

# 8 Community Services Element



CITY OF  
**LIVERMORE**  
CALIFORNIA

Draft General Plan 2045



## 8. COMMUNITY SERVICES ELEMENT

*Community services and facilities contribute significantly to Livermore’s high quality of life. These services are essential to the well-being of community members and support the overall functioning of the city. The City of Livermore is committed to ensuring that all residents have access to adequate, equitable, and high-quality public services. While not a mandated element of the General Plan, this element addresses important services that make Livermore a great place to live and work.*

The Community Services Element includes goals and policies to guide the provision of essential community services and covers the following topics:

### Schools

Educational facilities and coordination with the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District to ensure adequate school facilities for all students.

### Childcare

Resources and facilities that support the care and development of children, allowing parents and guardians to work and contribute to the local economy.

### Healthcare and Healthy Food Access

Services and resources that support the physical well-being of residents, including access to healthcare facilities and nutritious food options.

### Libraries

Facilities and services that provide educational resources, programming, and technology access for lifelong learning, gatherings, and enjoyment.

### Seniors and Aging Adults

Programs, services, and facilities that support Livermore’s aging population, providing safety and accessibility for seniors.

The City aims to support or provide the delivery of these services to ensure they are accessible to all residents, regardless of age, ability, income, or background.

### Relevance to General Plan Vision and Guiding Principles

The Community Services Element implements the 2045 General Plan Vision and Guiding Principles by ensuring that essential community services are accessible, equitable, and meet the diverse needs of all Livermore residents. This element supports the following Guiding Principles:



#### Equity

- Facilitating educational facilities and childcare services that meet the needs of residents across all income levels.
- Ensuring community services are dispersed throughout the city and accessible to all residents regardless of age, ability, or background.



#### Prosperity

- Supporting childcare that enables parents to work and enhance Livermore's attractiveness as a business destination.
- Promoting educational partnerships and STEAM programming that prepare both children and adults for economic success.



#### Sustainability

- Supporting local food systems through community gardens, home food production, and local agriculture.



#### Diversity

- Providing services that allow seniors to age in place, support people with disabilities, and provide resources for caregivers.
- Offering library services and programs that serve a diverse community and promote lifelong learning for residents of all backgrounds.

## SCHOOLS



### Schools as Community Anchors

Schools function as important community anchors beyond their educational mission. School facilities often serve as after-hours childcare, emergency shelters, community meeting spaces, and venues for cultural and recreational activities. Schools may open their gymnasiums, fields, and libraries for community use during non-school hours. Schools also contribute to neighborhood walkability and can serve as focal points for community identity and pride.

*Students in Livermore have access to quality education through the local support of funding measures and the City's coordination with the School District.*

The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (School District) serves as the primary provider of public education in Livermore, offering a range of educational programs from transitional kindergarten through grade 12. The district operates elementary, middle, and high schools throughout the city in addition to District alternative educational programs and adult education. Additionally, Las Positas College in Livermore provides higher education opportunities through transfer, degree and certificate programs, career training, and professional development programs. These educational opportunities help prepare young people to become engaged and productive community members, and people of all ages to learn, grow, and contribute to Livermore's strong sense of community and economic vitality.

While the City of Livermore does not have jurisdiction over public schools, close coordination with the School District and Community College is essential to ensure there are sufficient educational facilities to serve the city's population. The City regularly coordinates with the School District on planned residential development to aid in future school facility planning. This collaboration helps the School District determine when and where new school facilities may be needed and backs its efforts to secure funding for improvements. Although the City advises the School District about where future population growth is expected to occur, it is ultimately up to the School District to select and plan future school sites. As an independent public agency, the School District retains full authority over educational planning, facility siting, and funding decisions within its jurisdiction.

The community has demonstrated strong support for local schools, reflecting the value Livermore residents place on quality education. As Livermore continues to grow, maintaining ongoing coordination between the City School District, Community College, and other education providers, is essential to ensuring high-quality, accessible educational opportunities and to sustaining a thriving, well-educated community for generations to come.

