



# ATHERTONIAN

AN ATHERTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

2024 SUMMER EDITION



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## CITY MANAGER UPDATE

Welcome to the latest edition of the Athertonian Newsletter! This month, we're excited to update you on a variety of important topics, projects and events happening in the Town.

This Spring, the Town celebrated Earth Day with a community event promoting environmental stewardship.

This Summer, the Atherton Police Department welcomes their newest hire, as they also prepare to make improvements to the Holbrook Palmer Park camera system. Finally, the FY 2024/25 budget has been approved, with several exciting public projects set to begin later this year.

Our community partners also have some exciting updates to share. The Atherton Garden Guild has generously donated and installed plant labels to beautify the Town Center's botanical areas. The Atherton Arts Foundation has a new exhibit in Town Hall and a fresh class schedule.

We hope you stay connected and engaged with our ongoing efforts to enhance our community. Your involvement is key to our collective success. Thank you for being a part of our Town's journey towards a better future.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### JULY

- July 11: Summer Concert Series with music by Take 2 Band
- July 19: Summer Movie Series

### AUGUST

- August 6: National Night Out
- August 10: Summer Concert Series with music by Lucky Devils Band

### SEPTEMBER

- September 21: Bike Rodeo

### OCTOBER

- October 2: Coffee with a Cop
- TBD: Atherton PD Halloween Event

### DECEMBER

- Town Holiday Party
- Annual Tree Lighting & Holiday Celebration
- Atherton City Council Re-Organization
- Toy Drive for Selby School
- Shop with a Cop



## COMMUNITY SURVEY: YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED!

On May 15, 2024, the City Council awarded a contract to Probolsky Research to conduct a community survey, beginning in early 2025. Atherton residents can expect to receive notification from Probolsky Research on behalf of the Town through mail, phone calls, and online invitations via email or text message.

The goals of the survey include:

- Measuring attitudes towards Town services and programs
- Determining residential priorities and areas of concern
- Receiving feedback on key policy issues or priorities

This initial community survey will provide a helpful benchmark for conducting future surveys, as a means of evaluating progress in key measures. Input collected from this survey will help shape and inform the Town's legislative and budgetary priorities for the coming years.

Questions for the survey will be developed with the City Council Subcommittee, staff and representatives from the Town's key stakeholder groups, including:

- Town Committee
- Town Designated Groups
- Ad Hoc Community Groups

**Stay tuned for more in the coming months!**



## ATHERTON CELEBRATES EARTH DAY 2024

On April 21, Atherton residents and visitors gathered to celebrate the Town's Annual Earth Day Festival at Holbrook Palmer Park. This event is planned and hosted by the Environmental Programs Committee, staff, and a range of amazing volunteers. With a variety of engaging activities and informative booths, the event is a beloved Athertonian tradition, reminding our community what we can do to take better care of our planet.

Sheep from the UC-Davis Sheep Mowers Project faced off in an environmentally friendly mowing competition against the Robotic Lawnmowers by Husqvarna, provided by South Bay Turf and Equipment Rental. The duel was designed to showcase alternative yard maintenance technologies in anticipation of the ban on use of gas-powered lawn equipment effective in Town as of July 1, 2024. Event participants declared the sheep to be the woolly winners that afternoon.

The festival hosted several exhibits celebrating the environment in both the arts and the sciences. Art by Amber Smith, Liz Broekhuysse, Jerry Barrack, Jim Caldwell, local felting and botanical artists and students from Sacred Heart High School were put on display for the community to admire. The Beetle Lady also made a special appearance with a pop-up museum featuring live bug terrariums and the opportunity to hold tarantulas.

The community also enjoyed watching Town officials, police and fire staff take part in leaf blower bowling, where competitors had to blow a ball into bowling pins using an electric leaf blower.

A variety of vendors and local organizations provided educational resources and connected with attendees at their booths. Participating groups included Atherton Youth Advisory Group, Bay Area Youth Climate Summit, San Mateo Youth Climate Action, the San Mateo County Sustainability Department, Peninsula Clean Energy, GreenWaste, Peninsula Humane Society, Surf Rider and more.

