



# South Pasadena General Plan & Mission Street Specific Plan



**Plan** Mission Street



[www.plansouthpasadena.org](http://www.plansouthpasadena.org)

**Our Natural &  
Our Healthy &  
Safe Community  
Focus Group Mtg  
Notes**

## OUR NATURAL COMMUNITY & OUR HEALTHY & SAFE COMMUNITY

As part of the General Plan and Mission Street Specific Plan update process, a series of Focus Groups were conducted. The purpose of the focus groups was to engage the public in an open and candid discussion to better understand existing concerns/issues and interests.

On March 7 2017, the Our Active Community and Our Healthy and Safe Focus Groups met together at the South Pasadena Senior Center. This memorandum summarizes the key themes and comments heard during that meeting. The memorandum focuses on identifying patterns among the comments and does not attribute any comments to specific individuals.

### OUR NATURAL COMMUNITY

#### **Q. What additional opportunities should we pursue to increase quantity or enhance access to natural open space?**

##### Multiple mentions

- Collaborate with school district for use of their open spaces after school hours
- Develop a linear trail or community gardens along the Edison Easement
- Add lighting, signs, and other safety features to guide people to the various parks
- Possible use of Caltrans properties for open space/parks

##### Other answers

- Require new development to provide more courtyards
- More landscaping in setback areas
- Public seating areas
  - Creative locations
  - Parking spaces
  - Any publicly-owned land
- Partner with private companies (Vons, Pavilions) to encourage more natural setting for their facilities
- Fix/repair sidewalks
- Work with developers to create public plazas

- Close streets for public events
- Incorporate youth perspective in the design of parks and open spaces
- Skateboarding is not a crime
- Increase access with efficient, safe, and comfortable public transportation
- Provide public plazas in commercial areas (Mission/Fair Oaks potential development)
- Require/encourage underground parking that would allow more green spaces at street level
- Utility right-of-ways could be utilized for green space (government owned properties — with safety of neighborhood as a priority)
- Provide community gardens, where feasible
- Provide pocket parks
- Support limited access for pedestrians only at community events
- Water facility – park on top

## **Given the limited resources, how effective is City's tree maintenance?**

### Multiple Mentions

- Better education of tree care:
  - Drought years/conditions; and
  - Maintenance in conjunction with public right-of-way/space
- Ensure proper species are planted for the climate zone — follow planting guide

### Other answers

- Maintain historic tree stock
- Re-involve NREC in tree appeals/Planning
- Remove mystery of how trees are chosen
- Create Street Tree Master plan
- Plant trees on school property
- Need to better understand who is responsible for maintenance of what trees
- Develop a coordinated plan to plant appropriate tree species for different areas
  - Alternate tree species to mitigate spread of diseases
- Coordinate and establish proper tree maintenance requirements with outside agencies like Southern California Edison

- Develop a broader tree ordinance that isn't too specific, and allows for more scenarios to be considered in regards to tree removal requests
- Address potential conflicts:
  - With water shortage
  - Homeowners do not water trees
  - Homeowners need education for proper watering
- Promote creative partnerships (private funds)
- Concessions for homeowners' water bills for trees

## How can we improve the City's air quality?

### Multiple Mentions

- Redo the LLMO assessment with better campaign – not around holidays
- Provide charging stations for EV, CNG, and hydrogen fuel cell
- Reduce idling time at Fair Oaks and Fremont intersection
- Reconsider traffic calming measures
- Get scientific data on emissions

### Other Answers

- Improve traffic flow
- Additional public transportation/trams
- Install pollution absorbing devices
- Support solar on city-owned facilities
- Promote solar in private residences
  - Multi-family dwellings
  - Financial incentives
- Promote/educate re AQMD “no burn” days in private fireplaces
- Promote use of gas BBQs (no charcoal)
- Require City contractors to have clean vehicles
- Provide bike share
- Work with homeowners to have them work with gardeners to use electric equipment

- Encourage and support bike friendly streets
- Ban gas leaf blowers
- Assess feasibility of a circulator bus
- Engage volunteer groups to plant trees
- Collaborate with policy makers (regional, state, etc.)
- Require CNG compressors for movie shots
- Switch the city fleet to alternative fuel vehicles
- Encourage alternative modes of transportation, and improve First Mile/Last Mile access to transit that connects us to other communities
- Provide bike lockers at Metro Station
- Integrate public parking with new developments

**Q. What are the threats to a reliable supply of water and how can we protect the City's aquifer?**

Multiple Mentions

- Education and outreach needed on responsible water discharge practices
- Require more permeable surfaces, less "hard" surfaces, where feasible
- Channel runoff/capture water and use to irrigate

