

COMMUNITY **2023** **ANNUAL** REPORT

**COMMUNITY
PROFILE +
STATISTICS**

you'll want to know about!

**FOSTER
CITY'S**

**YEAR IN
REVIEW**



FOSTERCITY.ORG

a message from the mayor



“ My Fellow Residents,
Welcome to the 2023 Foster City Community Annual Report. As a representative government, your City Council works on your behalf and this report is one way we communicate our community’s

accomplishments for the year. To begin, I want to express my honor in serving as your Mayor for 2023. This was a pleasant experience made possible by the active involvement of our community members and the respectful and cooperative leadership displayed by my colleagues on the City Council.

The most visible accomplishment this year was the completion of the Levee Improvements Project. This project protects the entire community from flooding and sea level rise, while making significant improvements to a regional recreational amenity. Regarding other City facilities, we have also made significant strides toward the replacement of our Recreation Center and we are pleased with the amount of community collaboration that has helped the project advance to this stage.

Additionally, our Housing and Safety Elements, significant parts of our General Plan, have been amended for the next eight-year cycle. Beyond these foundational planning documents, we have seen growth in our economic base. During Fiscal Year 2022-23, some of our significant revenue sources have rebounded to surpass pre-pandemic

levels, while others exceeded budget projections resulting in actual revenue exceeding budgetary expectations by \$8.9 million. This unanticipated income, coupled with expense savings of \$6.1 million, put our finances in a very favorable position as we face projected deficits in coming years.



While these planning documents are critical in guiding the City’s evolution, we also rely heavily on the dedicated staff to carry out that vision. A key to that effort is City Manager Stefan Chatwin, who in his first full year on the job was able to build out his Executive Leadership Team. This has enhanced the City’s service to the community on a daily basis and also empowered staff to work toward meeting the annual goals and priorities set by the City Council. To showcase those daily operations while also educating the community, City staff developed the Civics Academy, which took place over several weeks this Fall with the inaugural class graduating at the November 6 City Council meeting.

Recognizing and celebrating the diversity of Foster City was another interest of the Council. During the year, both the City and private groups hosted a variety of community cultural events that complemented traditional events like the Fourth of July, Summer Concerts, and Summer Days. During the winter holidays, we planned the Holiday Tree lighting and Menorah lighting event for our Jewish residents. In the Spring, Holi was celebrated with a huge community turnout. Additional cultural events included Juneteenth, Diwali, and the Palestinian Cultural Festival. Our community also hosted a delegation from our Sister City, Inagi City, and sent youth soccer players to Japan as part of the relationship.

We had an eventful year in 2023 that will set the bar for 2024 and years to come.

Sincerely,

Jon Froomin



160 RESOLUTIONS
ADOPTED
BY THE CITY COUNCIL



Left to right: Councilmember Sam Hindi, Vice Mayor Patrick Sullivan, Mayor Jon Froomin, Councilmember Stacy Jimenez, Councilmember Art Kiesel

VISION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

To create a sustainable Foster City through smart, inclusive, and efficient actions to enhance our quality of place for current and future generations.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the City of Foster City is to deliver equitable services that are customer-focused with an emphasis on public safety, neighborhood livability, smart planning, a vibrant economy, infrastructure, improvements, innovation, and a sustainable environment.

In pursuit of this mission, we use community engagement and data to make decisions and measure progress based on economic, social, and environmental factors.


january Foster City launches the Recreation Center Rebuild Project - a full-scale overhaul of the facility and its surrounding amenities. The launch includes a designated project website, rebuildtherec.org, and opportunities for the public to provide feedback, share ideas, and learn more through community meetings, surveys, and pop-up events.



february

The City of Foster City and Foster City Sister City Association welcomes delegates from Inagi City, Japan - our Sister City!

