


## Environmental Justice & Open Space Element



### Help Shape Fullerton's Future – Take the Open Space & Environmental Justice Survey!

Your feedback will directly guide the goals and policies in Fullerton's Open Space and Environmental Justice Elements. By sharing your thoughts, you'll help create plans that reflect what matters most to our community – cleaner air, safer parks, and healthier neighborhoods.

The City of Fullerton is updating its Open Space Element and creating its first-ever Environmental Justice Element within the General Plan to meet new state requirements. These updates will help ensure everyone in our city has access to healthy, safe, and vibrant spaces.

### What's changing:

- New Environmental Justice Element (Senate Bill 1000):  
Cities must now include environmental justice in their plans -- focusing on reducing health risks, improving community participation, and prioritizing programs in areas that need them most.
- Open Space Element Update (Senate Bill 1425): Updates to parks and green space policies to reflect climate change, access, and future sustainability goals.

The **City of Fullerton** is updating its Open Space Element as part of the General Plan and has now released the Element for Public Review!

Kindly Provide any thoughts or questions on the Public Review Draft By March 20, 2026. Public review comments should be submitted to Yan Gao at [yan.gao@cityoffullerton.com](mailto:yan.gao@cityoffullerton.com).

By sharing your thoughts, you'll help to shape plans that reflect what matters most to our community – cleaner air, safer parks and healthier neighborhoods.

**Update** - The City of Fullerton is working to protect the health and wellbeing of every resident — especially those most impacted by pollution and environmental hazards. We're developing our first-ever Environmental Justice Element as part of a major General Plan update, and we need your input to shape it. Your feedback will directly shape the goals and policies in this plan — don't miss your chance to make your priorities heard. Send your comments to Yan Gao at [yan.gao@cityoffullerton.com](mailto:yan.gao@cityoffullerton.com) by **June 30, 2026**.

**KEY DOCUMENTS:**

[Fullerton Open Space Element](#)

[Fullerton Open Space Element Survey Supplement](#)

[Fullerton Environmental Justice Element](#)

# Community Engagement Summary

## ONLINE SURVEY



642

**Total Survey Participants**

5

**Survey Categories**

*Environmental Justice, Open Space and Conservation, Access, Re-wilding, and Climate Resilience*

35

**Days Live for Responses**

*October 27– November 30, 2025*

5

**Media Channels**

*City Website, City Banner, City Instagram, Email E-Blast, and Digital Display Boards*

## OUTREACH EVENT



150+

**In Person Visitors**

*OktoBOOfest in Fullerton on October 30, 2025*

4

**Hours Connecting**

*In person time connecting with the Community*

2

**Activity Boards**

*Receiving 85 responses*

100+

**Flyers Provided**

*To build awareness on the Process*

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### ONLINE SURVEY

- **642** - Total Survey Participants
- **5** - Survey Categories *Environmental Justice, Open Space and Conservation, Access, Re-wilding, and Climate Resilience*

- **35** - Days Live for Responses *October 27 – November 30, 2025*
- **5** - Media Channels *City Website, City Banner, City Instagram, Email E-Blast, and Digital Display Boards*

#### **OUTREACH EVENT**

- **150+** - In Person Visitors *OktoBOOfest in Fullerton on October 30, 2025*
- **4** - Hours Connecting *In person time connecting with the Community*
- **2** - Activity Boards *Receiving 85 responses*
- **100+** - Flyers Provided *To build awareness on the Process*

# Major Milestones and Deliverables

**Deliverables:**

**Open Space Element Update and Environmental Justice Element**



## Major Milestones and Deliverables

**Deliverables:** Open Space Element Update and Environmental Justice Element

**Timeline:** Kick-off September 2025 → Adopted Elements March 2026

### Milestones (in order along the timeline):

1. **Research and Analysis** (*above the timeline*)
2. **Community Pop-up and Public Survey** (*below the timeline*)

3. **Vision and Policy Development** (*above the timeline*)
4. **Administrative Draft OS and EJ** (*below the timeline*) — ★ **"We are here!"** — **current project status**
5. **Action Plan Draft OS and EJ** (*above the timeline*)
6. **Public Review Draft OS and EJ** (*below the timeline*)
7. **Draft Notice of Exemption OS and EJ** (*above the timeline*)



# 1. HOW ARE THESE ELEMENTS RELATED?

Together, these Elements promote equitable access to healthy environments by ensuring that all communities, especially disadvantaged ones, benefit from protected natural spaces and environmental resources.

