

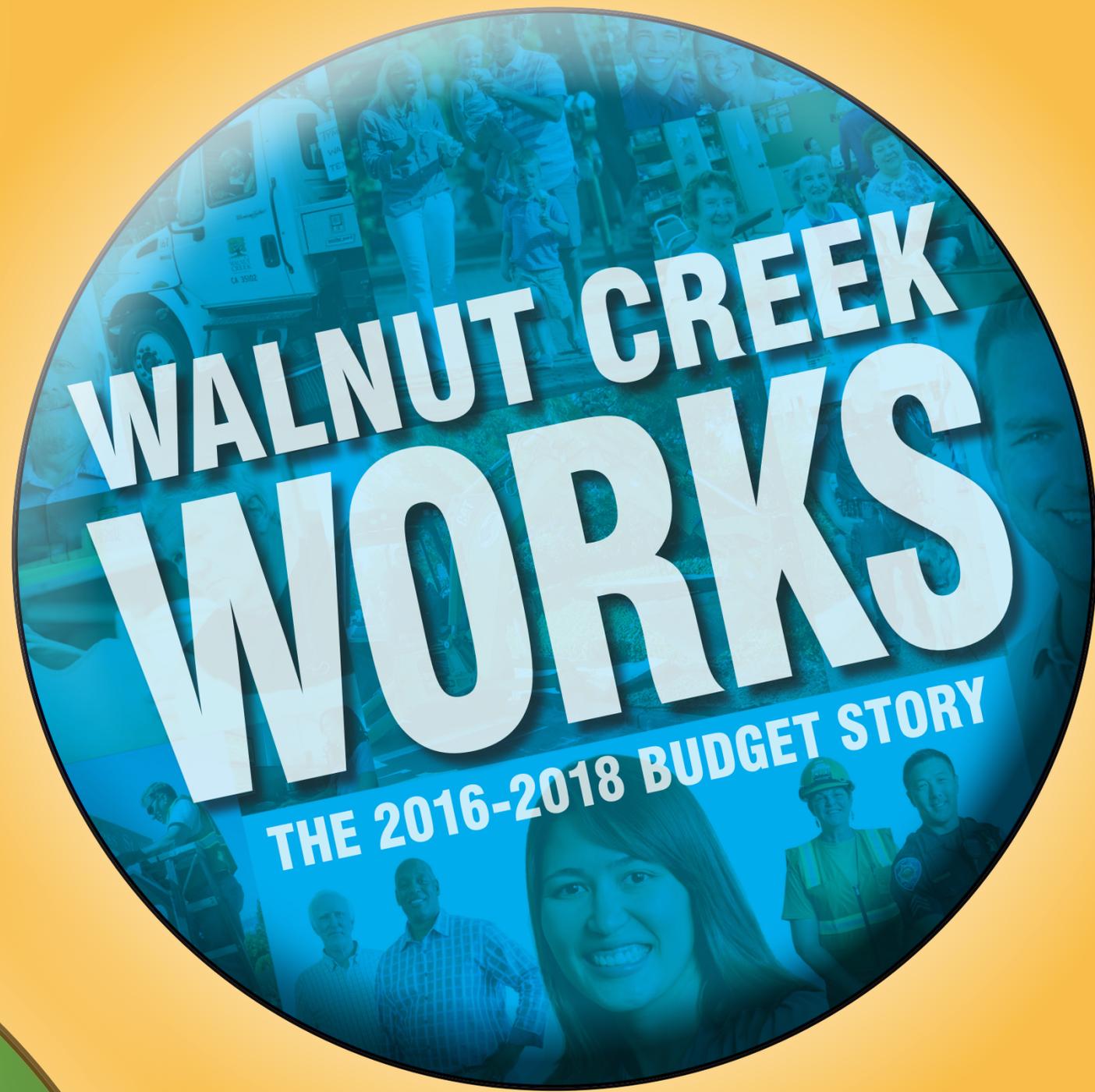
WALNUT CREEK EXECUTIVE TEAM

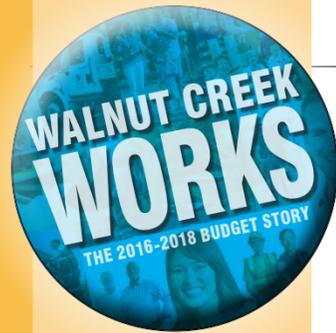
Ken Nordhoff, City Manager
Heather Ballenger, Public Works Director
Tom Chaplin, Chief of Police
Suzie Martinez, City Clerk
Steve Mattas, City Attorney
Sandra Meyer, Community & Economic Development Director
Jeff Mohlenkamp, Administrative Services Director
Fran Robustelli, Assistant City Manager
Kevin Safine, Arts and Recreation Director
Gayle Vassar, Communications & Outreach Manager

"Walnut Creek Works: The 2016-2018 Budget Story"
was produced by the City of Walnut Creek

For questions or comments, email community@walnut-creek.org or call 925-943-5895

Credits: Gayle Vassar, Communications & Outreach Manager,
Liz Payne, photography; Carolyn Jackson and Carla Hansen, writers;
Chuck Todd, design (www.chucktoddinfographics.com)





TRANSFORMATION & STEWARDSHIP

This is an exciting time to be in Walnut Creek. We have weathered the Great Recession, and find ourselves in the midst of a renaissance era, full of new ideas and energy. At the same time, we have a deep appreciation for what we already have, and a strong commitment to take care of it.

Our 2016-18 Budget Story reflects that dual purpose of transformation and stewardship. It seeks to tell the story of how we, your local government, spend the money you give us to meet community priorities, using the theme of “Walnut Creek Works.”