The day includes speeches, a tour of the Foster City lagoon by boat, a recommitment of our international partnership, and an exchange of gifts.



march



The Levee Improvements Project announces the achievement of the Phase 1 milestone, restoring public access to the trail from Port Royal Drive to Shorebird Park.

april

At the April 17 City Council meeting, Mayor Froomin welcomes back former Mayors to celebrate Foster City's 52nd birthday.



may

The community is given the opportunity to provide feedback and input on proposed sustainability efforts by the City through the Climate Action Plan survey. This eventually leads to two successful community workshops designed to give residents a voice in the City's proposed climate-friendly initiatives.



june

On June 1, the public, City Council, staff, and the San Mateo County LGBTQ+ commission comes together for the annual raising of the Progress Pride Flag.



july

Foster City Police Department Recruit Officers graduate with honors and achievements from the South Bay Regional Police Academy.



august

Summer Days returns to Leo Ryan Park for 3 days of fun, including a car show, live music, a carnival, the Rubber Ducky Races, and more.



september

Foster City residents gather at Boothbay Park for the annual Community Bike Ride, a 5 or 10 mile group trip around town.



november



The City Council presents graduation certificates to the inaugural class of the Foster City Civics Academy, who have spent 7 weeks attending classes and learning about how local government functions.

december

Foster City will celebrate the holiday season with the community at the annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony.



october

The Police Department welcomes new officers and staff, and celebrates promotions at the 2023 Badge Pinning ceremony.



Many significant milestones were achieved on the Levee Improvements Project in 2023 – most notably with public access along the Bay Trail being restored throughout Foster City. The project, initiated in 2018 with the passage of Measure P, protects Foster City homes and properties from the threat of flooding and sea level rise while also improving and beautifying a regional recreational amenity.

LEVEE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

MILESTONE COMPLETION

PHASE ONE



PORT ROYAL AVENUE TO SHOREBIRD PARK

In March, the City achieved the Phase I interim milestone for the Levee Improvements Project, restoring public access to the Bay Trail from Port Royal Avenue to Shorebird Park. For the first time since the beginning of project construction in 2020, Foster City community members and trail users were again welcomed to access this portion of the trail along the southern segment of the project. The milestone achievement was a critical first step in restoring public access, appreciated by Foster City residents, as well as the local community of bicyclists, runners, and pedestrians.

PHASE TWO



SHOREBIRD PARK TO THE SAN MATEO BRIDGE

The Phase 2 interim milestone for the Levee Improvements Project was achieved in July, restoring public access of the trail from Shorebird Park up to the San Mateo Bridge. The achievement granted public access to 70% of the Bay Trail across Foster City. Additionally, as of July, all the flood protection elements were completed meeting FEMA requirements for accreditation – accomplishing the project’s primary goal.

