



Public Facilities and Services

The Public Facilities and Services Element guides the overall provision of community facilities and services in Windsor. The Town is committed to providing safe, reliable and efficient services and utilities to all residents and businesses. The Town of Windsor embraces the concept of sustainability and leads by example by adopting sustainable practices in its municipal operations. The Town follows prudent fiscal policies and practices to ensure sufficient resources in times of economic downturn and other challenges. The Town also will continue to maintain adequate administrative service facilities in order to ensure efficient and convenient delivery of services to the community. Law enforcement and fire protection services implement health and safety standards to ensure a safe community for all, while building on successful partnerships with the Town and residents. Further enhancement of the parks and recreation system, accessibility to social services, and education at Windsor's distinguished schools, ensure a more active, healthy, and engaged community. The Environmental Resources Element contains additional policies related to energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction in municipal operations.

General Public Facilities and Services

The Town of Windsor and other agencies and organizations maintain a variety of public facilities and provide many public services to meet the needs of residents and businesses, including community facilities and recreation, water supply and delivery, wastewater collection and treatment, stormwater drainage, solid waste collection and recycling. Policies in this section guide the overall provision of public facilities and services in Windsor. Maintaining necessary levels of service with adequate funding for all facilities is paramount to meet the demands of existing and future residents and businesses.

Goal PFS-1: General Public Facilities and Services

Ensure the provision of adequate and efficient facilities and services that maintain service levels, are adequately funded, accessible, reliable, and strategically allocated. (Source: New Goal, Town Staff and Consultants)

PFS-1.1: Capital Improvement Program. The Town shall maintain the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to ensure the implementation of the General Plan and the adequate and timely provision of public facility and municipal utility improvements. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)

PFS-1.2: High-Quality Service. The Town shall continue to offer professional, high-quality service that meets the needs of residents and businesses. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)

- PFS-1.3: New Technology in Town Facilities.** As financially feasible, the Town shall incorporate new technology into public buildings and operations on an ongoing basis to increase productivity, reduce operating costs, enhance customer service, improve communication with residents and facilitate access to Town services. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)
- PFS-1.4: Efficient, Cost Effective Operations.** The Town shall continue to function efficiently in all its operations and activities and use revenues in a cost effective manner. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)
- PFS-1.5: Sustainable Practices.** The Town shall serve as a role model to businesses and institutions regarding purchasing decisions that minimize the generation of waste, recycling programs that reduce waste, energy efficiency and conservation practices that reduce water, electricity and natural gas use, and fleet operations that reduce gasoline consumption. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)
- PFS-1.6: Energy Efficient Buildings and Infrastructure.** The Town shall continue to improve energy efficiency of Town buildings and infrastructure through efficiency improvements, equipment upgrades, and installation of clean, renewable energy systems to achieve climate action goals and reduce operating costs. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)
- PFS-1.7: Priority for Infrastructure.** The Town shall give high priority in capital improvement programming to funding rehabilitation or replacement of critical infrastructure that has reached the end of its useful life or has capacity constraints. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)
- PFS-1.8: Public Facility Master Plans.** The Town shall maintain and implement public facility master plans to ensure compliance with appropriate regional, State, and Federal laws; the use of modern and cost-effective technologies and best management practices; and compatibility with current land use policy. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)
- PFS-1.9: Public Facility Clustering.** The Town shall promote the clustering of public and quasi-public facilities (e.g., schools, parks, libraries, child care facilities, community activity centers), the joint-use of these facilities, and agreements for sharing costs and operational responsibilities among public service providers. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)

Water System

Water is a vital resource that allows a community to flourish and perform basic daily operations. The Windsor Water District provides potable water to the majority of residences and businesses within Town Limits, with the exception of a few older developments and mobile home parks that maintain private wells. The Town's potable water supply has been provided primarily from its wells in the Russian River Well Field, through a Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) Russian River water right, and a connection to the SCWA's aqueduct from which the Town purchases wholesale water. The Town owns five off-river groundwater wells, providing both potable and raw water. One of the five wells, the Esposti irrigation well, is active and the remaining four wells are inactive. The Town is a leader in the use of recycled water for irrigation of agricultural fields, recreational facilities, and landscaping in select residential



neighborhoods. The Town also provide recycled water delivery to the Geysers Geothermal fields. At this time (2016) the drought in California is causing water supplies to dwindle, requiring the need for conservation efforts both locally and statewide. The policies in this section provide the basis for an efficient and reliable water supply system that adequately serves existing and future residents.