## OPEN SPACE ELEMENT



### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Seeks to protect, maintain, and enhance the City's natural resources recreational areas, and green spaces
- Supports environmental sustainability, public health, and community well-being

### REQUIREMENT (SB 1425)

- Address equitable access to open space for all residents, integrate climate resilience strategies, and identify opportunities for rewilding
- Align with other General Plan elements, including Safety and Environmental Justice



TRAILS



PARKS AND OPEN SPACES



RECREATION



NATURE AND WILDLIFE

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT



### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Identifies disadvantaged communities and outlines policies to reduce pollution exposure, improve access to resources, and promote equitable participation in planning decisions

### REQUIREMENT (SB 1000)

- Identifies objectives and policies to:
- Reduce the health risks in disadvantaged communities
  - Promote civil engagement in the public decision-making process
  - Prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities

### GROUPS MOST OFTEN IDENTIFIED AS SOCIALLY VULNERABLE

- LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS
- RACIALLY AND ETHNICALLY DIVERSE COMMUNITIES
- IMMIGRANT AND LINGUISTICALLY ISOLATED POPULATIONS
- RESIDENTS WITH PRE-EXISTING HEALTH CONDITIONS
- GROUPS EXPERIENCING RISK DUE TO AGE OR ABILITY
- AREAS WITH LIMITED ACCESS TO SERVICES



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## **Open Space Element**

### **Goals and Objectives**

- Seeks to protect, maintain, and enhance the City's natural resources recreational areas, and green spaces
- Supports environmental sustainability, public health, and community well-being

### **Requirement (SB 1425)**

- Address equitable access to open space for all residents, integrate climate resilience strategies, and identify opportunities for rewilding
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*Image captions: Trails · Parks and Open Spaces · Recreation · Nature and Wildlife*

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## **Environmental Justice Element**

### **Goals and Objectives**

- Identifies disadvantaged communities and outlines policies to reduce pollution exposure, improve access to resources, and promote equitable participation in planning decisions

### **Requirement (SB 1000)**

#### **Identifies objectives and policies to:**

- Reduce the health risks in disadvantaged communities
  - Promote civil engagement in the public decision-making process
  - Prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities
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## **Groups Most Often Identified as Socially Vulnerable**

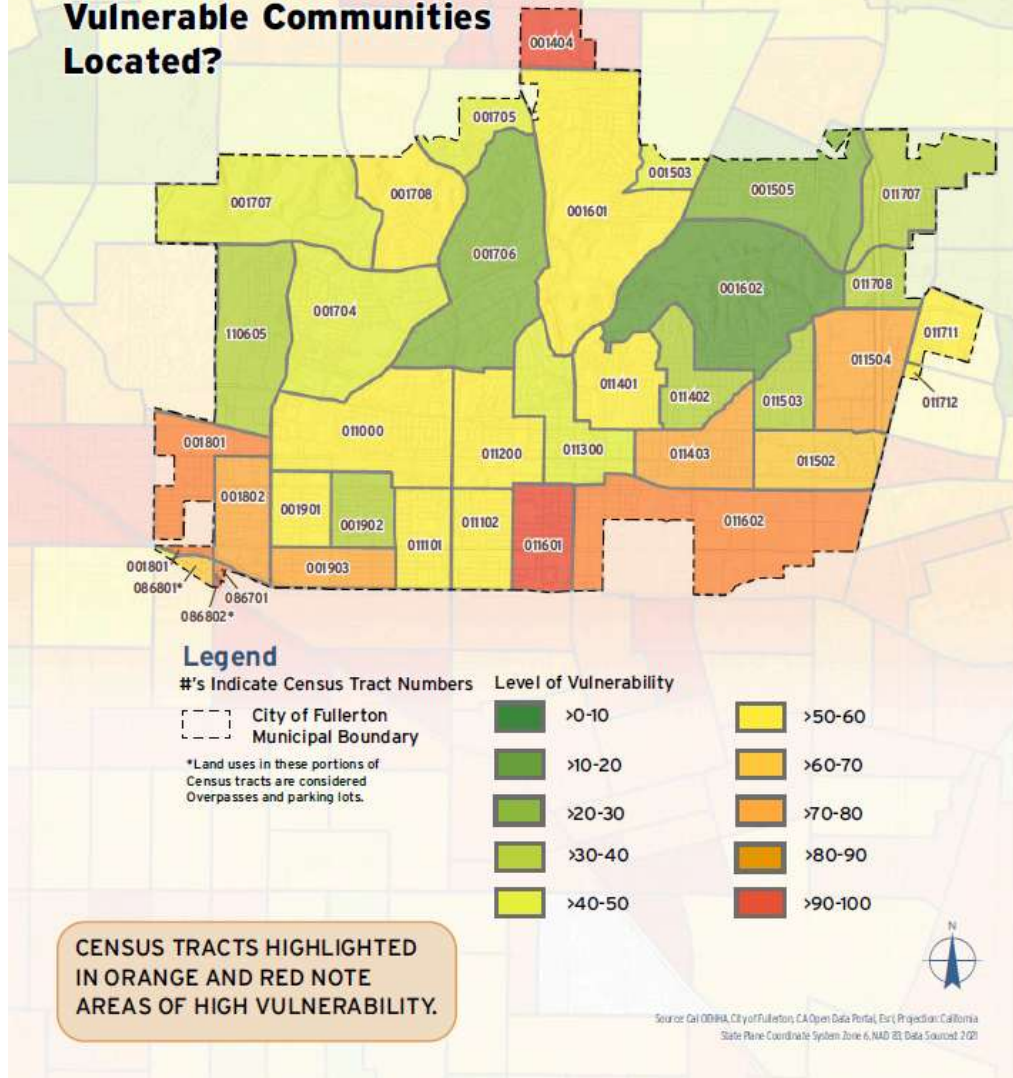
- Low-income households
  - Racially and ethnically diverse communities
  - Immigrant and linguistically isolated populations
  - Residents with pre-existing health conditions
  - Groups experiencing risk due to age or ability
  - Areas with limited access to services
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***City of Fullerton Open Space and Environmental Justice Elements***



