



# Redwood City Targeted General Plan Update: Summary of Community Input from the May 12, 2021 Workshop

## Introduction

In 2021, the City of Redwood City (City or Redwood City) launched efforts to conduct a Targeted General Plan Update which focuses on the Housing, Safety, and Environmental Justice Elements. Each element must meet specific requirements and be completed by State mandated deadlines. Other General Plan Elements may need to be updated to ensure consistency in accordance with State law and General Plan Guidelines.

The Housing Element provides goals, policies, and programs that help Redwood City plan for current and future housing needs for all segments of its population. The Housing Element plans for the construction of new housing and identifies areas where it may be built. The planning effort will integrate equity and inclusivity throughout the process and elevate equity-related goals and strategies. The Housing Element must be adopted by January 2023.

Redwood City will conduct a variety of community outreach and public engagement activities throughout the process to inform stakeholders and collect input to guide the development of the Targeted General Plan Update. This community workshop is the first of these activities to engage the community in this process. The [project website](#) contains more information about the planning process and upcoming activities.

## Workshop Format

On Wednesday, May 12, 2021, Redwood City and its planning consultant, MIG, Inc. (MIG), hosted a public workshop to introduce the community to the planning process and collect input from the public about the community values that should drive the planning process. Participants could also share their related issues and concerns. Following guidance from public health agencies regarding public gatherings and COVID-19, the workshop was held virtually using online video conferencing. Thirty-eight (38) stakeholders participated.

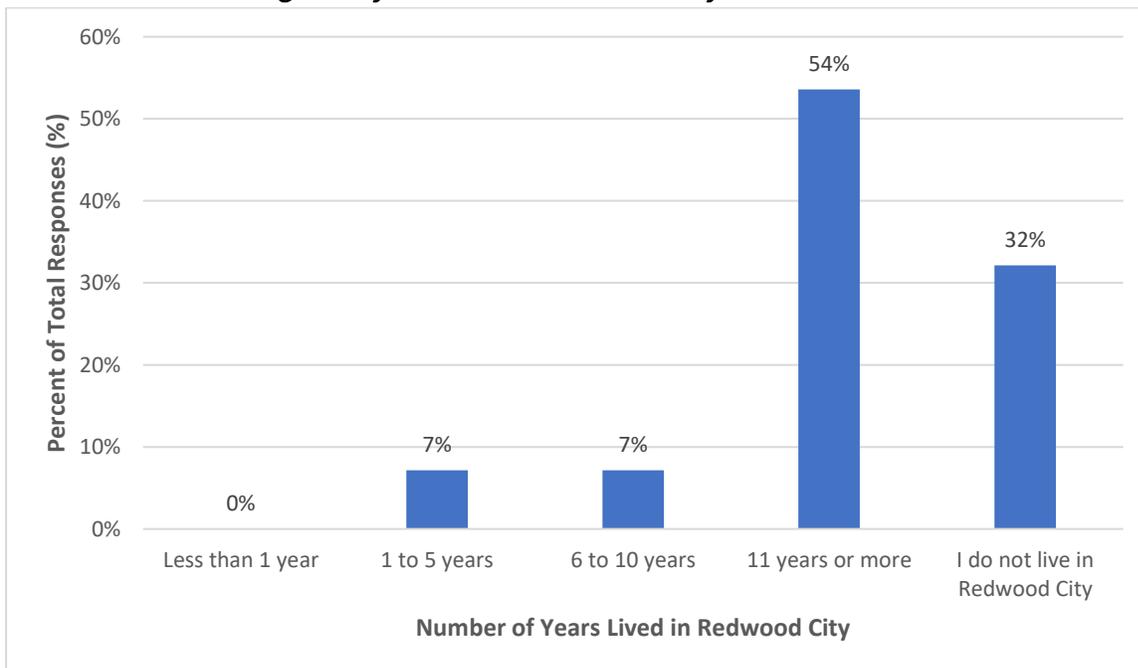
Joan Chaplick of MIG provided meeting facilitation. The workshop was designed to be interactive and included live polls using Mentimeter and an interactive, small-group discussion documented in real-time using a digital whiteboard tool known as Mural. The

workshop included a brief presentation designed to orient participants to the planning process with the bulk of the time used for interaction and discussion. The meeting presentation, complete polling results, and Mural are available in the Appendix. A video of the workshop is also available with captioning in English and Spanish.