Goal PFS-2: Water System

Maintain the Town's water system in order to adequately serve existing residents, businesses, and future development. (Source: New Goal, Town Staff and Consultants)

Policies

- PFS-2.1 Water Master Plan.** The Town shall continue to maintain, implement and periodically update the Master Plan to ensure the reliability and efficiency of the Town's water distribution system. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.4.2, modified)
- PFS-2.2 Urban Water Management Plan.** The Town shall maintain the Urban Water Management Plan to adequately estimate projected water demands and supplies over the planning horizon for average and drought year conditions; and shall implement water supply projects to provide for a reliable supply during all water conditions. (Source: New Policy to address Urban Water Management Planning Act of 1983-)
- PFS-2.3 Water Supply and Infrastructure.** The Town shall ensure there is adequate water supply and infrastructure in place or that will be available prior to approving any new development. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.4.1 modified)
- PFS-2.4 Cost of New Infrastructure.** The Town shall require that costs of improvements to the water system that are necessary for new developments are financed by the property owner and/or developer. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.2.2 modified)
- PFS-2.5 Recycled Water.** The Town shall continue to support the beneficial reuse of recycled water and the joint use of facilities including reservoir, distribution mains, and pumping facilities for the use of recycled water when such joint use benefits the environment. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.4.7)
- PFS-2.6 2020 Water Conservation Targets.** The Town shall achieve a 20 percent reduction in per-capita water use by 2020 consistent with the State's 20x20x20 Water Conservation Plan. (Source: New Policy to address the Water Conservation Act of 2009)
- PFS-2.7 Water Conservation Enforcement.** The Town shall continue to enforce Town ordinances that prohibit excess water runoff and waste through applicable penalties and fees. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)
- PFS-2.8 Conservation Efforts.** The Town shall continue to require the use of water-conserving plumbing fixtures, such as low-flow toilets and showerheads, and water-efficient dishwashers and washing machines in all new development. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.4.4, modified)

- PFS-2.9 Water Efficient Landscaping.** The Town shall require new development to incorporate and implement a whole systems approach to design, construction, installation and maintenance of the landscaping so as to result in water conserving, climate-appropriate landscapes, improved water quality and the minimization of natural resource inputs. (Source: Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance, Title XII, Chapter 3, WMC)
- PFS-2.10 Water Rights.** The Town shall support Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) efforts increasing water rights to Windsor Water District. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)
- PFS-2.11 Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan.** The Town and/or Windsor Water District shall participate as a Groundwater Sustainable Agency to develop and implement a plan to meet the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)
- PFS-2.12 Water Shortage Contingency Plan.** The Town shall provide a contingency plan to serve as a resource in the case of water supply interruption due to drought or other factors causing water shortage. (Source: Section 10632, California Water Code)
- PFS-2.13 Carbon-Free Water System.** The Town shall commit to the goal of operating a carbon free water system by 2030, and shall achieve this goal by implementing a work plan to diversify its energy portfolio and reduce its energy and fuel needs through efficiency and renewable energy production. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)
- PFS-2.14 Individual Meters for Multifamily Development.** The Town shall require new, multifamily residential development to install individual water meters for each residential unit and for each non-residential building. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)



Wastewater and Water Reclamation System

Windsor Water District owns and operates a sewer collection system, a Wastewater Treatment Plant and reclamation facilities that serve users within the Town limits, agricultural users in the county, and the Geysers pipeline. The wastewater is collected through the sanitary sewer system and is then treated, recycled and/or discharged to Mark West Creek, a tributary to the Russian River. The policies outlined in this section are set to ensure an operational and adequate wastewater and reclamation system for existing and future development.

Goal PFS-3: Wastewater and Water Reclamation System

Operate and maintain the Town's sanitary sewer system, wastewater treatment plant and reclamation facilities to provide adequate capacity for existing residents, businesses and future development. (Source: Existing Goal)