Attendees of all ages appreciated interactive demonstrations from ADAPT with their Get Ready Atherton! station. The ADAPT Team provided the opportunity for kids to try putting out a fire. The Threads of Change fashion station invited guests to practice sustainability in style with designer thrifting from Louis Vuitton, Gucci, Lululemon and more. 100% of the proceeds went towards underprivileged communities.

The 2024 Atherton Earth Day Festival was a sure success, building community through our passion to protect our natural environment. Join us next year for another celebration of sustainability in Atherton.

## ATHERTON CENTENNIAL TREE GIVEAWAY

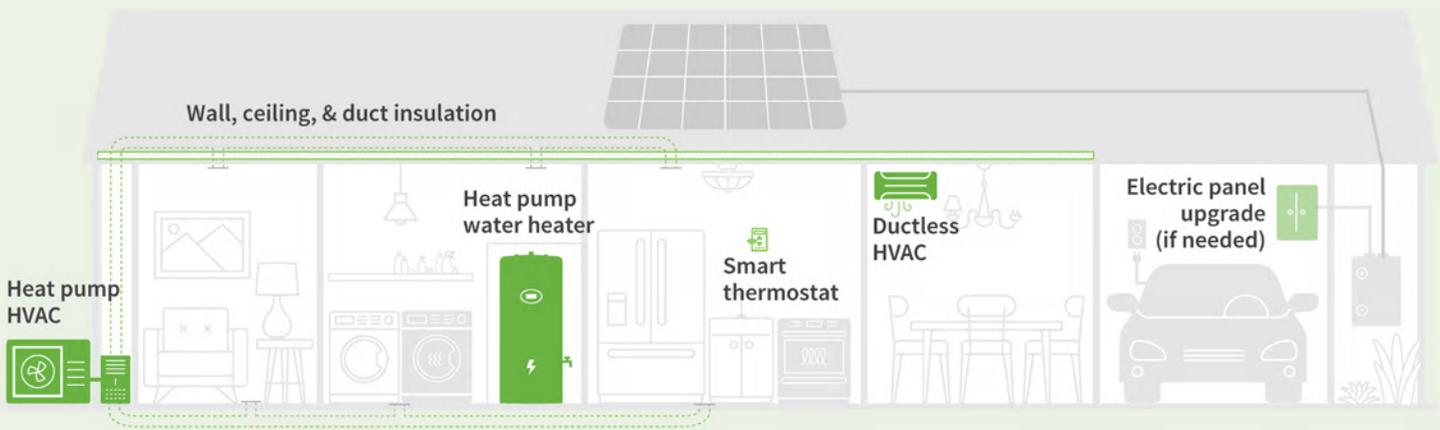
The Town gave away 100 Oak trees on September 24th, 2023, for the Town's Centennial celebration. If you received a tree, have you planted it yet? If so, please share a photo of your tree with us on social media by tagging us [@townofatherton](#) on Instagram.

If you have any questions about planting, please contact the Town Arborist Sally Bentz at: [sbentz@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:sbentz@ci.atherton.ca.us). In person counter hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.



## Remodeling? Get thousands of dollars in rebates and zero interest loans to switch from gas to electric!

The Town of Atherton and Peninsula Clean Energy encourage residents and contractors to switch from gas to clean electricity for safer, healthier homes and reduced carbon emissions.



### Zero percent loans up to \$10,000

To qualify for a zero percent loan, your projects **must include either a heat pump water heater or a heat pump for heating and air conditioning**. Other eligible measures include electric panel upgrades (if needed for the heat pumps), smart thermostats, insulation and weatherization for walls, ceilings, and ducts. Visit [PenCleanEnergy.com/zero](https://PenCleanEnergy.com/zero).

### Heat pump water heater (HPWH) rebate up to \$3,000

Don't wait until your water heater fails! If your water heater is at least 10 years old or you are planning a remodel consider a HPWH. Nearly 60% of the methane gas used by homes is for heating water. Heat pump water heaters are clean, safe, all-electric, and more than 3X as efficient as gas water heaters. Learn more at [PenCleanEnergy.com/water-heating](https://PenCleanEnergy.com/water-heating).

**Heat pump heating and air conditioning rebate up to \$3,500** Planning to install air conditioning, remodel, have an old furnace, or just want to switch from methane gas? If so, consider a heat pump heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system: it provides both heating and cooling. Heat pumps are clean, safe, and all-electric and more than 3X as efficient as gas heaters. Visit [PenCleanEnergy.com/heating-and-cooling](https://PenCleanEnergy.com/heating-and-cooling).