We are an evolving community, and this budget reflects that. Over the next two years, we will be exploring how our downtown parks can accommodate the increasing number of people who call our urban center home. We will create a long-range vision for the area known as North Downtown, and complete a similar vision for the West Downtown.

We will add six people over the next two years in the areas of technology, law enforcement, community preservation, along with street and park maintenance.

We'll also be taking care of what we've got - \$27 million will go toward street maintenance, a

community center remodel and building upgrades. And, we will continue to look for ways to protect our environment, with creek restoration and ongoing commitment to programs that help us meet our Climate Action Plan goals.

Walnut Creek works in so many ways. Dedicated community members, along with non-profits, contribute their time and talents to make our community a better place. Businesses continue to innovate and invigorate our local economy. City employees come to work every day, ready to serve the public and make a difference.

We will always have more needs to address than funds available. That's why it's important that we continue the dialogue about our future and our priorities. Late this year, we will

be launching a citizen survey. Look for more information about that in the Winter Nutshell, and my electronic City Manager's Update.

Stay involved in your community!

That's the best way of ensuring that Walnut Creek works, today and in the future.



Ken Nordhoff
Walnut Creek City Manager

Subscribe to the monthly City Manager's Update at walnut-creek.org/subscribe

Our Mission

The City of Walnut Creek, working in partnership with the community, is committed to enhancing our quality of life by promoting:

A positive environment where people can live, work and play

A vibrant local economy to enhance and sustain long-term fiscal stability

A progressive workplace where dedicated employees can make a difference

Our Vision

A balanced community meeting tomorrow's needs while protecting the quality and character we value today

Our Values

Respect

Integrity

Excellence

Teamwork

Creativity

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN 2016-18

1) Swim center at Heather Farm Park

The future of aquatics at Heather Farm Park is coming into focus. As envisioned at a July 5, 2016 Council study session, the new aquatics facility would include two pools – a family recreational pool and a 25-meter fitness/competitive pool. The City Council has committed \$6 million toward the project; the Walnut Creek Aquatics Foundation has expressed interest in raising money to increase the size of the fitness/competitive pool to 50-meters (the size of the current Clarke Swim Center Olympic pool). In addition, John Muir Health is exploring the possibility of developing a medical wellness center in conjunction with the swim center.



The City is considering options to replace the aging Clarke Swim Center at Heather Farm Park.

2) Walnut Creek Transit Village at BART

Phase 1 of this project – construction of a new parking garage – kicks off in 2017. Many of the Transit Village's 596 market rate apartments will be available in 2020, with the entire project completing in 2021.



3) The Orchards center

Some stores in this new town center at the corner of Ygnacio Valley and Oak Grove roads will begin opening in Fall 2016, including a 55,000-square-foot Safeway. Complementing the retail will be a children's park and splash area, walking trails and space for outdoor community functions. Viamonte, a continuing care retirement community, is expected to open by 2018.



4) Citizen Survey

We want to hear from you! Whether you are one of the 2,000 households to receive a written survey or not, you can still weigh in via an online survey. Coming early 2017.



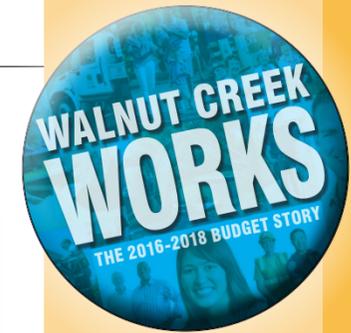
5) Downtown streetlamps go LED

The 380 decorative streetlights in the downtown will be converted to LED light fixtures, fulfilling the City's goal of having all streetlights switched to LED.



6) Center for Community Arts

Formerly called Civic Arts Education, Walnut Creek's community arts program will get a new name – Center for Community Arts – and a fresh look in Fall 2016.



Walnut Creek's Budget at a Glance

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Keeping Our Community Safe

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Taking Care of What We've Got

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Caring for Our Environment

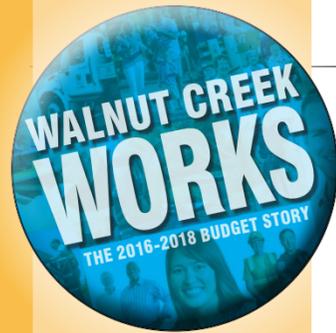
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Culture of Innovation

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A Strong Economy

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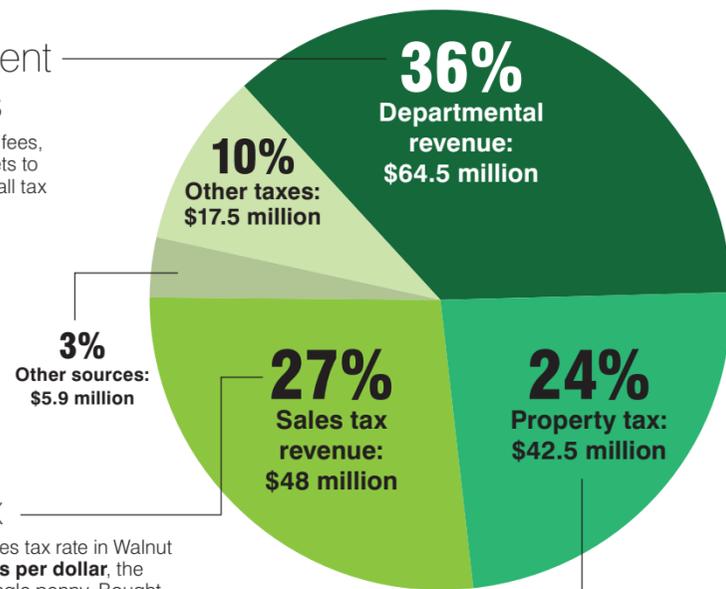
THE 2016-18 BUDGET

Here is an overview of Walnut Creek's anticipated revenues and expenditures in the Fiscal Years 2016-18 Operating Budget.

