



lancaster general plan

environmental justice element

City of Lancaster

Final Draft
February 2022





City of Lancaster, California

Environmental Justice Element

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INTRODUCTION

The State of California defines Environmental Justice as “the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” Fair treatment means that no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental, and commercial operations and policies.

Legal Requirements

In 2016, Senate Bill 1000 amended California Government Code Section 63502 to require cities and counties with disadvantaged communities to incorporate environmental justice (EJ) policies into their general plans. In addition, Government Code Section 65302.10 requires that all general plans identify and analyze Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities (DUCs) outside of the City’s boundaries but within or adjacent to a city’s sphere of influence (SOI). DUCs are defined as inhabited unincorporated areas with 10 or more housing units and a median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide median household income. As of 2020, no DUCs were under consideration for annexation by the City of Lancaster. Appendix A provides more detail on local DUCs, including infrastructure and services, funding mechanisms, and key terms/abbreviations.

Scope and Content of the Environmental Justice Element

The Environmental Justice Element contains a comprehensive set of goals and policies aimed at

increasing the role and influence of historically marginalized populations and reducing their exposure to environmental and health hazards. This Element is structured as follows:

- *Background:* A discussion of environmental justice principles and methodology for identifying Environmental Justice Communities. Lancaster has one identified Environmental Justice Community: Census Tract 9003.
- *Environmental Issues:* An evaluation of baseline (2021) environmental issues within the Environmental Justice Community and surrounding communities, including pollution burden, employment and educational attainment, health and wellness, food insecurity, and park access.
- *Goals and Policies:* The goals, policies, and programs describe how the City of Lancaster will incorporate environmental justice into decision making and support positive outcomes for affected residents.

Relationship to Other General Plan Elements

State law requires that the General Plan and all individual elements collectively form an "integrated,

internally consistent, and compatible statement of policies." The goals, policies, and programs of this Environmental Justice Element are consistent with and build upon the goals, policies, and programs contained in other elements of the Lancaster General Plan.

Public Participation

Public input was a critical component in the development of this Element. The City hosted a range of outreach sessions that captured the participation of a broad range of stakeholders, with a special focus on engaging community members and service providers from the area identified as an Environmental Justice Community in Lancaster. All outreach and engagement activities were held virtually due to COVID-19 social distancing protocols in place during 2020-2021.

Focus Group Meeting

A focus group meeting was conducted on February 24, 2021. Attendees included local social service providers and environmental organizations that provided insight into local environmental justice issues and potential options for implementation interventions. Focus group participants identified priorities for:

- Equitable access to parks and active recreation
- Creative ways to facilitate community participation
- Pedestrian infrastructure, such as sidewalks and safe walking paths, to key destinations
- Addressing food insecurity
- Addressing the needs of unsheltered individuals

Community Workshop

At a community workshop held on March 4, 2021, City staff introduced the Environmental Justice Element to the community, discussed their issues of concern, and solicited ideas for interventions and priorities for

implementation. A concurrent meeting was conducted in Spanish to accommodate Spanish-speaking community members.

To encourage participation, the meeting was widely advertised and included an incentive for a local restaurant gift card give-away drawing for attendees. Advertisement included:

- Mailed postcard to all residents and property owners within the Lancaster Environmental Justice Community
- City's social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram)
- City website and City e-newsletter
- Emails to local service providers, churches, and stakeholders

The community identified these top two priorities regarding environmental justice:

- Better civic engagement and participatory decision making
- Addressing issues regarding the availability of pedestrian, bicycling, and park/open space infrastructure

Community-Based Organization Presentation

The City reached additional residents through Smoke-Free Antelope Valley Coalition, a local advocacy organization working toward creating more smoke-free outdoor areas in Lancaster. On March 8, 2021, during one of Smoke-Free Antelope Valley's monthly meetings, City staff gave a presentation and received feedback from participants about key environmental justice concerns and solutions. Participants indicated that air and water quality were pertinent issues that needed to be addressed in Lancaster.

Online Community Survey

An online community survey was developed to obtain input from residents and other stakeholders who were not able to participate in any of the scheduled meetings or workshops. The online survey was available between February 15 and March 31, 2021, and was structured to replicate the workshop, and was offered in English and Spanish. The City advertised the survey through the same platforms as the community workshop, and daily gift card drawings encouraged broader participation. A total of 487 people who live and/or work in Lancaster filled out completed surveys. A more detailed summary of the results is provided in Appendix B. Survey findings included:

- Unsafe drinking water is a top pollution concern, followed by toxic waste or hazardous facilities and air pollution from vehicles and trucks.
- Lack of access to quality jobs, liveable wages, and higher education are top socioeconomic concerns.
- Lack of community gardens, lack of fresh and affordable food, and concentration of fast-food restaurants are top barriers for accessing health food options.
- The top barriers for accessing parks included park safety, conditions of parks and amenities, and lack of interesting things to do at parks.

Social Equity Commission

The City's Social Equity Commission held a study session on April 21, 2021. The Social Equity Commission's charge is to collect and recommend actions relating to inequities in education, public safety, health and social services, housing and economic development, and other areas of the community. This public session covered proposed key policy directives for the Environmental Justice Element based on public input from the community workshops and survey.

City of Lancaster
HOUSING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND SAFETY ELEMENTS

Environmental Justice Element - Community Workshop
Thursday, March 4, 2021
6 PM

Existing Environmental and Health Conditions

Top pollution issues?

- Unsafe drinking water
- Toxic waste or hazardous facilities
- Contaminated soils

Top socioeconomic and health issues?

- Lack of access to quality jobs and livable wages
- Lack of access to higher education/affordable/safe housing
- Chronic disease/limited access to healthcare

Top food access issues?

- Lack of community gardens
- Concentration of fast-food restaurants
- Lack of fresh and affordable food and groceries at local stores

Other food access issues?

- Health awareness

Top park access issues?

- Safety of parks
- Condition of parks and park amenities
- Difficult to get to parks/ lack of bike lanes, crosswalks, and sidewalks

Other park access issues?

- The amount of seating and using space with basic resources like shade and water
- Lack of sidewalks
- The city isn't visible
- What is being done to help improve these conditions?
- Sidewalks are needed for community members to access resources

TOP PRIORITIES

1 Better civic engagement & participatory decision making

2 Address problems w/ sidewalks, bike lanes and parks

Potential Environmental Justice Strategies

Top climate resiliency strategies

- More street trees throughout the City
- Industry pollution reduction measures
- Water systems/ buffering between sensitive & industrial uses

Other strategies?

- All parking lots should have one shade tree for every six parking spaces
- Related to street trees, to prevent flooding green areas with storm water
- Residential & community composting

Top park access and active living strategies

- Enhanced lighting and activities
- Ongoing maintenance
- Play amenities/ exercise amenities/ bike & pedestrian amenities

Other strategies?

