



**City of San José**  
**Natural and Working Lands Element**

Stakeholder Meetings Round 2  
March, 2022



# Today's Agenda

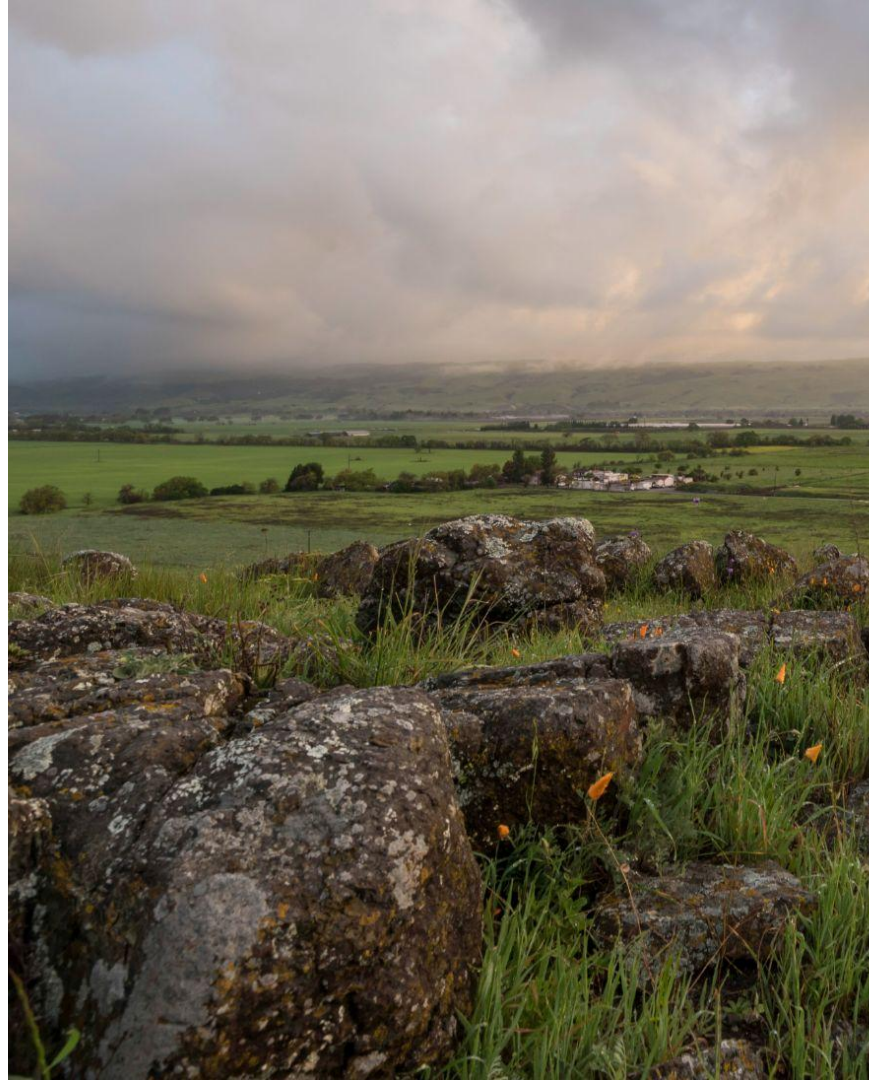
1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Meeting 1 Recap
3. Cost and Equity Updates
4. Equity Discussion
5. Next Steps & Adjourn

# Project Steering Team



# Land Acknowledgement

We recognize that every member of the greater San José community has, and continues to benefit from, the use and occupation of this land, since The City of San José's establishment in 1777. As members of the San José community, it is vitally important that we acknowledge and respect Indigenous Peoples of this place, including the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, the Tamien Nation, and the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area, who work today to restore and protect their culture and connect to the land.



