

Saratoga General Plan Update

Planning Commission Study Session: Intro to the General Plan
and Land Use Element Recommendations

February 27, 2018

What is a General Plan?

- A long-term policy document that guides the City in managing physical, social and economic resources.
- Serves as a basis for the decisions that affect future growth, development and City services
- Identifies the community's shared vision for the future.
- Addresses the unique characteristics and needs of the community.

What is a General Plan?

- Every city and county in California is required to have a General Plan
- Typically plans for a 20 year horizon.
- Contents are regulated by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR). <http://opr.ca.gov>
- Contains seven required elements:
 - Land Use
 - Circulation
 - Housing
 - Conservation
 - Open Space
 - Noise
 - Safety

What is a General Plan?

- Identifies goals, policies and implementation measures
 - Goal – a general expression of community values, often abstract.
 - Policy – a specific statement that guides decision making and indicates commitment of the City to a particular course of action.
 - Implementation Measures – an action, procedure, program, or technique that carries out a policy.

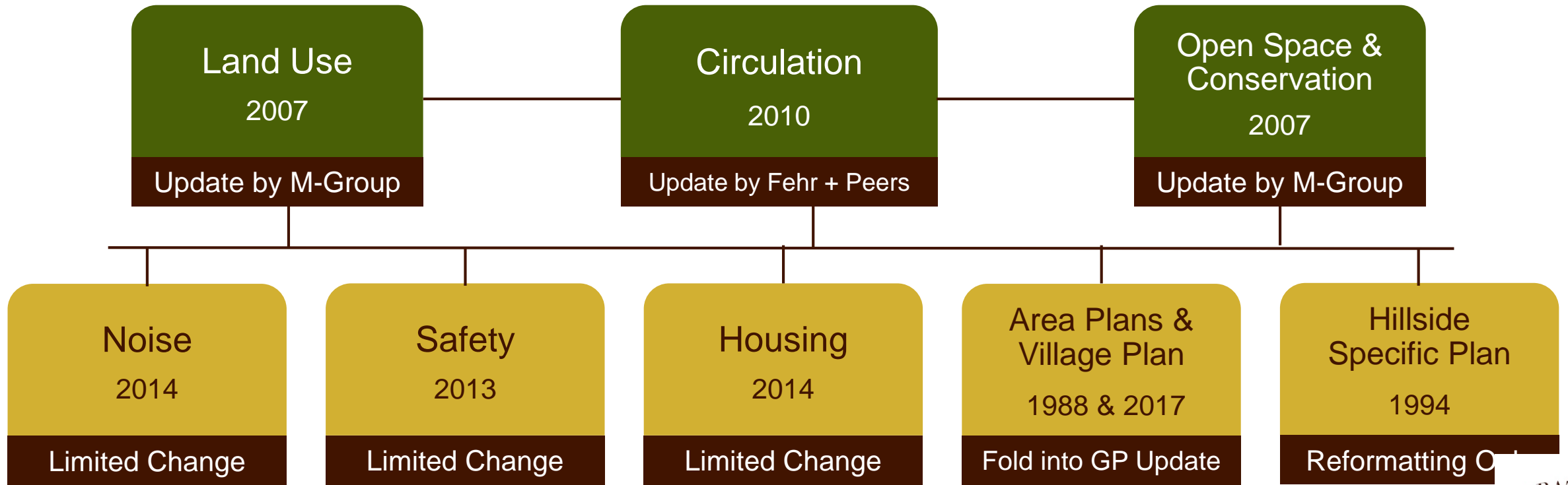
What is the purpose of the various elements?

- Provides a basis for decision-making by City Council and appointed Commissions and Boards
- Informs community members, developers, business owners, and others of the ground rules that guide development

