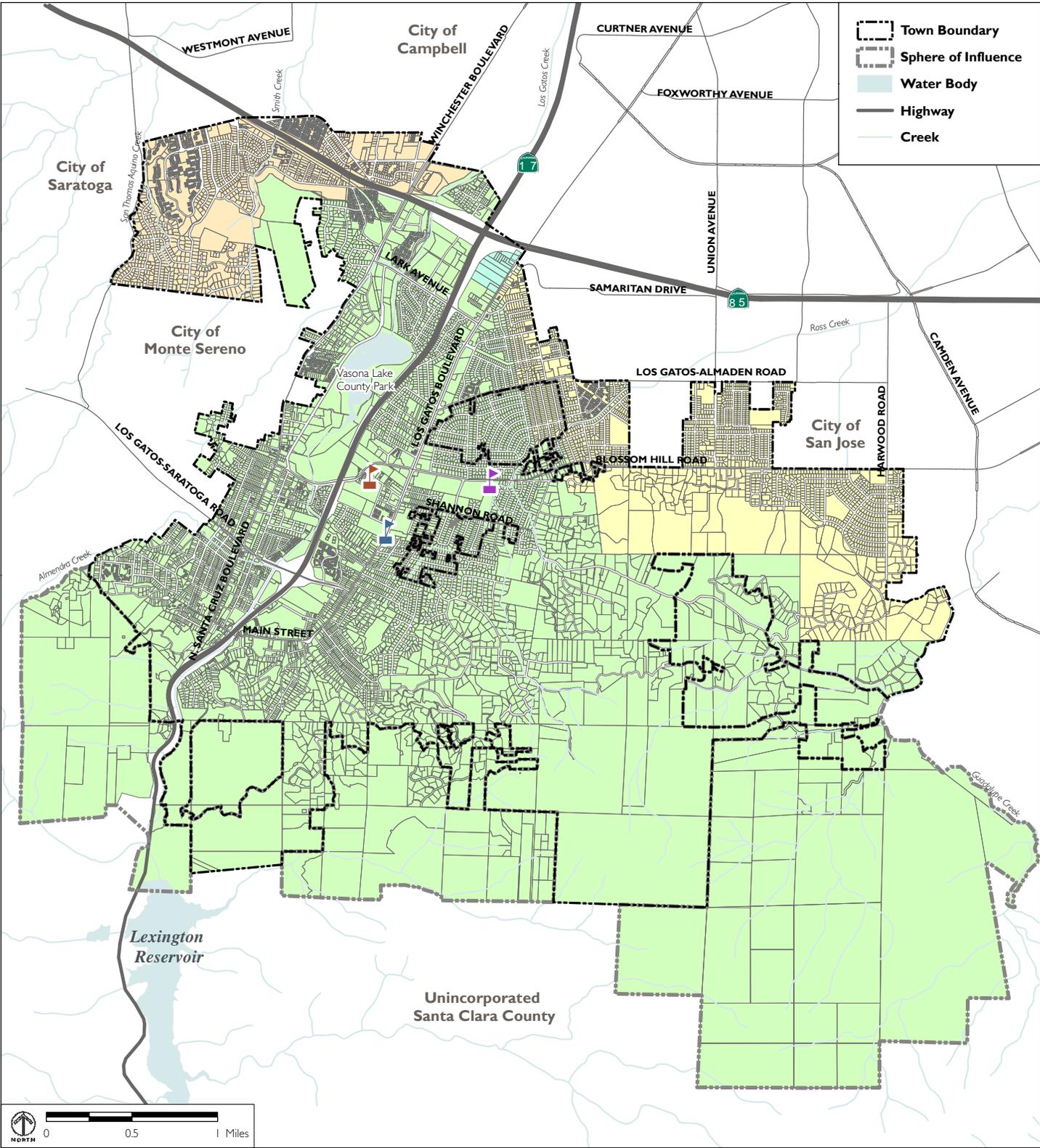
b. Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District

The Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District has two high schools, Los Gatos High and Saratoga High, which serve over 3,100 students from unincorporated Santa Clara County as well as the communities of Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, and Saratoga. Each school offers grades 9 through 12.

c. Campbell Union School District

More than 7,300 students from the communities of Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, San Jose, Santa Clara, and Saratoga attend the 12 schools within the Campbell Union School District. The four schools within the District that serve the Town of Los Gatos are Capri, Forest Hill, and Marshall Lane Elementary Schools, all of which offer kindergarten through grade 5, and Rolling Hills Middle School, which offers grades 5 through 8.