## 2. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

### Where are the Socially Vulnerable Communities Located?



### HOW IS SOCIAL VULNERABILITY MEASURED?

The CalEnviroScreen composite score is a measure developed by California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment to identify communities that face the greatest environmental and health burdens. It combines data from 21 indicators grouped into two main categories:

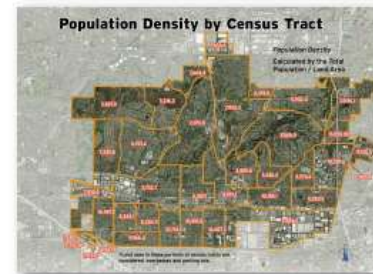
- 1) Pollution Burden**- Includes environmental exposures such as air pollution and contaminated drinking water, as well as environmental effects like hazardous waste sites and groundwater threats
- 2) Population Characteristics**- Covers sensitive populations—such as children, the elderly, and individuals with health conditions—and socioeconomic factors including poverty, low educational attainment, and unemployment

### OTHER METRICS TO CONSIDER



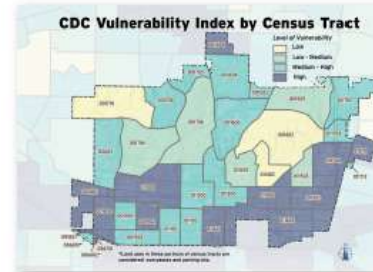
#### ACCESS TO TRAILS AND PARKS

Limited access to parks and green areas is considered a population vulnerability factor that can exacerbate health and environmental burdens in disadvantaged communities.



#### POPULATION DENSITY

Population density can be used in the Environmental Justice Element to identify census tracts with high concentrations of people that also exhibit elevated levels of environmental vulnerability.



#### VULNERABILITY INDEX

The CDC's Social Vulnerability Index is a tool that uses census data to identify communities that may be more vulnerable to disasters and public health emergencies based on socioeconomic and demographic factors.

Scan the QR Code to see larger versions of these maps!



Where are the Socially Vulnerable Communities Located?

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### **How is Social Vulnerability Measured?**

The CalEnviroScreen composite score is a measure developed by California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment to identify communities that face the greatest environmental and health burdens. It combines data from 21 indicators grouped into two main categories:

1. **Pollution Burden** – Includes environmental exposures such as air pollution and contaminated drinking water, as well as environmental effects like hazardous waste sites and groundwater threats.
  2. **Population Characteristics** – Covers sensitive populations such as children, the elderly, and individuals with health conditions — and socioeconomic factors including poverty, low educational attainment, and unemployment.
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### **Other Metrics to Consider**

**Access to Trails and Parks** Limited access to parks and green areas is considered a population vulnerability factor that can exacerbate health and environmental burdens in disadvantaged communities.

**Population Density** Population density can be used in the Environmental Justice Element to identify census tracts with high concentrations of people that also exhibit elevated levels of environmental vulnerability.

**Vulnerability Index** The CDC's Social Vulnerability Index is a tool that uses census data to identify communities that may be more vulnerable to disasters and public health emergencies based on socioeconomic and demographic factors.

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**Census tracts highlighted in orange and red note areas of high vulnerability.**

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*Source: Cal OEHHA, City of Fullerton, CA Open Data Portal, Esri. Projection: California State Plane Coordinate System Zone 6, NAD 83. Data Sourced: 2021.*