- Our parks need more trash cans to reduce litter
- The city in general does need more maintenance offers to reduce curbside and litter

Top healthy food access strategies?

- Access to affordable and healthy food
- Farmer's markets
- Community gardens/ Healthy food campaigns/ Walk and bike access to health foods

Other strategies?

- Support for cottage (home-based) food industry
- Transportation: Something that the public - limit bus line that LA has

Top civic engagement strategies

- Resident's decision-making power
- Partnerships with community organizations
- Provide access to City info

Other strategies?

- Send a public notice of public feedback to how to access City info & services
- Events that strengthen sense of community
- The city needs to be the lead on how to get more people to use and access to gardens to

Additional Comments

- Should be home visit/ social for food bank initiatives that have been done before in the community
- This code seems to be against the cottage industry
- City response: Lanford allows allow cottage industries. There is an apply for permits with the City.
- Was this event advertised widely?
- City response: Direct mail to members of the community, partnerships with local businesses and the media.
- First step in the process. It will be a community survey that will be open for a shorter few weeks.
- Must update the public response to the survey to include the city response and feedback to the survey.
- Other about meeting with the city to get more information on the survey.
- Can this be presented to the community?
- The survey will be presented to the community and the city will be open for a shorter few weeks.
- Yes, please let us know if we can be involved in the survey. The City would be happy to provide information to the public.
- Thanks for the survey that is a great first step to the survey. We will be open for a shorter few weeks.
- Thank you for the survey. The City will be open for a shorter few weeks.

During online workshops, participants comments were captured on a digital whiteboard.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE BACKGROUND

Environmental justice seeks to correct existing inequalities regarding pollution and health burdens that certain neighborhoods face. Environmental justice is grounded in principles of justice and fairness and focused on creating a society in which everyone can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential. Equitable outcomes come about when smart, intentional strategies are put in place to ensure that everyone can participate in and benefit from decisions that shape their neighborhoods and communities.

Environmental Justice Communities

California law defines “disadvantaged communities” (or “environmental justice communities”) as areas that are most afflicted with a combination of economic, health, and environmental burdens. The California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool “CalEnviroScreen”¹ was developed by the California Environmental Protection Agency to identify environmental justice communities using the following indicators:

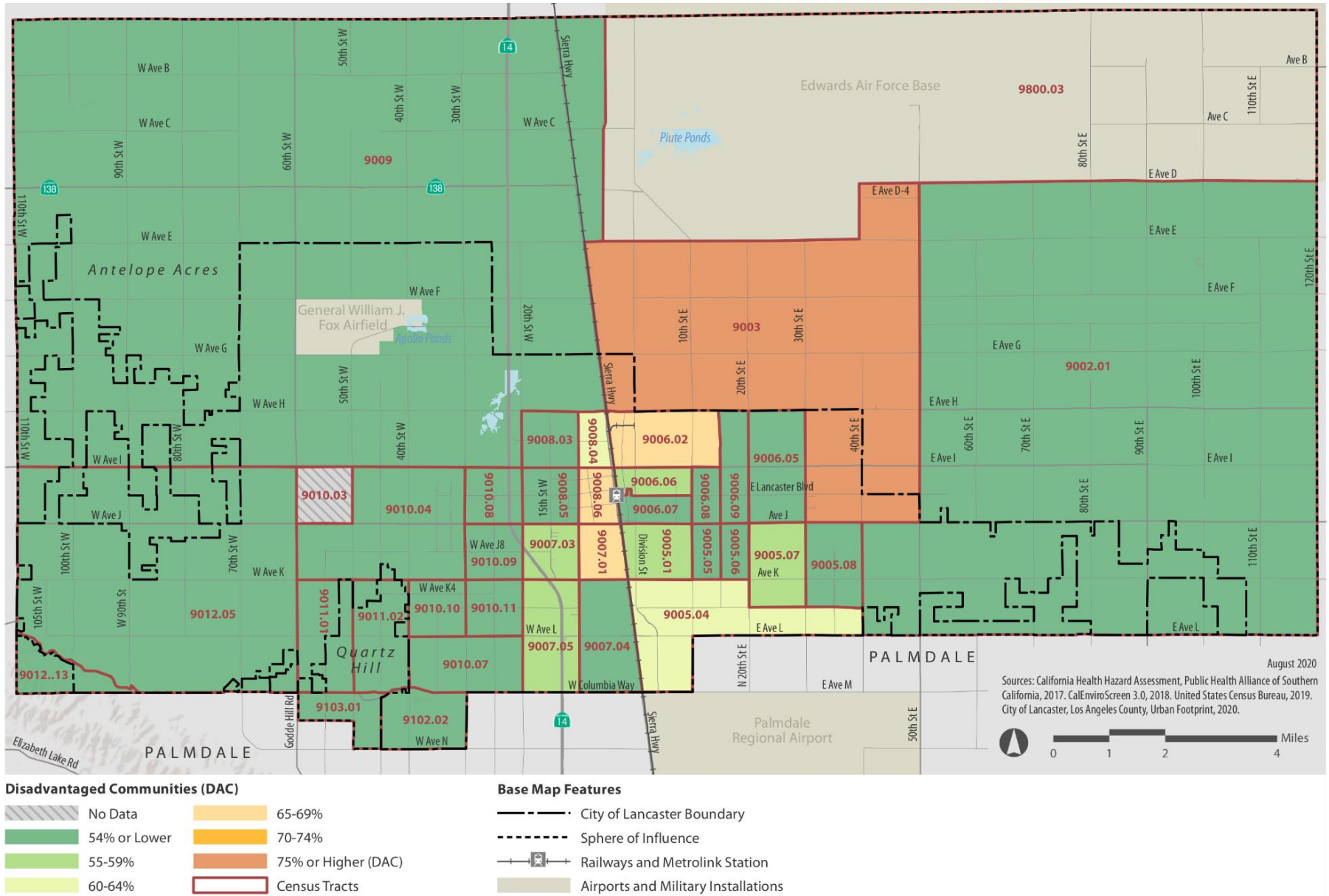
- **Pollution Burden:** Areas disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative public health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation; and
- **Population Characteristics:** Areas with concentrations of people with low incomes, high unemployment, low levels of homeownership, high

rent burden, low levels of educational attainment, and/or are sensitive populations (e.g., disabled individuals, seniors, and emancipated foster youth).

CalEnviroScreen produces a percentile ranking of census tracts to demonstrate the degree of burdens present in that tract relative to the rest of the State. For example, a 75th percentile ranking for a census tract would mean that the census tract is in the top 25 percent of all CalEnviroScreen scores statewide—and among the highest burdened census tracts in California. One census tract in Lancaster (census tract 9003, which includes areas within both the City and the Sphere of Influence) has an overall percentile score in the top 25 percent, qualifying that tract as an environmental justice community (Figure EJ-1). Approximately 4,500 people live in the environmental justice community; however, most of the area is undeveloped. Residences are concentrated primarily in the southern third of the census tract. Another 20 census tracts in Lancaster have a population characteristic percentile score in the top 25 percent; however, these tracts do not trigger the threshold for pollution burden characteristics. See Appendix C for methodology and baseline (2021) conditions in Lancaster.