## Polling Results

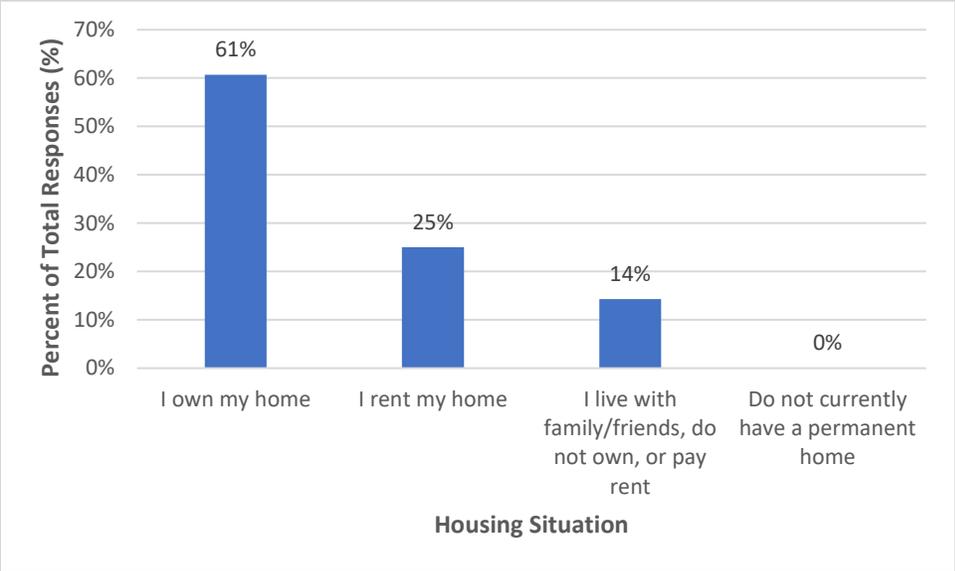
The workshop started off with live polling to collect some basic information about the participants and what they like about their community. The City intends to collect demographic information throughout the outreach process, so the City can understand who has been reached through the process. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number. “n” indicates the total number of responses for each question. Not all participants responded to each question.

### *Question 1. How long have you lived in Redwood City?*



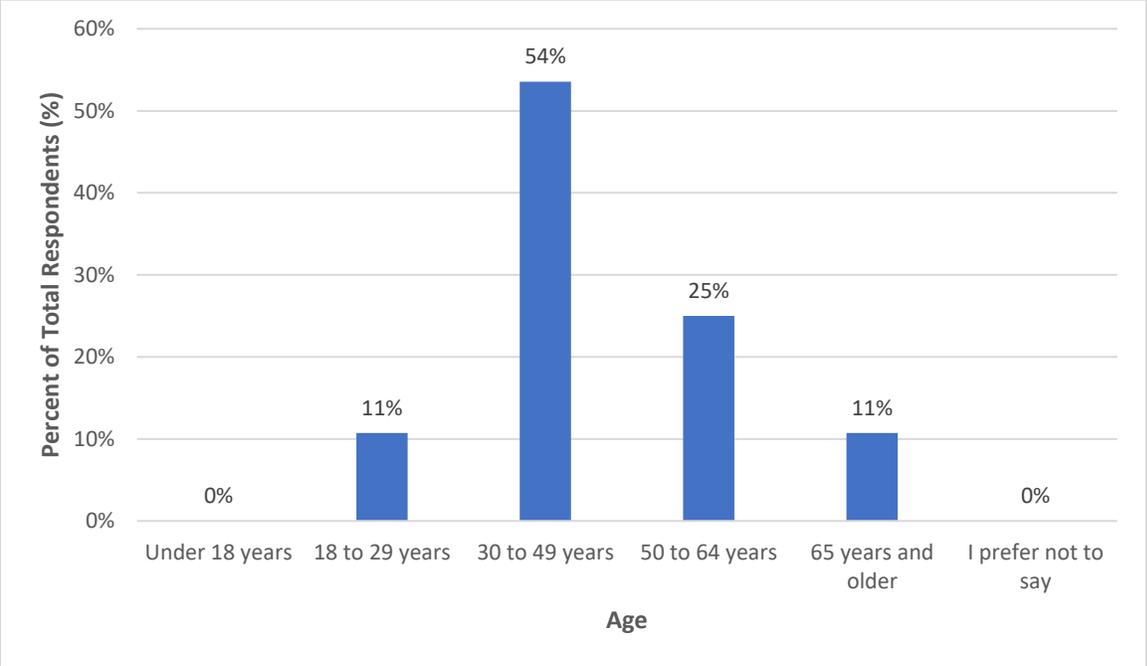
n = 28

**Question 2. What is your housing situation?**



n = 28

**Question 3. What is your age?**



n = 28

Question 4. What's one word that describes Redwood City?



