



## **Community Workshop: Goals for a Healthy Murrieta**

### October 21, 2010 – Murrieta Public Library

### Workshop Summary

This workshop had the dual purpose of obtaining direction on General Plan Update goals and hearing ideas on how Murrieta can be a healthy community. A brief presentation at the beginning of the workshop reviewed the purpose and progress of the General Plan Update. The presentation then described the relationships between the built environment and health, and provided information on health in Murrieta. Participants then worked in groups, using worksheets to write goals that can help the City to achieve the Community Priorities derived in the visioning process, and to write their suggestions for promoting health while pursuing those goals.

### Themes in Comments

Participants provided feedback on eight of the Community Priorities, but there were also some common themes that emerged across groups and topics. Suggestions for trails and bikeways came up in groups discussing Transportation, Infrastructure and Services, Natural Environment, and Rural Areas. Groups also made suggestions regarding additional facilities and programs that promote health and offer other community benefits. Participants in three groups had ideas for promoting health in schools. Two groups also suggested increasing opportunities for volunteerism. See below for the comments regarding these themes.

#### ***Trails***

- Trails that connect and encourage their multi-use.
- When developments dedicate their open space for parks, to include connecting trails – ones that take you somewhere.
- Hiking trails should be included to connect schools/parks/Historic Downtown.
- Connect hiking & equestrian trails to Santa Rosa Plateau.
- Make/complete bike trail system
  - Connect Ynez to Jackson; include bike trail to connect to Harveston Park/Lake
  - Connect Diaz to Washington; include bike trail to connect to Temecula; Murrieta Creek trail
- When developers submit plans, have them include facilities such as parks, trails, gyms, pools, etc.
- More recreation options—nature trails, walking paths—link as many as possible to each other and residential developments.
- Make connections, through trails, to natural open space areas.
- Create a rural road standard to be maintained by City, with adjacent trails.

### ***Recreation and Community Facilities***

- Create facilities that encourage residents to be active. Gyms, pools, rock climbing. When developers submit plans, have them include facilities such as parks, trails, gyms, pools, etc.
- Bocce court at senior center and other opportunities for physical activity such as a workout room.
- Open a leash-free dog park (fenced). Create a dog agility park for use by public. Open public tennis courts, racquetball, gyms open to public at minimal cost.
- A teen center with affordable rooms for youth and teen groups.
- In 2nd Street Park, [create a] Pioneer Village – with educational, historical focus.

### ***Recreation Programs***

- A central location for information about youth and teen activities and groups.
- More activities at the senior center (e.g., cooking, classes, bringing students in). Use younger seniors as teachers. More opportunities for social interaction. Classes such as cooking, nutrition, tasting parties, speakers from local hospitals.

### ***Schools***

- Schools should re-establish physical education requirements and add facilities.
- Can get kids in schools to eat better by giving them healthy options like a salad bar, letting them choose for themselves.
- Hiking trails should be included to connect schools/parks/Historic Downtown.

### ***Volunteerism***

- More volunteerism (e.g., volunteers for senior center). Need volunteer coordinator?
- Encourage established businesses to make contributions to their neighborhoods— financial assistance, volunteers.

## **Comments on Community Priorities**

On worksheets, groups provided ideas for goals that would help the City to achieve eight of the Community Priorities, and suggested ways to promote health while pursuing those goals. Each Community Priority is listed below, along with what the group wrote on the worksheet and additional comments that facilitators heard during the discussions.

## *Community Character*

*Protect and foster a strong sense of community and safety, as well as the "home town" feeling.*

### **Worksheet Comments**

#### **What should the City try to accomplish?**

Insert more energy and life into senior community, and promote more senior involvement in community at large.

#### **What should the City's major goals be, for Community Character?**

1. Outreach to seniors to bring them together, providing more opportunities for interaction.
2. More activities at the senior center, e.g. cooking, classes, bringing students in. Use younger seniors as teachers.
3. More volunteerism, e.g. volunteers for senior center. Need volunteer coordinator?
4. Affordable transportation for seniors.

#### **Can you suggest ways that the City can promote health while pursuing these goals?**

Bocce court at senior center and other opportunities for physical activity such as a workout room. More opportunities for social interaction. Classes such as cooking, nutrition, tasting parties, speakers from local hospitals.

## *Historic Downtown Murrieta*

*Create a vibrant, prosperous Historic Downtown that serves as a community center and provides a variety of quality shopping and dining experiences.*

### **Worksheet Comments**

#### **What should the City try to accomplish?**

Downtown is old so make it historic. In 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Park – Pioneer Village – with educational, historical focus.

#### **What should the City's major goals be, for Historic Downtown Murrieta?**

1. Promote businesses who preserve historic – ice cream parlor – and historic look  
Jefferson to Hayes  
Kalmia to Ivy
2. Monument markers to identify area  
Route 395 grants available  
Ivy to look like Washington
3. 2nd Street Park should include parking and public restrooms, which would encourage walkers.

