



Montclair General Plan Update & Arrow Hwy Mixed-Use District Specific Plan



Our Natural, Healthy, & Safe Community Focus Group Notes



On January 31th, 2019, the Natural, Healthy, and Safe Community Focus Group held a joint meeting. Below, is a summary of overarching themes that emerged across the six focus group tables. Each focus group table took notes about its conversation on posters which were transcribed and included following the summary below.

Our Natural Community

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

Increase Parks & Open Spaces

- Pursue grant funds (KaBoom!) for development of open space
- Require parks to be provided as part of new development (per Quimby Act)
- Work with community groups to work on park projects
- Pursue recognition for parks program (Playful City USA, Tree City USA)
- Purchase vacant parcels for parks
- Annex County areas for parks
- Partner with schools for shared use of their open space facilities while securing the school campus
- Provide dog park

Enhance Access to Parks & Open Spaces

- Provide new and connect existing walking and bike trails to parks and open space
- Link neighborhoods to parks
- Link schools and parks
- Create programs to increase parks usage
- Pursue agreement with other government agencies to use their open spaces (example: Chino Basin Water Conservation District)
- Provide walking areas around existing channel and basins (has beautiful scenery, and flora and fauna)
- Increase street trees and landscaped frontages that encourage safe, comfortable, and enjoyable walking experience
- Increase access to parks for children with disability

What steps can the City take to improve air quality?

- Preserve, manage, and grow the tree canopy
- Establish tree maintenance program
- Develop and maintain design standards for street tree planting and parkway design
- Plant more trees in public areas such as parks and street frontages (Orchard Street)
- Provide incentives for homeowners to maintain trees
- Encourage electric vehicle usage by providing more charging stations
- Coordinate (optimize) traffic signals that minimizes stops and delays, fuel consumption and air pollution emissions
- Increase public transportation opportunities
- Provide bike rentals
- Reduce Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) by encouraging people to walk/bike and use of public transit
- Enhance the transit center area
- Get Metro Gold line services to Montclair
- Add more bike lanes (protected bike lanes)
- Provide incentives to encourage bike use
- Improve bus stop areas
- Replace older gasoline powered garden equipment with zero emission, battery-electric equipment
- Assign a representative to the South Coast Air Quality Management Governing Board

What steps can the City take to improve water quality?

- Reduce littering that could go into storm-drains
- Better enforcement of water quality regulations
- Educate public about water quality: “what not to flush”
- Educate public on how to conserve water
- Run education and outreach projects to emphasize the value of stormwater as a resource
- Increase recycling of paints, e-waste, etc.
- Encourage neighborhood clean-up: “Caution Clean-Up”
- Reduce runoffs from property
- Encourage water conservation

- Don't dump anything down the storm drains
- Don't wash car in the street — use car wash instead
- Plant native, low maintenance plants and grasses — they often have longer root systems, which reduce the amount of chemicals and water needed.
- Identify and replace old and contaminated water pipes
- Promote use of captured rainwater or recycled water

Our Healthy Community

Q. What are the biggest health issues affecting the community? What do you think is causing these health issues/conditions?

Health Issues

- Obesity
- Diabetes
- Mental health
- Personal hygiene (homes and restaurants)

Causes of Health Issues

- Too much screen time on phone or computer — sedentary lifestyle increases risk for obesity
- Access to fresh food
- Healthy food is expensive
- Lack of income to purchase healthy food
- Lack of health education
- Limited access to health resources
- Lack of education on nutrition
- Lack of physical activity
- Lack of access to health providers
- Lack of health affordable insurance
- Easy access and visibility to cheap fast food
- Offer incentives to vendors that offer healthy choices

Q. What helps you remain physically active? What can the City do to promote increased active living?

Physically Active

- Participate in walking group
- Safe places to walk/exercise
- Find someone to exercise with — an accountability partner — group motivation
- Go to gym (city facility)
- Health and good nutrition helps being physically active

- Access to medical services
- More city sponsored programs

City Promote Active Living

- Promote community based events that focus on physical activity (night runs, bike rides, Color Run)
- Encourage 5K/10K run events
- Improve bike routes
- Install way finding signs to recreational activities throughout the City
- Improve safety by adequately lighting outdoor recreational sites
- Pair activities for wheelchair bound/seniors with youth activities
- Reduce fees for use of City's weight room
- Free access to high intensity workouts — Zumba, yoga, calisthenics, sports, etc.
- More Gym-friendly parks — similar to the exercise machines provided in the Wilderness Park for strength and cardiovascular exercise
- More sport programs for K-12 students
- Promote walk to school days
- Community outreach for Active Living Programs
- Provide sidewalks where missing and remove barriers to safe walking (condition and lighting sidewalks)

Can you buy local, affordable, nutritious food? Where?

- Yes — buy fresh food at Farmers Market on Central Ave, Pomona Farmers Market, Claremont Farmers Market, grocery store, 99 cents Store, Target, Costco, Stater Bros, Aldi, Trader Joe's, Super King Market, El Super Market, and online delivery services
- Yes — in surrounding cities like Claremont, Chino, Pomona, Upland, and Ontario
- Limited locations and prices too high
- Lower income areas lack markets offering healthy options
- Prefer to shop at Sprouts, Whole Foods, or other healthy food providers

Our Safe Community

What contributes to you feeling safe or unsafe?

Safe Feeling

- Lighting
- Presence of police at parks, schools, on the street, and in other public areas
- Surveillance Cameras
- Community appearance (run down homes and areas makes you feel unsafe versus well maintained areas where you feel safe)
- More frequent park maintenance
- Neighborhood watch
- Quick graffiti abatement
- Northern Montclair feels safe at all times
- Active (busy) shopping centers

Unsafe Feeling

- Areas with graffiti
- Lack of lighting in residential areas, shopping centers, southern Montclair, and alleys
- Parking on street makes certain people feel unsafe
- Interacting with erratic drug-addicts and some homeless people
- Inadequate lighting throughout Orchard Street and other areas of the City
- Below Kingsley Street at night you feel unsafe — perception of drug and theft activities
- Survey the City and eliminate dark unsafe areas
- Feel unsafe at certain locations such as check cashing, liquor store, pawnshop, 99 cents store
- Perception of gang presence
- Inadequate lighting at crosswalks
- Speed-bumps around Montclair High School
- Need more police patrolling and presence around schools