### Loan terms

**Maximum loan:** \$10,000  
**APR:** 0%  
**Credit check:** None  
**Repayment term:**  
 2 to 10 years. You choose!

Learn more about these programs and clean, all-electric homes at [PenCleanEnergy.com/OFC](https://PenCleanEnergy.com/OFC) or scan the QR code:





## A CALL TO ACTION FOR ATHERTON RESIDENTS

Climate change is drastically affecting our natural ecosystem—endangering both humans and wildlife. The Town is committed to helping build a more environmentally friendly future with its Climate Action Plan and is calling on residents to join in the battle against this existential threat.

The ongoing changes in our climate are being caused by greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. As GHGs are emitted into the atmosphere, they function like a blanket, trapping heat which would otherwise be radiated back into space. Since the 1800s, human consumption of fossil fuels has caused temperatures to rise at an unprecedented rate. Stanford professor and Atherton Environmental Programs Committee Member Gregory Loew points out in *Global warming and global action at COP28*, “human activities annually emit about 50 billion tons or 50 Gigatons of greenhouse gasses or equivalent CO<sub>2</sub>.”

Beyond the changes in average temperature, climate change is directly linked to rising sea levels, increased water scarcity, catastrophic storms, melting polar ice caps, decreasing biodiversity and more. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, at least 10,967 species are at increased risk of extinction as a result of climate change. Absent action, climate change will drastically alter Mother Earth as we know it.

In 2023, average global temperatures reached 1.48° C above the pre-industrial average. This puts current global temperatures dangerously close to what climate scientists designated the critical warming threshold — 1.5° C above pre-industrial global average surface temperatures. As the world inches closer to this benchmark, the effects of climate change are becoming more apparent. As Loew notes, “Unless the countries that produce the most greenhouse gasses make draconian cuts soon, we may well be headed towards a 2° C rise or more by 2050, which could be disastrous.”

In 2023, a historic 85,000 participants gathered in Dubai for the 28th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), which

featured the first ‘global stocktake’ assessing the world’s efforts to address climate change since the 2015 Paris Agreement. The results of the assessment were clear; progress towards reducing GHG emissions have been too slow to achieve the goals outlined in 2015.

According to Loew, in order to limit warming to 1.5° C above pre-industrial levels, we must reduce global GHG emissions “43% percent by 2030, 60% by 2035 relative to the 2019 level and reaching net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.” To accomplish this, COP28 developed a set of strategic initiatives to rapidly transition from fossil fuels to renewables and decrease global GHG emissions.

However, the responsibility of tackling climate change doesn’t stop with international actors, even small communities like Atherton can step up and take action to reduce GHG emissions. Taking small steps towards sustainability like limiting energy consumption and switching to renewable energy sources can help to reduce our community’s contribution to increased warming.

The Town has reiterated its commitment to prioritizing environmental sustainability and incentivizing residents to do the same. Updates to the Atherton Climate Action Plan (CAP) outline our goal of reducing the Town’s carbon emissions by 49% by 2030.

In order to achieve this, the Town is:

- Implementing a gas-powered leaf blower ban effective July 1, 2024
- Partnering with San Mateo County to provide resources for organic waste recycling
- Encouraging home electrification through its partnership with Peninsula Clean Energy

For more information on the Town’s climate initiatives and how you can help, check out the Town’s sustainability dashboard by visiting [ClimateAction.ci.atherton.ca.us](https://ClimateAction.ci.atherton.ca.us).



## ATHERTON PD WELCOMES NEWEST HIRE

Estrella Madrigal is Atherton's newest civilian police employee. She was hired this year as the Town's Support Services Coordinator. In this role, Estrella is asked to wear

many hats. Her responsibilities include managing APD's Property and Evidence room, collecting and destroying evidence when appropriate, working with the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office to file cases for the police department and managing the maintenance for all of APD's patrol vehicles and motorcycles.

Estrella is bilingual and often serves as an interpreter for the department. Before coming to Atherton, Estrella worked as a Records and Court Liaison with the Redwood City Police Department after starting her law enforcement career there as an Explorer in her teens.