General Fund Total Revenues 2016-2018: **\$178.4 million**

Department revenues

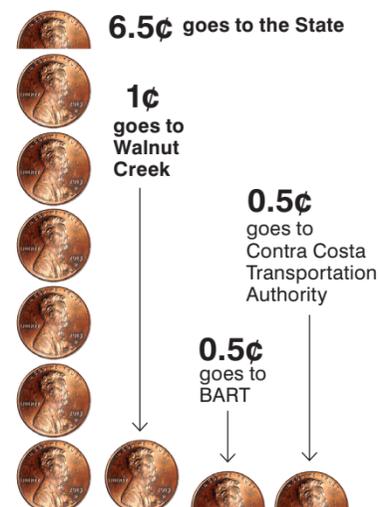
Includes permits, fees, charges and tickets to events; excludes all tax revenues.



Sales tax

While the total sales tax rate in Walnut Creek is **8.5 cents per dollar**, the City receives a single penny. Bought a \$40,000 car? Walnut Creek will get \$400 in sales tax.

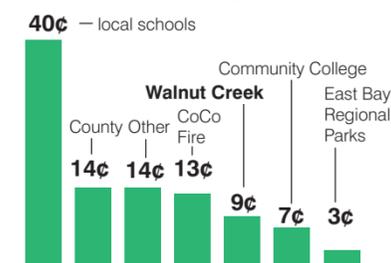
Of that 8.5 cents:



Property tax

Walnut Creek receives 9.4 cents per dollar of property tax. Of the average resident's \$3,912 property tax bill, only \$368 goes to the City. A \$100 million project will bring in \$90,400 to Walnut Creek.

Where does your property tax dollar go?



Budget highlights

The City has fully recovered from the great recession.

Projections show a General Fund surplus of \$3 million for each of the next two years.

Revenues are enough to maintain current service levels, but not enough to fully meet infrastructure needs (roads and buildings).

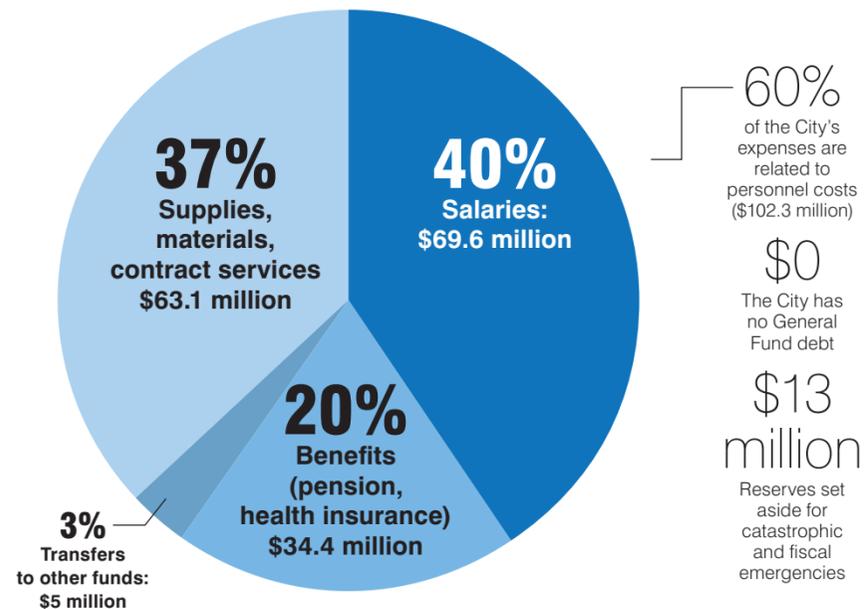
Fees and charges are now the largest source of General Fund revenue.

Pre-recession, sales tax was the City's largest source of revenue. Now, it's fees and charges for specific services, such as permits, rentals and tickets to events. These funds can only be used to support operations within their specific departments.

BY THE NUMBERS

The budget serves as a business plan to help the City and Citizens prioritize funding and plan for the future.

General Fund Total Expenditures 2016-2018: **\$172.1 million**

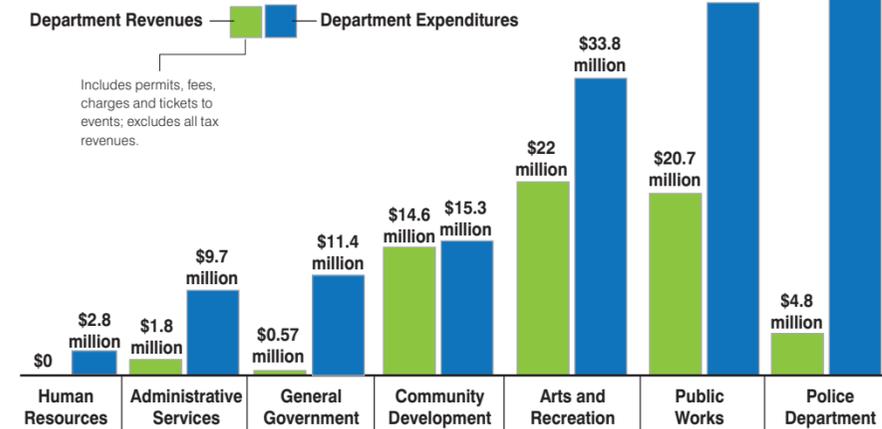


60% of the City's expenses are related to personnel costs (\$102.3 million)

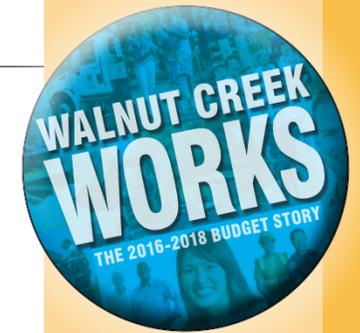
\$0 The City has no General Fund debt

\$13 million Reserves set aside for catastrophic and fiscal emergencies

General Fund: Cost Recovery by Department



Includes permits, fees, charges and tickets to events; excludes all tax revenues.



