

SUSTAINABLE MORGAN HILL



Vision

To sustain a safe, inclusive, socially responsible, environmentally conscious, and economically sound community.

Choose Morgan Hill

The City of Morgan Hill is the best community for people to live, work, visit, and operate their businesses.

Strategic Priorities 2024-2025

- Fiscal Sustainability
- Affordable Housing and Homelessness
- Community Engagement
- Economic Development and Tourism
- Transportation
- Healthy Community

City Council Ongoing Priorities

- Enhancing Public Safety and Quality of Life
- Protecting the Environment and Preserving Open Space and Agricultural Land
- Maintaining and Enhancing Infrastructure
- Supporting our Youth, Seniors, and Entire Community
- Fostering a Positive Organizational Culture
- Preserving and Cultivating Public Trust
- Preserving our Community History
- Enhancing Diversity and Inclusiveness
- Advocating for Local, Regional, and State Legislative Initiatives

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2024-2025

Fiscal Sustainability

The City will continue to be financial stewards of its resources and assets to ensure long-term fiscal sustainability. Through the budget development process, the City, within the fiscal sustainability path, will prudently carry out the City Council's priorities, while maintaining adequate fund balance reserves. The City will continue to explore new or expand existing revenue sources to ensure fiscal sustainability.



Affordable Housing and Homelessness

Morgan Hill will continue to improve, preserve, and develop new safe, quality, rental, and ownership housing for workers and residents at all income levels. To the extent possible, the City will respond to and reconcile new housing initiatives and legislative mandates. The City is guided by the vision of its General Plan, a long-term plan for the physical development of the Community. The vision includes the preservation of agriculture, incentives to foster infill development, and new housing for families of various sizes, ages, and incomes. Like many other cities in the Bay Area, Morgan Hill is experiencing transformative growth and working to meet the housing needs of its current and future residents. The City's Housing Program is grounded in five key pillars:

- **Production of New Affordable Housing Units:** Morgan Hill will continue to improve, preserve, and develop new safe, quality, rental and ownership housing for workers and residents at all income levels through the implementation of its Inclusionary Housing Ordinance. The City will seek partnerships that create new housing opportunities directly aligned with the City's "fair share" Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA).
- **Promotion of Housing Program:** The City manages an inventory of Below Market Rate deed-restricted units and collaborates with the County of Santa Clara and local non-profits to connect residents to resources. Staff will focus on communications, engagement, and education of housing resources and services with particular attention to the Spanish-speaking residents.
- **Prevention of Homelessness:** Implement the Countywide Community Plan to End Homelessness by continuing to identify barriers and housing problem solving at the local level through the assistance of the Unhoused Specialist, and advance efforts to increase coordination in South County among its service providers. The City will continue to employ a balanced approach, offering resources and referrals to services, partnering with the faith-based community and non-profits to create appropriate local service points, while also utilizing available resources to reduce encampments.
- **Protection of Quality of Life for New and Existing Neighborhoods:** The City will continue to seek quality development that balances the needs of existing and new neighborhoods.
- **Preservation of Existing Affordable Housing Inventory:** The City has a robust inventory of Below Market Rate (BMR) housing units. Through the City's thoughtful planning, affordable housing is integrated throughout the Community and balanced throughout new developments. The City's Inclusionary Housing Ordinance further ensures future production of income-restricted units. The City will coordinate the sale of and lease up process of upcoming affordable developments to ensure residents are aware of and accessing upcoming housing opportunities.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2024-2025

Community Engagement

The City's Communications, Outreach, and Engagement Plan defines the communication, priorities, strategies, and tools the City will use when communicating with the Community. Through the Plan, the City will share the Morgan Hill story and work to build trust with the Community and ensure that we provide effective engagement opportunities. The application of effective communication strategies ensures that all City Council Members, Commissioners, and teammates have the tools to provide accurate, timely, and relevant information to the Community. The Plan aligns communication resources with the goals to set clear communications expectations for the Community, ensuring that the City can continue providing excellent services that reflect the strength of the City's outreach initiatives while supporting the implementation of the City Council's strategic priorities.

- Encourage Community engagement through audience-appropriate two-way communication, and ensure opportunities for constructive feedback.
- Share accurate, non-biased information promptly through a variety of communication channels.
- Maximize opportunities to engage with the Spanish-speaking community by sharing information and resources in Spanish and holding workshops, town halls, and other meetings in Spanish.
- Build trust in local government by creating a sense of belonging and value with all members of the Community, especially those that are traditionally marginalized.
- Work directly with the Council, staff, and Community partners to ensure communication and outreach efforts, objectives, and outcomes align with the strategic priorities and promote Community understanding.
- Keep City teammates informed and involved in public dialogue to aid in telling the Morgan Hill story.

