Dear Foster City Community,

It is my pleasure to present the Community Annual Report, which celebrates Foster City’s many great accomplishments over the past year. As your Mayor, I brought the focus on objective decision making and results oriented leadership. I am proud to share the strides we made this year and the work we did to set the blueprint for future success.

We made substantial progress on our collective path back to normalcy from a global pandemic. We were again able to gather for our July 4th celebration, Summer Concert Series, the Summer Days festival, and other traditions so important to our community. One of the most notable areas of progress is the Levee Improvements Project, which passed significant milestones on the way to protecting our current residents and future generations from the threat of flooding and climate change. Other infrastructure projects have advanced as well. We are moving forward with plans to rebuild the Recreation Center, initiating the award-winning Traffic Relief Program, and opening Workforce Housing units. We also did extensive work to build our amazing City staff, with hires in key leadership positions such as our Parks and Recreation Director and City Manager. All this work was done as the city preserved its stable financial position.

We made great advances this year in an effort to make Foster City a safer, more equitable place. These initiatives included adopting a minimum wage ordinance intended to assist our many essential workers, as well as the launch of our Automated License Plate readers, which provided our Police Department with another critical tool to help keep our residents safe. In another first for Foster City, we flew the Progress Pride Flag at City Hall, demonstrating the high value we place on our community’s diversity. We also hosted the “Meet the Mayor” series for elementary school students, demonstrating the importance of community engagement and helping to inspire future leaders. Furthermore, we enhanced our focus on establishing public-private partnerships and strengthened our relationship with one of our most notable employers Gilead Sciences.

With these many accomplishments in mind, please take a moment while reading this report to reflect on the immense amount of collaboration and teamwork necessary to make these successes possible. It was an incredible year for Foster City, and I am proud to have served as your mayor. I am confident that the decisions I advocated for and was instrumental in the last four years will continue to benefit our community for years to come. I wish nothing but the best for our beautiful paradise.

Sincerely,

Richa Awasthi

MAYOR
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.

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.
2022 saw a community comeback in Foster City! The year featured a full return of in-person events, such as when the community gathered together to welcome back the big Summer Days festival. Other highlights included new local businesses opening, a workforce housing ribbon cutting, and the roll out of programs focused on preserving the community’s commitment to sustainability. Take a look at the timeline below to see more of what Foster City accomplished this year.

**JANUARY**

New traffic control measures are put in place to help increase safety for students and drivers near Foster City schools.

**FEBRUARY**

Foster City partners with mobile communication platform Simplicity to offer residents a new, easier way to stay engaged. Learn more on page 8.

**AUGUST**

After two years, Foster City reintroduces the Summer Days festival. The weekend consists of live music, rides, games, the City’s first-ever Classic Car Show, and the return of the Rubber Ducky Races. Learn more on page 7.

**JULY**

The Federal government allocates $1 million toward the Levee Improvements projects thanks to a collaborative effort with Congresswoman Jackie Speier. Learn more on page 4.

**SEPTEMBER**

The City Council, staff, and others come together for a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of 22 workforce housing apartments at ‘The Pilgrim.’ Learn more on page 6.

**OCTOBER**

Foster City hosts the annual Open House event at Fire Station 28, welcoming families to come and take a tour of the station and emergency vehicles, meet first responders, watch live demonstrations, and more. Learn more on page 11.
MARCH

‘No Left Turn’ signs are permanently installed along East Hillsdale Blvd. during evening commute hours to help reduce cut-through traffic.

APRIL

Foster City reconfirms its partnership with Gilead Sciences in an effort to enhance community, sustainability, and equity. Learn more on page 13.

MAY

Foster City releases for public review a Draft Housing Element, which is intended to guide the City’s state-mandated housing growth. Learn more on page 5.

JUNE

Installation begins on new traffic signals and other roadway improvements at key locations throughout Foster City.

The City Council hires new City Manager Stefan Chatwin who comes to Foster City with over 20 years of public service experience.

Foster City celebrates the reopening of the Baffin Street Bridge, marking a major milestone in the advancement of the Levee Improvements Project. Learn more on page 4.

NOVEMBER

The November 8 General Election brings Foster City voters to the polls, resulting in the election of two Councilmembers. Learn more on page 8.

