

Town of Los Gatos General Plan Update

GPAC Meeting #5

May 23, 2019



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- Summary of GPAC Created General Plan Vision Statement
- General Plan Guiding Principles

1. General Plan Vision Statement



GPAC Created Vision Statement

The Town of Los Gatos is a safe, welcoming, and family-oriented community nestled in the beautiful foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains. The Town is a sustainable community that provides a range of housing opportunities, historic neighborhoods, local culture and arts, excellent schools, and a lively and accessible downtown. Los Gatos offers a choice of mobility options, superior public facilities and services, and an open and responsive local government that is fiscally sound. Los Gatos has a dynamic and thriving economy that includes a mix of businesses throughout Town that serves all residents, workers, and visitors. Los Gatos takes pride in its small-town character and being a great place to live, work, and visit.

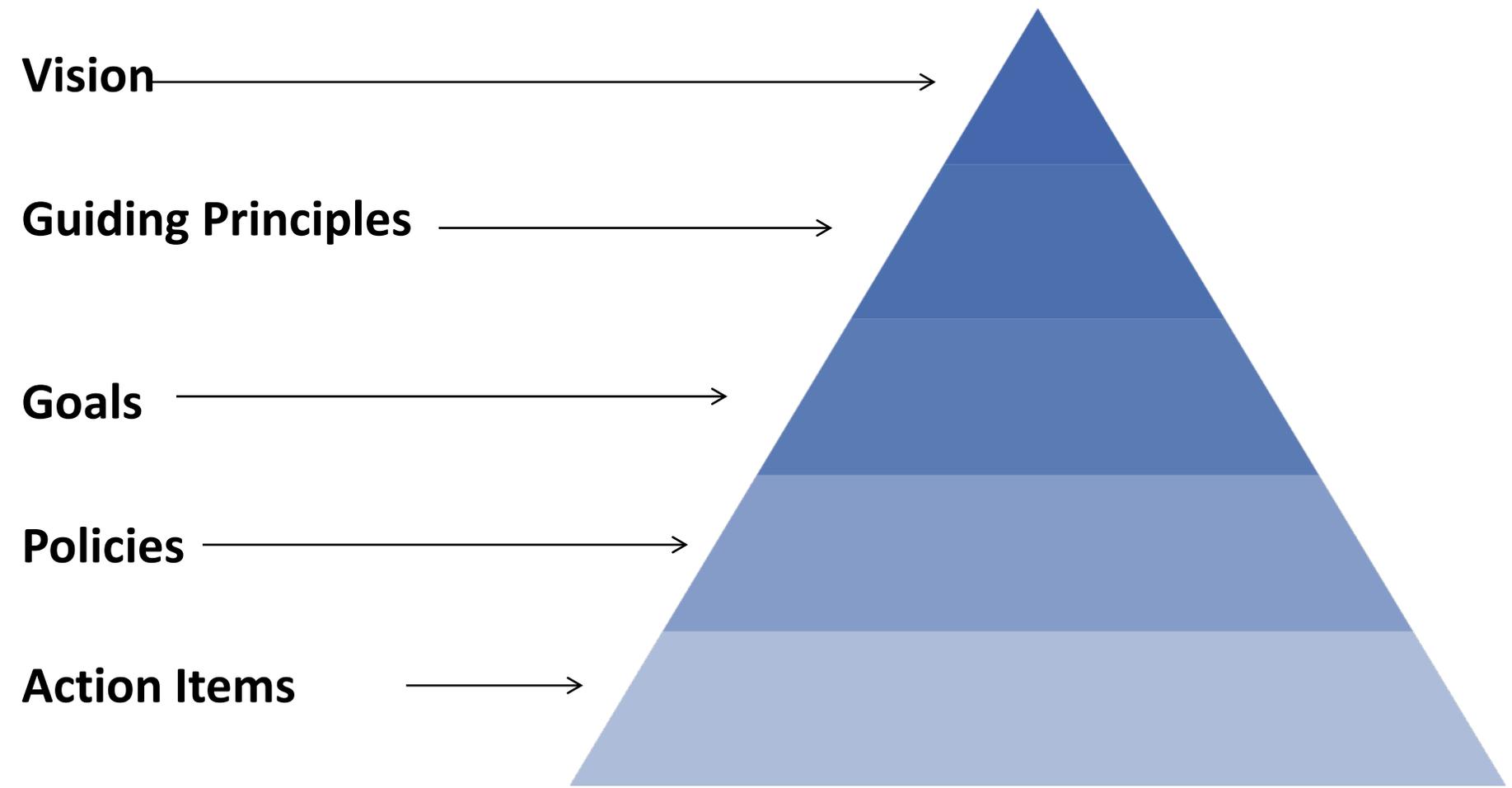
2. General Plan Guiding Principles



GPAC Discussion

- Should the Town Council Guiding Principles be integrated as part of the overall General Plan Guiding Principles?
- Do the Guiding Principle topics capture the General Plan Vision Statement?
- Confirm direction on Guiding Principles.

Why Guiding Principles?