She is a welcome addition to our APD family, and the Town is grateful for her arrival!



## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Join us on Tuesday, August 6 at 6 PM for Atherton's annual National Night Out event at Holbrook Palmer Park! This community-building event is designed to strengthen neighborhood spirit and enhance the relationship between residents and law enforcement. It's a night to get to know your neighbors, meet our dedicated police officers, and enjoy a variety of fun activities.

Thousands of communities take part in National Night Out across the country each year. National Night Out is a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together to promote safety and unity.

Residents will be able to enjoy food and refreshments while mingling with their neighbors and officers in a relaxed, informal setting featuring games and activities. The Atherton Library will be there hosting a variety of activities including bouncy houses and music. Atherton's National Night Out is more than just a fun evening; it is an opportunity for residents to hear important safety tips and updates from APD staff, ensuring that the community is well-informed and prepared. By joining us, you can contribute to making Atherton a safer, more connected community.

We look forward to seeing you at National Night Out! The event is free and open to all. Please RSVP at [Atherton.News/National-Night-Out](https://www.athertonnews.com/national-night-out) or by scanning the QR code below. We hope to see you there for a night of community spirit and safety awareness!



## APD 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Atherton Police Department (APD) strives to provide transparency on police activities, departmental policies, training materials, and agency practices at every opportunity. In accordance with this goal, APD produces an annual report to catalog and highlight the agency's accomplishments and activities over the past year.

The report is a comprehensive review of departmental activities, crime statistics, budget, important investigations and noteworthy stories. It includes audits and inspections conducted by APD leadership to ensure that procedures, practices, and employees adhere to departmental policy and goals.



Scan the QR code or visit [Atherton.News/2023-Annual-Police-Report](https://www.athertonnews.com/2023-Annual-Police-Report) to view the 2023 Annual Report.



For more information, please contact the Atherton Police Department at **(650)-752-0503** or at [jfrew@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:jfrew@ci.atherton.ca.us).

# SHARE THE ROAD FROM THE ATHERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Let's share the road safely. Drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians are depending on you to be the best version of yourself on the road. We're all going places so let's look out for one another and share the road, share the responsibility.

## STATISTICS

**1,108** – Pedestrians killed on California roads in 2021.

**77%** – Increase in pedestrian fatalities on California roads since 2010.

**61%** – Increase in bicyclist fatalities on California roads since 2010.

**46%** – Percent of bicyclist fatalities and serious injuries caused by vehicle failure to yield, improper turning and unsafe speed.

**77%** – Percent of pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries occur when it is dark in 2021.

## RESOURCES

- For safety tips on how to be a pedestrian: [PedBikeInfo.org](https://pedbikeinfo.org)
- For helpful tips to keep your children safe as a pedestrian: [SafeKids.org](https://safekids.org)
- For additional safety tips, research and statistics on pedestrians: [NHTSA.gov](https://nhtsa.gov)
- Learn how to get your child to school safely: [SafeRoutesInfo.org](https://saferoutesinfo.org)
- Learn how to take action to create safe roads: [BikeLeague.org/Take-The-Pledge](https://bikeleague.org/take-the-pledge)



Scan the QR Code to access all of the resources mentioned above.



## PEDESTRIANS

- Be predictable. Use crosswalks when available.
- Be aware of approaching vehicles and practice due care.
- Always walk facing traffic.
- Be visible. Wear light colors, reflective material and carry a flashlight.
- Be extra careful crossing at night when it is harder to see or when crossing busier streets with more lanes and higher speed limits.



## DRIVERS

- Follow the speed limit.
- Slow down at intersections.
- Give pedestrians a brake at crosswalks and unmarked corners.
- Respect bicyclists and give them space when passing. As of Jan. 1, 2023, California law now requires drivers to change a lane, when possible, to pass bicyclists.
- If there is not enough room to pass a bicyclist, be patient and wait until it's safe.



## BICYCLISTS

- Use hand signals.
- Always use lights at night – at least front white light and rear red reflector.
- Wear a helmet.
- Bicyclists must travel in the same direction of traffic and have the same requirements as any slow-moving vehicle.
- Use the bike lane, if available, unless making a left turn, passing, or approaching a place where a right turn is allowed.
- Stop for pedestrians. Bicyclists must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians within marked crosswalks or within unmarked crosswalks at intersections.