## Goal CS-1

Facilitate education facilities that meet the needs of Livermore residents.



### Policies

#### Policy CS-1.1 School District Coordination and Facility Planning

Coordinate with the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District on an ongoing basis to share information about planned residential development and General Plan Updates. Provide the District with opportunities to review and comment on proposed projects and identify the general type of school facilities that may be needed to serve anticipated population growth.

#### Policy CS-1.2 School Facility Development

Ensure that school facilities needed to serve new development are available in a timely manner, concurrently with demand, to the extent allowed by State law.

#### Policy CS-1.3 School Funding

Support efforts to expand funding of the public school system, as long as it is not to the detriment of municipal funding.

#### Policy CS-1.4 School Site Location

Work with the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District to identify appropriate locations for new schools (or expand existing schools) that are near the populations they will serve; avoid noise and traffic hazards; permit access by pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transit; minimize impacts to surrounding residential areas; and integrate with parks and community recreation facilities wherever possible.



#### Policy CS-1.5 Student Generation Rates

Assist the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District in tracking changes in student generation rates by reporting projected residential growth by housing type, including actively coordinating efforts to update student generation rates from all types of new housing.

**Policy CS-1.6 Local Access to Regional Higher Education**

Maintain and expand partnerships with Las Positas College to offer job-readiness courses that align with local employment needs, while also supporting multimodal access to the campus, expanding nearby housing opportunities, and enhancing access to services and amenities that benefit students, faculty, staff, and the broader community.



*The City of Livermore coordinates with the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District to ensure there are sufficient school facilities as the population grows.*

## CHILDCARE



*The Livermore Public Library offers youth-focused events and programs, providing opportunities for all age ranges.*

Childcare services contribute significantly to Livermore’s economic vitality by enabling parents and caregivers to work and create jobs within the childcare sector itself. Childcare services can also incorporate Early Care and Education (ECE) programs that emphasize the child’s developmental and educational needs, focusing on cognitive, social, and emotional growth. These services play a critical role in early childhood development, helping to prepare young children for success in school and beyond while fostering social skills and emotional growth in a supportive environment.

Childcare in Livermore is provided through a variety of settings, including family childcare centers (i.e., licensed daycare centers), Family, Friend, and Neighborhood Care centers, such as family childcare homes, and after-school programs. The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) offers after-school childcare and extended daycare programs year-round, providing an important resource for working families. Despite these offerings, Livermore, like many communities, faces challenges in ensuring sufficient childcare options that are accessible, affordable, and high quality to meet the diverse needs of all families across income levels.

While the City does not directly operate childcare facilities, it supports childcare services through land use policies, coordination with service providers, and consideration of childcare needs in new development projects. By encouraging the location of childcare facilities near homes, schools, employment centers, and transit, the City helps make these services more convenient for families while reducing transportation challenges. Encouraging a robust childcare system benefits the entire community by strengthening families, enhancing early childhood education, and contributing to Livermore’s economic health and quality of life.

## Goal CS-2

Ensure an adequate range and supply of childcare services to meet the needs of all Livermore residents.



### Policies

#### Policy CS-2.1 Childcare Planning

Plan for childcare facilities that meet the needs of all incomes when considering new development and evaluate a proposed project’s impact on the supply of childcare.



#### Policy CS-2.2 Childcare Partnerships

Facilitate partnerships with the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District, Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, First 5 Alameda County, and civic organizations to provide a range of services, including childcare and after-school and childcare programs year-round.

#### Policy CS-2.3 Childcare Colocation

Support land use designation that combine childcare facilities with other services and amenities to improve access and availability.

#### Policy CS-2.4 Childcare Compatibility

Locate childcare and other care facilities in areas with compatible land use and character near employment centers, homes, schools, community centers, recreation facilities, and transit hubs.