¹ CalEnviroScreen is an evolving tool, with updates provided as new data become available. CalEnviroScreen 3.0 was used to provide the baseline for this Environmental Justice Element.

Figure EJ-1: Environmental Justice Communities





ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUES IN THE CITY OF LANCASTER

Various environmental, socioeconomic, and health issues can impact environmental justice communities.

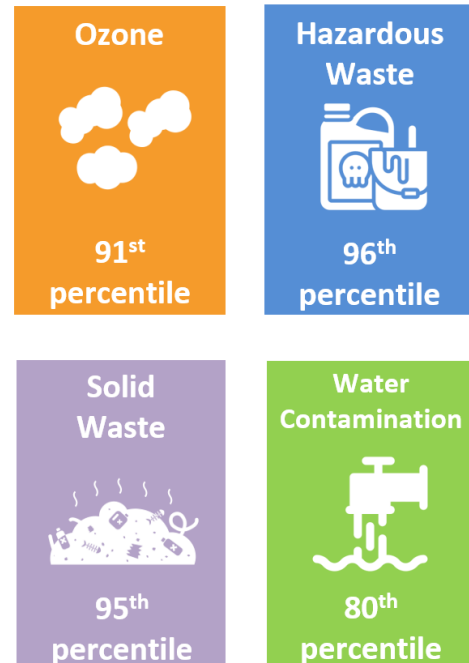
Pollution Burden

The pollution burden for each census tract is calculated by measuring the average of exposure and environmental effects to various pollutants, including cleanup sites, hazardous waste, groundwater threats, garbage and recycling facilities, toxic releases, small particulate matter (PM2.5), traffic, diesel particulate matter, drinking water contamination, ozone, and impaired water bodies. Most census tracts in Lancaster have a low pollution burden percentile (five to 34 percent). However, every census tract in Lancaster scores in the 91st percentile for ozone, which means the summed concentration of ozone in these tracts is higher than 91 percent of census tracts in California.

- Ozone.** Lancaster is located within the Mojave Desert Air Basin, which includes the desert portions of Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties, the eastern desert portion of Kern County, and the northeastern desert areas in Riverside County. Prevailing winds, which transport pollutants from more congested urban areas to the High Desert, are the primary contributor to high ozone levels.

Significant and long-term exposure to relatively high amounts of ozone can cause respiratory issues and chronic respiratory diseases.

Lancaster’s environmental justice community has existing cleanup site, hazardous waste, a landfill, drinking water concerns, and high ozone and is above the 75th percentile.



Pollution rankings for City of Lancaster, CalEnviroScreen 3.0

- Cleanup Sites.** Cleanup sites are places contaminated with hazardous chemicals that require clean up by the property owners or government.

Chemicals at cleanup sites can move through the air or groundwater.

- **Hazardous Waste.** Hazardous waste can range from used automotive oil to highly toxic waste materials produced by factories and businesses. Only certain licensed facilities are allowed to treat, store, or dispose of hazardous waste. Hazardous waste may also be transported from businesses that generate waste to permitted facilities for recycling, treatment, storage, or disposal. Potential health effects associated with living in proximity to hazardous waste processing and disposal sites include diabetes and cardiovascular disease.
- **Solid Waste Sites and Facilities.** Solid waste facilities are places where household garbage and similar kinds of waste are collected, processed, or stored. These include landfills and composting or recycling facilities. Solid waste disposal can release waste gases such as methane and carbon dioxide and may do so for decades after site closure. Exposure to landfill leachate can have adverse impacts on reproductive and respiratory systems.
- **Drinking Water.** Drinking water sometimes becomes contaminated with chemicals or bacteria above the State's health standards. Both natural and human sources can contaminate drinking water. Natural sources include rocks, soil, wildlife, and fires. Human sources include factories, sewage, and runoff from farms. Arsenic can also be a contaminant in drinking water and can cause cancer despite occurring naturally in some rocks, soil, and groundwater sources throughout California. Census tracts with agriculture uses also see higher rates of nitrate. The fertilizer or manure leaches nitrate into groundwater and contaminates wells.

In addition to the pollution burden indicators, proximity to industrial uses and freeways exposes people to air pollutants and noise pollution. Industrial uses may generate fumes and increase truck traffic near neighborhoods. Major roads and highways can bring air pollutants and noise into nearby neighborhoods as well. Figure EJ-2 (Proximity of Residential Uses to Industrial Uses and Freeways) illustrates the proximity of

residential uses to these additional environmental pollution burdens.