Other Answers

- Reduce chemical use on city-owned grass
- Partner with cities that promote that promote using reclaimed water
- Pesticide runoff-street runoff – threat
- Be nice to San Marino
- Promote water conservation
- Develop use of gray water
- Explore policies/rehab of gray water
- Develop policies on disposal of hazardous materials
- Maintain street gutters
- Easier access to reporting problems anonymously
- Increased frequency of Household Hazardous and Electronic Waste Collection events
- Encourage planting of drought tolerant plant material

- Water shaming — industrial/commercial uses first and then residents with large

## OUR HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITY

### **Q. How do you meet the daily recommended 25-30 mins of physical activity? What can the city do to promote active living?**

#### Multiple Mentions

- Develop safe walking paths
- Repair sidewalks and streets that make walking and biking difficult
- Provide safe routes to school (promote walking school busses; walk to school day)

#### Other answers

- Community Center with exercising options
- Lighting (for walkways)
- Develop walking tours:
  - Various distances
  - Information for tours
- Promote community events:
  - Farmers market
  - Encourage walking
- Interesting/useful shops, restaurants, to promote walking
- Additional sitting areas to rest – promote walking
- Promote pedestrian friendly streets
- Better walking amenities in commercial development
- Provide dance activities/festivals
- Organize activities that reduce stress
  - o Monthly/Weekly/Etc. activities
  - o Walking/Running groups, etc. for all ages
- Provide activities for all ages
- Educate on importance of healthy living

- Scramble intersection in busy pedestrian areas — create a separate signal for pedestrians to utilize all crossings at an intersection, thus allowing diagonal crossing to replace two crossings that are required at typical intersections
- Provide more bike lanes
- Later start times for adult classes
- Provide trails at Arroyo Secco Park

**Q. How can we increase opportunities to connect with people, increase civic engagement — particularly within the vulnerable demographic of our community?**

Multiple Mentions

- More creative activities (arts) — keep residents in city for entertainment
- *Increased City events*
  - *Social events*
  - *Public space events*

Other Answers

- Chamber of Commerce “Shop Talk”
  - Bring people & community together
- Promote community activities through E-Neighbors
- South Pasadena web:
  - Publicize “Next Door” app
- Create a “Hub” to bring all information on available events to one site/place (Clearinghouse)
- Physical bulletin board
- Senior home visits
- Youth activities/survey HS students
- Neighborhood block parties
- Social media to acknowledge good deeds
- Have community days — rummage sales
- Arts Crawl — holiday markets
- Provide a pool at Community Center
- Increase intergenerational collaboration
- Public participation projects — chess boards, ping pong tables

- *Access to employment and housing opportunities for disadvantaged areas*
- *Provide low-income/affordable housing*
- *Increase access to city information/better dissemination of information*
- *Improve City website*
  - *Make more intuitive and easier to use*
  - *Search/smart search*
- *Key phone numbers more readily available*

## **Q. Can you buy local, affordable, nutritious food? Where??**

### Multiple Mentions

- Farmers market and Trader Joe's are great sources
- Need more community gardens
- Encourage growing food on private lots — encourage private sale of healthy food

### Other Answers

- CSA – Community Support for Agriculture
- Increase the communities desire to eat/have organic and natural foods over processed foods
- More food options needed on west side — Trader Joe's is the only option today
- Need to address following items related to Farmers Market:
  - Cost of items
  - Locally sourced
  - Parking access
  - Promotion to more people

## **Q. Do you feel safe? If not, Where? Why?**

### Multiple Mentions

- Do not feel safe on streets with low light, throughout City
- Do not feel safe due to transient foot traffic from Arroyo and Metro
- Eliminate dark streets — Increase lighting in public places: streets, parks (Arroyo Secco)
- Improve bicycle traffic and safety



### Other Answers

- Address homeless/drugs in parks
- Do not feel safe in parking lots near Metro
- Do not feel safe in residential area at night
- Dark streets:
  - Mission – entire street
  - Fremont/Diamond
  - Magnolia (south side)
- Street markings
  - Way-finders/signs
- Improve traffic control on Monterey Road
  - Milan and Marengo
  - Mission and Marengo
  - Monterey and Garfield
- Need stop sign on Oxley and Marengo
- Reduce speed on Arroyo Drive
- Install pedestrian call buttons – wait/walk commands
- Emergency blue lights aren't necessary
- Response times are quick
- Police are proactive and hard working
- Keep PD/FD as city departments
- More emergency phones in public places
- Remove bulb outs on Mission and Fair Oaks

**Q. How prepared are you for a natural disaster — what steps have you taken to address natural or manmade disaster?**

Multiple Mentions

- Main threats are earthquake and hill side fire
- Encourage neighborhood watch connected with CERT

Other Answers

- Neighborhood watch requirement in all communities/neighborhoods
  - Better disseminate information for preparedness
- Red Flag parking in hills
- Red Flag parking awareness for fire dangers (work with schools)
- Update Hazardous Materials Plan
- Air quality awareness to City and Schools
- Air Quality flag program:
  - Partnership with schools
  - City Hall
  - Website/e-blast