

City of Arcata: 2022/2023 Goals and 2023/2024 Planning Update

Arcata City Council Priority Projects for 2022/2023 Fiscal Year	Complete Continue Remove	Update: February 2023
1. Develop a 2-3 year Homelessness Reduction Strategy framework identifying initial priority benchmarks to provide for or continue to shelter those who are or may become homeless.		
a. Identify an ongoing funding stream (i.e. sales tax, property tax), and prepare a ballot initiative for voters to consider in 2024.	Continue	The City was successful in extending the Utility Users Taxes through a vote in November 2022. This will leave the November 2024 ballot open of standard ballot measure votes should the Council wish to consider a measure. The City has 0.75 % potential remaining in the City's State sales tax cap.
b. Support/Collaborate on strategies to create safe spaces for those without shelter, including a safe parking program, cold weather shelter, emergency warming stations and safe camping opportunities.	Continue	The Council allocated a year of funding to a pilot safe parking program which was opened in March 2022. Current funding will extend to May 2023. We are currently seeking grant funds to operate for a second year. The City has been working with Arcata House Partnership and Play house Arts to provided limited warming spaces and extreme weather shelter this year as we plan for future program development.
c. Continue support for Arcata House Partnership and the Home-Key II projects.	Continue	Arcata House Partnership support is ongoing. The City has collaborated on many projects and programs with AHP and other partners to provide housing to homeless individuals. This work is important and ongoing.
d. Long term: Develop a cooperative housing model that includes onsite services and peer to peer mentoring support, creating holistic support for individuals.	Continue	This initiative is in the research phase. If Council continues this as a priority, staff will identify key partnerships with the commitment, resources, and capacity to carry out such a project.
2. Valley West Improvements		
a. Develop beautification priorities for Valley West collaborating with the Chamber, Main Street and Arcata House Partnership such as trash pick-up/cans, murals, planters, flower baskets and better lighting.	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued MOU with CUNA to foster community engagement in Valley West. • Supported CUNA's monthly community clean-up days. • Planted Fruit trees & installed BBQ picnic area at VW Park (outcome of CUNA participatory budget process). • Completed mural on Valley West Park basketball court and multiple murals at the Valley West playground (outcome of participatory budget process).

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<p>b. Continue the planning for a Valley West community center to offer recreational and learning opportunities, resource services and a general gathering space. Support the HSU student project to complete initial visioning.</p>	<p>Continue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed MOU with Laurel Tree Charter School to codify use of City park space by the school and potential City use of indoor space for recreation programming. • Recreation staff hosted pop-up summer basketball tournament. • Supported a Circus being held at Carlson Park. • CUNA – all of CUNA’s events + PB process + tianguis. • Applied for a grant to support the development of a Community Center through CDBG.
<p>c. Prioritize Improvements to Carlson Park; picnic tables, bathrooms, cleanup efforts, play space and river access.</p>	<p>Continue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Farm & Ranch Carlson Park Cleanup Grant. • State Parks Rural Recreation & Tourism Grant Award – \$812,949. • WCB Carlson Park River Access Grant Award – \$691,000. • Specified Grant Award \$1 million. • Advanced Carlson Park improvement designs to 60%.
<p>d. Focus public safety on neighborhood meeting priorities of trespassing/loitering, narcotic activity, vacant properties and encampments and coordinate enforcement of nuisance properties.</p>	<p>Continue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a 12% reduction in total incidents reported to APD in Valley West in 2022 compared to 2021. • Community concerns of encampments in Carlson Park and motorhomes serving as shelter parked along Valley East Blvd. and Heindon Road continue to be reported to APD. • The Carlson Park murder was solved with arrests of two suspects residing in Valley West. Two overdose victims were found deceased in an encampment in Carlson Park. • The empty lot at 4781 Valley East Blvd. is being regularly maintained and the dirt leveled to remove concealed areas. Encampments have not returned, and complaints of homeless impacts have been reduced significantly.
<p>3. Mental Health and Social Services</p>		
<p>a. Continue to support and expand the Community Ambassador Program, Mobile Intervention Services Team (MIST) and access to support services. Seek out long term funding strategies and 24-hour emergency crisis response team for adults and youth.</p>	<p>Continue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APD’s Outreach Sergeant position was established to support Community Ambassadors, to coordinate access to services and to strategically plan for future delivery of services. • MIST services were funded and contracted for an additional three years.