# Meeting 1 Recap - PURPOSE

**The Draft Natural and Working Lands Element, a part of San José's strategy to address climate change through their climate action plan Climate Smart San Jose, is in need of strategic feedback from the key community and agency technical partners.** The City of San José and Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority held stakeholder meetings, with the first round focused on gathering feedback on:

- General feedback on the Element's NWL indicators, metrics, and milestones, and
- How equity goals can be measured as part of the NWL Element

# CLIMATE SMART SAN JOSE

Natural and Working Lands Element



# Meeting 1 Recap - OUTCOMES

**90+** comments collected  
through discussion

**16** key themes identified

**36** participants, representing the  
Following organizations & agencies:

CA Climate & Agriculture  
Network (CalCAN)

CA Strategic Growth Council

Coyote Valley Credits Program

Garden to Table Silicon Valley

Green Foothills

Guadalupe-Coyote Resource  
Conservation District

ICAN

Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful

Midpeninsula Regional Open  
Space District

Muwekma Ohlone

Nature Conservancy

Peninsula Open Space Trust

Santa Clara County Division of  
Agriculture

Santa Clara County Office of  
Sustainability

San Francisco Estuary  
Institute

San Mateo County Office of  
Sustainability

San Mateo Resource  
Conservation District

Santa Clara Valley Audubon  
Society

Sierra Club Loma Prieta  
Chapter

SJSU Community Garden

Valley Water

Veggielution



# NWL Element Updates



Cost

&

Equity



# Evaluating Strategy Costs

- Costs were approximated through research and interviews with subject matter experts
- Costs were measured by acre and broken down into upfront costs and annual maintenance costs

## Cropland Management



\$0 / \$30  
Initial / Annual  
Cost Per Acre



## Grazing Land Management



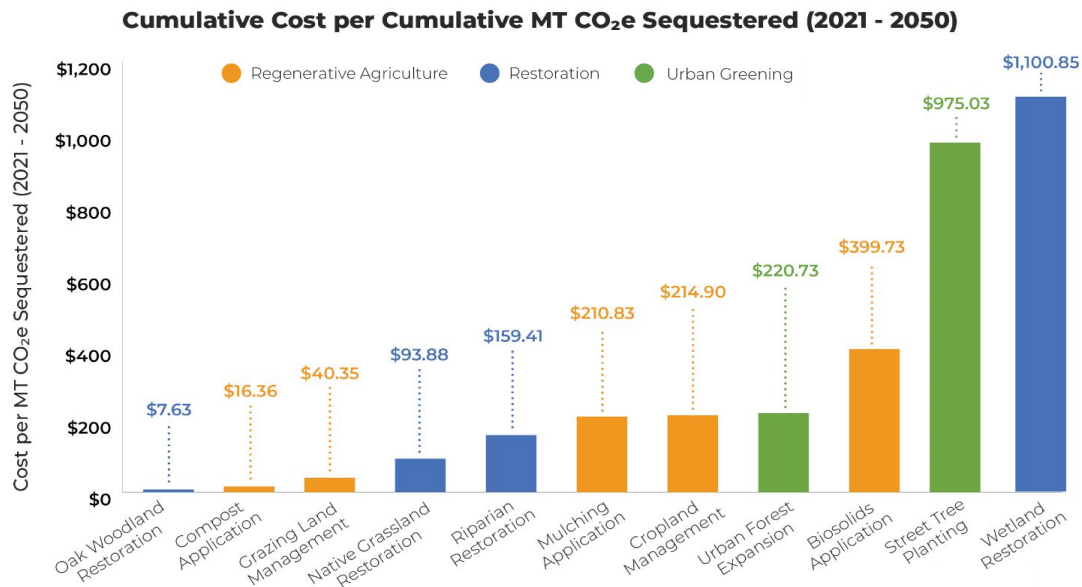
\$192 / \$30  
Initial / Annual  
Cost Per Acre





# Evaluating Strategy Costs - Estimated Cost and Carbon Sequestration

- NWL strategies may vary in terms of the amount of carbon they can sequester and how much they cost
- The MACC compares the relative cost of each strategy over time to the amount of carbon it can sequester, to help us better choose which strategies to prioritize



# Equity and NWLs - Setting Goals

## Goal 1

Increase access to natural resources for vulnerable communities

Increase presence of trees and green spaces in communities with the least access to nature and recreational spaces.