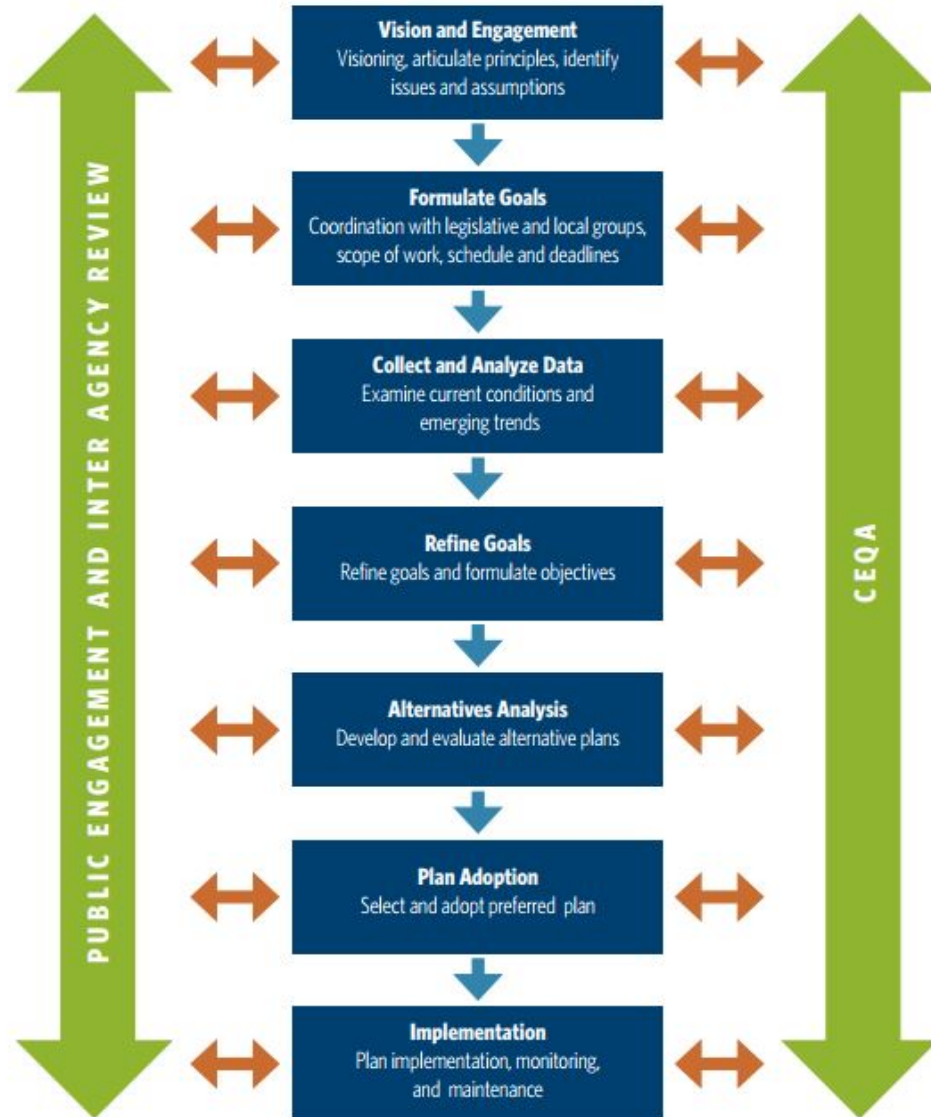
How often do we update it?

- The housing element is required by the State to be updated every five or eight years.
- The other elements are not on a required schedule, however they need to be updated regularly.
- This update is an opportunity to look back on the policies and goals developed in since 2007