## A LOOK AT THE TOWN'S BUDGET FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

In order to promote financial security and continue providing critical services to support an excellent quality of life for Athertonians, the Atherton City Council conducts annual planning sessions to devise a budget for each fiscal year ahead. The goal of this process is to create a fiscally sustainable budget to accommodate the Town's operational and infrastructure needs. The budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25 presents a plan for accomplishing the City Council's goals and objectives with consideration of Town resources. This upcoming year, Town priorities will focus on Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Master Plan projects and reducing the Town's long-term liabilities.

The CIP is a five-year program that proposes projects to analyze, repair or improve major infrastructure. Priority projects are derived from the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan, Drainage Master Plan, Green Infrastructure Plan and Road Improvement Plan.

This year's CIP recommends:

**\$2.79 million** for Drainage Improvements Program

**\$2 million** for Park Improvements Program

**\$1.4 million** for the Road Maintenance Program

**\$600,000** for the Traffic Safety Improvements Program

And **\$250,000** for the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan Update

The total proposed allocation for the Fiscal Year 2024/25 Capital Improvement Program is \$7.36 million.

CIP funding is derived from a variety of sources such as Measures A, Measure M and Measure W Funds, as well as funds from the State and the Town's General Fund. FY 24-25 General Fund revenues are projected at **\$23,001,022** and expenditures are projected at **\$20,774,676**, reflecting a single year surplus of **\$2,226,346**. The Town plans to allocate **\$4,450,000** from the General Fund Reserves towards the Capital Improvement Fund for priority projects outlined in the Drainage, Bike & Pedestrian, Streets and Park Master plans.

Special Revenue and Internal Service Funds are "restricted funds" which may only be spent on a specific purpose. The FY 2024/25 budget will allocate specific funds as follows:

### LIBRARY FUND

**\$650,902** for operations, utilities, maintenance costs and development of spaces

**\$18,852** for building maintenance and oversight of Library facilities

**\$300,000** for other supplies and materials for development of community spaces and facility improvements

### EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT FUND

is an internal depreciation fund for the replacement of large assets such as computer equipment, vehicles, emergency equipment, etc.

**\$724,620** in total projected expenditures

### THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION FUND

includes costs related to risk management and prevention – safety training, educational materials, and accident prevention programs.

**\$458,287** of expenses in the fund

### THE GENERAL LIABILITY FUND

accounts for the insurance cost of general liability claims and property losses.

**\$714,432** in total projected expenditures

### THE EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND

tracks expenditures across various departments for employment, unemployment, retirement, and healthcare benefits.

**\$345,000** in total projected expenditures

### TENNIS FUND

**\$57,500** in total projected expenditures

Atherton staff and City Council have prepared this budget in line with the Town's goals to maintain fiscal transparency and be forward-thinking, well-managed and well-planned. We look forward to the year ahead where Athertonians can thrive in our Town, supported by fiscally sustainable projects and programs.

# NOVEMBER 2024 ELECTION INFORMATION FOR ATHERTON RESIDENTS

The Town, in partnership with the County of San Mateo, wants to ensure that our community is prepared with the proper resources and information to make your voice heard this election season.

Meeting the July 14 deadline, Council approved a Resolution to call for an election and consolidate with the Statewide Presidential Election at the June 19 Regular Council meeting.

This year's General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5. To be eligible to vote in the upcoming election, your Voter Registration Form must be submitted online by midnight on October 21, 15 days before the election. Mailed Voter Registration Forms must be postmarked no later than October 21 and received by the San Mateo County Registration & Elections Division by the close of the polls on Election Day.

Confirm your registration status:  
[smcacre.gov/Elections/My-Election-Info](https://smcacre.gov/Elections/My-Election-Info)

## You may register to vote if you are:

- ✓ A citizen of the United States
- ✓ **AND** a resident of California
- ✓ **AND** at least 18 years old on or before Election Day
- ✓ **AND** not currently serving a state or federal prison term for the conviction of a felony
- ✓ **AND** not prohibited from voting by a court because of mental incompetency

By October 29, a week before Election Day, the County Elections Official will release a list of voting centers. October 29 is also the final deadline to request a vote by mail ballot. Voting centers will be open for at least eight hours daily (7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day) from November 2 to November 5.