## Goal 2

Increase access to good green jobs and job training

Provide workforce development opportunities in the natural and working lands sector for residents from disadvantaged communities.

## Goal 3

Protect our community from the impacts of climate change, with a focus on our most vulnerable populations

Invest in NWL strategies that protect vulnerable populations from climate impacts and build community resilience.

## Goal 4

Build relationships with California Native American tribes

Develop strong partnerships with California Native American tribes to increase co-management of NWLs and ensure the preservation of natural cultural resources and landscapes and access to sacred spaces.

## Goal 5

Prioritize financial incentives and other resources for small farmers to engage in sustainable farming practices

Prioritize financial incentives and other resources for small scale farmers and producers and farmers of color to scale up their existing efforts to preserve and restore NWLs.



Coyote Valley (Credit: Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority)

### Funding Progress

Funding the actions needed to maximize Coyote Valley's carbon sequestration potential will require innovative solutions and new mechanisms.

### Nature-Based Investments

Continued public and private investments through innovative funding programs like San José's Measure T, a \$650M infrastructure bond that included \$50M for land acquisition for the purposes of protecting natural infrastructure in Coyote Valley, are accelerating efforts to implement nature-based solutions at the scale necessary to address climate change.<sup>89</sup>

### Climate Resilience Credits

San José is currently exploring the potential for a program that would allow property owners in

### Indigenous Heritage

Engagement with indigenous communities will seek to empower tribal partners to apply their ecological knowledge and cultural stewardship practices towards the overarching efforts to restore the landscape and strengthen climate resilience.

See Section 3.1

### Climate Justice

The City and its partners recognize that NWLs have a role to play in reversing historical inequities through climate justice. Potential investments in Coyote Valley will be considered from a range of perspectives and a diverse group of stakeholders will be involved in the planning process.

See Section 3.1

# Equity and NWLS - Real World Examples



### Veggielution (San José)

The mission of Veggielution is to connect people from diverse backgrounds outdoors through food and farming to build community in East San José. The 2-acre community farm and gathering space is located in Emma Prusch Farm Park in the Mayfair neighborhood, one of the most impoverished areas in Silicon Valley. Mayfair residents suffer from conditions that affect many immigrant and working-class populations, including higher rates of obesity and diabetes, significant education and earning gaps, lack of access to safe, well-maintained outdoor spaces, and limited options for fresh, healthy food. Through food-centered programs for all ages, Veggielution connects residents to each other and to people and resources from outside their community that will enable them to make change and the farm provides a critical platform for these programs.

### Urban ReLeaf (Oakland)

In 1999, Kemba Shakur founded Urban (Oakland) Releaf, an organization dedicated to providing job training for at-risk youth and hard-to-employ adults by improving the urban forest of Oakland. With donations and state and federal grants, Urban Releaf now plants about 600 trees a year and has trained thousands of young people. The skills the kids learn include far more than planting and caring for the trees. In 2004, Urban Releaf teamed with UC Davis on a CalFed-funded research project designed to study the effects of trees on reducing soil contaminants, preventing erosion and improving water and air quality. The study called on the Urban Releaf youth to collect GIS data, take runoff measurements and conduct statistical analysis — skills that readily translate to the job market.

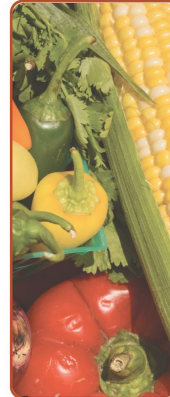


## Relating NWLS to Equity

### Urban Greening Can Reduce Heat Impacts

Unusually hot summers and extreme heat events are becoming more common and intense across the world. This is especially true in cities where dense concentrations of pavement and structures absorb and retain heat at higher rates than natural pervious surfaces. This phenomenon is known as the 'urban heat island effect' and poses a serious threat to the health of city residents.