Policies

- PFS-3.1 Wastewater System Capacity.** The Town shall provide sufficient wastewater conveyance, storage, and pumping capacity for peak sewer flows and infiltration. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)
- PFS-3.2 Wastewater Treatment Master Plan.** The Town shall maintain and implement the Master Plan for Wastewater Treatment, Storage, and Disposal to acknowledge the rate, amount, and location of development projected for Windsor. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.4.6)
- PFS-3.3 Collection System Master Plan.** The Town shall maintain and implement a Master Plan for a sewer collection system network that provides for sanitary sewer flows, including inflow and infiltration, from existing residents, businesses and future development. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)
- PFS-3.4 Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity.** The Town shall continue to monitor wastewater treatment capacity to ensure compliance with the Town's NPDES waste discharge permit and to provide available-sufficient treatment capacity for new development. (Source: NCRWQCB NPDES Waste Discharge Permit Order no. R1-2013-0042, as amended)
- PFS-3.5 Wastewater Treatment Standards.** The Town shall ensure that treated wastewater complies with the Town's NPDES waste discharge permit regarding reclamation, recycled water landscape irrigation and land application. (Source: NCRWQCB NPDES Waste Discharge Permit Order no. R1-2013-0042, as amended)
- PFS-3.6 Wastewater Reclamation and Beneficial Reuse.** The Town shall continue to ~~emphasize the reclamation and re-use of treated wastewater, rather than its discharge to receiving waters~~maximize the beneficial uses of treated wastewater to the extent practicable, in accordance with the standards and policies of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.4.9a)

- PFS-3.7 Trunk Sewer Plan.** The Town shall implement and update as necessary, the Trunk Sewer Plan for Wastewater Collection to reflect the rate, amount, and location of development projected for Windsor. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.4.8)
- PFS-3.8 Sanitary Sewer Management Plan.** The Town shall maintain and implement a Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP), which will serve as a reference and guidelines for the Town's sanitary sewer system management practices for the purpose of reducing and preventing sanitary sewer overflows to *Waters of the State*. (Source: SWRCB Order 2006-003-DWQ)
- PFS-3.9 Collection System Remedial Measures.** The Town shall implement the measures identified in the Settlement Agreement regarding the sanitary sewer system and flow equalization ponds. (Source: Settlement Agreement, Town of Windsor and River Watch, 2014)
- PFS-3.10 Recycled Water Plan.** The Town shall maintain and implement a Recycled Water Plan to expand recycled water use as a potable offset, throughout the Windsor Water District ~~and~~ including the east side of town, to provide for additional recycled water storage. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)
- PFS-3.11 Cost of New Infrastructure.** The Town shall require that costs of improvements to the wastewater and water reclamation system that are necessary for new development are financed by the property owner or developer. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.2.2 modified)



Stormwater Management

Stormwater drainage is essential for limiting excess water runoff and discharge into waterways. The Town does not operate a separate drainage system that treats stormwater. Instead, runoff from impervious surfaces is channeled directly into local waterways. In an effort to reduce runoff and water quality impacts to the waterways, the Town encourages Low Impact Development (LID) and Best Management Practices (BMPs) as mitigation. The policies in this section promote the mitigation of stormwater runoff through collection, drainage, and sustainable practices. [Additional policies to protect water quality are covered in the Environmental Resources Element.](#)



Goal PFS-4: Stormwater Drainage

Improve the Town's stormwater drainage system to reduce excess runoff, reduce impacts to water quality, and protect environmentally sensitive areas. (Source: New Goal)

Policies

PFS-4.1 Stormwater Management Plan. The Town shall maintain and implement a Stormwater Management Plan, which is designed to protect water quality through implementation of best management practices for stormwater runoff from development. (Source: SWRCB Stormwater Phase I Final Rule)

PFS-4.2 Flood Control. [The Town shall develop and implement a Storm Drain Master Plan for the storm drainage system network that provides for sufficient capacity for stormwater runoff from existing and future development and addresses flooding in low-lying areas. \(Source: SWRCB Stormwater Phase I Final Rule\)](#)

PFS-4.2-3 Low Impact Development. The Town shall provide requirements for Low Impact Development (LID) techniques for reducing pollutants in stormwater from new development and reconstruction projects and implement LID in conjunction with the policies specified by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit regarding stormwater runoff, treatment and collection. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)

PFS-4.3-4 Education on Stormwater Runoff Effects. The Town shall encourage educational opportunities for citizens regarding stormwater runoff, its impacts to water quality, and strategies to mitigate impacts. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)

PFS-4.45 Construction Activities and Grading Effects on Water Quality. The Town shall develop and implement policies that support erosion control and reduce water quality impacts resulting from grading and construction activities. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)

PFS-4.56 Improve Creek Health. The Town shall develop and implement policies that support maintaining creek hydraulic capacity and [improve creek health by reducing impacts from development, ~~creek trails~~—formal landscaping in creek embankments, and trash and debris accumulation near creek areas.](#) (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)

Low Impact Development (LID) is a design approach intended to manage stormwater runoff. LID emphasizes conservation and use of on-site natural features to protect water quality using bio-swales, rain barrels, and vegetated buffers.