n = 26

## Key Themes from Breakout Groups

Following the short informational presentation, participants were invited to join a breakout group where they would each get to identify the community values and priorities that should inform the planning process. Each break out group had a facilitator and note taker who used a digital whiteboard that was periodically shared with the group. Participants were asked to verbally share their comments with the group. At the end, each group facilitator reported some highlights of their group's comments. Each group was asked to respond to the following question: **What are our values as a community that will guide this planning process?**

Participants responded with values and priorities along with some of their concerns. The following summarizes the comments from the three break out groups. Comments included:

- **Access to Open Space** - Some workshop participants valued access to open space and greenery. They would like to see trees planted along their streets.
- **Affordability and Stability for All** - Some participants said they would like existing residents and youth growing up in Redwood City to be able to afford to stay in Redwood City. They would like to provide affordable rental and homeownership opportunities for all income levels and stakeholders, including extremely-low-, very-low-, low-, and moderate-income households; youth, seniors, people with disabilities,

and workers such as teachers. Concerns about avoiding displacement and reducing gentrification were voiced.

- ***Community Activities and Events*** - Some participants valued community activities and events, including cultural events and events held at public libraries and downtown.
- ***Community Land Trusts*** - Some participants suggested the City support and/or develop community land trusts to provide affordable home ownership opportunities.
- ***Construction Costs*** - Some participants would like to find ways to decrease housing constructions costs.
- ***Diversity*** - Ethnic, racial, and economic diversity was important to many participants and they would like the community to respect and value diversity and differences.
- ***Environmental Protection*** - Some participants valued the environment and want to conserve marshes, protect access to open space, and ensure environmental stability.
- ***Equity*** - Many participants expressed that they value equity and environmental justice. Participants would like Redwood City to focus on disadvantaged communities and their disproportionate environmental burdens.
- ***Family*** - Some participants expressed they want families to be able to afford to live in Redwood City. They suggested providing family events and activities and want to ensure affordable childcare services for families.
- ***Fair Share of Housing*** - Some participants would like the surrounding municipalities to do their fair share in providing housing and addressing the housing crisis.
- ***Housing for Teachers*** - Some participants suggested more housing for teachers; this will improve teacher retention. It was suggested the City collaborate with local school districts to promote affordable housing.
- ***Housing Supply*** - Some participants would like to expand the supply of affordable housing, including housing for very-low- and low-income households.
- ***Housing Types Needed*** - Some participants would like to see a variety of housing types, particularly multi-family development such as duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, and apartments.
- ***Impact Fees*** - Increasing impact fees on office development was suggested.
- ***Jobs-Housing Balance*** - Some participants want to improve the balance between jobs and housing. Participants expressed concerned about the amount of office space and would like to limit how much office development is approved.
- ***Rentals*** - Some participants would like to see more rental housing options. They would also like to enforce and achieve fair housing practices.
- ***Safety Concerns*** - Some participants identified safety concerns they would like addressed including theft and gunfire.
- ***Segregation*** - Some participants would like to eliminate segregation in Redwood City.
- ***Sense of Community*** - Some participants would like to maintain and enhance a shared sense of community.
- ***Services and Support Systems*** - Some participants would like to expand and enhance services and support systems for mental health and homelessness.

- ***Transit and Walkability*** – Some participants would like to improve public transportation connections between neighborhoods and between housing, goods, services, and jobs. They would also like to increase walkability throughout Redwood City.
- ***Transit-Oriented Development*** – Many participants suggested the City build housing near transit.
- ***Welcoming and Inclusive*** – Many participants would like Redwood City to be more welcoming and inclusive for all people, including people from all socio-economic backgrounds.

## Next Steps

The City and MIG will use the workshop results to develop draft values statements to guide the planning process. The workshop materials and video will be posted on the project website.

For those who were not able to attend the workshop, they can respond to a short survey about community values that will be publicized by the City. The survey includes values statements drawn from the workshop input and allow participants to add their own ideas. The survey is available in Spanish and English. Participants can also watch the video of the workshop which has captioning in English and Spanish.