In this upcoming election, Athertonians will have the opportunity to elect positions at the federal, state, county and local level. Two seats on the Governing Board of the Menlo Park City

School District, as well as two positions on the Menlo Park Fire Protection District Board of Directors will be on the ballot. Both of these leadership bodies serve Atherton.

Two City Council terms will expire as of December 2024. Candidates can request and submit nomination papers as of 8 a.m. July 15 through 5 p.m. August 9. In the event an incumbent does not file by 5 p.m. on August 9, the deadline will be extended to 5 p.m. August 14.

We encourage all Athertonians to fulfill their civic duty this November and make their voices heard. Learn more about how to vote on upcoming ballot items by visiting



[smcacre.gov/Elections/Resources-FAQs](https://smcacre.gov/Elections/Resources-FAQs)  
or scanning the QR code.

## ATHERTON GARDEN GUILD DONATES AND INSTALLS PLANT LABELS TO ENHANCE TOWN CENTER'S BOTANICAL BEAUTY

The native plants around Atherton Town Center are now easily identifiable thanks to the Atherton Garden Guild (AGG)! Their dedicated members set out to identify each perennial plant at the new Atherton Town Center and placed one hundred ninety-two easy-to-read, durable, and attractive labels, identifying 25 native species around Atherton Town Center.

The tags include the plant's common and botanical names, creating a fun and interactive community walk-through garden, which deepens the experience. When visitors visit the town center, the plant labels will help visitors identify them, so that they use the community garden as inspiration for their own gardens!

Special thanks go to AGG Past President Joan Sanders for the idea, AGG President Patti Spezzaferro, and Nan Ray for her knowledge of plants, which proved essential for this task. The Guild also credits Suzanne Legallet and Town Arborist Sally Bentz for their horticulture input, and Suzanne Van Ness and Ross Koningstein, for working on the installation.

Founded in 1966, the Atherton Garden Guild AGG, a nonprofit corporation, is an organization for Athertonians interested in home gardening, flower arranging, horticulture, and conservation. The Atherton Garden Guild maintains the rose garden in Holbrook Palmer Park. For more information on the Atherton Garden Guild, please contact President Patti Spezzaferro via email, President of Atherton Garden Guild, at [triziadesign@gmail.com](mailto:triziadesign@gmail.com).

# EL CAMINO REAL COMPLETE STREETS STUDY

In an effort to improve safety and mobility on El Camino Real, earlier this year, the Town commissioned a study to look at how to enhance mobility and travel options along the 1.5-mile stretch between Selby Lane and Valparaiso Avenue. This portion of the El Camino Real corridor lacks sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and accessible transit stops that could provide alternatives to driving and improve access for everyone. This section of El Camino Real also experiences seasonal flooding that presents safety concerns for this regionally-significant travel corridor.

The El Camino Real Complete Streets Corridor Study will identify options to improve mobility and safety for all users

while protecting our neighborhoods from cut-through traffic. The recently completed initial public input phase, which included an online survey and various in-person outreach events, collected information from the community regarding their needs and concerns along the corridor. Visit the project website for information about the project, outreach events, data collected and for updates at [ECRCompleteStreets.com](http://ECRCompleteStreets.com).

The study will result in a Complete Streets Corridor Plan in early 2025 that will identify potential changes to the roadway based on technical analysis, safety and infrastructure requirements, stakeholder input, and conversations with the local community.

## WHAT ARE COMPLETE STREETS?

A "complete street" provides mobility options for people of all ages and abilities, particularly for people who are walking, biking, using personal mobility devices, or riding transit. Complete streets offer several benefits, including enhanced safety and quality of life by providing a balanced variety of options for travel.

The five goals driving the direction of this study are:

### Improved Safety and Quality of Life

Create a plan that prioritizes and enhances safety for all road users, particularly pedestrians and cyclists, while addressing seasonal flooding along the corridor.

### Improved Connectivity

Improve connections between key destinations along El Camino Real for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

### Enhanced Equity and Access

Prioritize equity and access for different types of road users and for people of all ages and abilities.