Solid Waste and Recycling

The Town, through its franchise hauler, provides solid waste, recycling, and composting services for residential, commercial, and industrial areas, with weekly curbside pickup. Hazardous waste collection and disposal is provided by the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency. Currently (2016) all waste is disposed at the Healdsburg Transfer Station before processing. The policies in this section promote the reduction of solid waste, quality of service provided by local waste management, and a greater emphasis on recycling.

Goal PFS-5: Solid Waste and Recycling

Curtail excess waste entering local landfills through waste management and recycling. (Source: New Goal, Consultants)

Policies

- PFS-5.1 Waste Management.** The Town shall continue to improve its solid waste management system through emphasis on waste prevention, reuse, recycling, composting, and disposal. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.4.12)
- PFS-5.2 Waste Collection.** The Town shall continue to provide convenient and cost effective waste collection. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)
- PFS-5.3 Reduce Municipal Solid Waste.** The Town shall reduce municipal solid waste generation by employing a wide range of innovative techniques, including electronic communications to reduce paper usage and buying products with less packaging or in bulk, where feasible. (Source: New Policy based on Municipal Code Section 1-6-135)
- PFS-5.4 Curbside Collection.** The Town shall encourage the community to participate in single family residential and multi-family residential annual curbside collection opportunities. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)
- PFS-5.5 Hazardous Materials.** The Town shall eliminate hazardous waste from entering local landfills. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.4.13 modified)
- PFS-5.6 Recycling Collection.** The Town shall require all projects, except for single family residential, to provide sufficient and accessible space for the storage and collection of recyclable materials and organic waste separate from, and in addition to, space for refuse storage and collection. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.4.12)
- PFS-5.7 Recycling Outreach.** The Town shall implement recycling and proper waste disposal outreach and education to residents, local schools, and businesses. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)
- PFS-5.8 2020 Recycling Target.** The Town shall support efforts to recycle at least 75 percent of solid waste by 2020 (AB 341), and shall work with the Town's franchise waste hauler and regional waste authorities toward a goal of 90 percent waste reduction. (Source: New Policy based on Assembly Bill 341)



Law Enforcement

The Windsor Police Department plays a critical role in keeping the community safe, currently through staffing levels (2016) providing protection with 23 full time employees, 17 sworn officers, including three sergeants, one chief. Windsor's law enforcement has been staffed through an agreement with the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office since the Town's incorporation; the most recent 10-year contract extension is for provision of services through 2018. The policies in this section are meant to strengthen the partnership between the Police Department and residents, ensure an adequate number of officers for the town's population, and improve on the safety of Windsor residents, businesses, and visitors.

Goal PFS-6: Law Enforcement

Provide high quality public safety services to ensure a safe community for all in Windsor. (Source: New Goal, Town Staff and Consultants)

Policies

- PFS-6.1 Staffing Benchmark.** The Town shall strive to ensure that law enforcement operations are expanded as the Town's population increases by establishing benchmark standards for evaluating the quality of law enforcement services on an annual basis. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.3.24, modified)
- PFS-6.2 Safety Education.** The Town shall continue to educate the public about crime prevention through programs like the Neighborhood Watch Program within residential areas, the Business Watch Program within commercial and industrial areas, and the Park Watch Program within the community and regional parks. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.3.23, modified)
- PFS-6.3 ~~Application~~ Review Guidelines for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design.** The Town shall ~~have law enforcement personnel review new development applications to identify~~ develop guidelines opportunities to for incorporate incorporating components of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design ~~and during review of new development applications to~~ minimize opportunities for crime to occur. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.3.24)
- PFS-6.4 Law Enforcement Partnership with Schools.** The Town shall continue to maintain a strong partnership with local schools through programs such as the School Resource Office and the Windsor Youth and Family Services. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)
- PFS-6.5 Community Engagement.** The Town shall encourage law enforcement to work cooperatively with businesses, community-based organizations, and other government agencies to preserve the overall quality of life in the Town of Windsor. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)

Fire Protection and Emergency Services

The Windsor Fire Protection District (WFPD), which provides fire protection and emergency medical services in Windsor, is a subsidiary of the Central Fire Authority of Sonoma County. The WFPD provides fire response and emergency medical service to a majority of the town, with the exception of the Shiloh Road area, which is served by Rincon Valley Fire District – also part of the Central Fire Authority of Sonoma County. WFPD has two fire stations located within Town Limits strategically placed on either side of U.S. Highway 101. The District is comprised of one Fire Chief, one Fire Marshal, six fire captains, and six engineer firefighters. The policies in this section are meant to ensure an adequate number of firefighters to serve the town’s population, and improve on the safety of Windsor residents, businesses, and visitors.