Foster City plans to host its annual Holiday Tree Lighting. The event traditionally features music, light refreshments, a countdown to illuminate the tree along the Lagoon in festive lights, and more seasonal festivities.
COMMUNITY PROFILE

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

16 SQUARE MILES OF WATER
33,056 POPULATION
4 SQUARE MILES OF LAND

5 PUBLIC SCHOOLS
1 PUBLIC LIBRARY
1 FIRE STATION
1 POLICE STATION
24 PUBLIC PARKS

$1,931,659 MEDIAN HOME VALUE
53.3% OWNER- OCCUPIED HOUSING UNIT RATE
$163,322 MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

At the 2022 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

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

RECREATION CENTER REBUILD

The City paved the way for the design and construction of a new Recreation Center to replace the current 50-year-old facility in Leo J. Ryan Park. A Request for Proposals (RFP) for architectural design services was issued with the goal of moving forward with a “build-to-budget” option not to exceed $55 million.
Considerable progress was made on the Levee Improvements Project, which is designed to protect the Foster City community from flooding and sea level rise. Notable milestones included reopening Baffin Bridge at the City’s southern border. Also, nearly $1 million in community project funding was approved by the Federal Appropriations Committee.

COURT RESURFACING PROJECT

As part of the sport court maintenance program, the City issued a Request for Proposals for resurfacing three basketball courts, five tennis courts, and six pickleball courts. The project included crack repair, new asphalt and net posts, and over 68,000 sq. feet of acrylic surfacing.

STREET REHABILITATION

Foster City’s streets are well maintained through a combination of programs managed by the Public Works street crews and annual pavement projects. This resulted in Foster City being recognized in 2021 by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for having the highest Pavement Condition Index (PCI) rating in San Mateo County, along with Menlo Park and Woodside.
The City Council approved redevelopment of the former El Torito restaurant site at 388 Vintage Park Drive into a new commercial building designed for use in the life sciences industry. The project will revitalize the property and generate an estimated $2.8 million in commercial linkage fees that will be used to fund affordable housing initiatives. Other notable projects include approval of a Restaurant/Retail pavilion building at Century Plaza and Phase II of the Lincoln Center Life Sciences campus.

Foster City adopted new development impact fees, which will help generate revenues that can be used to mitigate the impacts of new development by funding a range of capital programs, public safety, and capital facilities that will help improve the quality of life for residents.

Foster City made extensive progress on its updated Housing Element, including hosting a series of public meetings designed to gather input on the critical planning document which gave way to the submission of the draft document to the state. The plan is intended to guide Foster City’s housing growth to accommodate the approximately 1,896 new housing units mandated by the State between 2023 and 2031. Final adoption is expected in early 2023.
SMART PLANNING

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

WORKFORCE HOUSING

Foster City celebrated the grand opening of the 22 workforce housing apartments at ‘The Pilgrim’ in the Pilgrim Triton neighborhood. The units, built as part of a public-private partnership, are reserved for the workforce community in Foster City, including teachers and residents who are income qualified.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Foster City’s City Council commits to operating at the highest level of civil discourse, encouraging resident engagement and full transparency.

SUMMER EVENTS

For the first time in two years, the City hosted a full slate of in-person events and programs throughout the summer which granted the Foster City community a chance to again join together and celebrate. Events such as the Summer Concert Series and Summer Days Festival brought thousands of friends, family members and neighbors to Leo Ryan Park to enjoy food, music, and more.
Building on the momentum established last year when the series was launched, the Mayoral Minute video series expanded its audience and continued to be an essential platform for sharing critical information and updates with the Foster City community. In all, the City produced 20 videos over the year addressing a variety of important issues and community events which amassed nearly 3,000 views.

The City promoted participation in the November 8 General Election. Efforts included offering information on how to run for City Council and ways to register to vote, assisting with the Candidates Forum hosted by the League of Women Voters, and more.

Responding to national and regional interest in the Canada Goose population management issue, the City initiated a comprehensive outreach plan. Efforts included accommodating dozens of media requests, disseminating press releases and statements, producing a video series as a platform for periodic updates, launching a webpage dedicated to the issue, and engaging in hours of public discussion and deliberation with stakeholders at City Council meetings.

The audience across all of Foster City’s official social media platforms grew substantially over the past year, with almost 700 new subscribers combined on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. The City also added to its slate of outreach services the Simplicity app, which sends alerts to users directly informing them of important city updates, events, and programs.

**ELECTION PARTICIPATION**

**MEDIA/PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

**VIDEO PRODUCTION**

**SOCIAL MEDIA GROWTH**

**SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Media</th>
<th>Followers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>2,692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twitter</td>
<td>1,654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YouTube</td>
<td>528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Newsletter</td>
<td>9,316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instagram</td>
<td>1,921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simplicity</td>
<td>895</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
City staff worked in concert with San Mateo County to roll out the Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinance. This ordinance aims to regulate and reduce the amount of plastic disposable foodware that is used and distributed in Foster City and to encourage the use of reusable alternatives.

**SOFTWARE UPGRADES**

The City initiated the process of updating and modernizing the software used to evaluate employee performance, the management of electronic documents, and the creation of agenda packets for public meetings.

**CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

Work continued on the multi-year Climate Action Plan (CAP) update. Public engagement to encourage community participation in the development of the Climate Action Plan will proceed throughout 2023. The completed CAP will be the guiding document to help the City achieve its climate and sustainability goals.

**DISPOSABLE FOODWARE**

City staff worked in concert with San Mateo County to roll out the Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinance. This ordinance aims to regulate and reduce the amount of plastic disposable foodware that is used and distributed in Foster City and to encourage the use of reusable alternatives.

**EARTH-FRIENDLY SAVINGS**

This year, Foster City residents were awarded:

- 34 Water Conservation Rebates
- 9 Solar Rebates

www.fostercity.org/waterconservation
INNOVATION & SUSTAINABILITY

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

2022 was an exciting year for Sustainable Foster City: a permanent Citizens Sustainability Advisory Committee was established; the City held several green events such as participating in a Mayor’s Water Challenge and a Clean Air Day Pledge; and hosted an Earth Day Clean-up which featured dozens of residents helping clean parks and open spaces.
SOCIAL EQUITY & PUBLIC SAFETY

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.

SAFETY FIRST

The San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department along with the Foster City Police and Public Works Departments hosted the annual Open House event at Fire Station 28 in Foster City. The event granted community members an opportunity to tour the facility, meet firefighters, and watch emergency response demonstrations, among other fun activities. And in a separate event, 38 participants graduated from the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, which is a group of volunteers who are trained by the Fire Department in emergency preparedness, disaster medical, fire suppression, and more.
CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

Foster City continued to celebrate its diversity in 2022. For the first time ever, the Progress Pride Flag was flown at City Hall. Also, the City increased efforts to promote the availability of its art gallery and display cases to showcase educational and cultural exhibits representative of the diverse local community.

MINIMUM WAGE ORDINANCE

Foster City workers celebrated the passing of a Minimum Wage Ordinance. The City Council voted to increase the minimum wage for the City of Foster City to $15.75 per hour for all employees, effective July 1, 2022 and $16.50 on January 1, 2023. The minimum wage will increase annually on January 1st each year thereafter based on the regional Consumer Price Index (CPI), not-to-exceed 3%.

LICENSE PLATE READERS

The implementation of Automatic License Plate Readers by the Foster City Police Department proved instrumental in reducing vehicle crimes. To that end, in 2022 Foster City saw a 50% reduction in such crimes since 2020, with the new technology proving integral in solving high-profile cases.

FLAVORED TOBACCO BAN

In an effort to protect the health and safety of future generations, the City Council passed an ordinance banning sales of flavored tobacco and e-cigarettes at retail locations throughout Foster City effective January 1, 2023.

AVG. RESPONSE TIMES

Police: 5:09
Fire: 5:28
Once again, the City’s Finance Department led all City departments in tirelessly developing a balanced City budget, with a hearty reserve fund. Additionally, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the City for the 29th consecutive year.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Members of the City Council and staff represented Foster City at the ribbon cutting celebrating the grand opening of the new, state-of-the-art Wellbeing Center and Park on the campus of Gilead Sciences. The event also honored the company’s 35-year anniversary. Earlier in the year, the City and Gilead reconfirmed a public-private partnership with intent of advancing shared strategic goals.

AWARD-WINNING TEAM

For the 10th time, the City’s Information and Technology Team won the prestigious Municipal Information Systems Association of California (MISAC) Excellence in Information Technology Practices’ Award, given to agencies that excel in creative and efficient use of local government resources. Also, the Dynamic Signage related to the Traffic Relief Program won the American Public Works Association award for project of the year.
OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

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

KEY POSITION APPOINTMENTS

Marking an uptick from years prior, Foster City hired 34 new employees in 2022 – 14 full-time and 20 part-time/seasonal. Key among those positions filled were City Manager and Parks and Recreation Director. The City continued to retain and hire top talent despite a challenging local and national employment landscape.
BY THE NUMBERS  As of October 1, 2022

**GENERAL FUNDS RESERVES**

$44M

**232 ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, & MINUTE ORDERS**

**612 YARDS OF STREET SWEEP DEBRIS COLLECTED**

**38 CERT VOLUNTEERS**

DEDICATED

**2,519 HOURS**

OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

**CALOPPS.ORG MOMENTUM**

83 AGENCIES ON THE WEBSITE

390,768 ACTIVE CANDIDATE PROFILES

**PUBLIC RECORDS ACT REQUESTS**

103

from the 2021-2022 San Mateo County Libraries Annual Report

The Foster City Library welcomed

140,000 VISITORS THIS YEAR

and hosted more than

300 in-person events for over 7,000 people.

**SAFEST CITY IN CALIFORNIA**

1,687 BUSINESS LICENSES PROCESSED