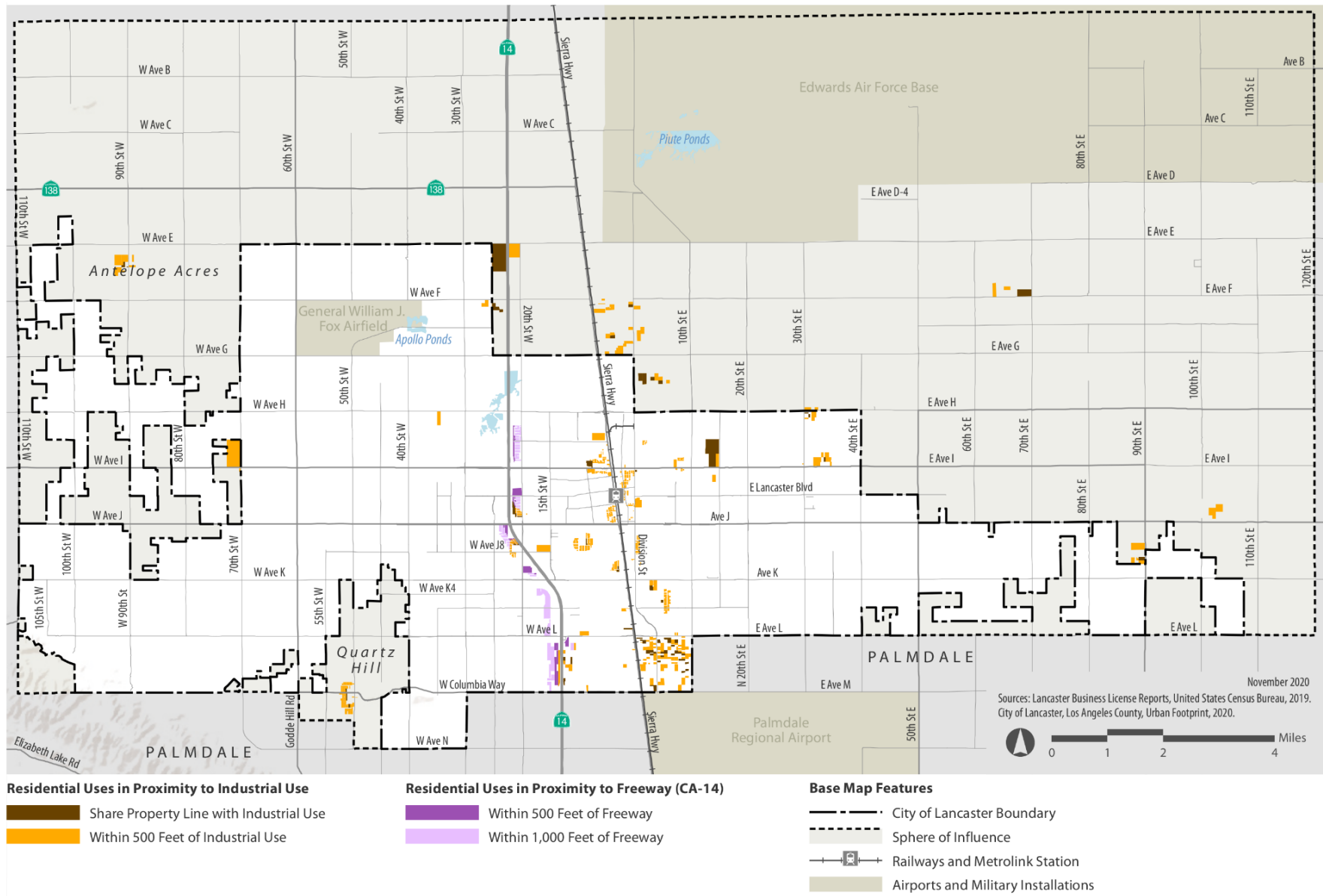


In the City, over 2,500 homes with about 8,000 residents live within 1,000 feet of a freeway.



In Lancaster, nearly 3,500 homes (with over 11,500 residents) live within 500 feet of an industrial business.

Figure EJ-2: Proximity of Residential Uses to Industrial Uses and Freeways



Population Characteristics

Certain population characteristics and socioeconomic factors are often related to health conditions such as asthma, low-birth weight, and cardiovascular disease. In particular, socioeconomic factors such as lower educational attainment, linguistic isolation, poverty, unemployment, and housing burden are often found in populations that also have a higher risk of health conditions.

Most of the census tracts in Lancaster have populations with very high rates of asthma, low birth weight, and cardiovascular disease.

Asthma



97th percentile

Poverty



71st percentile

Cardiovascular Disease



97th percentile

Unemployment



63rd percentile

Population characteristics for City of Lancaster, CalEnviroScreen 3.0

- Asthma.** Asthma is a disease that affects the lungs and makes it hard to breathe. The causes of asthma are unknown, but both genetic and environmental factors can be involved. Outdoor air pollution can trigger asthma attacks. People living in 19 of the 27 census tracts in Lancaster see more emergency department visits for asthma per 10,000 people than 95 percent of the other census tracts in the

State, with some tracts showing more than 99 percent.

- Low Birth Weight.** Babies who weigh less than 5.5 pounds at birth are considered to have a low birth weight. Poor nutrition, lack of prenatal care, stress, and smoking by the mother are known to increase the risk of having a low-birth-weight baby. Studies suggest that pollution could also be a factor. Over 85 percent of Lancaster census tracts score above the 75th percentile for low birth rate.
- Cardiovascular Disease.** Cardiovascular disease can lead to heart attacks and is the leading cause of death both in California and the United States. Survivors of a cardiovascular event are highly vulnerable to future cardiovascular events, especially following short- or long-term exposure to particulate matter. Risk factors for developing cardiovascular disease include diet, lack of exercise, smoking, and exposure to air pollution. The majority (31 of 37 census tracts) in Lancaster score above the 75th percentile for cardiovascular disease.
- Educational Attainment.** Educational attainment is the highest level of education a person has completed. People with more education usually earn higher incomes than people with less education. Studies have also found that communities with more educated people are less polluted and adults with less education have more pollution-related health problems. Although not as alarming as the other population characteristic indicators, three census tracts score above the 75th percentile.
- Poverty.** Income can affect health, as people with limited means often cannot afford healthy living and working conditions, nutritious food, and necessary medical care. Low-income communities are often located in areas with high levels of pollution. Poverty can cause stress that weakens the immune system and causes people to become ill from pollution. Most Lancaster census tracts

have higher rates of poverty than 75 percent of the census tracts in California.

- **Unemployment.** Stress from long-term unemployment can lead to chronic illnesses, such as heart disease, and can shorten a person’s life. Many residents in Lancaster face unemployment at higher rates than the rest of the State.
- **Housing Burden.** Households with lower incomes may spend a larger proportion of their income on housing and may suffer from housing-induced poverty, which can lead to adverse health effects. Low-income households paying more than 50 percent of their income on housing are on the rise.

Health and Wellness

Our health is shaped by community characteristics—housing, education, economic, and other social factors—which often are shaped through policy. The California Healthy Places Index (HPI) includes eight indicators representing 24 community characteristics with weighted scoring to create a single indexed Health Places Index. In contrast to the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 data, where higher percentiles equate to worse conditions, **lower** HPI percentiles equate to worse conditions.

Lancaster’s HPI Score is 20.9. See Table EJ-1 for a comparison of Lancaster to surrounding communities (with higher scores being more favorable).



Table EJ-1: Healthy Places Index Score

City or County	Healthy Places Index Score
Leona Valley	77.9
Santa Clarita	72.5
Elizabeth Lake	62.0
Los Angeles County	50.0
Apple Valley	30.1
Palmdale	25.0
Lancaster	20.9
Rosamond	19.7
Sun Village	17.4
Victorville	15.3
Hesperia	13.3
Kern County	12.5
Mojave	2.8

Source: The California Healthy Places Index (HPI), Public Health Alliance of Southern California, 2020.

Food Access

Two major factors that contribute to food access are food insecurity and how easy it is to get to local grocery stores.

Food Insecurity

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines food insecurity as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life. Approximately 10 percent of households in Lancaster received Food Stamps/SNAP (also known as CalFresh, California’s food stamp program) in 2018 compared to about nine percent in Los Angeles County. SNAP can help buffer participants against food insecurity and poor health. Residents may also rely on food banks and social service providers, including Antelope Valley Rescue Mission, Grace Resources, A Helping Hand, and several other religious institutions. Families with school-aged children may receive free and reduced-price meals as part of the National School Lunch Program.

Grocery Store Access

Limited access to supermarkets, grocery stores, farmers' markets, and other sources of healthy and affordable food may make it harder for some residents to eat a healthy diet. Food deserts are areas in which it is difficult to buy affordable or good-quality fresh food.