Goal PFS-7: Fire Protection and Emergency Services

Provide high quality fire and emergency response to prevent the loss of life, injury, and property. (Source: New Goal, Consultants)

Policies

- PFS-7.1 Insurance Services Office (ISO) Rating.** The Town shall seek to maintain the existing Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 3 within Town limits. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.3.25, modified)
- PFS-7.2 Fire Response Time Goal.** The Town shall strive to maintain a five-minute fire suppression response time throughout the Sphere of Influence. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.3.26, modified)
- PFS-7.3 Interagency Coordination.** The Town should coordinate with Windsor Fire Protection District and with Rincon Valley Fire Protection District regarding the provision of fire suppression services. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.3.25, modified)
- PFS-7.4 Application Review.** To minimize fire hazards, firefighting personnel should be routinely involved in the review of new development applications. In particular, the Town should review development applications for the adequacy of emergency access, street widths and turning radii, fire hydrant locations, fireflow requirements, and water storage and pressure needs. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.3.27)
- PFS-7.5 Fire Prevention.** The Town shall require all development to provide onsite fire suppression measures and/or management of surrounding vegetation to provide minimum clearance between the structure and the vegetation. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.3.28, modified)
- PFS-7.6 Emergency Response Coordination.** The Town shall continue to provide for a coordinated approach to paramedic-level emergency using firefighters and paramedics. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.3.30)
- PFS-7.7 Operational Area Emergency Partnership.** The Town shall continue to coordinate with the Sonoma County Operational Area Emergency Council to develop and ensure emergency preparedness procedures and guidelines for the region. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)



PFS-7.8 Emergency Center Siting. The Town shall ensure critical facilities such as fire, police, and emergency response facilities, not be sited in areas subject to ground rupture and severe groundshaking from earthquakes, and flooding during a 100-year storm, unless there are no practicable alternative sites. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.3.29)

Franchise Utilities

Utility service is a daily necessity that Town businesses and residents rely on for gas, electric, and telecommunication services. The Town has made great strides through partnerships with local and regional utility providers to ensure an efficient system to adequately serve the community. The policies in this section seek to build upon these partnerships to create a safe and resilient utility network for future residents of the Town. Policies related to energy conservation are included in the Environmental Resources Element.

Goal PFS-8: Franchise Utilities

Provide a safe, adequate, and reliable utility network. (Source: New Goal,)

Policies

- PFS-8.1 Undergrounding.** The Town shall require that utility distribution and transmission lines for all new development be placed underground except for high voltage power lines and except in those specific areas where undergrounding of existing overhead lines for the entire area is deemed by Council to be impractical. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.4.15 modified)
- PFS-8.2 Transmission Line Placement.** The Town shall encourage the use of existing transmission corridors for new lines, except in the case of electrical transmission lines over 500 kV, which for safety reasons shall be separated from existing corridors by at least 500 yards. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.4.16)
- PFS-8.3 Community Choice Aggregation (CCA).** So long as a local CCA entity is viable, The Town shall continue to participate in the regional Community Choice Aggregation Program to provide customers a choice of power providers and green energy options. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)

Parks and Recreation

Windsor has an abundance of high quality recreational areas, facilities, parks, streetscapes and open spaces. The Town has 19 parks totaling over 110 acres, and has access to three regional parks owned and operated by Sonoma County. Approximately 45 acres of athletic fields, turf and landscapes in 6 parks are irrigated with recycled water. The Parks and Recreation Department oversees all park development, operations and maintenance, including recreational programs and special events. The policies in this section seek to build upon the success of Windsor and its recreational opportunities by promoting adequate accessibility, siting, and development standards for parks and recreation programs to ensure a robust and sustainable parks and recreation system for all residents and visitors. [The](#)

Environmental Resources Element contains additional policies to promote appropriate public access to creeks, wetlands, and other natural areas.