All of these schools are located near the northwest border of the Town in different cities.

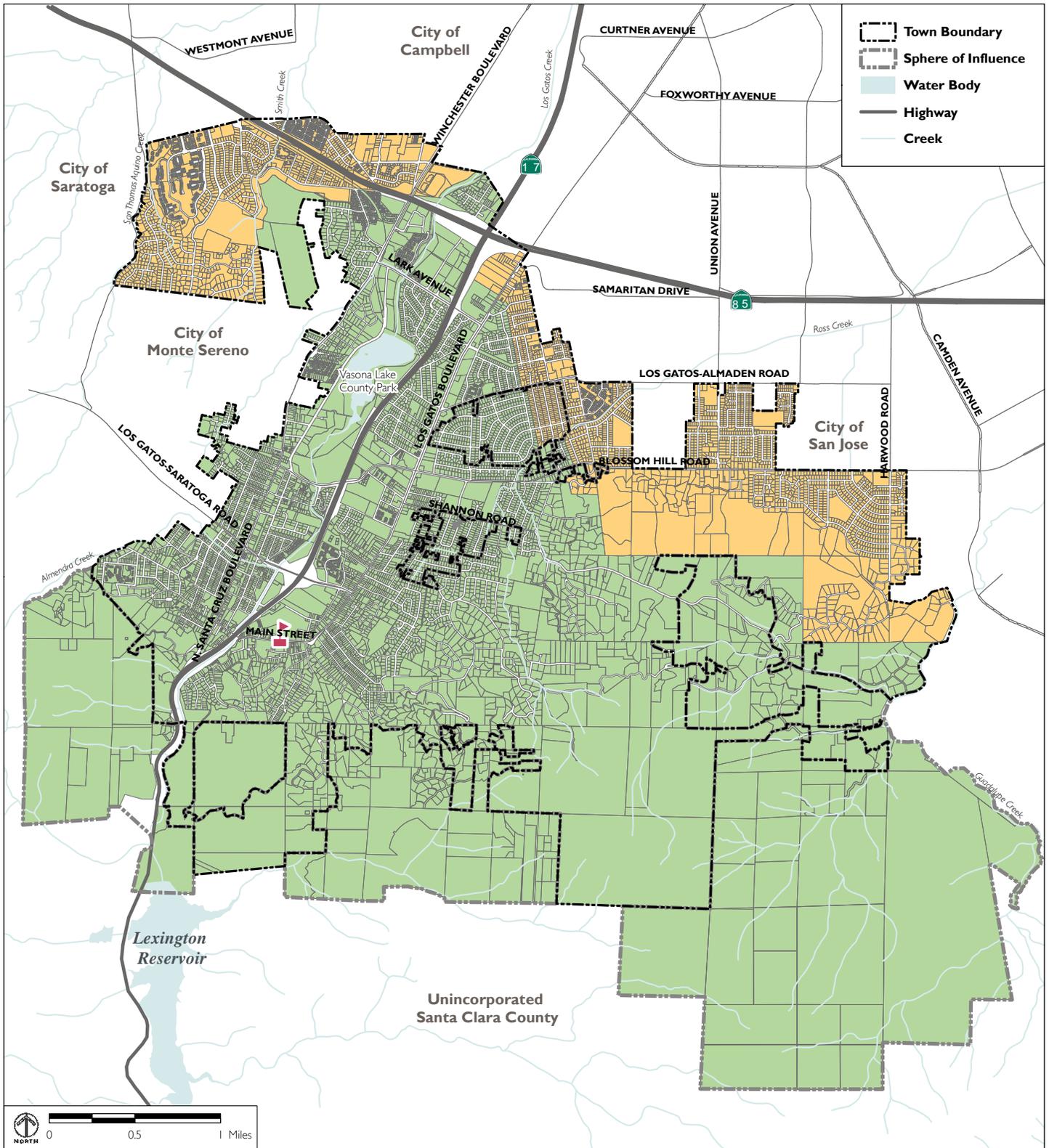


Source: Town of Los Gatos, 2008.