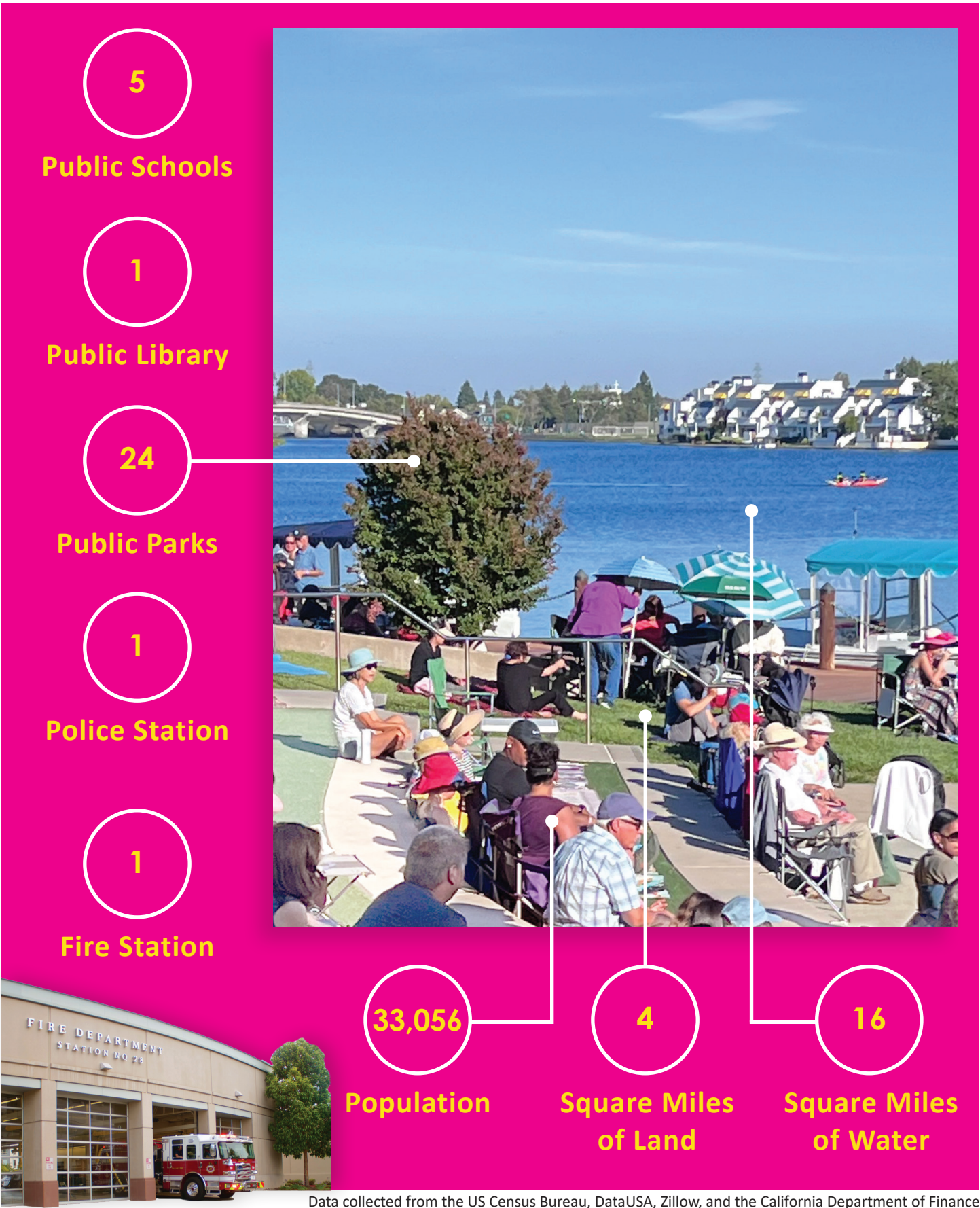
PHASE THREE



NORTH OF THE SAN MATEO BRIDGE

Marking a pivotal moment for the community in October, the Phase 3 interim milestone was achieved – restoring access to all three portions of the trail. The final segment of the trail spans north of the San Mateo Bridge to the northern border of Foster City with the City of San Mateo. While the achievement of the Interim Milestone 3 was a momentous occasion, final construction activities such as punch list items, landscaping, and irrigation are projected to continue into the early portion of 2024.

community profile



Data collected from the US Census Bureau, DataUSA, Zillow, and the California Department of Finance

strategic priorities

At the 2023 Vision and Policy Summit, the City Council reconfirmed its key priorities and initiatives for the coming year. These focus areas help the City Council further its vision and mission statements.

The following pages highlight the year’s accomplishments in each of the Strategic Priorities.

FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE



OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE



SMART PLANNING



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



INNOVATION & SUSTAINABILITY



SOCIAL EQUITY & PUBLIC SAFETY



Foster City commits to maintaining a standard of excellence with regards to infrastructure, including the City’s streets, lagoon, levee, parks, water management, wastewater system, storm water collection system, and facilities to preserve and enhance quality of life for future generations.



SMOOTH SAILING **WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**

Foster City’s streets are well maintained through a combination of maintenance programs managed by Public Works street crews and annual pavement projects. Foster City has been recognized consistently by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) as having one of the best maintained street systems in the Bay Area.

Significant progress was made on the new Wastewater Treatment Plant, shared with the City of San Mateo, which included the construction of the administration building, primary treatment, and other key components of the project. Startup and commissioning activities are anticipated in early 2024, with overall completion in early 2025.

MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS

Foster City achieved substantial completion of many critical infrastructure projects such as activating four new signalized intersections, restoring the pathways in four parks, rehabilitating 4.5 miles of road, replacing six roofs at City facilities, installing new synthetic turf on S4 sports fields at Sea Cloud Park, installing new scoreboards at various sports fields, and more.

STORM RESPONSE

Due to smart planning, widespread staff collaboration, and the committed efforts of work crews, Foster City was well protected against the intense storms of last winter.