The cooling effects of city parks and trees is key to mitigating the health impacts of extreme heat in cities. Unfortunately, not everyone has equal access to such amenities. Exclusionary housing policies have pushed low-income households and communities of color into neighborhoods with fewer resources and amenities, such as trees and parks. This has led to today's heat exposure disparities observed across income, race and ethnicity. Implementing and investing in urban greenery strategies in historically disinvested neighborhoods is a step toward reducing health and social inequities.



### Urban Agriculture Can Increase Access to Healthy Foods

For many communities, access to fresh and healthy food is not a given. Grocery stores, community gardens and farmers markets are primary sources of healthy foods for city residents. Unfortunately, these sources are more scarcely found in communities of color and low-income neighborhoods compared to more affluent neighborhoods. These underserved neighborhoods are sometimes characterized as 'food deserts' - areas where access to affordable and healthy food options is restricted or nonexistent due to the absence of conveniently-located grocery stores.

Urban agriculture has gained momentum across cities as one approach to address inequitable access to affordable healthy foods. Urban farms have the potential to create local healthy food systems in neighborhoods that lack access to fresh produce. The practice comes with other community benefits such as workforce training and job development, community building and farming education opportunities.

# Equity and NWLs -

## Defining key areas to focus equity work

To ensure that all communities have access to NWLs and the benefits they provide, key focus areas can be identified as potentially having greater barriers to NWL access.

These key focus areas are sometimes referred to as **Historically Marginalized Communities**.






# Equity and NWLs

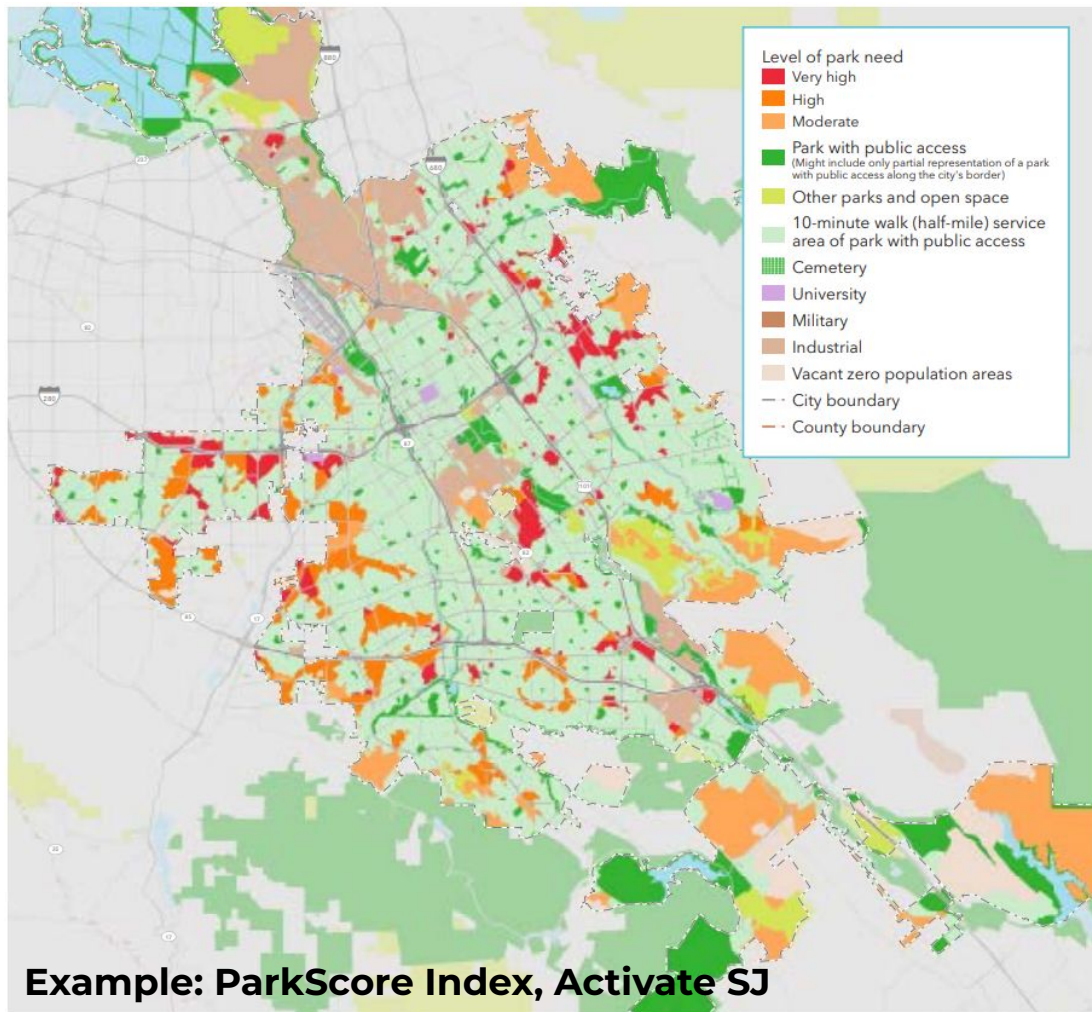
## Defining key areas to focus equity work

