



Safety and Health (SH)

Vision

Improve safety through physical improvements and community-centered code enforcement, encourage active and healthy lifestyles, and expand health and safety resources within Florence-Firestone.

Background

A safe and healthy environment where community members feel secure in their homes, schools, parks, places of employment, and shopping and entertainment areas is key to achieving the community's vision. Public safety is basic to all aspects of community development and cross cuts other land use elements, including the Environmental Justice and Industrial Areas elements. Access to recreation and healthy food is also important to improving public health in the community.

In 2017, CalEPA updated the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 to identify disadvantaged communities as those census tracts with a score of 75% or higher. A score of 75% or higher demonstrates a disproportionate burden on the community for particular environmental risks. Florence-Firestone received an average score of 75% and above on indicators related to particulate matter in the air, toxic releases, cleanup sites, solid waste sites near populated blocks, and overall pollution burden. Florence-Firestone also achieved scores of over 75% in a number of public health factors, including asthma related emergency visits and the rate of emergency department visits for heart attacks.

At community meetings, residents raised crime, gang activity, and safety as top issues. Litter and graffiti seen along the railroad and Blue Line rights-of-way, overpasses, billboards, vacant properties, alleyways, blank walls, and inoperable vehicles in the public right-of-way add to the negative view of safety. In addition to law enforcement, regular removal of litter and graffiti, greater visibility into public spaces and parks, and pedestrian-scale street lighting where feasible would enhance the perception of safety and comfort in public spaces.

Community Safety

The Sheriff's Department has coordinated with the California Highway Patrol to enhance the presence of law enforcement officers in the community. In addition, the community has developed active neighborhood block watch groups. Further coordination between public safety agencies, County

Departments and local neighborhood groups could more effectively promote community safety and strengthen community relations with government services.

Given the community's young population, particular attention should be focused on strengthening safety around schools, such as enforcement of traffic regulations near schools, implementation of the "Safe Routes to School Initiative," and traffic calming measures near public spaces and schools.

Environmental Design

The perception of safety influences behavior in and use of public spaces, including streets, sidewalks, parks, and transit stations. Enhancing the pedestrian environment with wider sidewalks, more crosswalks, and pedestrian-scale lighting can promote mobility and active use of public space and increase visibility. Clean, active, visible public space can improve the perception of safety.

Proactively addressing code violations, including removal of illegal outdoor storage in commercial and industrial areas as well as enhanced maintenance, removal of litter, junk and salvage materials, and graffiti would improve the physical environment and help with the perception of safety.

Active and Healthy Residents

Improving street infrastructure and recreational space to support physical activity, such as walking and bicycling, can increase the level of physical activity in the community. Improvement to bicycle facilities may discourage bicyclist who often use sidewalks and decrease conflict with pedestrians. Joint use of schools for recreational purpose during non-school hours should be explored to increase recreational opportunities and take advantage of existing resources in the community.

Ongoing public outreach and education by the County Department of Public Health and Department of Health Services should be supported to increase the level of knowledge on health and wellness programs, nutrition, and healthy health issues and available resources.

Healthy Food

Community members have identified a need to easily access high quality, affordable, and healthy food options at local grocery stores, supermarkets, eateries, and in schools. In addition, community members have commented



Florence-Firestone Health Fair



Florence-Firestone Community Garden

that high quality produce is not consistently available at local grocery stores and supermarkets. Supporting the establishment of a local farmer's market, growing edible gardens on underutilized properties, and encouraging markets and grocery stores to carry high quality, fresh produce would significantly contribute to the community's health.

Goals and Policies

COMMUNITY SAFETY

GOAL SH-1

Public safety is seen and felt throughout the community.

Policy SH-1.1

Increase Law Enforcement Officer Presences. Increase law enforcement officers' presence throughout the community, especially around parks, schools, transit stations, and other public spaces.

Policy SH-1.2

Community-Based Crime Prevention. Support ongoing interaction, coordination, and communication among existing community-based foot and bicycle patrols, watch programs, and with neighborhood and business organizations.