Goal PFS-9: Parks and Recreation

Provide a high quality and diversified park system, including recreational programs and cultural events, to enrich the quality of life for all Windsor residents and visitors. (New Goal, Town Staff and Consultants)

Policies

- PFS-9.1 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.** The Town shall maintain, implement and periodically update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, to ensure the recommended parks, facilities and programs are funded and adequately serving the population. (Source: New Policy, Existing General Plan)
- PFS-9.2 Park System.** The Town shall strive to provide high quality, integrated and functional system of parks. (Source: Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Policy P1.1)
- PFS-9.3 Connectivity.** The Town shall encourage the connection of parks, including County parks, creek network, recreation facilities, and schools via off-street bicycle and pedestrian trails. (Source: Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Policy P3.2)
- PFS-9.4 Accessibility.** The Town should ensure equitable and convenient access to parks and open space within a 5-minute walk for all Windsor residents. (Source: Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Policy P3.1)
- PFS-9.5 Park Standard.** The Town shall provide five acres of parkland per 1,000 population, in which 2.5 acres should be dedicated to neighborhood parks and 2.5 acres dedicated to community parks, in order to meet the community's needs for active and passive recreation. (Source: Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Goal 2 Policy P.2.1)
- PFS-9.6 Park Facilities.** The Town shall encourage the development of facilities that foster active participation, are accessible, and affordable. (Source: Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Goal 5)
- PFS-9.7 Special Service Facilities.** The Town shall provide special service facilities that serve a single recreation function, the recreational needs of a special population, and/or indoor recreational facilities. These facilities should be on or adjacent to parks or existing school sites. Other facilities desirable in Windsor include, but are not limited to:
- a. Aquatic Center, pool, or splash pad
 - b. Multi-use Recreation Center or Gym
 - c. Trails, Walking, and Biking Paths
 - d. Restrooms
 - e. Dog Parks
 - f. Tennis Courts/Pickleball



- g. Scooter, BMX Area, or additional Skate Park (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.3.6)
 - h. Community Gardens
- PFS-9.8 Park and Recreation Programming.** The Town shall continue to build and sustain partnerships to provide program expansion, use of existing spaces for activities, share resources and pursue opportunities for joint programming related to wellness programs, nutrition, health, and sports exercise. (Source: Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Policy P6.2 modified)
- PFS-9.9 Park Service Areas.** The Town shall strive to prioritize the provision of additional park space in underserved areas with a goal of a service area between ¼ to ½ mile. (Source: Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Policy P3.3 modified)
- PFS-9.10 Park Level of Service.** The Town shall strive to maintain existing resources at a desired service level for community purpose. (Source: Parks and Recreation Master Plan, G11)
- PFS-9.11 Park Siting.** The Town shall require any new sites being considered for development as a park should meet the following usability standards:
- a. The topography and land configuration should be suitable to accommodate the park's proposed uses.
 - b. The site should have or be able to handle safe pedestrian and bicycle access.
 - c. The site should be visible from the street to enhance enjoyment of the park by people driving by and to facilitate informal surveillance by nearby residents to deter crime.
 - d. Noise generated by park use should be mitigated to avoid disturbing adjacent residents.
 - e. Lighting should be designed to limit light and glare impacts on adjacent residents.
 - f. New pParks should be buffered from adjacent residents through the use of fences, landscaping, or other means., to prohibit undesired access to private property.
 - g. ~~When-Where~~ possible, park perimeters should be adjacent to a public road so that nearby development can provide eyes on the park. Locating park perimeters adjacent to blank walls, garages, and Rear yard fences along the periphery of parks should be avoided because they do not provide the eyes on the park needed for public safety. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.3.5)

- PFS-9.12 Park Dedication.** The Town shall require a dedication of land and/or contribution of in-lieu fees to meet the park requirements for all new residential subdivisions in Windsor. The total contribution shall be equivalent to the provision of 5 acres of land for each 1,000 persons projected to live in the proposed development. Land area for park dedication shall be based on net acreage excluding any streets. Any park or recreation facility constructed as part of a private development, and intended solely for use by residents of the development, is not considered a public park, and the property owner/developer will still be required to contribute in-lieu park fees or land. Privately owned parks shall be maintained by property owner/developer. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.3.7)
- PFS-9.13 Joint School Facilities.** The Town shall encourage new parks to be located next to school sites in order to maintain and expand Master Joint Use Agreement with the Windsor Unified School District to allow for joint use of combined school/park facilities. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.3.8 modified)
- PFS-9.14 Park Revenue.** The Town shall secure annual adequate funding for park maintenance, while considering revenue-generating opportunities in developing and managing park and recreation facilities. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.3.9 modified)
- PFS-9.15 Trail Maintenance.** The Town shall encourage the establishment, maintenance, and long term security of continuous trails and sites for related amenities. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.3.11)
- PFS-9.16 Park Maintenance.** The Town shall continue to increase maintenance efficiencies for parks and facilities. (Source: Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Policy 11.2)
- PFS-9.17 Creekside Development.** The Town shall encourage appropriate creekside areas be developed for linear parks, recreation, trails, and other public uses consistent with public safety and neighborhood security and taking into consideration a design that would minimize water quality impacts to sensitive areas. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.3.10 modified)
- PFS-9.18 Access to Public Waterways and Wetlands.** The Town shall encourage public access to stretches of publicly owned creeks as well as privately-owned wetlands, where appropriate and consistent with sound resource management practices. Such access should include walking and biking trails and interpretative markers wherever possible. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy C.2.3, modified)
- PFS-9.1819 Community Engagement.** The Town shall continue to solicit community participation from all ages and socio-economic demographics in evaluating and planning park and recreation facilities, major renovations, program expansions, and services. (Source: Policy 7.7 modified, Parks and Recreation Master Plan)



