



Town of Moraga

TOWN COUNCIL

September 14, 2022

Greetings to Moraga's future citizens. We are excited to share information regarding life in Moraga in 2022. The Town's population is currently 16,700. We are a Town that prides itself on its semi-rural feel, scenic vistas, close-knit community and excellent public schools.

Some of the key and special attributes of Moraga include:

- The Town began as a farming (pears and walnuts) and ranching community, and ranching continues in the outskirts of Moraga, adjacent to county land.
- The community is committed to permanently protecting open space and boasts hiking trails that are enjoyed by many Moragans and those in surrounding areas.
- Quality primary and secondary public education is a strong focus, and parent volunteers contribute significantly to our schools.
- Moraga is frequently ranked among the safest cities in California.
- There are ample opportunities for youth sports, and cultural and community programs. Volunteers and service groups work with the Town government to improve and enhance our parks, community events, and recreational opportunities for the benefit of our residents. In 2022 we installed a special garden to aid the endangered monarch butterfly.
- Moraga owns multiple parks for outdoor activities. Commons Park is active with playgrounds, volleyball courts, a water feature, and a bandshell where the very popular annual summer program of outdoor concerts is held. The historic Hacienda de Las Flores serves as both a public park and a private venue for weddings. Rancho Laguna Park is home to the Monarch Butterfly Garden and a popular dog park.
- We are proud to be home to the highly regarded Saint Mary's College.
- We collaborate closely with the adjoining cities of Orinda and Lafayette and this area is commonly referred to as Lamorinda.
- The Town is run effectively, efficiently, and judiciously by a small staff which provides residents with a high level of services on a limited budget. The Town's annual operating budget is \$11.3 million. In 2012, the community voted in a half cent sales tax to fund repairs and maintenance of the Town's 56 miles of streets which significantly improved the roads in Town.

- In 2022, the Town completed the Canyon Road Bridge replacement project, a \$12.7 million project that added bike lanes, a multi-purpose pathway, lighting, and re-connected the Lafayette Moraga Regional Trail that provides a trail connection between Moraga and Lafayette. The Town completes approximately \$7 million of capital improvement projects each year, investing in buildings, parks, and other public infrastructure.
- Moraga and Orinda share the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) that provides a range of services suitable for, and tailored to, small towns nestled in hills with associated fire challenges.

Moraga also has challenges in 2022 which we are meeting head on:

- Recent wildfires in California and elsewhere have heightened wildfire risk in Moraga and nearby. Multiple projects are underway to mitigate the risks and we continue to prioritize fire risk mitigation and evacuation planning in recognition of this new reality.
- As there are only a few access roads in and out of Moraga, traffic congestion remains a focus, and we are working locally and regionally on providing alternatives to single-occupant car travel, such as walking, cycling, ride sharing, and public transportation.
- The 27 miles of public storm drain system are aging and in need of repair. The Town received Federal funding in response to the Coronavirus pandemic and is investing those funds into storm drain infrastructure improvements.
- We are working on providing a better mix of economically feasible housing for a wider range of residents so that young families can come to Moraga, seniors can stay in Moraga, and our public-school teachers, workers at our local businesses and public safety personnel can live in our Town. We are concentrating new housing opportunities in the underutilized commercial centers of the Town in an effort to enhance the shopping and dining experiences in Moraga.

Similar to past Town Councils, we take our responsibility to maintain the quality of life enjoyed by current residents for future generations seriously and will do our part to ensure that Moraga will continue to have very desirable attributes, enhanced by successfully addressing our challenges.

Steve Woehleke, Mayor

Renata Sos, Vice Mayor

Sona Makker, Councilmember

Mike McCluer, Councilmember

Teresa Onoda, Councilmember