Figure EJ-3 (Health Food Access) shows the locations where healthy food options (e.g., produce, fresh meats and seafood, dairy) can be purchased. The map also identifies several low-income and low-vehicle access census tracts that include:

- A poverty rate of 20 percent or higher, or with a median family income less than 80 percent of median family income for Los Angeles County
- More than 100 households with no access to a vehicle
- A significant number of residents located more than one-half mile from the nearest supermarket

Lancaster's rural characteristics presents some challenges in attracting more grocery stores. There are many factors that influence whether a grocery store is feasible in particular community, such as population size and strength of local businesses. Lancaster's rural nature results in lower population densities and subsequently a smaller potential customer base.

Physical Activity and Park Access

Research demonstrates that participating in regular moderate to vigorous physical activity provides many health benefits. Some benefits of physical activity can be achieved immediately, such as reduced feelings of anxiety, reduced blood pressure, improvements in sleep, some aspects of cognitive function, and insulin sensitivity. Other benefits—such as increased cardiorespiratory fitness, increased muscular strength, decreases in depressive symptoms, and sustained reduction in blood pressure—require a few weeks or months of participation in physical activity.

Physical activity can also slow or delay the progression of chronic diseases, such as hypertension and type 2 diabetes and public health professionals recommend at least 30 minutes of daily moderate to vigorous exercise. Benefits persist with continued physical activity.

Research has found that walking and biking provide the same health benefits as engaging in more regimented daily exercise. Activity accumulated in short bursts, of a minimum of 10 minutes at a time, can achieve health benefits such as reducing mortality by 12 percent and chronic diseases by 10 percent. Pedestrian and bicyclist infrastructure provides people with safe dedicated areas to walk and bike, which helps increase the use of active transportation and enhances public health.

In Lancaster, vehicle collision data show a concentration of pedestrian-related fatalities within the downtown area, as shown in Figure EJ-4. In the Environmental Justice Community, pedestrian-related fatalities have occurred mostly along East Avenue I. These areas are likely more prone to collisions given the higher vehicle and pedestrian traffic volumes. The City has forwarded several initiatives to address safety for active modes, such as adopting the 2016 Complete Streets Plan, preparing an update to the 2012 Master Plan of Trails and Bikeways, the 2017 Safe Routes to School Master Plan, which identify enhancements to the walking and biking environments, and the current See and Be Seen campaign, which aims to educate school-aged children in active transportation safety.

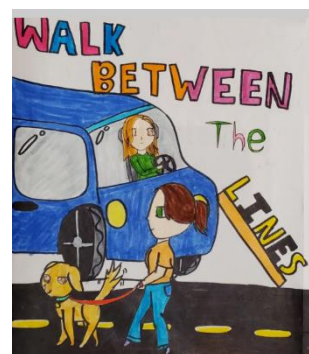


Figure EJ-3: Healthy Food Access

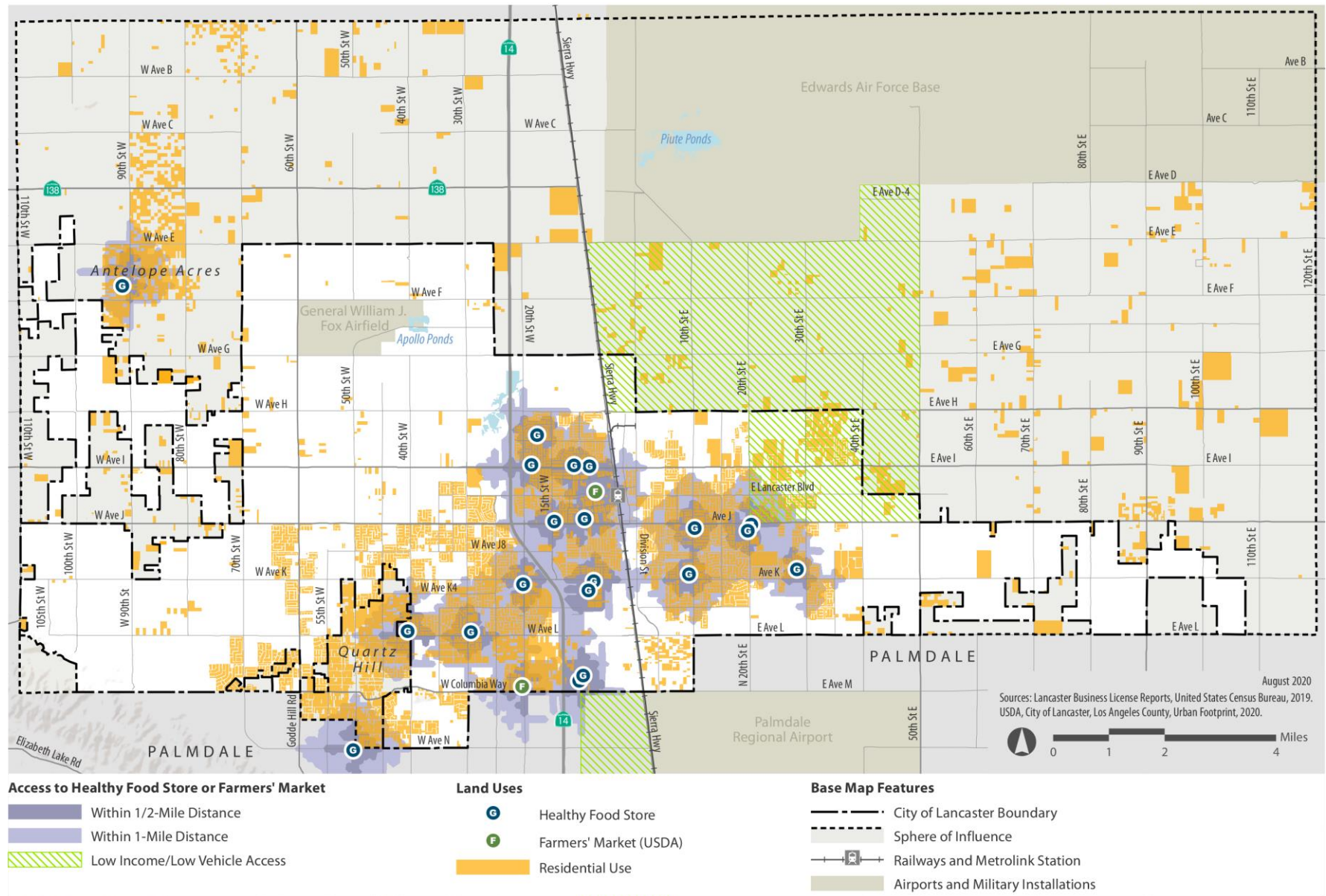
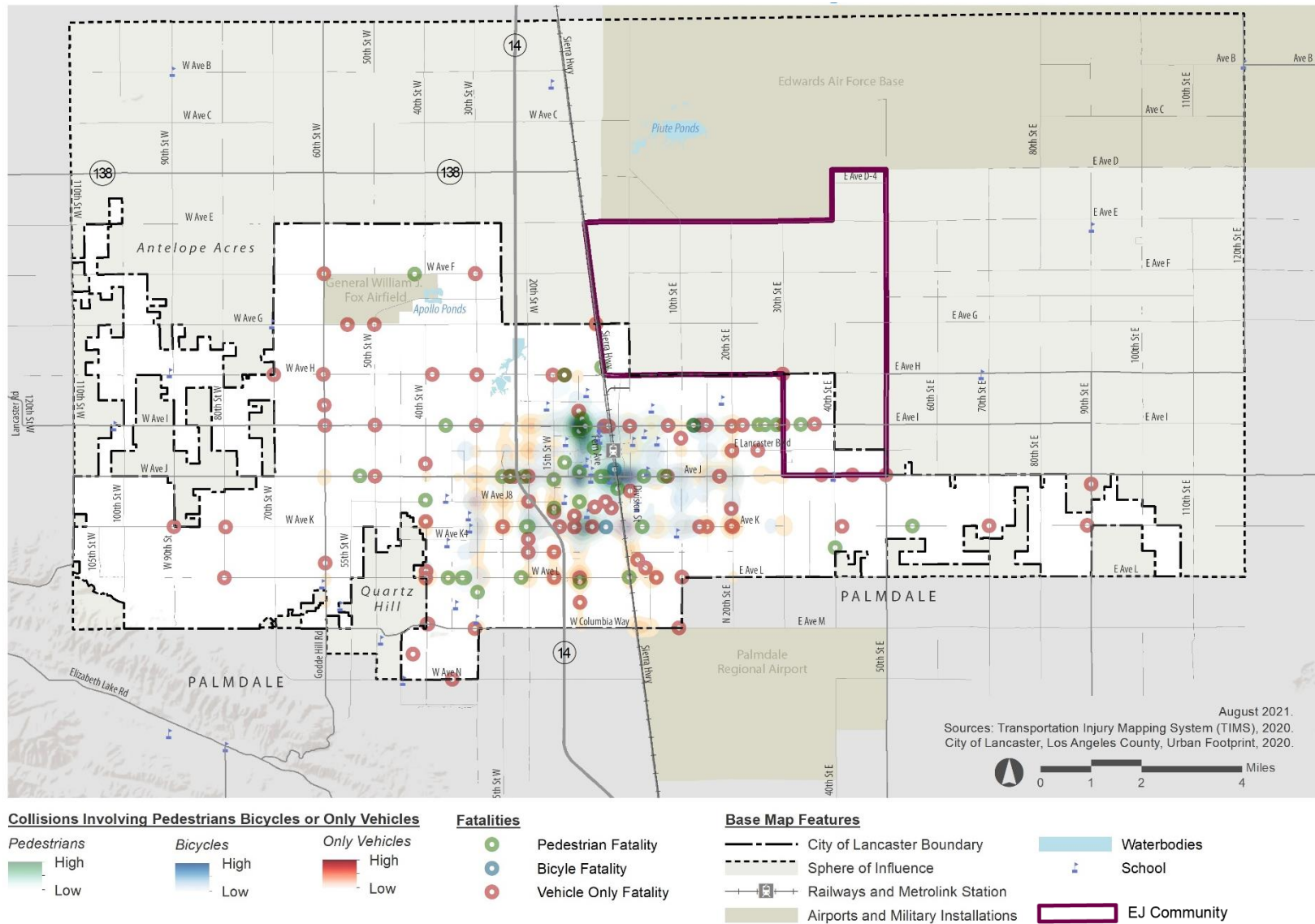