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Standardize a quarterly update to the City Council.		
b. Look for opportunities to collaborate with Humboldt County and local jurisdictions/non-profits to increase mental health and social services.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APD's Outreach Sergeant develops relationships with service providers to link those in need with services.
4. Infrastructure		
a. Support Plaza Improvement Task Force recommendations: Complete design and community engagement to consider expanding one way travel and diagonal parking along 8 th and 9 th Streets between I and K Streets.	Continue	Awarded and executed a new agreement with CSW/Stuber-Stroeh Engineering Group, Inc. for preparing construction-ready final plans, specifications and cost estimates for 8 th & 9 th Streets Improvements Project.
b. Support the annual projects of the City's Capital Improvement Program.	Continue	This is an ongoing goal.
c. H Street: Beautify and replant the planter(s).	Continue	Developing Call for Artists.
d. Support the Community Ambassador Program starting with a pilot program on the Plaza and downtown.		The Community Ambassador program was launched in October 2022 with The Plaza and North Town serving as pilot program areas.
5. Economic Recovery Strategies		
a. Beautification and maintenance: HSU footbridge, Plaza and Valley West.	Continue	Planted fruit trees, installed a BBQ picnic area, completed an artistic mural on the basketball court at Valley West Park, and installed multiple murals at the Valley West playground (outcomes of participatory budget process).
b. Work with the Economic Development Committee to create an updated Economic Development Strategic Plan.	Continue	The EDC has reviewed the current Plan and provided input. To complete a full update to the Plan, the City will need to hire consultants to support the effort. This will require an appropriation. The City applied for a grant to assist but it was not competitive based on the grant priorities. The Council may wish to consider a targeted investment in a particular industry instead of updating the EDSP.
c. Maintain the Economic Recovery Collaborative with Main Street, the Chamber of Commerce, and Cal Poly Humboldt: Expand discussions to efforts city-wide.	Completed	As the City emerges from the pandemic these meetings have had few attendees. In part, this is because the Council liaisons have been very engaged with both the Chamber of Commerce and Arcata Main Street.

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		During the committee reassignment process this year the Council chose to discontinue this group, as redundant of other efforts.
d. Promote business and tourism: Advertise Arcata as a safe place to shop; support visitarcata.com and regional marketing around student alumni successes locally.	Continue	Main Street and the Chamber have had significant staff transitions. During this period the City has focused on increasing social media on the #VisitArcata Instagram account.
6. Prioritize Future Planning		
a. Continue outreach and engagement surrounding the Strategic Infill Plan, Gateway Draft Plan, and general Plan updates. Provide the public with opportunities to engage with these plans to create land use codes that reflects the wants and needs of the community while meeting regional housing and transit goals focusing on walkability, bike/pedestrian safety, varied and affordable housing options, and mixed-use communities.	Continue	The Gateway Plan and General Plan updates are nearing completion in draft form. The other Infill Opportunity Zones identified throughout the City will require additional planning. And the Local Coastal Program update is also pending this FY.
7. Implement the Arcata Arts Strategic Plan by working with existing arts efforts established in the community.		
a. Focus this year on the mural honoring David Josiah Lawson and beautification to the pedestrian overpass bridge in collaboration with Cal Poly Humboldt.	Completed / Continue	The Lawson family has selected a muralist team to complete the mural honoring David Josiah Lawson on the north wall of the D Street Neighborhood Center. Sunrise and Arcata Rotary are also partnering with this project to develop a living vegetated wall on the bottom 5-6 feet. The painting of the mural is weather dependent but we hope to have it sketched out by the 6 th anniversary date of April 15 th . The Community Ambassadors have made progress in keeping the pedestrian bridge free from litter. There are still connections with al Poly Humboldt art department to work on beautification strategies.
8. Climate Change and Climate Adaptation		

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<p>a. Determine a preferred implementation plan for SB 1383 - Short-lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP): Organic Waste Reductions.</p>	<p>Continue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked as a region with HWMA & Edgar and Associates to complete SB1383 compliance roadmap and Countywide edible food capacity study. • Adopted enforcement mechanism (ordinance) for SB1383 implementation. • Participated in regional partnership to develop edible food recovery manager, being led by Humboldt County (RFP release anticipated March 2023, awarded April 2023), including cost contribution. • Began Franchise Agreement negotiation discussions with Recology. • In process of finalizing JPA amendment to include organics processing through HWMA. • Supporting of HWMA in submittal of CalRecycle Organics Grant Program application for organics pre-processing infrastructure at HWMA facility. • Worked with CalRecycle staff to finalize a draft Compliance Action Plan for implementation of SB 1383.
<p>b. Adopt an All-Electric Ordinance to phase out natural gas in new construction.</p>	<p>Continue</p>	<p>Staff has completed a draft ordinance for City Attorney review, with anticipation of draft review by the Energy Committee in March and consideration of the ordinance by the Council by June 2023.</p>
<p>c. Finalize, adopt and begin implementation of the Climate Action Plan.</p>	<p>Continue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Humboldt County Climate Action Plan has been completed. • RFP for CEQA document preparation has been circulated by Humboldt County.
<p>d. Finalize and monitor American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds set aside for Climate Change and local Emission Reduction measures.</p>	<p>Continue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replaced Arcata Community Center gas water heater to electric water heater. • Working with RCEA to complete ECAA loan application for ACC and Sports Complex solar installation and energy efficiency retrofits.
<p>e. Update the City Green Fleet Policy and create goals for conversion to an emission free fleet.</p>	<p>Continue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff has not had capacity to initiate this project. To further challenge this goal, vehicle manufacturing has not restored to pre-pandemic levels and the City has struggled to find suitable replacements for vehicles often waiting over 12 months for a replacement. • The City has taken ownership of 2 electric busses which will be on the streets by May 2023.
<p>f. Continue sea level rise adaptation planning and implementation strategies including research, analysis, project implementation</p>	<p>Continue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed a purchase and sale agreement and option agreement for the consideration of the owner of the property between US 101 and South G Street.