What's new

Library Hours

The additional 21 hours a week once paid for through a parcel tax are now included in the City's General Fund.

Staffing Changes

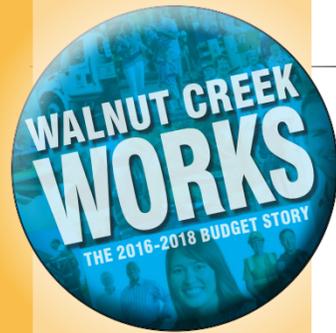
The City will add two new police officers, a Code Enforcement officer, and an Information Technology position. In addition, the 2016-18 budget restores a street maintenance and a parks maintenance position that were cut during the recession.

Capital Budget

The Capital Budget provides \$27 million for roads, storm water systems, bridges and other projects. (See page 11 for details).

Investing in Technology

The Council has directed surplus funds into several major technology projects, including an Enterprise Resource Planning system that will reduce redundancies and greatly streamline internal operations.



KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

Building Community Connections

Walnut Creek has four unique policing areas – or ‘sectors’ – which are further broken down into police beats. This geographic approach lets police get to know the people they serve, as well as the particular challenges within their sector.

Sector 2:
Lt. Tom Cashion
915-943-5880
cashion@walnutcreekpd.com

Sector 3:
Lt. Steve Bertolozzi
925-256-3578
bertolozzi@walnutcreekpd.com

Sector 4:
Lt. Sean Conley
925-256-3519
conley@walnutcreekpd.com

Sector 1:
Lt. Tracie Reese
925-943-5894
reese@walnutcreekpd.com

Every sector has a dedicated Lieutenant, or “sector commander,” who serves as the focal point for public safety issues in his or her sector. Have a question or a concern? Contact your neighborhood’s Sector Commander. From crime concerns to neighborhood meetings, they are ready to help.

Not sure which sector you live in? Check out the interactive map under the Patrol page at walnutcreekpd.com.

Fighting Crime with Crime View

In 2015, the Walnut Creek Police Department hired its first Crime Analyst and launched monthly Crime View meetings in which sworn and professional staff come together to discuss crime patterns and trends, and brainstorm innovative solutions.

For instance, when the team

identified an increase in car break-ins near a downtown gym, they determined the root cause of the problem was that people were leaving their valuables in plain sight in their cars while working out. Increased public education, along with beefed up enforcement, resulted in a drop in break-ins.

Mapping the Crime

Interested in knowing about crime in your neighborhood? Go to raidsonline.com, a crime mapping tool. Enter your address and a date range, and the map will display locations and types of crime nearby. Or, visit walnutcreekpd.com and click on the “Daily Bulletin” tab to get information about calls for service.

Crime analysis

“We’re taking a strategic approach to fighting crime by examining incidents, calls for service and crime statistics to identify potential problems and innovative solutions.”

Denise Joseph
Crime Analyst



KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

Building Relationships with Walnut Creek Youth



Walnut Creek Police Department Officer Randy Villa speaks with 7th graders from Foothill Middle School as part of the Awareness program.

The Police Department is expanding programming for younger students, building on the success of having School Resource Officers at high school campuses.

“These programs help build trust with the kids in our community. We want them to know Police Officers are here as a resource for them,” says Officer Drew Olson.

Seventh graders will be able to participate in the “Awareness” program, in which police officers discuss timely topics such as safe use of social media and the harmful effects of

drugs.

At the 5th grade level, “Character Counts” is returning after a multi-year hiatus. The goal of “Character Counts” is to help 5th graders learn what it means to be a good person by focusing on six “pillars” of character, including trustworthiness and fairness.

Volunteer for Safety

When disaster strikes, there won’t be enough police officers or firefighters to attend to every need. That’s where Walnut Creek’s Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program comes in. CERT members are trained to work together to safely respond to the needs of their neighborhoods following a disaster, and to serve as the eyes and ears for the City’s

Emergency Operations Center and first responders.

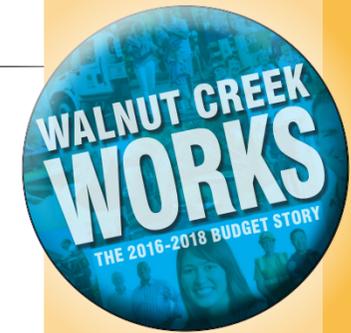
Walnut Creek CERT contributions go beyond disaster response; in the past year, they’ve helped police search for a missing person, worked with Public Works to reduce flood hazards during heavy storms, and taught personal preparedness classes. Learn more about CERT – including how to sign up for training – at walnut-creek.org/cert.

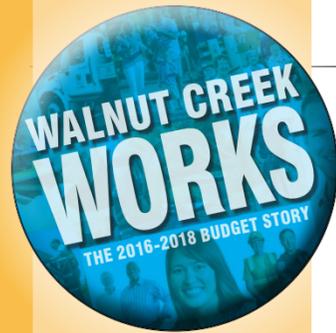


CERT help ‘invaluable’

“CERT’s support of, and partnership with, the Walnut Creek Police is invaluable. Their ability to activate at a moment’s notice to help the community is impressive.”

Sgt. Bruce Jower
WCPD
with Northgate CERT Leader **Dale Blodgett**





QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL

Larkey Pool Renovation Project



A rendering of the Larkey Swim Center, set to open in Summer 2017. In addition to a new pool, the center will have a splash playground.