2040 General Plan

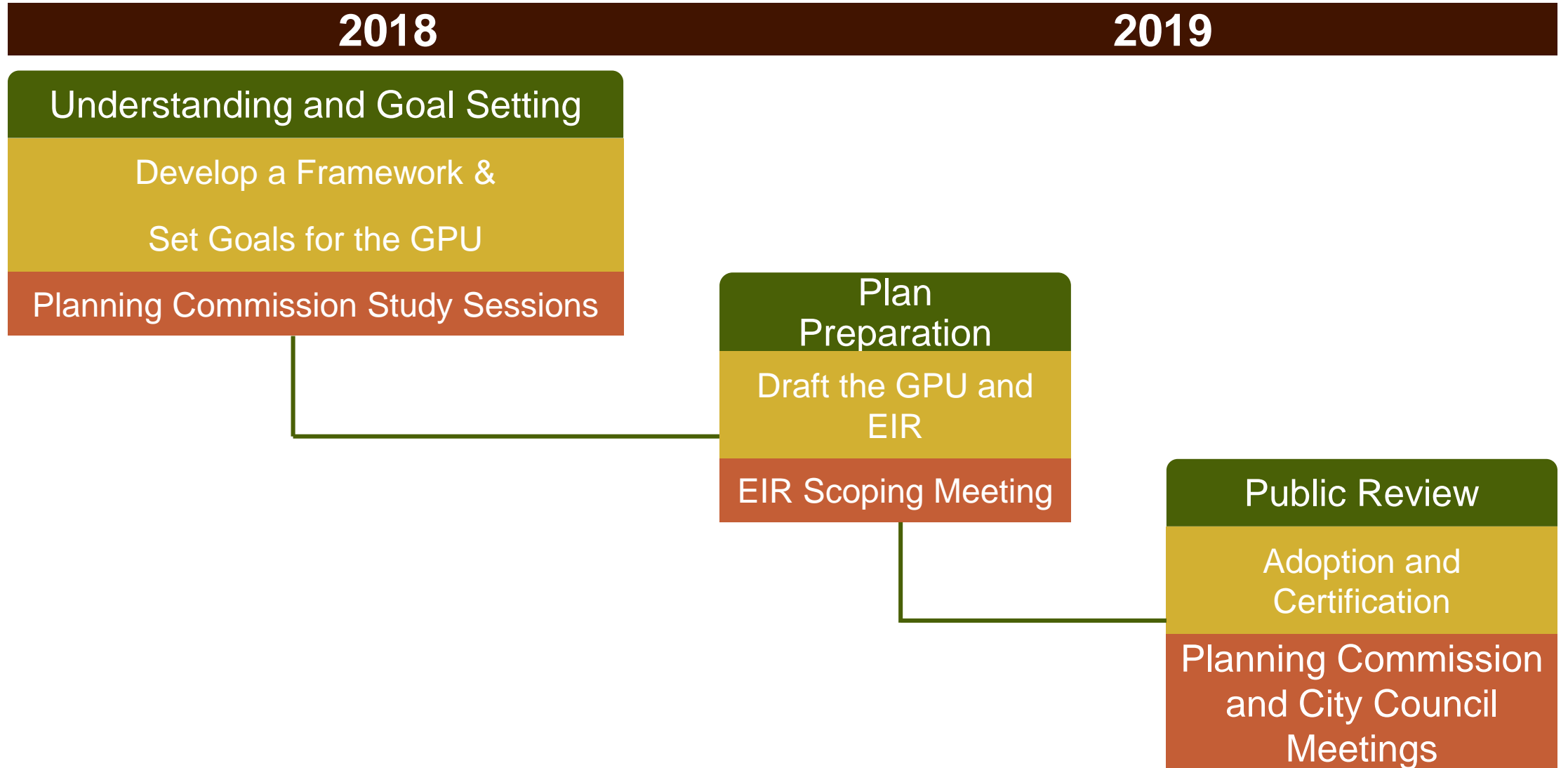


What is the process to update it?



- This image is a guideline for the update process from OPR
- The update process has four phases:
 - Understanding
 - Engagement and EIR Scoping
 - Plan and EIR Preparation and Review
 - Adoption and Certification