Figure EJ-4: Bicyclist and Pedestrian Involved Collisions (2010-2020)



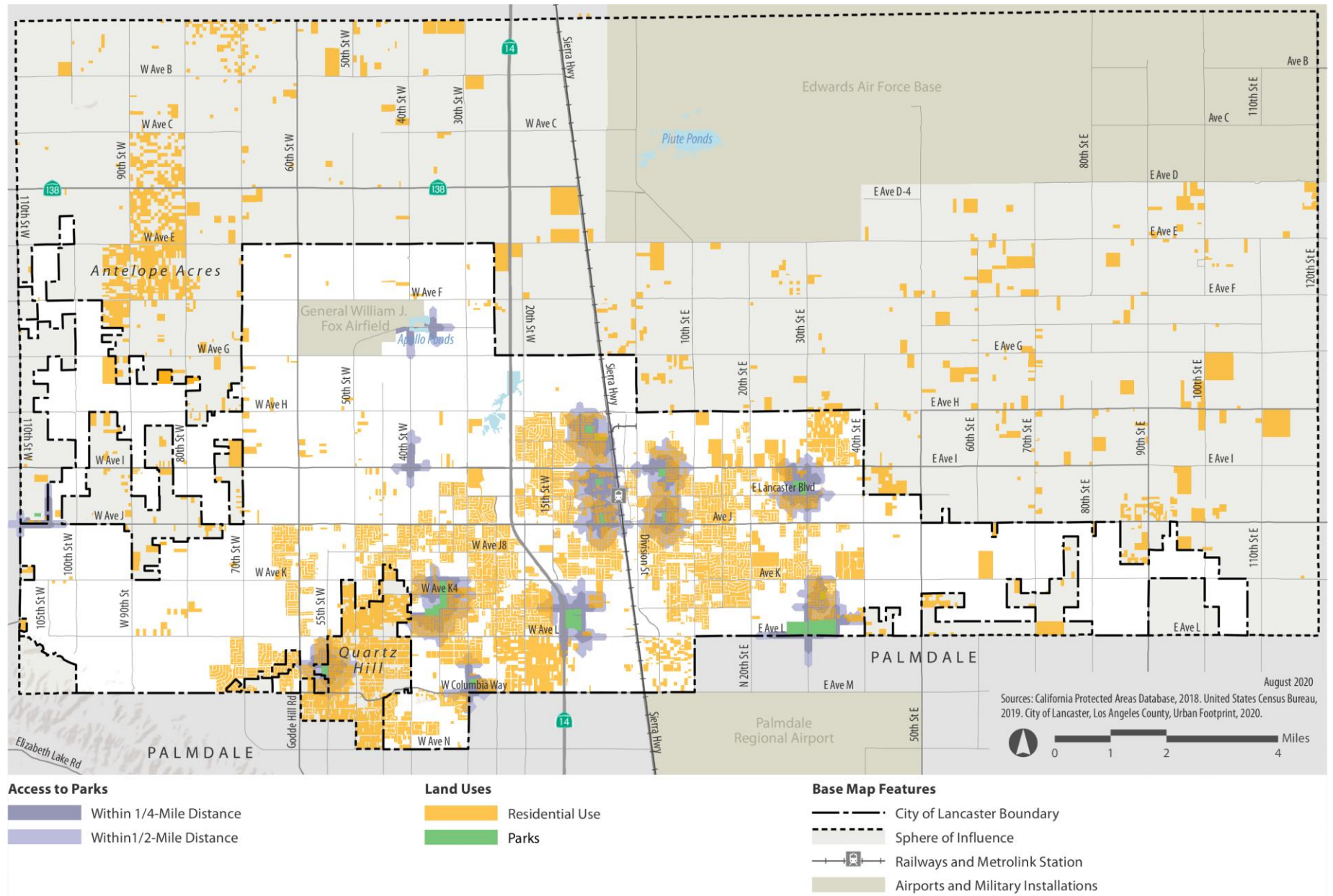
Parks, playgrounds, greenways, trails, and community open spaces help keep residents fit and healthy by providing access to places that support physical activity. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, only 25 percent of American adults engage in recommended levels of physical activity and 29 percent engage in no leisure-time physical activity at all. This sedentary lifestyle is contributing to an increased incidence of obesity along with obesity-related diseases, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, congestive heart failure, and stroke.