4 *NEW
SIGNALIZED
INTERSECTIONS
INSTALLED*

**30.72
TONS**

*OF MATERIAL
REMOVED FROM
THE CITY’S
STORM DRAIN
SYSTEM*

600

YARDS OF STREET SWEEP DEBRIS COLLECTED



Foster City staff is committed to, and takes pride in, proactively providing exceptional service to our community.

PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

Foster City started offering over-the-counter permits and express plan check reviews for qualifying building permits. The new services make the building process quicker and easier than ever and improves the Building Division’s service to the community.

ONGOING EXCELLENCE

The Finance team received its 30th consecutive Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Award for excellence in financial reporting for its FY 2021-22 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Key leadership positions were filled throughout the year with the hiring of Community Development Director Sofia Mangalam, Public Works Director Andrew Brozyna, and Administrative Services Director Diane Pitman. As well, the City continued providing career growth opportunities to nine employees who received promotions through recruitment processes.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

The City Council approved allocating a combined \$116,667.50 in funding to community partners and nonprofits such as the San Mateo Union High School District, San Mateo County Leadership Council, Foster City Sister City Association, and Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA).



EVENT PLANNING

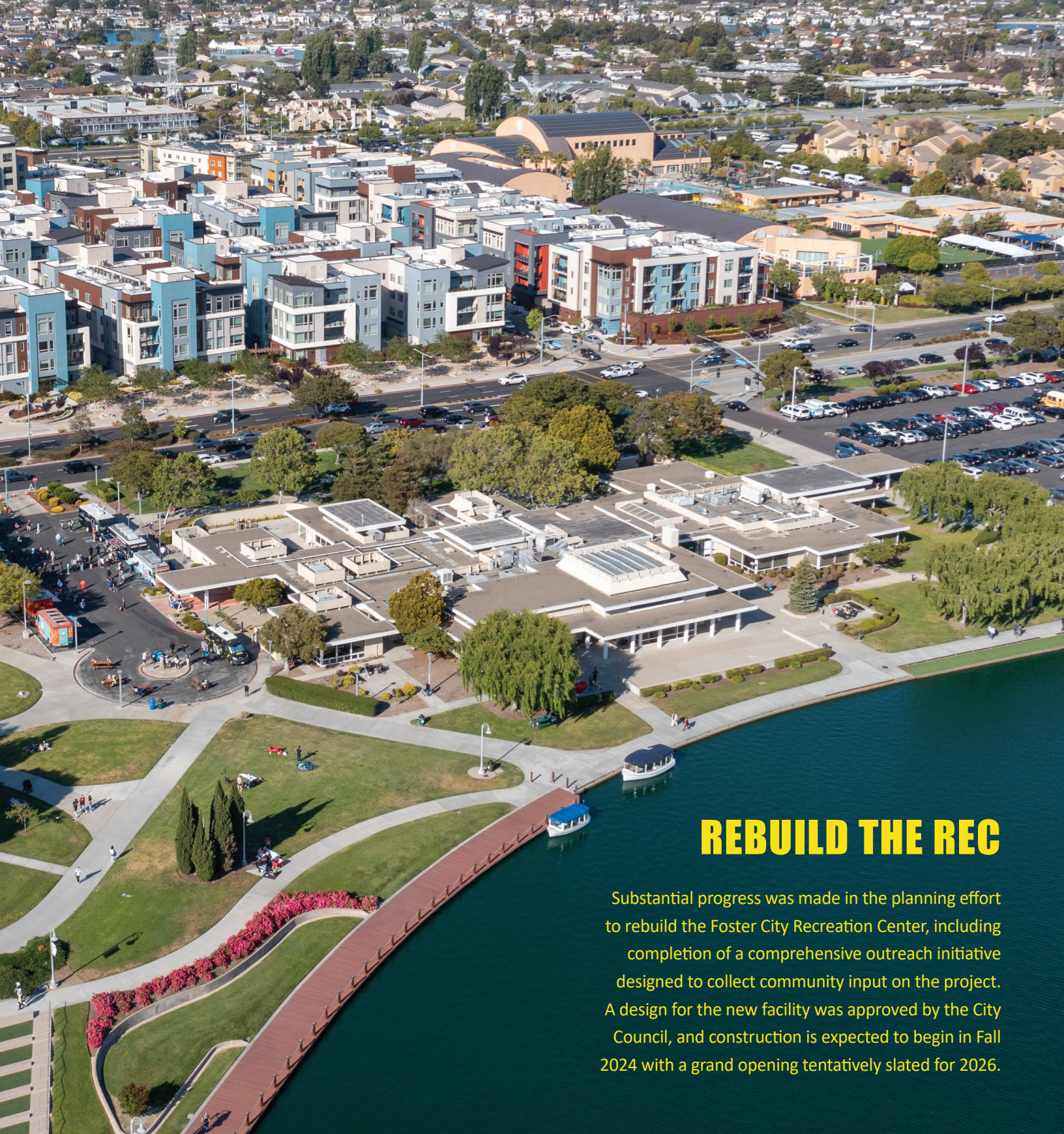
The City planned and hosted a variety of community events celebrating key milestones over the year. Such events included raising the Progress Pride Flag at City Hall, a ribbon cutting to celebrate the new athletic turf at S4 sports fields in Sea Cloud Park, and inviting former Mayors to celebrate Foster City’s 51st birthday at the City Council meeting on April 17.