## *Rural Areas*

*Preserve elements of Murrieta's rural heritage.*

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### **Worksheet Comments**

#### **Suggested goals for Rural Areas:**

1. Improve infrastructure – roads, utilities, etc.  
Create a rural road standard to be maintained by City, with adjacent trails
2. Provide specific plan for Los Alamos Hills
3. Protect private property rights in these unique larger lot rural area. Allow and encourage their development rights.

#### **Ways to promote health while pursuing these goals:**

Trails that connect and encourage their multi-use.  
When developments dedicate their open space for parks, to include connecting trails – ones that take you somewhere.

Group member comment during discussion: Dust created by unpaved roads is a health hazard.

## *Sustainable Economy*

*Pursue economic vitality and longevity by attracting higher education and growing a base of clean industry, while maintaining the current housing affordability.*

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### **Worksheet Comments**

#### **Suggested goals for Sustainable Economy:**

1. Make it easier for businesses to operate here & work with city.
2. Attract businesses – offer incentives for businesses to locate here, reduce barriers.  
Especially in comparison to surrounding communities, such as Temecula.
3. Promote city as a great place to do business.
  - Advertise
  - Murrieta vs. Temecula

#### **Ways to promote health while pursuing these goals:**

Look at types of businesses – target “green” industries with extra incentives.

## *Infrastructure and Services*

*Improve health care within the City, and continue to provide excellent school, police, fire, library, and recreation services.*

### **Worksheet Comments**

#### **What are your expectations for the services that you feel should be provided in Murrieta? What are the best ways to pay for these services?**

Taxes & user fees, of course! Bonds, too. Also look for state/Federal money. Addition of more businesses will generate more income to pay for these services. Grants/matching funds, etc.

Encourage established businesses to make contributions to their neighborhoods—financial assistance, volunteers.

Require property & business owners to maintain their properties—picking up trash, pulling weeds, etc. Offer assistance to disabled, seniors, low income to accomplish it.

#### **What should the City's major goals be, for Infrastructure and Services?**

1. More recreation options—nature trails, walking paths—link as many as possible to each other and residential developments. Create facilities that encourage residents to be active. Gyms, pools, rock climbing.
2. Attract specific resident types—educated, skilled.
3. When developers submit plans, have them include facilities such as parks, trails, gyms, pools, etc.
4. Open a leash-free dog park (fenced). Create a dog agility park for use by public. Open public tennis courts, racquetball, gyms open to public at minimal cost.
5. Improve access to services. Nearby drive thru mail drop for post office will decrease traffic in old town.

#### **Can you suggest ways that the City can promote health while pursuing these goals?**

Key is recreation services & facilities. Schools should re-establish physical education requirements and add facilities.

## *Natural Environment*

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*Protect the natural beauty of the mountains, hills, and waterways.*

### **Worksheet Comments**

**Where do you notice natural beauty in Murrieta? What do you think is most important to protect?**

Hogbacks  
Escarpment  
Murrieta Creek  
Warm Springs  
De Luz Canyon / Miller Canyon  
Cole Canyon

**What should the City's major goals be, for the Natural Environment?**

1. Complete RCA acquisition, through density/intensity transfers
2. Convert overhead electric/CATV/phone lines to underground

**Can you suggest ways that the City can promote health while pursuing these goals?**

Make connections, through trails, to natural open space areas.

## *Transportation*

*Improve roadway networks to reduce traffic, and provide a citywide system of bicycle lanes and recreational trails that improve accessibility without a car.*

### **Worksheet Comments**

**What kind of balance do you think there should be between transportation by car, bus, rail, bicycle, walking, etc? Are there places where walking and bicycling could be the preferred modes of transportation? Do you see opportunities to create transportation systems for transportation modes other than a car?**

Auto will remain predominant, but transit lines should be included on major north/south corridors and major east/west corridors.

Bikeways should be included on some corridors.

Hiking trails should be included to connect schools/parks/Historic Downtown.

**What should the City's major goals be, for Transportation?**

1. Connect Ynez to Jackson; include bike trail to connect to Harveston Park/Lake
2. Connect Diaz to Washington; include bike trail to connect to Temecula / Murrieta Creek trail
3. Construct Clinton Keith interchange at I-15 in Wildomar, joint project
4. Connect Jefferson Ave to Palomar St in Wildomar
5. Construct Clinton Keith Rd from Meadowlark/Whitewood to Winchester
6. Connect Metrolink south from Perris to Murrieta
7. High speed rail station in Murrieta

**Can you suggest ways that the City can promote health while pursuing these goals?**

1. Make/complete bike trail system
2. Connect hiking & equestrian trails to Santa Rosa Plateau

## *Youth Amenities*

*Provide ample activities for all ages of youth, and jobs for teens.*

### **Worksheet Comments**

#### **What should the City try to accomplish?**

A teen center with affordable rooms for youth and teen groups.

A central location for information about youth and teen activities and groups.

#### **What should the City's major goals be, for Youth Amenities?**

1. More affordable facilities for youth.
2. Youth mentoring programs.

#### **Can you suggest ways that the City can promote health while pursuing these goals?**

If a teen center was affordable and safe, more teens and youths would be inclined to get out and utilize classes and activities.

Group member comment during discussion: Can get kids in schools to eat better by giving them healthy options like a salad bar, letting them choose for themselves.