### Factors used:

- Population density
- Density of youth
- Density of low-income individuals

### Level of Park Need:

-  Very High
-  High
-  Moderate



# Equity and NWLs

## Defining key areas to focus equity work

### FACTOR

Lack of Investment and Opportunities

#### *Example Indicators*

- Home ownership
- Vehicle access
- Health insurance coverage

### FACTOR

Physical states or conditions that increase vulnerability

#### *Example Indicators*

- Age
- Pre-existing health conditions

### FACTOR

Existing inequities, institutionalized racism, or exclusion

#### *Example Indicators*

- Race and ethnicity
- US citizenship
- Poverty status/income
- Linguistic isolation
- Educational attainment

### FACTOR

Poor environmental conditions, access to services, or living conditions

#### *Example Indicators*

- Tree canopy coverage
- Park access
- PM2.5 concentrations
- Proximity to hazardous waste sites
- Urban Heat Island Index

**Vulnerability Factors and Indicators - Office of Planning and Research**



## Discussion -

# Defining key areas to focus equity work

1. *When prioritizing locations where NWL strategy investments should be made, how important is it to consider equity when defining these locations?*
2. *Do you think the methods in the examples we gave (ParkScore, OPR Vulnerability Index) do an adequate job in characterizing or identifying where vulnerable communities are in San Jose?*
3. *What are other methods that can be used (to complement tools like this) to get a more accurate representation?*

# Discussion - Community Engagement and Relationship Building

- *What should the future of stakeholder/community engagement about NWLs look like?*
  - *Who should we be engaging with?*
  - *What should this engagement look like? In what ways should the community be further involved in CSSJ?*

# Next Steps

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- The Element Draft will be made available after the stakeholder and public meetings.
- An email will be sent out when the Element Draft is released with a link to a form to submit feedback. You will also have the option to submit feedback via email if that is preferred.



**Equality**

doesn't mean



**Equity**

**Q1**

*Do you think the methods in the examples we gave (ParkScore, OPR Vulnerability Index) do a adequate job in characterizing or identifying where vulnerable communities are in San Jose?*

**Q2**

*What are other methods that can be used (to complement tools like this) to get a more accurate representation?*

**Q3**

*What should the future of stakeholder/community engagement about NWLs look like?*

- *Who should we be engaging with?*
- *What should this engagement look like? In what ways should the community be involved in CSSJ?*