Studies have shown that when people have access to parks, they exercise more. Parks provide children with opportunities for play, and play is critical to the development of muscle strength and coordination, language, and cognitive abilities. Given the expansive

nature of Lancaster, 18 percent of residents live within one-half mile—or a 10-minute walk—to one of the 14 City or County parks within the city limits. The national average is 55 percent. Figure EJ-5 (Park Access) shows residential areas within one-quarter and one-half mile of a park. Between 2010 and 2020, the City built two new parks: Whit Carter Park on Sierra Highway and American Heroes Park in Downtown Lancaster. The City is focused on upgrading existing parks by adding new amenities, such as a skate park and accessible playground equipment. As a way to further encourage the development of recreational areas, the City is requiring new planned developments to have useable open space for residents. These open space areas typically include amenities that encourage physical activity such as ball courts and tot lots—and the facilities are not gated.



Figure EJ-5: Park Access





GOALS AND POLICIES

Healthy and Affordable Housing

Access to healthy and affordable housing is important to residents’ well being. In Lancaster, 39 percent of all households spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing costs, creating a housing cost burden. More than half (61 percent) of households earn incomes that are 80 percent or less than the median income for Los Angeles County. More information and programs to encourage healthy and affordable housing are included in the Housing Element.

Goal EJ-1	Ensure all residents have fair and equal access to affordable housing options.
Policy EJ-1.1	Promote and further fair housing policies and programs.
Policy EJ-1.2	Support the development and preservation of affordable housing in and around the environmental justice community for a variety of income levels.

Action EJ-1.1.A Periodically review local housing policies and procedures to ensure they do not pose impediments to furthering fair housing.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Development Services
Funding Source: Department budgets

Action EJ-1.2.A Explore best practices for innovative housing options prioritize community ownership and support resident efforts to build intergenerational wealth.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Development Services
Funding Source: Department budgets

Goal EJ-2	Ensure residents have healthy and safe living conditions.
Policy EJ-2.1	Support and expand programs that increase awareness among residents about property maintenance, upkeep, weatherization, and neighborhood quality.

Action EJ-2.1.A Promote building code education and regulation to address unsafe and unsanitary housing conditions that focus on trash and dumping, building and yard maintenance, and unpermitted construction activities.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Development Services
Funding Source: Department budget

Action EJ-2.1.B Support collaborations between public health professionals, environmental health inspectors, and building departments to connect clients with professionals who can assess and address multiple aspects of housing that affect health and safety.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Development Services
Funding Source: Department budget

Park Access and Active Living

Providing access to parks and active living options, including walking and biking to destinations, contributes to positive health outcomes. Walking is the most accessible form of transportation because it is free. It is important that infrastructure disparities, especially regarding sidewalk access, do not negatively impact the community. For related policies and specific actions, refer to the Plan for Active Living and Plan for Physical Mobility.

Goal EJ-3	Ensure residents of all ages have access to a range of safe and accessible opportunities for recreation and physical activities.
Policy EJ-3.1	Highly encourage a park system that provides all residents with access to parks, community centers, sports fields, trails, and other amenities.
Policy EJ-3.2	Address park safety concerns through community-based safety interventions.
Policy EJ-3.3	Ensure that parks and other key destinations (schools, retail, jobs) are accessible via alternative modes of transportation.

Action EJ-3.1.A Explore opportunity areas for small parks or open spaces in areas that generally lack parks or green spaces.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Development Services & Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Funding Source: Department budgets

Action EJ-3.2.A

Research policies and programs known to improve safety and reduce crime without relying on law enforcement personnel.

Time Frame: Ongoing

Responsibility: Parks, Recreation & Community Services; Public Safety

Funding Source: Department budgets

Action EJ-3.2.B

Activate park spaces with local vendors and community events as a way to maintain eyes on the street.

Time Frame: Ongoing

Responsibility: Parks, Recreation & Arts; Public Safety

Funding Source: Department budgets

Action EJ-3.3.A

Develop an Action Plan to reduce pedestrian/vehicle and bicycle/vehicle accidents, especially those that involve high speeds and result in fatalities. Include a variety of interventions in the action plan, including engineering/street design and education.

Time Frame: Ongoing

Responsibility: Development Services

Funding Source: Department budget

Action EJ-3.3.B

Work with local transit agencies to improve access and connectivity to transit as well as enhance transit amenities, such as bus shelters, real-time information, etc.

Time Frame: Ongoing

Responsibility: Development Services

Funding Source: Department budget

Action EJ-3.3.C

Coordinate with local transit agencies to provide more service types/options.

Time Frame: Ongoing

Responsibility: Development Services, Antelope Valley Transit Authority

Funding Source: Department budgets

Action EJ-3.3.D

Prioritize implementing enhanced pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure in the environmental justice community based on community-identified mobility needs to encourage more active lifestyles.

Time Frame: Priority

Responsibility: Development Services

Funding Source: Department budget

Action EJ-3.3.E

Highly encourage that retail and commercial property owners to install bicycle amenities on their property such as bike racks, lockers, or repair stations.

Time Frame: Ongoing

Responsibility: Development Services

Funding Source: Department budget

Action EJ-3.3.F

Continue to implement active transportation infrastructure identified in the Complete Streets Plan and the Trails and Bikeways Master Plan.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Development Services
Funding Source: Department budget

Action EJ-3.3.F

Expand active transportation safety education and outreach efforts, such as the See and Be Seen Campaign.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Development Services
Funding Source: Department budget

Access to Healthy Food

Access to healthy food contributes to positive health outcomes. When it is difficult to access healthy food due to food insecurity or lack of access to stores where healthy food is sold, health outcomes, such as obesity and diabetes rates, can be affected.