Example – Public Art

Vision

“In 2040, Los Gatos is a diverse, family-oriented, and culturally-rich community..”

Guiding Principles

“Support the arts and promote a wide range of high-quality cultural opportunities for Los Gatos residents”

Goals

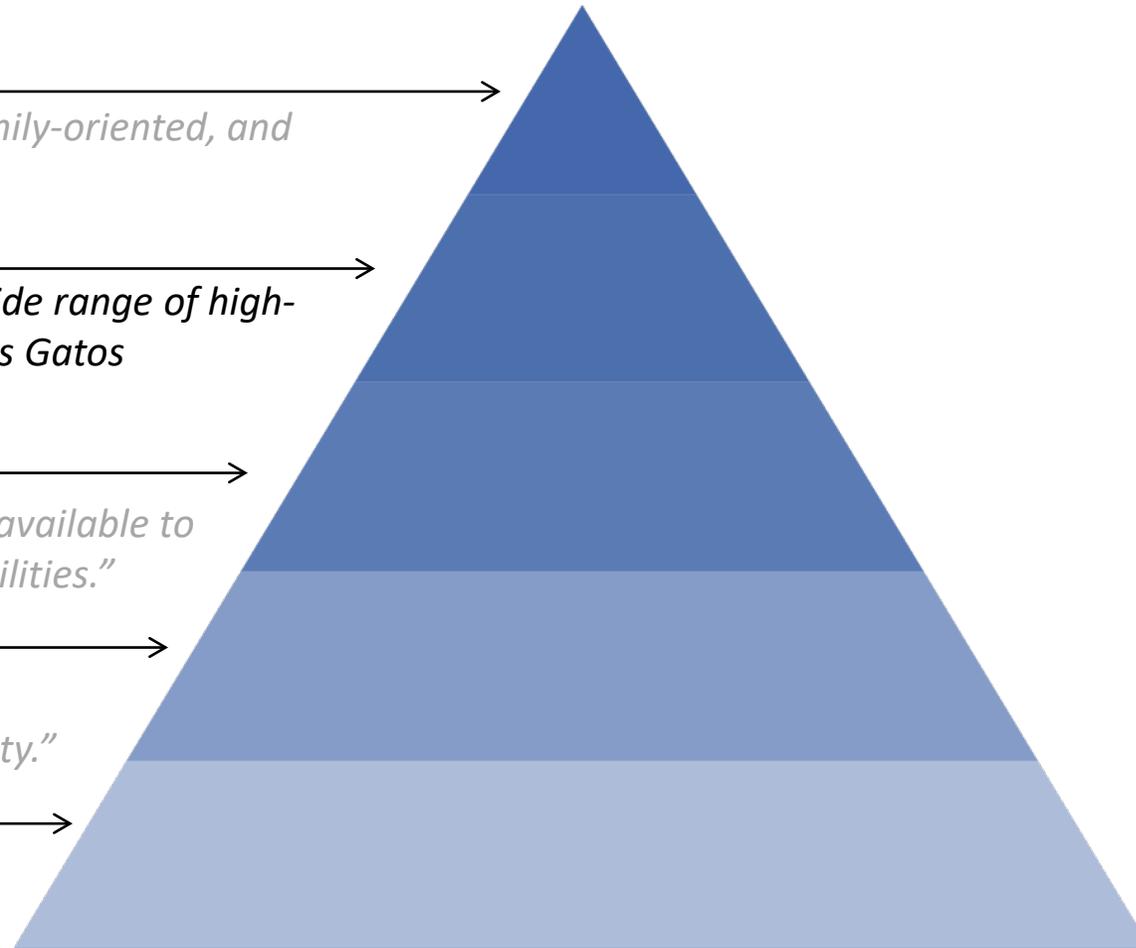
“Make all public art accessible and available to people of all ages, interests, and abilities.”

Policies

“The Town shall encourage arts education offerings in the community.”

Action Items

“The Town shall establish and fund an ‘Arts in the Parks’ program.”



Existing Town Council Guiding Principles

- **Transportation** – Provide a well connected transportation system that enables safe access for all transportation modes, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities.
- **Sustainability** – Manage, conserve and preserve Los Gatos’ natural environment for present and future generations. Identify opportunities to enhance the Town’s sustainability policies and practices.
- **Fiscal Stability/Responsibility** – Provide high quality municipal services to the Los Gatos community while addressing the Town’s long term fiscal obligations.

Existing Town Council Guiding Principles

- **Community Vitality** – Invigorate downtown Los Gatos as a special place for community gathering, commerce, and other activities for residents and visitors. Foster the economic vitality of other Los Gatos business locations. Protect the Town’s historic resources that contribute to the community identity and pride.
- **Unique Neighborhoods** – In recognition of the variety of neighborhoods within the Town, foster appropriate investments to maintain and enhance housing opportunities and infrastructure needs to meet the needs of all economic segments of the community.
- **Diversity/Inclusivity** – Cultivate ethnic, cultural, and socio-economic diversity and equity to enhance the quality of life for Los Gatos residents of all ages.