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|------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Elementary School Districts | Public Schools | Raymond J. Fisher Middle |
| Cambrian School District | Blossom Hill Elementary | |
| Campbell Union School District | Van Meter Elementary | |
| Los Gatos Union School District | | |
| Union School District | | |

FIGURE HS-2

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS



Source: Town of Los Gatos, 2008.



FIGURE HS-3

HIGH SCHOOL AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS

d. Campbell Union High School District

Campbell Union High School District serves over 7,700 students at five campuses: Branham, Del Mar, Leigh, Prospect and Westmont High Schools. Both Leigh and Westmont High Schools serve residents of the Town of Los Gatos.

e. Union Elementary School District

Union Elementary School District serves approximately 4,400 students enrolled in eight elementary schools (K-5 grades) and two middle schools (serving 6-8 grades). The Alta Vista Elementary School serves Los Gatos students.

f. Cambrian Elementary School District

Cambrian Elementary School District serves approximately 3,142 students enrolled in four elementary schools (K-5 grades) and one middle school (serving 6-8 grades). The Farnham Elementary School is the only school in this district that serves Los Gatos students.

g. West Valley Community College

Located within the City of Saratoga and serving Los Gatos residents, West Valley Community College offers career programs, professional certificates and degree programs with preparation for transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

2. Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal HS-12	To maintain a system of open communications between the Town, school districts, and the development community in order to coordinate the activities of each to achieve the highest quality of education for all public schools students.
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Policies

- Policy HS-12.1 Encourage developers to engage in early discussions with the Town and school districts regarding a project, its potential impacts on schools and the potential to reduce impacts. These discussions should occur as early as possible in the project planning stage, preferably preceding land acquisition.
- Policy HS-12.2 Cooperate with school districts in identifying and evaluating population and demographic changes that may impact schools.
- Policy HS-12.3 Allow alternative uses of the sites and facilities of schools, subject to conditions that will protect the surrounding neighborhood.

Action

- Action HS-12.1 Amend Town development applications to require applicants for residential projects to contact the affected school districts to discuss the impacts of the proposed development.

F. Libraries

The Town of Los Gatos has one public library located within the Town's Civic Center complex, which was built in 1964 when the population of the Town was approximately 9,000. Since that time, the population of the Town has grown to just over 30,000, with approximately 20,000 registered library card holders. The Los Gatos library provides a variety of services for people of all ages.

1. Background Information

To meet the community's growing library needs, the Town of Los Gatos is building a new, larger library that will be located on the southeast corner of

the Civic Center complex. The new library is expected to open in early 2012. The new two-story library will be approximately 30,000 square feet and will include: a separate space for children's story-telling programs; a separate teen room; reading and study areas for users of all ages; computer areas for research, Internet access and technology education; laptop areas; additional self-check out machines; and space for the Town's extensive history collection. The new library will also have more seating and added space for adult and youth book collections and multi-media collections.

The current library collection consists of books, audiobooks, magazines and periodicals, newspapers, DVDs, CDs, CD ROMs, video cassettes, microfilm and reference materials. A current collection of Los Gatos High School textbooks is also available for in-house use. The library also subscribes to computerized databases which provide access to thousands of archived newspapers, periodicals, primary source documents, reference works and media files. These databases are accessible on library computers and remotely using a library card number.

The library also holds an extensive collection of historical artifacts and information, with emphasis on the Town of Los Gatos and surrounding areas. Original photographs and newspapers are available, along with copies of death certificates and profiles of historic homes. The library provides access to research on the original "Rancho Rinconada de Los Gatos," the Hernandez and Peralta families, grantees of the land, the John Lyndon family, and other early settlers who were important in the founding of the Town.