Goal EJ-4	Expand access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food and resources to reduce food insecurity.
Policy EJ.4.1	Incentivize and remove any potential barriers in the development of healthy food establishments.
Policy EJ-4.2	Ensure that residents have the knowledge, skills, and resources that are conducive to healthy eating habits.

Action EJ-4.1.A

Work with local community members to identify ideal locations for regularly scheduled farmers' markets.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Parks, Recreation & Arts; Development Services
Funding Source: Department budgets

Action EJ-4.1.B

Support community-supported agriculture/food production, such as community gardens and cottage food operations, by providing interested individuals with information and resources.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Development Services
Funding Source: Department budget

Action EJ-4.2.A

Continue partnerships with existing active living, nutrition, and school programs, such as Kaiser Permanente’s Healthy Balance Program, to provide culturally relevant educational programming on healthy living.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Parks, Recreation & Community Services
Funding Source: Department budgets

Climate Resiliency

Policies that support climate resiliency ensure a more stable environment for residents. For related policies and specific actions, refer to the Air Resources and Water Resources sections of the Plan for the Natural Environment.

Goal EJ-5	Protect human and environmental health by restoring and improving potable water resources and protecting land uses and air quality from future contamination.
Policy EJ-5.1	Restore and protect potable water resources from future contamination.
Policy EJ-5.2	Improve air quality conditions and minimize air quality impacts on sensitive population groups, by reducing point source emissions (ozone, small particulate matter, diesel particulates), particularly in the environmental justice community.
Policy EJ-5.3	Protect sensitive land uses (e.g., schools, housing, health facilities, childcare facilities, senior centers, parks, etc.) from increased pollution exposure, particularly in the environmental justice community.

Action EJ-5.1.A

Develop and support initiatives and incentives that protect healthy watersheds.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Development Services
Funding Source: Department budgets

Action EJ-5.1.B

Implement green strategies to support a sustainable approach to stormwater, drainage, groundwater recharge, and landscaping.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Development Services
Funding Source: Department budget

Action EJ-5.1.C

Coordinate with local and regional agencies to continue and, as needed, expand remediation efforts for contaminated surface water, groundwater, and soils.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Development Services
Funding Source: State and federal grants

Action EJ-5.1.D Apply for state and federal funding sources to restore contaminated water bodies.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Development Services
Funding Source: State and federal grants

Action EJ-5.2.A Collaborate with industrial businesses to improve outdoor air quality through enhanced operations and other pollution reduction measures where possible.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Development Services
Funding Source: Department budget

Action EJ-5.2.B Encourage smoke-free workplaces, multi-family housing, parks, and other outdoor gathering places to reduce exposure to second-hand smoke and coordinate with local advocacy groups, such as the Smoke-Free Antelope Valley Coalition, to identify more potential smoke-free areas.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Parks, Recreation & Community Services; Development Services
Funding Source: Department budgets

Action EJ-5.2.C Continue to coordinate with the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District to identify, monitor, and reduce air pollutants.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Development Services
Funding Source: Department budget

Action EJ-5.2.D Require new sensitive land uses to include feasible measures such as setbacks, landscaping, ventilation systems, and other effective measures to minimize potential impacts from air pollution.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Development Services
Funding Source: Department budget

Action EJ-5.2.E Designate truck routes to avoid residential areas and other sensitive areas, especially in the environmental justice community.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Development Services
Funding Source: Department budgets

Action EJ-5.2.F Preserve and enhance natural landscapes and tree canopies in and around the environmental justice community to minimize air pollution impacts and heat exposure.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Development Services
Funding Source: Department budgets

Action EJ-5.3.A Limit the siting and construction of new large-scale hazardous waste facilities on or near sensitive land uses in and around the environmental justice community.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Development Services
Funding Source: Department budget

Action EJ-5.3.B Continue to ensure compatibility between sensitive land uses and heavy industrial uses and other potentially harmful facilities.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Development Services
Funding Source: Department budget

Action EJ-5.3.C Discourage illegal dumping in the environmental justice community, parks, outdoor areas, and underutilized or vacant parcels throughout the city through educational materials and incentives. Implement clean-up initiatives.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Development Services, Parks, Recreation & Community Services
Funding Source: Department budget

Civic Engagement

Through civic engagement and environmental education, residents are empowered to develop knowledge, skills, values, and motivation to participate in civic life to improve environmental and social conditions for themselves and others and to help shape the future.

Goal EJ-6	Support meaningful and inclusive participation in the decision-making process of all community members, particularly those belonging to marginalized groups.
Policy EJ-6.1	Facilitate the involvement of residents, businesses, and organizations in all aspects of the planning process using a variety of community-based strategies.

Action EJ-6.1.A Continue to develop relationships and partnerships with community-based organizations.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Development Services; Parks, Recreation & Community Services
Funding Source: Department budgets

Action EJ-6.1.B Utilize a variety of communication techniques and social media tools to convey information to the public and ensure information is available in multiple languages.

Time Frame: Priority
Responsibility: Communications
Funding Source: Department budget

Action EJ-6.1.C Provide more opportunities for residents to volunteer with the City as a way to further build local relationships.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Parks, Recreation & Community Services
Funding Source: Department budget

Action EJ-6.1.D Provide continuous updates regarding City projects and programming so that residents are aware of the progress being made to address local issues and concerns.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Communications, Development Services
Funding Source: Department budget

Community Programs and Services

Community programs and services are intended to enhance quality of life for Lancaster residents and provide programming to meet critical needs. For related policies and specific actions, refer to Emergency Medical Facilities section of the Plan for Public Health and Safety and the Plan for Active Living.

Goal EJ-7	Promote and expand job opportunities, community programs, and services throughout the city with a focus on environmental justice communities.
Policy EJ-7.1	Promote equitable economic outcomes by providing and maintaining a range of middle-skill and high-skill jobs as well as attracting diverse employment opportunities.
Policy EJ-7.2	Promote health equity and access through policy evaluation and health valuation.

Action EJ-7.1.A Continue to facilitate the development of industrial and commercial projects that provide living-wage opportunities by providing financial and technical assistance.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Development Services
Funding Source: Department budget

Action EJ-7.1.B Develop and support talent development strategies and incentives to maximize opportunities for local employment.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Development Services
Funding Source: Department budget

Action EJ-7.1.C Coordinate partnerships between major employers and higher-education institutions to develop a highly skilled workforce.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Development Services
Funding Source: Department budget

Action EJ-7.1.D Explore innovative opportunities for establishing workforce programs.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Development Services
Funding Source: Department budget

Action EJ-7.2.A Ensure that high-quality healthcare services and resources are accessible and near residential neighborhoods, particularly to those in the environmental justice community.

Time Frame: Ongoing
Responsibility: Development Services
Funding Source: Department budgets