



Welcome to *Our Palo Alto* eNewsletter, June 2015



Our Palo Alto Summit 2030 Wrap Up

More than 300 members of the community spent at least part of their Saturday at the Our Palo Alto 2030 Comp Plan Summit on May 30. The day kicked off with a welcome from Mayor Karen Holman followed by a keynote and overview of the history of the Comprehensive Plan by City Manager Jim Keene and Planning Director Hillary Gitelman. Technology played a large role throughout the day as participants texted what makes Palo Alto special to form a large, changing word cloud, and the results from small group discussions appeared as scrolling comments throughout four separate breakout rooms.

Calendar of Events

World Music Day **June 21, 3 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** **University Ave**

Palo Alto World Music Day is a music festival that takes place every year on Father's Day. All performances are free and open to the public. For more information, click [here](#).

Parking for Smart Growth **June 23, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** **Palo Alto Downtown Library** **270 Forest Ave**

Richard Wilson is a respected expert in parking strategies for cities. He will be talking about his new book on how to plan and implement successful parking strategies and how they might be applied in Palo Alto and nearby cities. For more information, click [here](#).

Palo Alto Chili Cook Off **July 4, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** **Mitchell Park**

Join the fun at the 34th Annual Chili Cook Off and Summer Festival with music from Rockin Down the Highway, family activities and of course, chili tasting and more.

There were also low-tech ways to get involved as community members placed a neon dot on their neighborhood.

The main topics for discussion – Transportation, Growth Management and Housing – provided for lively and animated conversations with many ideas flowing throughout the day. The various information tables proved a popular draw as summit attendees were able to dive deeper into topics ranging from public art to public safety to urban forests to Stanford’s general plan.



If you weren’t able to attend the Summit or have more ideas that you would like to share, for the next month you can go [here](#) to view all three subject videos, as well as answer the nine questions that were discussed during the small groups. In addition, all of the feedback and comments from the sessions will be aggregated and posted soon on the City’s

website. Finally, the City is accepting applications for a Citizens Advisory Committee who will assist in the completion of the plan as the next step in the process. The deadline to apply is June 15, 2015, and the application form can be found [here](#). Stay involved and part of the conversation as we move to the next phase in the Comp Plan process.



Palo Alto’s Urban Forest

Did you know that Palo Alto’s urban canopy covers almost 38 percent of the City, that 148 trees were planted in Palo Alto’s neighborhoods in 2014 or that the City’s Public Works and Urban Forester took care of 35,386 trees last year? Those are just a few of the facts about Palo Alto’s Urban Forest whose Master Plan was recently approved by the City Council on May 11. The City’s Urban Forest Master Plan was first envisioned in the 1998 Comprehensive Plan and was meant to lay out the vision for maintaining and enhancing the legacy of Palo Alto’s urban forest that had been nurtured by citizens and staff for more than 120 years. The benefits of a robust canopy are many – climate cooling, energy conservation, air cleaning – not to mention an enhanced quality of life, promotion of physical activity and aesthetic beauty. But, as we face what may be a new “normal” of drought conditions, the composition of our urban forest will be influenced by more drought and recycled water tolerant trees with less dense canopies and other sustainability considerations. Increased solar power, little vacant land and decreasing water supply will all have an impact on the stewardship of our canopy. For more information on the City’s Urban Forest Master Plan, click [here](#). You can also take a self-guided tour of



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the trees in your own neighborhood by clicking on Canopy's interactive street tree map [here](#).

By the Numbers

On June 1, the Council heard an overview of the 13th annual performance report for the City that is designed to cover information on spending, staffing, workload and performance results for fiscal years 2005 through 2014. This marks a transition year for the performance report, both in format and content. The performance measures, while constant over time, will move to align more closely with each City department's goals, specific initiatives, as well as Council priorities. Numbers from FY 2014 include:

- **198,814:** Visitors at Foothills Park, ↓3% from 2013, ↑64% from 2005
- **0:** Metric tons of Palo Alto Utilities electric supply carbon dioxide emissions (carbon neutral plan eliminated all greenhouse gas emissions from the City's electric supply)
- **233:** Number of miles of water mains in City, of which .03 were replaced
- **62:** Reported crimes per 1,000 residents, ↑3% from 2013, ↓19% from 2005
- **7,564:** Caltrain average weekday boardings, ↑12% from 2013, ↑132% from 2005
- **173,905:** Number of titles in library collection, ↑10% from 2013, ↑6% from 2005
- **8:** Percent of City's total 471 lane miles resurfaced in 2014, ↑4% from 2005
- **4,878:** Number of households participating in Household Hazard Waste program, ↑11% from 2013, ↑14% from 2005

For more information, you can read the entire report [here](#).

Tweets of the Month

Are you following us on Twitter yet? [Connect with us](#) and tell us what's on your mind. Thanks also to so many of you who connected with us using the hashtag #paloalto2030.

@ipoHOMES: "Attending this weekends @cityofpaloalto 2030 Summit? Share your experiences by using #paloalto2030 on social media. <http://t.co/xGWDbu5pMO>"

@Araystudio:
"#paloalto2030, a visionary city spends day



brainstorming <http://t.co/WtugdUGCrG>"

@kylejelse: "Lunch time at The Summit. Today feels like the center of #ideas #design & #action. #paloalto2030 #paloalto <http://t.co/b18luDBoIY>"

@adrianfine: "#paloalto2030 citizen-led planning <http://t.co/60NAcepySc>"

@patrick_je: "Where do #paloalto2030 summit attendees live? <http://t.co/9WAXeuVTT7>"

@Marc_Berman "Inspired by the huge turnout at 9am on a Sat morning for today's all-day Our #PaloAlto 2030 Summit!
@cityofpaloalto<http://pic.twitter.com/vak4ZXQrtD>"

@vwarheit: "Wrapping up the #paloalto2030 comp plan summit
@cityofpaloalto <http://t.co/kGi6GvAP6X>"

@SustainableSV "We like to think of ourselves as a startup, Small yet Mighty" Jim Keene for @cityofpaloalto. Congratulations on the @ActerraPaloAlto award"

@Siejen "@cityofpaloalto Council Meeting listening to the ongoing discussions about #2555ParkBlvd project <http://pic.twitter.com/2OLnXAXlid>"

To find out how you can get involved, or more information about Our Palo Alto, go to: www.ourpaloalto.org



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