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and strategic property acquisition to support long term climate change adaptation.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiating feasibility study focused on developing a coastal hazards adaptation and implementation plan for the AWTF. Submitted a grant to the Coastal Commission to develop a more in-depth assessment of vulnerabilities to coastal hazards and adaptation strategy for future CIP projects throughout the City.
g. Consider a ban on the sale of disposable vaporizers.	Continue	Staff has been working with the County on a regional Ordinance to reduce the impacts of tobacco. We anticipate a draft before the end of the fiscal year.
9. Parks Improvements		
a. Complete Improvements to Shay Park.	Complete	Put out to bid and awarded contract to Hooven & Co., Inc. for Shay Park Improvements (Phase II). Completed in November 2022.
b. Complete conceptual plan, preliminary design and seek funding for implementation of Redwood Park improvements and finalize the bike pump track plans.	Complete	Redwood Park Improvements design is completed. Construction will go out to bid in early March.
c. Finalize Environmental and Design plans to construct the Annie Mary Trail (A&M).	Continue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEQA document finalized and adopted. Design and Right-of-way funding allocated by the California Transportation Commission.
10. Transit and Alternative Transportation Systems		
a. Work with the Transportation Safety Committee (TSC) and Humboldt County Office of Governments (HCAOG) to review and develop specific strategies that the City can take to support the Regional Transportation Plan	Continue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stemming from the Regional Transportation Plan the City is working with HCAOG on a Transit Development Plan and local transit branding. LSC Consulting Firm has been hired to review regional transit fares and regional bus routes.
b. Work with the Transportation Safety Committee (TSC) to finalize the Local Road Safety plan and prioritize projects that can be initiated in both the short and long term	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City has established a working group and hired Redwood Community Action Agency to assist with public engagement on the Local Roads Safety Plan. Work is well underway with a draft anticipated to be reviewed by the TSC in late Spring. For more information see: https://www.cityofarcata.org/979/Local-Road-Safety-Plan
11. Proactively maintain a strong partnership with Cal Poly Humboldt focused this year on:		

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<p>a. Continue to support Equity Arcata.</p>	<p>Continue</p>	<p>Equity arcata is working to refocus efforts with the Cal Poly Humboldt Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion. The current framework includes Funding to support equity initiatives, Connecting partner organizations to work on shared equity initiatives and systems change, and providing support for collective response when asked</p>
<p>b. Maintain regular communication with Cal Poly Humboldt through quarterly liaison meetings (reporting back to the whole Council) to create a sense of community surrounding local public art, clean ups, events and better understanding of the needs of the student population in regard to housing and transportation.</p> <p>Specific goals this year include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lighting, banners, street/sidewalk and other art - Build out the Green and Gold Corridor (G & H St) - Improvements to the connecting footbridge - Consider a town hall style meeting or summit to hear from students and the community on town/gown intersections 	<p>Continue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advancing the first call for public art which will be focused along G and H Street. • City staff have been coordinating with Cal Poly on street light banners for G and H Streets. City has purchased banner hangers and Cal Poly is refining banner design. • Sent out letter to property owners and businesses along G and H Streets detailing the Green and Gold Corridor and inviting participation in beautification.
<p>12. Explore options to expand City Council office meeting space.</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>Plans have been developed to create a meeting space in the existing office/break area to delineate a meeting area and storage area. Construction will start this fiscal year.</p>
<p>13. Develop a policy on public meeting recording retention.</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>A plan is underdevelopment and will be completed by the fiscal year end.</p>
<p>14. Work to Improve Government Relationships with local Tribal Governments. Continue to support finalizing language with the Wiyot Tribe on local land acknowledgement(s).</p>	<p>Complete and ongoing</p>	<p>Executed an annual cultural monitoring agreement for the Wiyot Tribe. In process of pursuing another, similar agreement with Blue Lake Rancheria. The official Land Acknowledgement has been approved by the Wiyot Tribe and adopted by the Council.</p>