The library's History Collection includes information on local authors, such as Colonel Charles Erskine Scott Wood, Sara Bard Field and Ruth Comfort Mitchell. The library also owns signed first editions of many local authors.

The digitized collection of nearly 4,000 historic photographs includes the Hamsher Collection, donated to the library in the mid-1950s, the entire

photo collection of the Museum of Los Gatos, and many other images donated by long-time Los Gatos families.

In addition to reference and checkout services, the library offers story-times after-school programs; volunteer reading programs; book discussion groups; knitting groups; computer and internet access; wireless internet access; internet classes; summer reading programs; and Friends of the Library programs, featuring special speakers, artists and performers. Reference Librarians are also available to assist in locating materials in the Library. All programs are open to the public and are free of charge.

2. Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal HS-13	To provide a library facility that will accommodate library services to meet the educational and informational needs of the community.
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Policies

Policy HS-13.1 Ensure that all residents have access to library services, including access to technology resources.

Policy HS-13.2 Maintain the library as an important activity center within the community.

Action

Action HS-13.1 Investigate various funding mechanisms for ongoing operation and expansion of the library facility, services, and programs.

G. Arts and Cultural Enrichment

The Town of Los Gatos has a rich history as a center of arts and literature and the home to both historical and contemporary artists of renown. And today, Los Gatos maintains a thriving arts community that is invaluable to

people of all ages in the Town. The Town has committed to protecting and promoting its cultural resources, including theaters, museums, art galleries, and public art. The Town also strives to further attract and encourage performing arts in Los Gatos, including live theater, music, and dance, as well as the literary arts, including author events and poetry.

1. Programs and Facilities

Los Gatos's Arts and Culture Commission is actively involved in promoting cultural events and public art displays in the Town. The Arts and Culture Commission is an advisory group to the Town Council and works to encourage the development of music, drama, art, and other cultural and creative activities in Town.

The Town supports a wide variety of cultural experiences including the Music in the Park Summer Concert Series, the annual July Fourth musical celebration, and public art in the Council Chambers and throughout the community. Many of these efforts are supported or led by a Council-appointed Arts Commission.

Los Gatos has two museums – the Art Museum of Los Gatos, located in a historic former firehouse on Tait Avenue, and the History Museum of Los Gatos, located in the Forbes Mill annex. While the Town owns these two buildings, collections and operations of these museums are managed by a non-profit organization.

The Town also supports art-related, non-profit organizations which host various music and arts programming. In addition, the Town appointed a Los Gatos Poet Laureate for the construction and opening of the new library, a new tradition which will likely continue to support the literary arts in Los Gatos.

2. Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal HS-14	To enrich the Town by making visual arts, the performing arts, literary arts and other cultural amenities more accessible to the Town's residents.
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Policies

- Policy HS-14.1 Encourage public art in all new commercial development.
- Policy HS-14.2 Encourage art-related uses (theaters, museums, art galleries) in new and remodeled retail development.
- Policy HS-14.3 Limit the conversion of museums and theaters to non-art related uses.
- Policy HS-14.4 Continue to support community-based, outdoor musical and other arts programs.
- Policy HS-14.5 Encourage new or expanded public and private facilities to host performing arts events for youth and the broader community.
- Policy HS-14.6 Encourage private/public funding, development, and operation of cultural amenities, activities, and centers consistent with the small town character of Los Gatos.
- Policy HS-14.7 Encourage all local arts groups and artists to collaborate and partner across disciplines, media, and venues for a richer and more diverse cultural experience.

Actions

- Action HS-14.1 Develop design guidelines to encourage incorporation of art and art-related uses in new and remodel developments.

TOWN OF LOS GATOS
2020 GENERAL PLAN
HUMAN SERVICES ELEMENT

Action HS-14.2 Study the feasibility of a performing arts center for the Town, including options for location and financing.

TOWN OF LOS GATOS
2020 GENERAL PLAN
HUMAN SERVICES ELEMENT