### Expanded Travel Options

Optimize active transportation options (i.e. walking, cycling) and taking transit to make it more convenient for people to travel without a car.

### Maintaining Town Character

Find context-sensitive solutions that minimize community impacts and optimize local mobility.



What's next? The Town will reach out to the community again this Fall to share conceptual designs and host more conversations about what potential enhancements for El Camino Real could look like. Your feedback will help the Town select which design alternatives work best for our community. The Complete Streets Plan would then go to City Council for review and approval in early 2025.

To learn more about the project and to sign up for email updates, please visit [ECRCompleteStreets.com](http://ECRCompleteStreets.com).



## ATHERTON LIBRARY'S CHILDREN GARDEN



When a majestic Atherton old oak tree comes to the end of its life, it leaves behind remnants that can be repurposed in various ways. From the sturdy trunk to the intricate

branches, every part of the tree tells a story—a story that will continue in our Atherton Library Children's Garden.

We are looking forward to repurposing Atherton's tree remnants by turning them into functional garden pieces. For example, the trunk can be carved into a bench, providing a whimsical yet stylish seating option for our library visitors. Branches can be transformed into trellises to create a canopy gathering space or sculptural accents that can add visual interest amongst the Makerspace deck. The old oak logs can also be cut and mounted on the ground to create a rambling route throughout the garden space.

Old trees are often teeming with life, providing habitats for birds, insects, and other creatures. By incorporating tree remnants into our garden, we can continue to support biodiversity in Atherton. HOLLOWED-OUT TRUNKS can serve as nesting sites for birds, while cut branches can create shelter for small mammals and insects.

As the tree remnants break down over time, they release nutrients into the soil, enriching it and promoting healthy plant growth. By leaving tree stumps in place or using wood chips as mulch, we can improve the fertility of our garden soil naturally, reducing the need for chemical fertilizers.

Perhaps the most beautiful aspect of using tree remnants in the Children's Garden is the opportunity to nurture new life. As the remnants decompose, they create fertile ground for new plants to take root. In this way, the old oak tree lives on, its essence woven into the fabric of our garden for years to come.

In Atherton, trees hold a special place. When an old oak tree reaches the end of its life, it's not the end—it's a new beginning. By repurposing tree remnants in our Atherton Library Children's Garden, we will honor the tree's legacy and create a space that celebrates the beauty of the natural world.



## POETICS OF PLACE: CADDO WILD

Amy Da-Peng King was born and raised in Taipei, Taiwan and began her training in Chinese Brush painting at the age of 13. She moved to California to study fine art at the California College of Arts and Crafts (now College of Arts) in Oakland, CA, earning a B.F.A. degree with honors. There, she studied traditional Western art methods and began integrating Eastern and Western aesthetic perspectives. This exploration of East and West continues to be the foundation for her creative pursuits—she describes her work as a fusion of her lifelong experience in two cultures.

Amy's paintings incorporate the traditional elements of Chinese Brush Painting combined with Western art influences. Today, her work is recognized for its fine brushwork, close attention to detail, and fresh approach to traditional Chinese subject matter.

In 2004, Amy received a grant to spend three months at the China Academy of Art in Hangzhou, China. There, she studied with masters from Tang and Sung Dynasties who inspired and enriched her work tremendously. In 2006, she had the privilege to study under master Pei-Jen Hau and was encouraged to develop her large-scale landscape paintings further.

Amy is a renowned art instructor who has taught private and group brush painting classes in her San Carlos, California studio for over 20 years. She states that giving back to the community is a priority for her and "working to promote cultural literacy through art" is her greatest reward.

"Art has no limit, no boundary. Art is a common language worldwide and a reflection of the time and space we live in. Therefore, I enjoy incorporating traditional Chinese brush painting with my Western art training to create a fusion of both cultures within my work."

See her paintings at the Atherton City Hall through Aug 29, 2024.



**TOWN OF ATHERTON**  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS



**CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION**  
 September 4, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.



**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
 September 18, 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.



**CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION**  
 OCTOBER 2, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.



**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
 OCTOBER 16, 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

**STAY IN TOUCH**



@TownofAtherton

TOWN OF ATHERTON • 650-752-0500 • [WWW.CI.ATHERTON.CA.US](http://WWW.CI.ATHERTON.CA.US)