Make a Splash for Larkey

Walnut Creek's Olympians partner on new pool

The Walnut Creek Aquanats was founded in 1968 at Larkey Pool with two swimmers and a big dream -- to put Walnut Creek on the map for synchronized swimming.

Now, after earning over 200 national and international titles and awards, producing 17 Olympians, and training several thousand athletes, the Aquanats have committed to raise \$200,000 for the new Larkey Swim Center, in coordination with the Walnut Creek Civic Pride Foundation and the Walnut Creek Swim Club.

Everyone is invited to be part of this Olympic effort! Learn how at LarkeySplash.org.

Set to open Summer 2017, the new Larkey Swim Center will be a community aquatics facility for all ages and ability levels.

The project involves the complete reconstruction of the 45-year-old pool to meet current health, safety and water-efficiency standards. To better serve the changing aquatics needs of the community, the pool shape will be "squared off" and deepened to ensure it can safely accommodate varying swim activities, host a full swim meet of 10 lanes, or feature a synchronized

swim show.

With the addition of a splash playground, Larkey Pool will provide an engaging water play experience that is water efficient, healthy, and safe for children of all abilities. The new facility will also have shade structures and a renovated bathhouse.

The Larkey Pool renovations are funded through special park funds and private donations in coordination with the Civic Pride Foundation, Walnut Creek Aquanats and Walnut Creek Swim Club.

Boundary Oak Improvements

The past two years have been a time of renovation and renewal for Boundary Oak, the City's golf course and clubhouse, with more to come in 2017.

Improvements at the 47-year-old clubhouse include ADA upgrades, remodeled second floor restrooms, more efficient heating and cooling, complete re-painting of the facility, as well as remodel of the kitchen for more efficient food service. New carpeting, flooring, and lighting have been added to enhance the guest experience.

Further improvements are in the planning stages for the upstairs bars,



and the downstairs Golfer's Grille.

Simultaneous to the Clubhouse improvements, the golf course itself has received upgrades including new sand bunkers, new tee boxes, and additional landscaping. The golf course improvements enhance both guest

experience and sustainability of the golf course infrastructure.

The Clubhouse improvements are part of a three-year \$3.5 million plan funded by user fees.

For more information go to playboundaryoak.com.



Preston Jones
Recreation Program Coordinator

New Inclusion Program

facilitates participation of children and adults with disabilities in any class

"The Inclusion Program is a great step to help provide all of our participants, special needs and mainstream, the opportunity to enjoy and successfully interact with the wide variety of Arts + Rec programs."

QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL

Ceramics program gains in popularity



Under the experienced hand of Gregory Byard of Arts + Rec, the Ceramics program at Center for Community Arts has blossomed. From students learning hand building techniques for the first time to a series of Master Potter workshops with inspiring artists from around the country, class registrations at the Ceramics Studio in Civic Park have grown 17 percent since 2014.

Byard received his MFA at Edinboro University in 2008 and started instructing ceramics for the California Community Colleges following graduation. In 2014, he started as the Program Coordinator in Ceramics for Center for Community Arts.

2017 will bring "cool" improvements to the Ceramics Studio, Byard notes: Air-conditioning will be installed to keep participants comfortable at the pottery wheel year-round.

THE ART OF PLACE-MAKING



CNN named Walnut Creek's "Fountain Head" one of the 15 most spectacular fountains in the world. In front of the fountain are, from left, Arts Commissioner Carol Fowler, Bedford Gallery Curator Carrie Lederer, and Public Art program supervisor Steven Huss.

The Public Art program continues to make Walnut Creek unique. In the next few years, residents will see numerous new public art works installed at the Orchards center in the Ygnacio Valley area. Right across the street from Walnut Creek BART at the Landing development will be a landmark piece by artist Shayne Dark. The recently revised Public Art Master Plan also opens the door for a future Downtown Murals Program.

"Public art is a civic asset for

Walnut Creek," says Bedford Gallery Curator Carrie Lederer. "It creates positive, memorable images that define and enhance our identity, boosting local pride and burnishing our image to the outside world."

Did you know that there's a self-guided tour of downtown public art, complete with a downloadable audio tour? Or monthly docent-led public art walking tours? Learn more at bedfordgallery.org/public-art.

Did you know? Leshner Center for the Arts Fast Facts

Happy Birthday, Center REP! Center REPeritory Company, the resident professional theater company at the Leshner Center for the Arts, is celebrating its 50th performance season in 2016-2017.

Everyone loves a hero. *My Hero: Contemporary Art & Superhero Action*, curated by Bedford Gallery manager Carrie Lederer, will travel to seven states on a national tour through 2019.

Long-lasting tradition. This holiday season, Center REP's production of *A Christmas Carol* will celebrate its 19th season, making it the longest running show at the LCA.



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Arts + Rec By the Numbers

Each year:

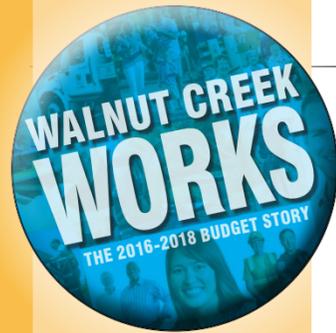
5,000 school children visit the Bedford Gallery on tours

25,000 participants join arts or recreation classes, camps, and drop-in activities

65,000 rounds of golf are played at Boundary Oak Golf Course

250,000 patrons visit the Leshner Center for the Arts

66 percent of the Arts + Rec Department budget comes from ticket sales, program fees and facility rentals



Vitality and vision

“Walnut Creek’s economic vitality and quality of life is rooted in the City’s tradition of planning for the future through the establishment of, and commitment to, a shared community vision.”