Policy SH-1.3

Increase Community-Based Policing Near Public Facilities. Promote safety, community-based anti-crime and anti-gang initiatives, and regular recreational and entertainment options to reduce crime and violence in areas around parks and public facilities.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

GOAL SH-2

Reduced crime and fear of crime through environmental design.

Policy SH-2.1

Urban Design. Pursue urban design strategies that reduce the opportunity for crime and violence in parks and in public streets, such as Crime Prevention through Environmental Design, which facilitates visibility into and monitoring of public space by residents and law enforcement.

Policy SH-2.2

Improve Pedestrian Infrastructure. Improve pedestrian infrastructure around schools and in the public right-of-way throughout the community.

Policy SH-2.3

Increase Lighting for Pedestrians. Provide enhanced lighting for pedestrians on sidewalks and in and around community facilities, such as parks and open spaces.

ACTIVE AND HEALTHY RESIDENTS

GOAL SH-3

Community members are active and healthy.

Policy SH-3.1

Encourage Walking and Bicycling. Encourage programs and events to promote physical activity and encourage residents to walk or bicycle to community destinations such as schools, parks, and libraries.

Policy SH-3.2

Promote Recreational Opportunities. Increase recreational opportunities by using open spaces at parks and schools for leisure, recreation, and wellness through joint-use agreements.

Policy SH-3.3

Provide Health Education Classes. Promote health and wellness in recreation programs, and provide classes and information on nutrition and healthy lifestyle choices, online and at County facilities.

Policy SH-3.4

Ensure Access to Health Resources. Provide high quality health care facilities and connect residents with resources, services, and information that are readily available and easily accessible.

Policy SH-3.5

Funding for Active Design Projects. Promote active and healthy design implementation programs using resources from both public departments and private entities.

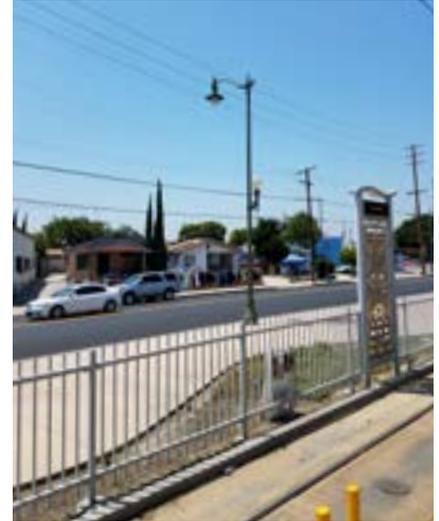
HEALTHY FOOD

GOAL SH-4

Healthy food is accessible and affordable.

Policy SH-4.1

Repurpose Underutilized Space for Food. Support farmers' markets and community gardens at community parks, schools, vacant lots, and within overhead utility easements.



Example of dual purpose street- and pedestrian-scale lighting on one pole.
Courtesy, Daryl Koonce



Active recreation at Roosevelt Park Pool
Courtesy, Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation



Florence-Firestone Health Fair at La Alameda Shopping Center.

Policy SH-4.2

Repurpose Underutilized Space for Food. Support farmers' markets and community gardens at community parks, schools, vacant lots, and within overhead utility easements.

Policy SH-4.2

Urban Agriculture. Promote the use of the Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone (UAIZ) and other incentives to convert underutilized properties and expand access to healthy and affordable foods.

Policy SH-4.3

Encourage Fresh Food Options Through Permits. Encourage supermarkets, food vendors, eateries, and other food related retailers to provide healthy, fresh food options through outreach and also by applying conditions in discretionary projects.

Policy SH-4.4

Edible Gardens in New Developments. Provide space for edible gardens within new developments.

General Plan Policy

Community Wellness

Policy LU 9.3: Encourage patterns of development that increase convenient, safe access to healthy foods, especially fresh produce, in all neighborhoods.

FLORENCE-FIRESTONE
COMMUNITY GARDEN

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