



City of Palmdale General Plan Update

General Plan Vision and Guiding Principles

January 7, 2020

Overview

Through stakeholder focus groups, community workshops, pop-up events, the first online community survey, and meetings with the General Plan Advisory Committee, the General Plan team explored how individuals envision the future of Palmdale, what makes it unique and special, and what things residents and businesses would like to change. Building off that community input, this document summarizes a series of high-level visioning themes (green) and a list of guiding principles or community values organized under each of those themes. These visioning themes paint a picture of what Palmdale will be like in the future and capture key values and aspirations. These also provide direction on the development of the Draft Vision Statement. The guiding principles provide a framework to guide future decision-making and serve as a reference point when considering policy trade-offs.

Input was received during GPAC meetings #3 and 4, Planning Commission and City Council study sessions are reflected in the vision statement, themes and guiding principles below. This redlined version reflects input received from GPAC, Planning Commission and City Council.

Draft Vision Statement

“Palmdale is a thriving, safe, socially and economically diverse community where people of all ages live and work in harmony. Palmdale offers affordable living, high quality jobs and educational opportunities in a beautiful desert setting.”

Vision Themes

A unified and welcoming community that we’re proud to live in

- a) Respect and promote diversity within Palmdale
- b) Promote Palmdale’s positive reputation in the region
- c) Boost community beautification
- d) Offer opportunities for youth to stay in Palmdale – jobs, housing, education
- e) Enhance partnerships with surrounding communities in the Antelope Valley

Active and vibrant downtown

- a) Create a vibrant and active downtown environment
- b) Improve the appearance of Palmdale Boulevard
- c) Encourage and foster local businesses
- d) Provide space for community gathering and events
- e) Increase opportunities for entertainment and/or shopping
- f) Address displacement issues

Diverse and high-quality job options

- a) Provide job training for Palmdale residents in key industries
- b) Connect residents with job opportunities in aerospace and other emerging sectors
- c) Encourage telecommuting within Palmdale
- d) Promote diverse entry-level and mid-level jobs in Palmdale

Diverse and resilient local economy

- a) Retain and support aerospace industry presence in Palmdale
- b) Leverage economic opportunities from expanded transportation center and potential passenger air service at Palmdale Regional Airport
- c) Attract new sustainable employers and industries to Palmdale
- d) Maintain and enhance smart city technology in Palmdale to support local businesses and telecommuting
- e) Support local small businesses

Safe, healthy place to live and work

- a) Improve neighborhood safety
- b) Address crime and safety concerns
- c) Improve access to parks and open space
- d) Support local foster youth and those experiencing homelessness
- e) Foster active living with improvements to pedestrian environment
- f) Prioritize walking, biking, and access to local and regional transit
- g) Promote living and working in Palmdale and reducing commute times

High quality medical and mental healthcare

- a) Improve access to and promote quality healthcare services and facilities in Palmdale
- b) Attract physicians to Palmdale
- c) Maintain Palmdale Regional Hospital and encourage continued expansion of services and facilities

Housing options for residents at different stages of life and ability

- a) Create and preserve affordable housing for residents of Palmdale
- b) Increase supply and diversity of housing to support different types of households including seniors, young adults, families, empty nesters, individuals or families with special needs, and multigenerational families
- c) Maintain city's quiet and safe neighborhoods
- d) Maintain rural and semi-rural neighborhoods in Palmdale
- e) Connect new development to public transit and open space or public parks

High quality and accessible educational opportunities

- a) Promote and expand higher educational opportunities in Palmdale
- b) Develop additional trade school training and apprentice programs
- c) Promote opportunities for high-quality childcare and early education
- d) Expand partnerships and programs with public schools, local government and major employers within Palmdale

Palmdale's beautiful natural setting

- a) Maintain safe and convenient access to open space and trails
- b) Improve connectivity and beautify trails and open space
- c) Expand and improve public parks and to meet the needs of current and future residents
- d) Preserve existing mountain views
- e) Preserve access to a dark night sky
- f) Maintain high air quality

Forefront of transportation innovations

- a) Leverage transportation investments in Palmdale
- b) Build on High Speed Rail opportunities
- c) Bring air service to Palmdale Regional Airport
- d) Improve local transit

General Plan implementation

- a) Establish metrics for tracking General Plan implementation
- b) Regular review and update of General Plan goals and policies