Ethan Bindernagel

Economic Development Manager



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

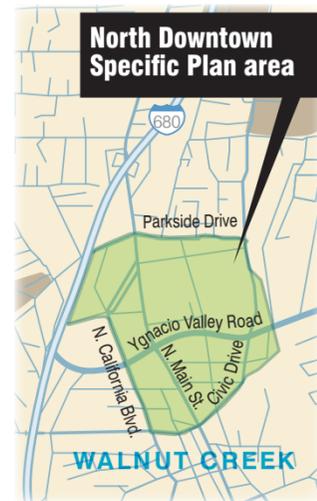
A VISION FOR THE NORTH DOWNTOWN

The next two years will be a time of visioning and exploration for the North Downtown, as the City undertakes development of a Specific Plan for the 180-acre area. The Planning process started in May and is expected to conclude with a public hearing before the City Council in November 2017.

The purpose of a Specific Plan is to provide detailed guidelines on everything from design standards to economic development objectives. Specific Plans must be consistent with the General Plan; define land uses; address transportation and infrastructure needs; and set standards for conservation of natural resources

The North Downtown has a number of unique aspects to be considered during the planning process.

- As Walnut Creek’s automobile sales and service zone, it is home to a number of auto dealers and other auto-related businesses.
- It is close to transportation, in-



Get informed! Be involved!
Sign up for updates, community workshop notices and meeting agendas at www.walnut-creek.org/northdowntown.

cluding BART, the 24/680 corridors, and the trail system.

- Several governmental agencies, including the DMV, the Post Office, and the County Superior Court, have buildings there. There are also many office buildings, such as the Atrium.

- And, in the past few years, North Downtown has gained new residents with the coming of several large apartment complexes.

Guiding the Specific Plan process is a 13-member Advisory committee composed of two North Downtown business owners, a major property owner, an auto dealer, two area residents, representatives from all five City Commissions, and two Council members. The committee meets the fourth Monday of the month.

All meetings are open to the public. In addition, there will be a robust community outreach component, with workshops, online surveys, and more. To subscribe for updates, go to walnut-creek.org/northdowntown.

Improving the development review process



The development review process can seem like a maze, whether one’s a homeowner seeking a water heater permit, a commercial property owner wanting to make tenant improvements, or a developer planning a major project.

But things are going to get simpler over the next few years as the City rolls out a Development Services Action Plan. The goal? To make the

development review process more consistent, efficient and customer friendly, while still ensuring safety and quality.

Some examples include:

- Accela Automation. Accela went live in July 2016, replacing an outdated system. Soon, permit applicants will be able to check their permit status and schedule an inspection online. A later phase will

It’s here! Commercial Express Review

The Development Services Team now offers an Express Permitting Service for qualified commercial projects. The by-appointment-only service brings the applicant and all City reviewing parties together at one time, with the goal of making it possible for eligible projects to receive their permit that day. For details, visit walnut-creek.org/express.

let people apply for permits online as well.

- Some commercial businesses seeking to do tenant improvement work can now request to begin rough framing of interior walls once their construction plans have been submitted for review, rather than have to wait for the building permit to be issued, cutting approximately 3 weeks out of the construction schedule.

GETTING AROUND

GET PUMPED FOR THE BICYCLE MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Adopted in 2011, the Bicycle Master Plan provides goals, policies and actions which promote biking as a desirable transportation alternative to the automobile. Early in 2017, City staff will begin the process to update the plan. The updated plan will incorporate several new state policies and regulations related to alternative commute modes and so-called Complete Streets, which provide safe access for all modes of transportation, including pedestrians, bikes, buses and cars. The community will be invited to provide ideas and input on the plan. Stay tuned for more information on how to get involved.



DOWNTOWN TROLLEY GOES ELECTRIC

Bus shelters get a modern makeover

New solar-powered bus shelters with real-time travel information, evening lighting and even charging stations could be coming soon to Walnut Creek. The City is partnering with County Connection to obtain a grant that will replace existing shelters, and add additional shelters, at the most heavily used bus stops in the City. The 2016-2018 Budget also commits additional funding for the improvements. While the new bus shelter design has not been determined, the City envisions a major upgrade to what bus riders are experiencing now.

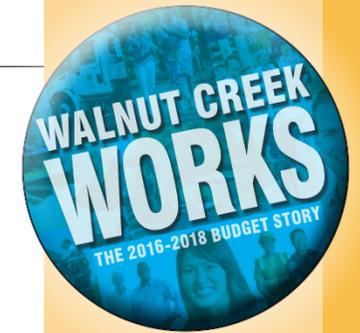


The green Downtown Trolleys will be even greener – not to mention quieter – soon. The Central Contra Costa Transit Authority (commonly called County Connection), which manages the county bus system, is replacing the existing diesel-fueled trolleys with electric trolleys, thanks to a \$4.3 million federal grant. County Connection was one of 27 projects throughout the United States to receive the 2012

Clean Fuels Grant funding. Charging stations will be located at the Walnut Creek BART Station and the Contra Costa County Transportation Authority bus yard in North Concord.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Downtown Trolley route consistently ranks as the most productive route in the County Connection network, carrying over **288,000 passengers** in 2015.



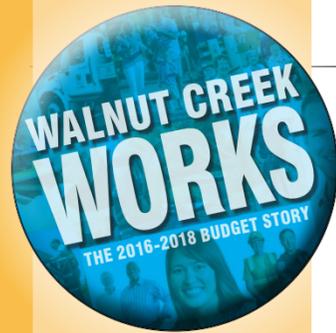
On the go pursuits

“Over the next two years, we will continue to promote programs and pursue projects that offer a variety of multi-modal transportation options to enhance the quality of life in Walnut Creek.”

Jeremy Lochirco

Transportation Planner





Community Center upgrade

The Civic Park Community Center, which was built in 1978 and houses senior, special needs, and other community programs, will undergo a series of renovations over the next two years as it focuses on being a hub for wellness.