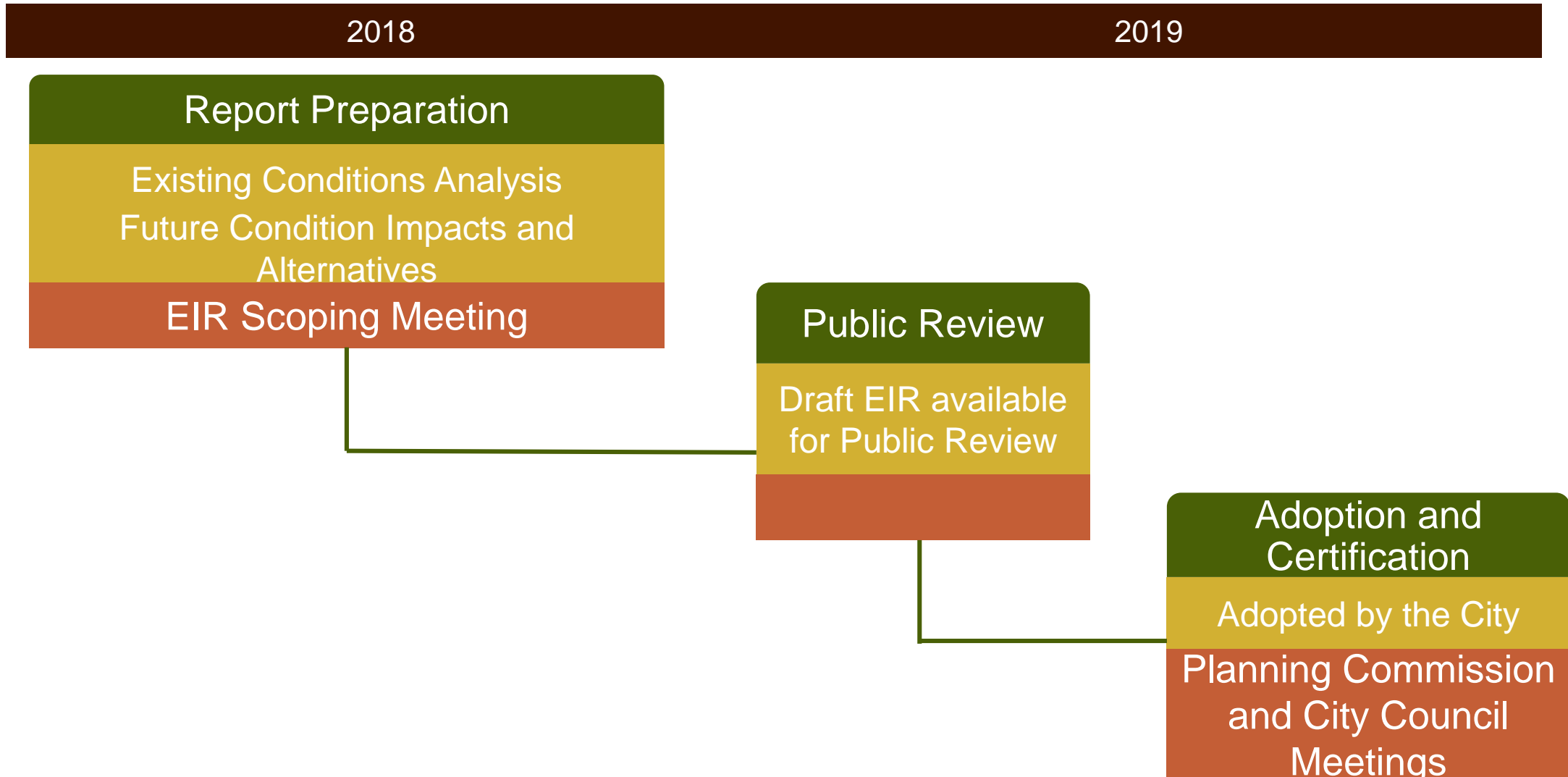
Update Process



Overview of EIR process

- In conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), each General Plan is required to have an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).
- A program EIR examines the proposed policy changes and what, if any, impacts the changes could have on the natural environment, local resources, and people and animals.