Economic Development and Tourism

The City's Economic Development efforts focus on implementing the Economic Blueprint strategies and actions to help build long-term fiscal sustainability and improve quality of life for residents. This will be achieved by attracting jobs and commercial investment which generate revenues to support essential City services and improve critical City infrastructure. The Economic Blueprint is focused on advancing economic prosperity and vitality by attracting investment, development, and jobs in four key industries:

- **Healthcare:** Grow and foster medical and diagnostic services by advancing and supporting the entitlement process for new medical facilities. Promote and market Morgan Hill as a desired location for medical and diagnostic providers.
- **Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing:** Grow existing companies, attract new industry, and grow high-quality jobs. Support and advance the entitlement and permit process of new developments. Promote and market Morgan Hill as a premier location for commercial and industrial investment.
- **Retail:** Grow retail offerings and strengthen commercial nodes. Utilize incentives and available tools to attract new investments that increase both jobs and revenue to the Community.
- **Tourism:** Grow leisure, agriculture, wine country, and sports and recreational tourism. Continue to nurture Downtown's transformation as a Community gathering place. Support the Downtown Property Based Improvement District and manage parking supply. Support and incentivize additional lodging investments, implement activations with partner organizations, and partner with Visit Morgan Hill to support increased tourism and vibrancy.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2024-2025

Transportation

The City has clearly identified traffic and transportation issues facing Morgan Hill as regional in nature. Morgan Hill will continue to partner with the City of Gilroy to advocate for improvements and funding for the South Santa Clara County Transportation Corridor. The City will actively advocate on regional transportation planning issues. Locally, the City will prioritize funding for Vision Zero safety strategies over congestion management. The City will take actions to implement its goal to create a culture that prioritizes safety, creates livable streets, and seeks to eliminate traffic fatalities. Safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers, and passengers is paramount.



- Implement the Transportation Master Plan.
- Complete construction of Hale Avenue Extension.
- Advocate for grade separations and the design of a Downtown station and emergency response design solutions as it relates to the High-Speed Rail Authority's (HSRA) project.
- Advocate for the ongoing provision of funding of innovative local transit services that matches the needs of the Morgan Hill Community and supports paratransit needs.
- Advocacy will include:
 - Working with the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), Caltrain, the County, the HSRA and the State to enhance service, secure funding for transportation projects and road maintenance, and protect the Community from negative impacts of regional projects
 - Expansion of Highway 101 between Morgan Hill and Gilroy to reduce pass-through traffic and improve commute traffic for South County residents
 - Electrification of commuter rail from San Francisco to Gilroy
 - Funding for priority projects in the South County

Healthy Community

The City's 2035 General Plan's Healthy Community Element addresses elements of the built environment, programs, and partnerships that contribute to the overall health and well-being of Morgan Hill's residents. Morgan Hill promotes a healthy community through City policies, projects, and programs. The foundation of a healthy community is to help ensure basic needs (food, water, shelter, income, safety, and employment) are met for all people. With that foundation in place, a person's health is next a product of their environment. A healthy community is one in which all residents have access to housing, employment, transportation, healthcare services and amenities, such as parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities, that combine to provide a safe and welcoming environment in which people can lead healthy and fulfilling lives. To achieve this vision, the City of Morgan Hill is committed to:

- Creating, improving, and preserving a wide range of quality housing at all income levels.
- Planning policies that promote a well-planned City that ensures adequate services (roads, streets, water, sewer, police, fire, electricity, internet connectivity, etc.) while providing plentiful amenities including restaurants, retail stores, and access to healthcare resources.
- Building better and safer streets that prioritize safety, and livability, working to eliminate traffic fatalities as identified in [Vision Zero Morgan Hill](#).
- Promoting a healthy environment as identified in the City's Climate Action Plan by advocating for adoption of electric vehicles in the Community and decarbonizing existing buildings by reducing the use of fossil fuels.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2024-2025

Healthy Community *continued*

- Promoting active lifestyles through its efforts to invest in sports and Community facilities, youth sports and adult recreation programs, parks, and walking and biking trails.
- Providing fresh and healthy food options at City facilities and encouraging local farmers' markets and community gardens to improve availability of nutritious food.
- Providing services to the unhoused community by building relationships and trust with a trauma-informed approach.
- Connecting people to resources to support mental health, combat the opioid crisis, and treating those struggling with substance abuse and mental health issues with dignity and care.

By implementing these strategies and prioritizing the health and well-being of our residents, Morgan Hill will create a vibrant and thriving community where everyone can lead healthy, active, and fulfilling lives. The City of Morgan Hill seeks to create a welcoming, inclusive, and safe Community for everyone by fostering social connections and a sense of belonging for all.

