



ENVISION CONTRA COSTA 2040

North Richmond Community Meeting #2: Guiding Principles

Community Heritage Senior Apartments
1555 Fred Jackson Way, Richmond, CA 94801
Tuesday, August 13th, 2019

The second community meeting for North Richmond residents as part of Envision Contra Costa 2040 took place on Tuesday, August 13th, 2019, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the Community Heritage Senior Apartments. The purpose of this workshop was to collect feedback on draft guiding principles, which articulate the values, priorities, and aspirations for the future of North Richmond shared by community members at the first community meeting. The guiding principles are organized into four categories that reflect the categories used in the North Richmond Quality of Life Plan: Housing, Youth and Education, Community Safety, and Business Opportunity. In addition, participants were asked to share ideas for potential policies, actions, and other strategies that support those guiding principles, using the priorities from the North Richmond Quality of Life Plan as a starting point.

County staff and consultants facilitated the workshop and 15 residents attended and participated. After a presentation about the Envision Contra Costa 2040 process, representatives from the Resident Leadership Team presented highlights from the North Richmond Quality of Life Plan. Then, community members worked in five small groups, including one Spanish-speaking group, to discuss guiding principles, policies, actions, and other strategies specific to North Richmond. Input and ideas are summarized below. Detailed notes from the small group discussions, as well as a comment card submitted at the workshop, are attached to this summary.

Housing

- Build more affordable housing, while ensuring that housing development goals are balanced with maintaining quality of life, parking availability, circulation, and property values for current residents.
- Explore the potential of using commercial linkage fees to fund affordable housing development.
- Utilize vacant land, especially around shelters, for tiny homes or for temporary RV parking.
- Secure stable funding sources for homeless services. Support and build from existing local programs where possible. Prioritize job training as a means of supporting residents in unstable housing.
- Encourage mixed uses in the area north of Wildcat Creek, while maintaining the area south of it as mainly residential.
- Encourage mixed-use development on Fred Jackson Way.
- Establish programs to educate and assist first-time home buyers, supporting and building from existing programs where possible. Prioritize outreach and marketing to spread awareness.
- Facilitate resident involvement when reviewing development projects.

Youth and Education

- Provide a community center that includes afterschool programming.
- Implement and secure permanent funding for afterschool programs off-site from school campuses.

- Work with the school district and property owners to use the land around Verde Elementary School for a community center, a Contra Costa College campus, or for private trade schools. Consider amending the zoning and fostering partnerships to support and attract these uses.
- Provide more parks in North Richmond, particularly around Verde Elementary School.
- Improve and expand parks and green spaces by restoring creeks with native plants, planting an urban forest at the eastern end of Wildcat Creek, connecting local trails to the Bay Trail, and installing amenities like wayfinding and educational signs, bathrooms, water fountains, and benches.
- Improve access to trails along creeks from residential areas adjacent to Wildcat Creek. Ensure that adequate long-term funding is secured for maintaining new park and open space features.

Community Safety

- As part of the Safe Routes to School program, provide a safe connection between schools and afterschool programs.
- Construct a pedestrian bridge over the Richmond Parkway.
- Improve transit safety by installing shelters, seating, and lighting at bus stops and by addressing crime on bus routes. Expand transit service times to accommodate workers with odd hours.
- Increase street lighting across North Richmond to make walking at night safer.
- Ensure that new development includes green infrastructure solutions from the Quality of Life Plan.
- Address speeding, dangerous intersections, and cut-through traffic by implementing traffic calming measures like stop signs and speed bumps, particularly on 1st Street and Richmond Parkway.
- Divert truck and industrial traffic away from schools.
- Provide and monitor security cameras in areas where illegal dumping is common.
- Support Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.
- Re-use or re-develop vacant lots.
- Provide wayfinding and a clear physical demarcation separating San Pablo Creek and the adjacent trail.

Business Opportunity

- Support locally-owned businesses, cooperatives, and other uses offering benefits to the community, like a community kitchen potentially located at Fred Jackson Way and Market Avenue.
- Incentivize local economic development by applying a lower property tax rate for residents who open new businesses.
- Identify sites within neighborhoods to locate small cooperative businesses, but avoid negative impacts of commercial uses on adjacent homes.
- Convert two-story houses on Fred Jackson Way to mixed-use structures, with retail on the ground floor and housing on upper floors.
- Encourage commercial development on either side of Brookside Drive.
- Improve transit service in North Richmond to attract businesses.
- Provide better bike and pedestrian access to Urban Tilth along Fred Jackson Way.
- Ensure that new developments in industrial zones include job opportunities for residents.
- Implement programs that celebrate the history of diversity in North Richmond, like a street festival in the downtown.