\$58.6M

ESTIMATED GENERAL FUNDS RESERVES



Foster City commits to creating a long-term vision that protects, maintains, and enhances our community character through thoughtful planning and economic development policies.



REBUILD THE REC

Substantial progress was made in the planning effort to rebuild the Foster City Recreation Center, including completion of a comprehensive outreach initiative designed to collect community input on the project. A design for the new facility was approved by the City Council, and construction is expected to begin in Fall 2024 with a grand opening tentatively slated for 2026.

5,029

BUILDING INSPECTIONS PERFORMED

ECONOMIC STABILITY

In the interest of stabilizing the City’s budget and generating additional revenue, Foster City initiated the process of modernizing its business license tax (BLT) structure.

FUTURE PLANNING

City staff worked diligently on the Housing Element Update 2023-31, developing Multi-Family and Residential Mixed Use Objective Design and Development Standards (ODDS), revised the Below Market Rate (BMR) Inclusionary Housing Program and Guidelines, updated Accessory Dwelling Units and State Density Bonus ordinances to comply with state law and is working on an electrical capacity study to inform the development of Reach Codes for building code amendments.

1,337 BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED



REGIONAL ASSISTANCE

*The Community Development Department received over **\$463,950.68** in reimbursement funds from multiple planning and housing grants for work associated with land use and housing assistance such as the Local Early Action Program (LEAP), Senate Bill 2 Planning Grant Program (PGP), Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) and Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PHLA) grants.*

community engagement

FOSTER CITY'S CITY COUNCIL COMMITS TO OPERATING AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF CIVIL DISCOURSE, ENCOURAGING RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT AND FULL TRANSPARENCY.

EVENTFUL YEAR

Foster City offered another full year of events and opportunities for the community to gather together and celebrate, including the Summer Days festival, Fourth of July celebration, Summer Concert Series, Halloween SPOOKtacular, Outdoor Movie Nights, and much more.

119 PUBLIC RECORDS ACT REQUESTS



facebook
followers
2,945

twitter
followers
1,762

instagram
followers
2,349

youtube
followers
609

simplicity
followers
800

mailchimp
followers
9,314

CIVICS ACADEMY

The City launched its inaugural Civics Academy in 2023. The program offered 25 community members a free, immersive, educational, and entertaining look behind the scenes at how local government functions. Members attended weekly sessions hosted by each of the City's nine departments and were recognized for their completion of the Academy at the November 6 City Council meeting.

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

The City engaged with community members and local media outlets on a variety of critical projects and policies. Those efforts included coordinating outreach and receiving input related to the Canada Goose Population Management Plan, the Levee Improvements Project, the Foster City Recreation Center Rebuild Project, and more.