The initial changes will be functional in nature - completion of ADA improvements and upgrades to plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems. Aesthetic upgrades to the reception area, bathrooms, interior walls and flooring will follow as funds allow. Long-term ideas to fulfill the vision of active minds and active bodies include creation of a Zen garden and a dedicated exercise room.

So far, the upgrades have two sources of funding: \$500,000 in one-time funds as part of the 2016-18 Capital Improvement Budget, and \$143,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds, which support programs to help vulnerable populations.

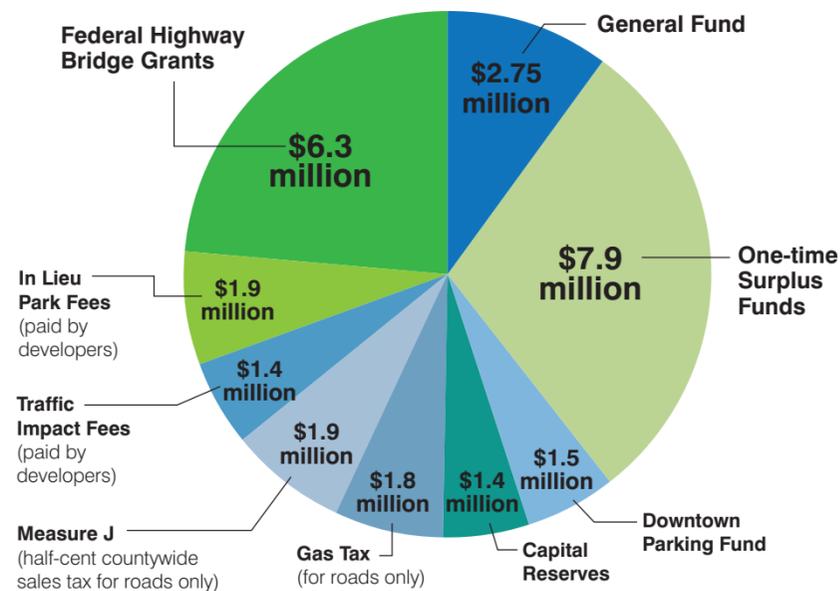
TAKING CARE OF WHAT WE'VE GOT

THE CAPITAL BUDGET

While most budget discussions focus on the City's General Fund (which covers the cost of operating programs and services), the City also has a Capital Budget to pay for specific projects, including roads and bridges; storm water systems; public buildings; parks, open space and trails. **The 2016-18 Capital Budget is \$27 million.**

How do we pay for that?

Nine main sources of funding for the 2016-18 Capital Budget



CAPITAL BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The City is investing nearly twice as much in its physical assets in 2016-18 as it did in 2014-16, thanks in large part to an \$8 million infusion of one-time and surplus funds and \$6.3 million in Federal Highway Bridge grants.

SOME PROJECTS OF NOTE COMING IN 2016-18:

Bridges

\$6.5 million in Federal grants, plus \$673,000 in local matching funds, to replace the 97-year-old South Main Street Bridge over Las Trampas Creek and to widen the Bancroft Road Bridge over Pine Creek. Environmental and design work will begin in 2016, with construction anticipated in 2019.

Northgate Park renovations

\$150,000 in park funds for new park amenities, including sand volleyball courts, a picnic area, and new drought tolerant landscaping. Construction will start September 2016.

Walker Homestead Drainage Improvements

\$5 million in one-time funds resulting from budget surpluses to install a new drainage system to relieve the flooding in the Walker Avenue / Homestead Avenue intersection.

Walnut Acres/Foothill Middle School pedestrian improvements

\$400,000 in Traffic Impact Fees will be spent to improve pedestrian safety near these schools, including neckdowns at the Wiget/Blackstone and Cedro/Casa Bueno intersections.

Ygnacio Valley Road paving

\$1.4 million to pave Ygnacio Valley between California and Civic with major funding from the state Gas Tax, county Measure J, and local capital reserves.

CARING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT



BIG BELLY BECKONS

Bigbelly - a solar-powered, refuse-compacting, trash and recycling receptacle - will likely be coming to downtown Walnut Creek in the near future.

The City plans to place at least 40 Bigbellies along Main Street and Locust. Each station has two receptacles, one for trash, the other for recyclables.

Bigbellies have five times the capacity of regular trash cans because the contents are automatically compacted. The compactor is powered by solar panels; when full, the unit's wireless technology automatically notifies staff that it needs to be emptied. Fewer pickups means lower fuel emissions, another step in meeting the City's Climate Action Plan.

The City is asking the Solid Waste Authority to approve a plan in which Walnut Creek will pay for the Bigbelly out of its portion of proceeds from the sale of recyclables. The City Council will also need to approve the funding.

GROWING NEEDS OF DOWNTOWN PARKS



Alma Park offers a green respite in the downtown.

Over the next two years, Walnut Creek will take a look at its two downtown parks and consider how they should evolve to meet the needs of the increasing number of people who call downtown home. While most people are aware of Civic Park, few know that Alma Park, nestled between Ivy Hill Apartments and the Regent on the Park condominiums, is a public park. Alma Park is easily accessed on California near Olympic, and features lawn, benches, decorative arbors and an impressive

view of Mount Diablo. The 2016-18 Capital Budget commits \$50,000 in developer-paid park funds for Alma Park planning, and \$350,000 in developer-paid park funds for Civic Park planning. The public will be invited to participate in both planning efforts.