PFS-9.1920 **Keiser Park Master Plan.** The Town shall implement the Keiser Park Master Plan, based on community input, to accommodate an Aquatics Center, multi-generational Community Center, and expansion of parkland. (Source: Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Policy 5.4)

PFS-9.2021 **Landscape and Lighting District Escalation Clause.** The Town shall incorporate escalation clauses in all future landscape and lighting districts to keep pace with inflation and maintain the service level required to sustain buildings and facilities. (Source: Parks and Recreation Master Plan, R5.6.5)

PFS-9.2122 **Landscape and Lighting District Assessment.** The Town shall reassess the long-term viability of Landscape and Lighting Districts without escalator clauses and how the deficit will be addressed. As part of the assessment, the Town shall consider seeking modification of existing Landscape and Lighting Assessment Districts to include escalation clauses and one-time adjustments to address costs of new community facilities. (Source: Parks and Recreation Master Plan, R5.6.6)

PFS-9.2223 **Creation of HOA's for Park Maintenance.** The Town shall work with Community Development to encourage the formation of HOAs and assessment districts in new developments to provide maintenance of new neighborhood parks and landscaping. (Source: Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Policy R11.3.45)

Education and Libraries

The Town of Windsor is served by the Windsor Unified School District (WUSD) which operates eight schools, including two charter schools. There is also a private school located in the Town. The WUSD employs over 450 people, including over 230 teachers. The Windsor Regional Library is one of 13 branches within the Sonoma County Library system and provides education activities, reading, and writing programs for children and adults. Policies in this section support the continued partnership between the Town and the WUSD, the development of new schools for existing and future growth areas, and the replacement of the existing Windsor Regional Library with a facility suited to meet the current and projected demographics and needs of its service area.

Goal PFS-10: Education and Libraries

Provide Windsor with distinguished schools, programs, and learning opportunities. (Source: New Goal, Consultants)

Policies

PFS-10.1 WUSD Partnership. The Town shall continue to confer with and work jointly with the Windsor Unified School District to ensure the adequacy of sites for schools. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.3.17)

PFS-10.2 School District Siting and Design Criteria. The Town shall encourage the Windsor Unified School District to consider the following siting and design criteria in the development of new schools:

- a) centrally located within or adjacent to residential neighborhoods and within the projected attendance area to minimize walking distances and the number of students who would have to cross a major street to reach the school;
- b) located with direct access to an existing or planned Crosstown Street, as well as direct or indirect access to a second road with approximately 50 percent of the perimeter adjacent to a public road whenever possible;
- c) conveniently and safely accessible by pedestrians and bicyclists; and
- d) use of recycled water, solar panels, and other methods for conserving water and energy;

The Town shall encourage the School District to take into account the EPA School Siting Guidelines when considering the location and design of new schools (Source: New Policy based on Existing General Plan, Policy E.3.17, modified)

PFS-10.23 School District Facility Planning. The Town shall continue to forward all residential development proposals to the School District for review with regard to school capacity and potential school sites. For any proposed development project, if the School District reports that any school serving that project will be unable to accommodate students from the development project, as shown on a School Facility Plan approved by the School District's governing board and filed with the Town Clerk, then the project shall not be considered for approval by the Planning Commission until a report prepared by the Town's Community Development Director is presented to the Commission and Town Council disclosing potential impacts on the School District and future availability of schools and school sites, including financing ability, to serve the project. (Source: Existing General Plan, Implementation Program E.3:9)

PFS-10.34 New Library. The Town shall encourage the replacement of the existing Windsor Regional Library in Downtown adjacent to existing public facilities, parks, schools, and/or the government center through the Library JPA facilities master planning process, in order to concentrate community activity and cultural attractions near the Civic Center and co-locate uses for cost-effective and efficient use of parking and civic infrastructure. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)

Windsor is a member of the Sonoma County Library Joint Powers Authority (JPA) and owns the Windsor Regional Library building, which is leased, staffed, and operated by the JPA and serves Windsor as well as Larkfield and Wikiup.