#### Policy CS-2.5 Childcare to Support Business Attraction

Maintain zoning regulations that facilitate the establishment of childcare centers and encourage employers to provide on-site childcare facilities, enhancing Livermore’s appeal as a business destination.

## HEALTHCARE AND HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS

Access to healthcare services and nutritious food are fundamental components of a healthy community. Healthcare facilities in Livermore provide essential services that support the physical and mental well-being of residents, while access to healthy food options contributes to better nutrition and helps prevent chronic disease. By supporting both healthcare services and healthy food access, the City helps create an environment where residents of all ages and backgrounds can lead healthier lives, reducing healthcare costs and improving quality of life throughout the community. Creating and expanding opportunities to grow and make fresh, local food also strengthens Livermore’s “maker” economy.

While the City of Livermore does not provide healthcare services, it plays an important role in promoting community health by zoning for medical facilities, integrating health considerations into land use planning, and supporting initiatives that improve access to care and address health equity.

Healthy food access is closely linked to positive community health outcomes. Having affordable options for fresh, whole foods in proximity to homes promotes healthy eating practices. The City facilitates healthy food access through various means, including farmers’ markets, community gardens, home food production, and land use policies that encourage grocery stores and healthy food retailers in underserved areas. Educational programs about growing, preparing, and eating healthy food can provide residents with the knowledge needed to make healthier choices. By expanding opportunities for urban agriculture, community gardens, and residential food production, the City helps create a sustainable local food system that benefits residents’ health while assisting the local and regional agricultural economy.

### **Gardening for Health**

Research shows that gardening provides numerous physical and mental health benefits. Regular gardening activities can improve strength, flexibility, and cardiovascular health through moderate physical exercise. The mental health benefits include stress reduction, improved mood, and increased sense of accomplishment. Studies have found that gardening can reduce cortisol levels and symptoms of depression and anxiety. For older adults, gardening activities can help maintain cognitive function and provide social interaction opportunities when done in community settings. Additionally, growing one’s own food increases access to fresh produce and can improve dietary habits.

## Goal CS-3

Facilitate access to healthcare and healthy food for all Livermore residents.



### Policies

#### Policy CS-3.1 Healthcare Facilities

Maintain zoning and permitting regulations that allow and facilitate the construction of adequate healthcare facilities to meet the needs of all residents and employees in Livermore.



#### Policy CS-3.2 Social Services

Coordinate with providers regarding the provision of social services in Livermore and ensure that services are dispersed throughout the city to increase convenient access for residents.



#### Policy CS-3.3 Healthy Food Access

Remove any regulatory barriers that would discourage healthy food retailers from locating in areas with low access to healthy food. Work with transit providers to improve transit access to healthy food retailers.



#### Policy CS-3.4 Locally Grown Produce

Support programs that provide Livermore residents with opportunities to purchase locally grown food.

#### Policy CS-3.5 Edible Plants in City Spaces

Allow edible plants in City-owned spaces, such as planting strips, City-operated parks, and other public spaces.

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### **Policy CS-3.6 Community Gardens in Residential Development**

Incorporate community gardens, rooftop gardens, and other shared spaces to grow fresh fruits and vegetables into design standards and guidelines for new residential development. Update the Development Code to remove any restrictions on private or shared gardening and ensure that garden spaces can be counted towards required open space for new development.



### **Policy CS-3.7 Community Gardening**

Collaborate with the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District to maintain and expand community garden programs where participants work together to grow food to increase community connections and reduce the burden of gardening alone.



### **Policy CS-3.8 Coordination for Healthy Food Access**

Collaborate with nonprofit organizations and other jurisdictions in the Tri-Valley area to encourage healthy food access in the region.



### **Policy CS-3.9 Food Production Education Programs**

Establish educational programs through the library and advertise other local programs that educate residents about local food production and healthy food preparation.