Guiding Principle Topics

- Encourage Smart and Sensitive Development
- Support Government Transparency
- **Support Fiscal Sustainability**
- Enhance Town Services
- Protect Natural Resources
- **Protect the Community's Heritage**
- Attract Families
- **Recognize and Celebrate Diverse Neighborhoods**
- **Be a Sustainable Los Gatos**
- **Support Local Businesses**
- Facilitate Housing for All Stages of Life
- Promote Public Safety
- Promote Community Design
- Foster the Arts
- **Offer mobility options for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers**

The **BLUE highlighted Guiding Principles topics are covered in the Town Council Guiding Principles in the previous two slides.*

Potential Guiding Principles

- **Encourage Smart and Sensitive Development (*Land Use and Community Design Elements*)** – Protect and enhance the community character and heritage that defines Los Gatos by guiding future development to establish higher standards that meet the needs of the community, that are responsive to the environment, that complement the existing community character, and which recognize the roots of the Town’s history, while still allowing for change over time.
- **Recognize and Celebrate Diverse Neighborhoods (*Land Use and Community Design Elements*)** – Recognize and celebrate the diverse neighborhoods that collectively make Los Gatos a unique and attractive community by protecting each neighborhood’s character, and ensuring all neighborhoods are safe, attractive, well maintained, and have convenient access to a range of public and recreational services.

Potential Guiding Principles

- **A Sense of Place (*Land Use and Community Design Elements*)** – Invigorate downtown Los Gatos as a special place for community gathering, commerce, and other activities for residents, workers, and visitors. Foster the economic vitality of other Los Gatos business locations. Protect the Town's historic resources that contribute to community identity and pride.
- **Housing for All Stages of Life [*Land Use and Community Design Elements (includes Housing Element)*]** – Encourage a diverse housing stock that meets the needs of the community by providing places to live that meet the needs of all ages within the community.

Potential Guiding Principles

- **Enhance Mobility (*Transportation Element*)** – Create a well-connected and diverse circulation system that enables the safe and efficient travel to all areas of the Town using a variety of mobility options, including walking, biking, transit, and vehicles. The Town’s mobility system is designed to fully accommodate residents, workers, visitors, and students of all ages and abilities.
- **Enhance Town Services and Fiscal Stability (*Human Services Element*)** – Provide high-quality Town services and facilities while sustaining the Town’s long-term fiscal health.

Potential Guiding Principles

- **Protect Natural Resources (*Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Element*)** – Protect the natural resources and scenic assets that define Los Gatos, including open space preserves, recreational trails, surrounding hillsides, and natural waterways.
- **A Sustainable Los Gatos (*Environment and Sustainability Element*)** – Foster a more sustainable environment by encouraging alternative modes of transportation that reduce pollution emissions, provide for the use of sustainable best management practices to reduce waste, reduce energy consumption, and reduce the depletion of natural resources in order to provide a thriving community for future generations.

Potential Guiding Principles

- **Promote Public Safety (*Safety Element*)** – Maintain and enhance Los Gatos as a safe community through preparation and planning, education, and community design that is responsive to the range of potential natural and man-made hazards and safety issues.

3. Public Comment



4. Next Steps



Next Steps

- Refine the General Plan Guiding Principles, if desired.
- GPAC to finalize the General Plan Themes, Vision Statement, and Guiding Principles, and make recommendation to the Planning Commission and Town Council.
- Beginning Phase 4: Land Use Alternatives

Thank You



Existing General Plan Elements

- Land Use Element
- Community Design Element
- Housing Element
- Transportation Element
- Vasona Light Rail Element
- Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Element
- Environment and Sustainability Element
- Noise Element
- Safety Element
- Human Services Element

Existing Town Council Guiding Principles

- **Transportation (*Transportation and Vasona Light Rail Elements*)** – Provide a well connected transportation system that enables safe access for all transportation modes, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities.
- **Sustainability (*Environment and Sustainability and Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Elements*)** – Manage, conserve and preserve Los Gatos' natural environment for present and future generations. Identify opportunities to enhance the Town's sustainability policies and practices.

Existing Town Council Guiding Principles

- **Fiscal Stability/Responsibility (*Human Services Element*)** – Provide high quality municipal services to the Los Gatos community while addressing the Town’s long term fiscal obligations.
- **Community Vitality (*Land Use, Community Design, and Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Elements*)** – Invigorate downtown Los Gatos as a special place for community gathering, commerce, and other activities for residents and visitors. Foster the economic vitality of other Los Gatos business locations. Protect the Town’s historic resources that contribute to the community identity and pride.

Existing Town Council Guiding Principles

- **Unique Neighborhoods (*Land Use, Community Design, and Housing Elements*)** – In recognition of the variety of neighborhoods within the Town, foster appropriate investments to maintain and enhance housing opportunities and infrastructure needs to meet the needs of all economic segments of the community.
- **Diversity/Inclusivity (*Housing Element*)** – Cultivate ethnic, cultural, and socio-economic diversity and equity to enhance the quality of life for Los Gatos residents of all ages.