Arts and Culture

Windsor has an eclectic history centered on agriculture and its rural roots as a small farming community. While Windsor has evolved into a diverse town thriving on innovation and ingenuity, it has preserved its history and culture. The Town has embraced its heritage through public art, [music](#), educational programs, and cultural events. The policies in this section promote the continuation of art, [music](#), and cultural events [in Downtown and](#) throughout the community, and the development of public and civic spaces for the community to come together and celebrate its heritage.

Goal PFS-11: Arts and Culture

Provide Windsor residents and visitors access to the arts, [music](#), and cultural events, and programs. (Source: New Goal, Town Staff and Consultants)

Policies

- PFS-11.1 Special Events.** The Town shall continue to encourage community and regional events and festivals on the Town Green, Keiser Park and other public facilities that highlight the culture and heritage of Windsor. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)
- PFS-11.2 Community Public Art.** The Town shall encourage high quality public art throughout Town business areas including Downtown, in addition to public spaces, parks, and trails. (Source: Station Area and Downtown Specific Plan, Policy DES-12, modified)
- PFS-11.3 Art in Parks.** The Town shall encourage opportunities for art, interpretive elements, and education in parks, to the extent feasible. (Source: Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Recommendation R1.1 #9)
- PFS-11.4 Civic Center.** The Town shall encourage the development of a multi-purpose community event space in the heart of Downtown Windsor to host community meetings, cultural events, community theater, and art [and music](#) programs as outlined through the Civic Center Visioning Study. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)
- PFS-11.5 Cultural Institutions and Programs.** The Town shall continue to encourage outreach and partnerships with community organizations, art and cultural groups, and local businesses to attract cultural institutions and art programs. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)
- PFS-11.6 Public Art in New Development.** The Town shall encourage private commercial development to include public art. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)
- PFS-11.7 Community Engagement.** The Town shall encourage community engagement in public art selection (i.e., Public Art Advisory Committee). (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)
- PFS-11.8 Historical Resources.** The Town shall continue to preserve and maintain public historic structures such as the Hembree House Museum and Cunningham House. (Source: New Policy, Town Staff and Consultants)

Social Services

Windsor supports the provision of social services, including child care, food banks, shelters, and employment assistance. This is to ensure residents have access to the best possible care. This is achieved through partnering with local and regional non-profit organizations focusing on enriching the lives of those who live in Windsor. The policies in this section promote continued outreach to provide access to quality health and services.

Goal PFS-12: Social Services

Encourage health and social services to be accessible to all residents (Source: New Goal, Town Staff and Consultants).

Policies

PFS-12.1 Support Social Services. The Town shall support and encourage Sonoma County and non-profit organizations to provide essential social services, and shall ensure that populations in need of social services, including seniors, are aware that services and resources are available in the community by assisting in publicizing information on available programs. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.5.4 modified)

PFS-12.2 Childcare Facilities. The Town shall encourage the development of childcare facilities, both family day care homes and child care centers (recreation and licensed), that are conveniently accessible to residents in all neighborhoods. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.5.6 and E.5.7, combined)

PFS-12.3 Childcare in Non-Residential Areas. The Town shall encourage the development of childcare facilities within commercial and light industrial land use areas to meet the child care needs of employees and residents. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.5.8, modified)

PFS-12.4 Program Development. The Town shall encourage Sonoma County, the North Sonoma County Healthcare District as applicable, Windsor Wellness Partnership, and non-profit organizations to develop programs and facilities that meet unserved social needs, with particular emphasis on general medical and health, the homeless, childcare, and elderly care. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.5.2, modified)

PFS-12.5 Providing Employment. The Town shall encourage Sonoma County and non-profit organizations to cooperate with appropriate institutions and agencies to provide job opportunities for economically, physically, and socially disadvantaged residents. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.5.3)

~~**PFS-12.6 Providing Social Services.** The Town shall support and encourage Sonoma County and non-profit organizations to provide essential social services. (Source: Existing General Plan, Policy E.5.4 modified)~~

~~**PFS-12.7-6**~~ **VolunteeringSupport Volunteer Programs and Local Service Clubs.** The Town shall support volunteer programs and local service clubs, and use volunteer services as a community engagement and outreach tool. (Source: Policy 7.5 modified, Parks and Recreations Master Plan)