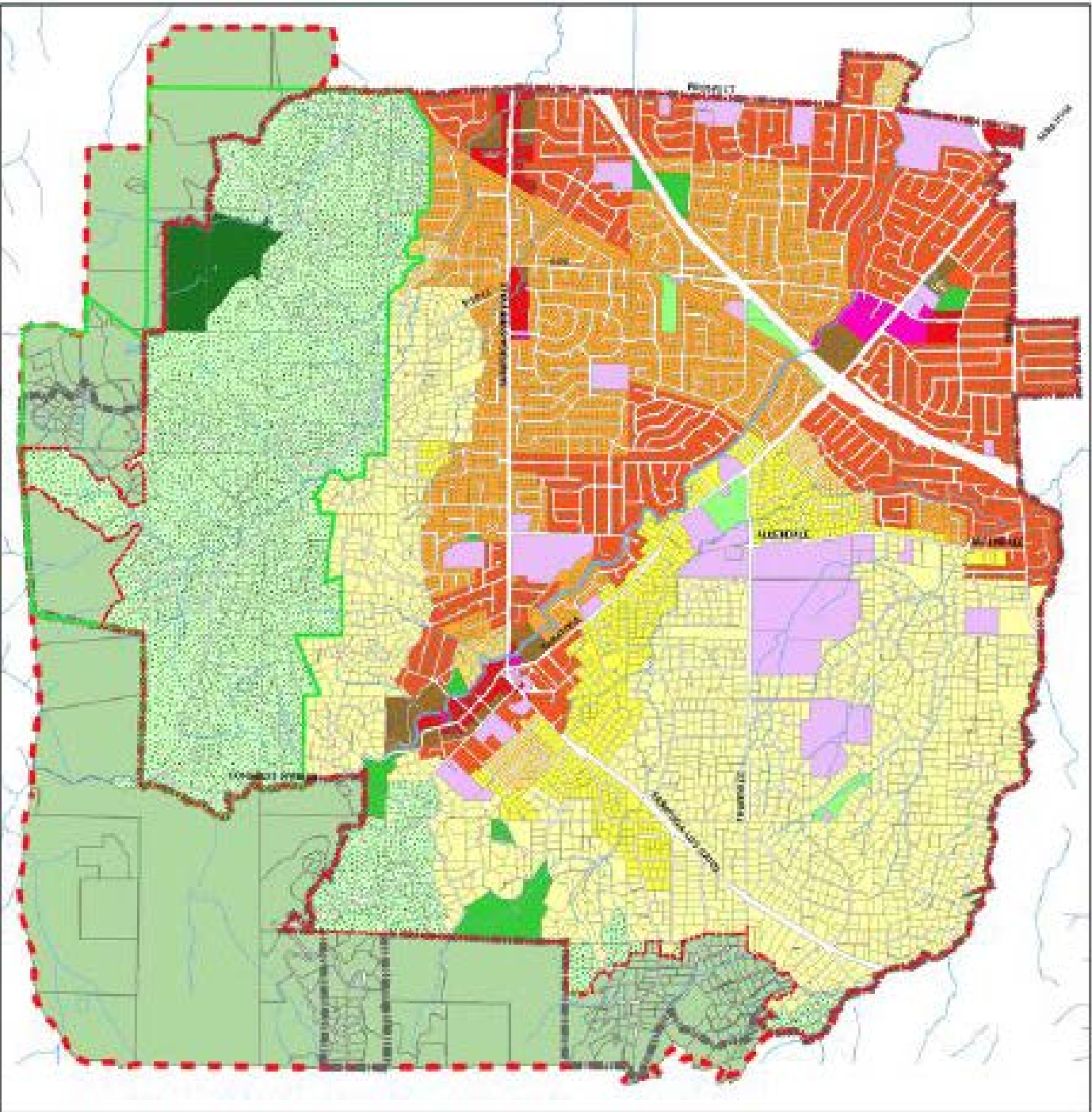
EIR process



Intro to Land Use

- The Land Use Element analyzes demographic data and forecasted changes to inform goals and policies related to future needs for land use in the City.
- Certain content must be in the Land Use element, including the designation of the general location and extent of land uses.
- No land use designation changes are proposed as a part of this update.

2007 Land Use Map



LEGEND

- HHC Hillside Conservation S.F.
- EULD Very Low Density Residential
- RLD Low Density Residential
- M-15 Medium Density Residential: M-15
- M-12.5 Medium Density Residential: M-12.5
- M-10 Medium Density Residential: M-10
- MRF Multi-Family Residential
- PDR Planned Development Residential
- MUPD Multi-Use Planning District
- PDD Planned Development
- PA Professional Administrative
- CR Commercial Retail
- CFS Community Facility
- PUC Public Use Corridor
- OS-H Hillside Open Space
- OS-MR Open Space-Managed Resource
- OS-OR Open Space-Outdoor Recreation
- OS-P Open Space-Private
- Hillside Specific Plan Area
- Hydrology