24
SHORT-FORM VIDEOS
PRODUCED
11
LONG-FORM VIDEOS
PRODUCED

VIDEO PRODUCTION

Expanding on the City's already extensive video production program, the City introduced "Foster City at Work," featuring City Manager Stefan Chatwin getting to know the many skilled staff who help make Foster City such a great place to live, work, and play. The video series, alongside the Mayoral Minute and other original video productions, amassed thousands of views.

SISTER CITY

Foster City and the Foster City Sister City Association welcomed delegates from Inagi City, Japan — our Sister City. The event included speeches, a boat tour of the Foster City lagoon, a recommitment of international partnership, and an exchange of gifts.



innovation and sustainability

Foster City commits to employing modern solutions to current day problems with a focus on and consideration of climate change.



GREEN EVENTS

In an effort to enhance the community’s sustainability, Foster City offered a variety of green events such as six free compost giveaways, two document destruction events, as well as household hazardous waste and electronic waste collection events, the Citywide Yard Sale, Earth Day Community Cleanup, and the Coats for Kids program.

CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING

Extensive community engagement occurred to support creation of the Climate Action Plan. This included working with external stakeholders and the Citizens Sustainability Advisory Committee (CSAC) to identify barriers to sustainable changes, as well as gathering feedback to help build the updated plan, which yielded input from more than 2,000 community members.

LEVEE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Seven miles of flood protection elements were completed on the Levee Improvements Project. The Phase 1 portion of the levee trail was opened in March; Phase 2 trail opened in July; and Phase 3 trail opened in September. As of July, all the flood protection elements were completed meeting FEMA requirements for accreditation – accomplishing the project’s primary goal.

CANADA GOOSE POPULATION MANAGEMENT

City staff initiated a variety of programs designed to address the quality-of-life issues posed by the local Canada Goose population such as offering park cleanup kits, adjusting landscaping in City parks, adding fencing and decoys along select waterfronts, and installing cameras to track migration patterns.

LEVERAGING SOFTWARE

The City implemented the Cartegraph Asset and Operation Management Software and trained staff on the use of the software to help with parks asset management and tracking, scheduling preventative maintenance, and exploring other efficiencies.

RESIDENT REBATES

21

SYNTHETIC TURF

8

SMART CONTROLLERS

2

LAWN BE GONE

6

SOLAR REBATES

390,768

Active candidate profiles on Calopps.org, a website developed by Foster City for public sector agencies and is a resource for applicants looking for public sector jobs.

Foster City commits to continuing to promote diversity and inclusive policies within the City organization and seek social equity in all City policies, including public safety.

COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

The Foster City Police Department took opportunities to meet and interact with the Foster City community by reading to students at the library, participating in Opening Day for Foster City Little League, attending the Summer Days festival, hosting school safety showcases, holding Faith & Blue events, and much more.

HOUSING RELOCATION
ASSISTANCE

Foster City successfully relocated an additional six tenants from the Foster’s Landing Below-Market-Rate Housing Program, which amounts to over 98% of tenants having been relocated to date, and efforts are underway to assist the remaining resident.

ENHANCED
SAFETY

In collaboration with the Community Development, Police, Public Works, and Fire Departments, Foster City adopted a Safety Element 2023 Update, which identifies potential risks within the City that pose a threat to the community’s welfare, public health, and overall safety, while also providing a unique set of goals, policies, and implementation actions that address these risks.

INCLUSIVE
COMMUNITY

In completing the Age Friendly City Action Plan Report, City staff collaborated internally and with other organizations to assess the programs and services accommodating the needs of local seniors.

MORE
DIVERSITY

The Foster City Police Department doubled the proportion of female officers from 10% of sworn officers to 20%, with an intent to increase to 30% of officers by 2030, as part of the 30X30 Initiative. The Explorer Program continued to grow as well, with two new Explorers participating in the program. Also, the City Council approved adding a clinician, shared with the San Mateo Police Department, who specializes in de-escalation to assist with calls for those experiencing mental health crises.

“INCREASE IN
FEMALE
OFFICERS FROM
10% TO 20%”



120
CERT
VOLUNTEERS

*dedicated 721 hours of
service to the community*

thank you



The Foster City staff would like to thank our community for making 2023 a memorable year.

We appreciate everyone who has helped make Foster City a great place to live, work, and play.



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