*Community gardens provide opportunities for the Livermore community to grow local, healthy food.*

## LIBRARIES



### The Importance of Libraries

Libraries serve as vital community resources, providing access to information, technology, cultural experiences, and educational opportunities for residents of all ages and backgrounds. More than just repositories for books, modern libraries function as dynamic hubs where the community gathers to learn, create, and connect.

*The main Civic Center Library, along with other public libraries in Livermore, provides residents with essential resources for learning, technology access, and community connection.*

Through its diverse offerings, the Livermore Public Library system enriches the community by supporting lifelong learning and cultural engagement. These neighborhood-based facilities are particularly valuable to residents who may not have access to transportation, technology, or adequate study space at home.

The City of Livermore operates multiple library locations, including the main Civic Center Library and in the Rincon and Springtown neighborhoods. Residents can also access digital resources through the library's online platform. The City demonstrates its commitment to quality library services by maintaining adequate funding for operations and facilities while exploring ways to reach underserved areas. By collaborating with the School District, LARPD, and other community partners, the library extends its impact beyond its physical locations. Maintaining a robust library system enhances Livermore's local economy and quality of life by providing access to information and technology, educational services, cultural resources, and space for community gathering.

## Goal CS-4

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Provide library services that meet the informational, cultural, and educational needs of the Livermore community.



### Policies

#### Policy CS-4.1 Library Facilities and Staffing

Continue to maintain a comprehensive system of library facilities, services, and staffing, distributed equitably throughout the community, to help the community discover, enjoy, connect, and learn.

#### Policy CS-4.2 Library Services and Programs

Provide diverse and quality library services and programs to the community promoting literacy and lifelong learning.



#### Policy CS-4.3 Library Funding

Maintain City funding of library operations or expand funding as the City budget allows to meet the community's needs.



#### Policy CS-4.4 Library Programming

Provide sustainable and scalable library programming based on staffing levels available at Livermore libraries.

#### Policy CS-4.5 School District Partnership

Partner with the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District to promote access to library materials, services, and resources in the pursuit of students' lifelong learning and academic success.

## SENIORS AND AGING ADULTS



*Senior care and services strengthen the community by supporting older adults while fostering intergenerational connections that benefit residents of all ages.*

The older adult population represents a growing and valued segment of Livermore’s community. Seniors contribute significantly to the city’s social fabric through their knowledge and experience. They enhance community life through volunteerism and civic participation. As residents age, their needs evolve, often requiring different types of services. Housing options that accommodate changing mobility become important. Community support systems play a crucial role in helping seniors maintain independence and quality of life. The Housing Element includes policies and programs regarding senior housing, as well as universal design that makes homes accessible for residents of all ages and abilities. Planning for an aging population helps ensure that Livermore remains a place where residents can stay and thrive throughout all stages of life.

Supporting healthy aging involves creating an accessible physical environment, providing appropriate services, and fostering meaningful social connections. The City can help promote age-friendly design in public spaces and housing, support caregiver resources, and ensure clear communication about available programs and services. By collaborating with community organizations, healthcare providers, and other stakeholders, the City helps facilitate a comprehensive network of support for seniors. These efforts benefit not only older adults but the entire community by recognizing the valuable contributions of seniors and building intergenerational connections that strengthen Livermore’s sense of community.

## Goal CS-5

Deliver public services and facilities that serve the needs of seniors, are age-friendly, and allow residents to age in place.



### Policies

**Policy CS-5.1 Senior Programming**

Facilitate partnerships with the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District, Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, the Livermore Public Library, and civic organizations to provide a range of senior services and programming year-round.

**Policy CS-5.2 Caregiver Support**

Collaborate with private, nonprofit, faith-based, and public community service organizations to offer support for seniors, caregivers of seniors, and people with disabilities.



**Policy CS-5.3 Healthy Aging**

Maintain zoning and permitting regulations that support the development of facilities, services, and programs that promote healthy aging, both in residential settings and dedicated care centers.

**Policy CS-5.4 Outreach to Seniors**

Provide regular and timely communication to seniors and aging adults about the services, programs, and other opportunities available to these groups of people.