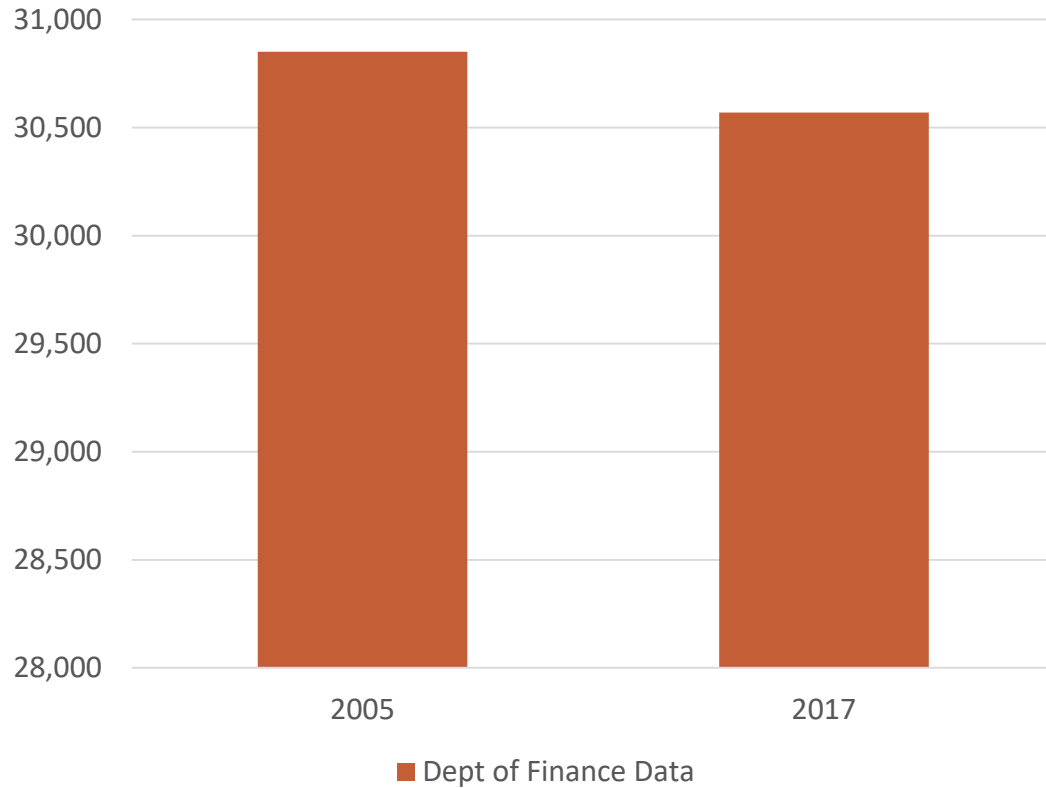


What is the focus of the Land Use element update?

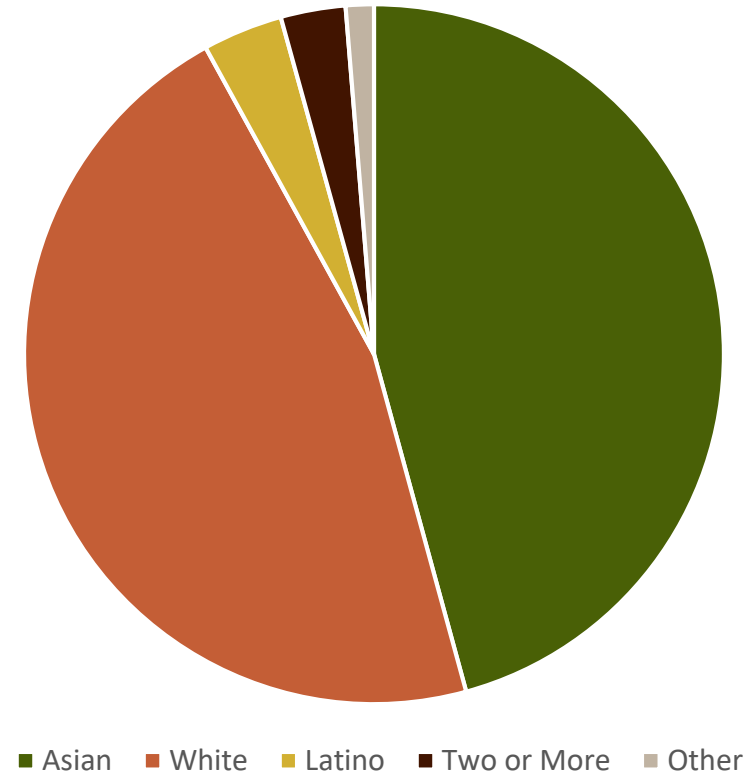
- Integrating new State laws into the existing framework of the Land Use Element
- Updating the visual quality of maps and diagrams
- Revisiting existing goals and policies to make sure they are still relevant to the needs of the community

Demographic changes in Saratoga since the last Land Use update

Population Change



2017 Demographics



Legislative changes that will affect land use

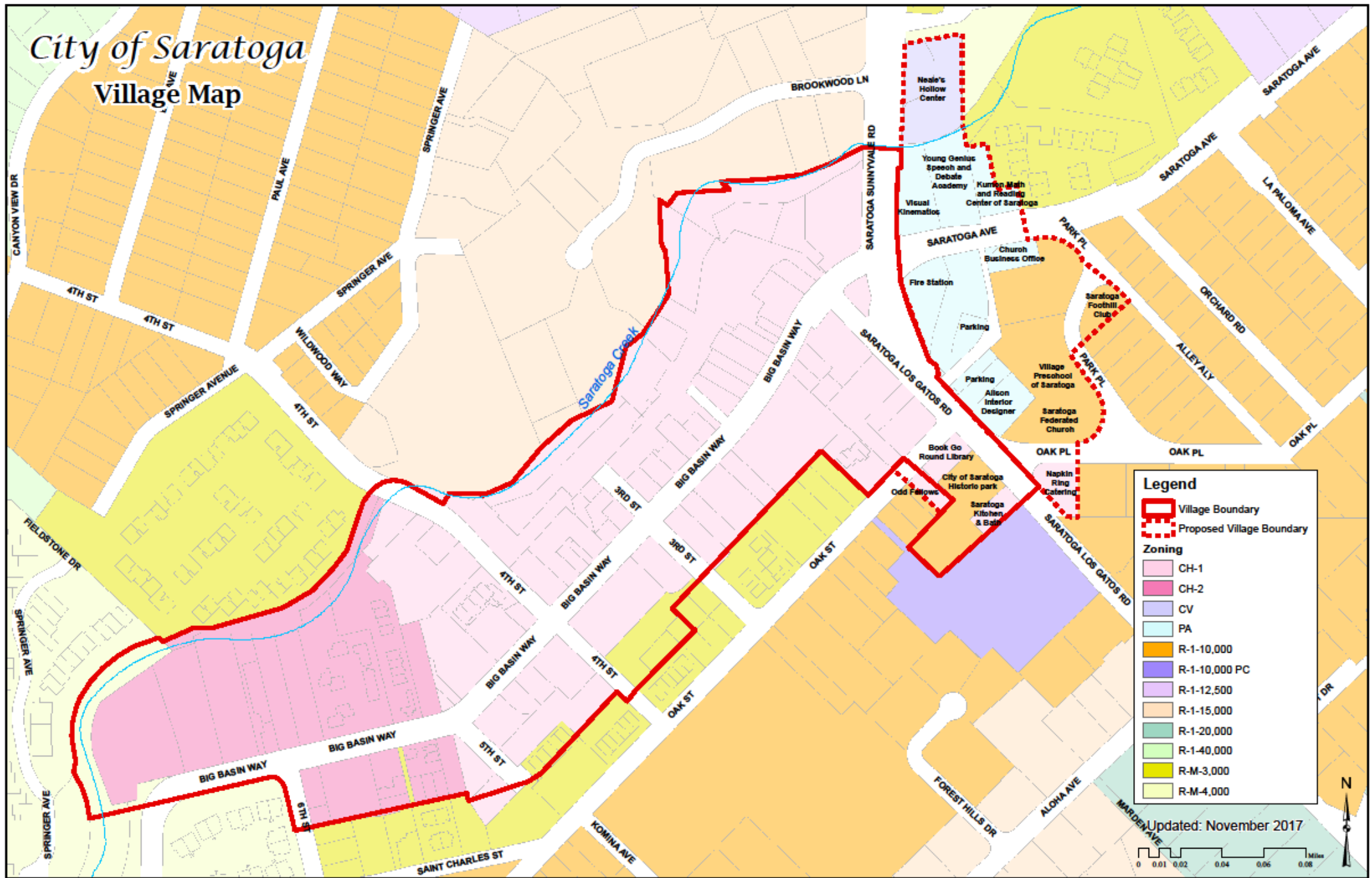
- Educational Facilities
- Waste Disposal
- Greenways
- Sustainable Community Strategies

Existing Goal and Policy Recommendations

- Recommendations for the current
 - Goals
 - Policies
 - Implementation Measures

Refer to Policy Matrix

City of Saratoga Village Map



Existing Land Use Descriptions

- Fix typos
- No recommended changes

Next Steps in process

- Study sessions for the Circulation element with Planning Commission and Traffic Safety Commission March 13th
- Study sessions for the Conservation and Open Space element with Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission March 27th
- Draft Goals, Policies, and Implementations for the Land Use element, Circulation element, and Conservation and Open Space element
- EIR Scoping meeting and draft Program EIR later this year

Next meeting information

- See you all March 13th to discuss the Circulation Element.