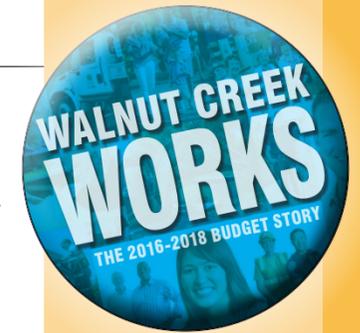
In addition to planning for downtown parks, the 2016-18 Capital Budget provides for more than \$2 million for infrastructure upgrades and new amenities throughout the City's park system.

Plotting plans for gardeners

Would-be gardeners will soon have a place to test their green thumbs, thanks to a partnership between the City and the non-profit Gardens at Heather Farm to create a community garden. While the City is providing approximately \$48,000 in developer-paid park funds for materials, it is the non-profit Gardens at Heather Farm and its cadre of dedicated volunteers that will actually build the garden

plots on its site and manage the day-to-day operations. In addition, beginning gardeners will be able to take advantage of on-site classes taught by Gardens volunteers.

Construction on the 50-plot garden will start this fall, so the plots will be ready for planting in the later winter - early spring of 2017. For information on reserving a plot, contact the Gardens at Heather Farm at gardenshf.org.

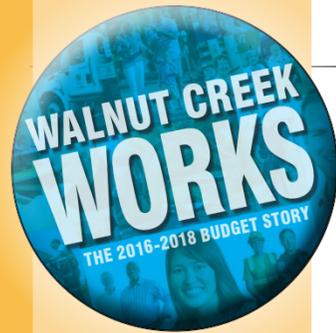


Green goals

"Saving natural resources and addressing climate change is a priority for Walnut Creek. We hope the community will take advantage of our Going Green Together sustainability programs and help us achieve our Climate Action Plan goals."

Cara Bautista-Rao
Sustainability Coordinator





CULTURE OF INNOVATION

Smart Cities Grant to connect parking to phones

Developing employees

“When we invest in employee development, we invest in the public. It takes great employees to provide great service.”

Fran Robustelli
Assistant City Manager

Do you ever wish your phone or your car could guide you to an open parking spot? That technology is coming to downtown Walnut Creek, thanks to a \$983,000 grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

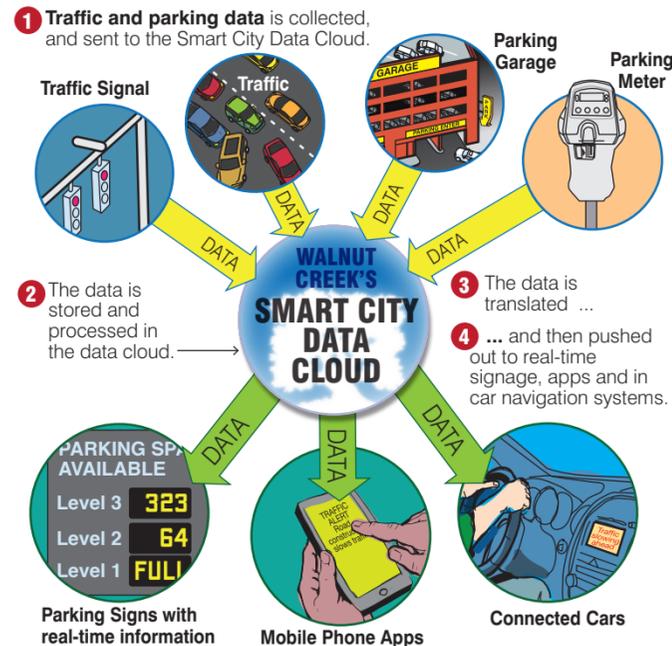
Often labeled as a “Smart City” strategy, the City will build an open data platform that collects, stores and processes parking and traffic data. The data will then be translated and pushed out to mobile apps and in-car guidance systems.

Making the data available on an open platform also allow private sector partners to access and use the data to create apps to ease traffic congestion by making it easier to get around.

This Smart Cities project will be implemented in late 2017. Stay tuned for updates.

‘SMART CITY’ WORKS WITH DATA

A “Smart City” open data platform will be built and implemented in Walnut Creek in late 2017. Here is a look at how Smart City data will help commuters.



Coaching for excellence

Walnut Creek is joining a number of top companies, from Adobe to General Electric, who are dropping the traditional performance evaluation model for something more dynamic.

The City’s approach is called “Coaching for Excellence.” Instead of an annual “check the box,” supervisors and employees will be trained to work together to set and achieve work goals through ongoing conversations.

A pilot training program in September will include 40 employees from the Police and Arts & Rec departments.

The goal of Coaching for Excellence is to create an environment in which employees and supervisors can continue to work together to achieve career success, experience greater fulfillment at work and provide the best possible service to the public.



The City is committed to developing and recognizing employee excellence. Shown here, Police Officer Will Appel and Gina Eicher of Public Works, Employees of the Year.

STRONG ECONOMY

PARTNERING ON A LIVELY DOWNTOWN



The First Wednesdays streetfests brings food trucks, live music and family friendly activities downtown.

Walnut Creek’s downtown is often described as the “heart” of the community where people can shop, dine, enjoy the arts, and connect with friends. The downtown is also an economic engine, providing sales tax revenues that fund essential services such as police and street repair.

To keep people coming downtown in the wake of unprecedented high levels of construction, the City Council in 2014 teamed up with Walnut Creek Downtown, the Walnut Creek

Chamber of Commerce, and the Diablo Regional Arts Association to create an array of programs and amenities aimed at enhancing and strengthening the downtown’s economic vitality.

The funding source for these downtown enhancement initiatives? \$400,000 in one-time monies provided by downtown developers.

Among the flourishing initiatives are the Off-the-Grid weekly food truck event; the First Wednesdays streetfests; Movies and Music Under the Stars at Civic Park; the

Summer Sounds concert series on the Leshner Center Plaza; and Oktoberfest.

Other downtown enhancements include the artistic utility box wraps, colorful gateway banners, planter beds and parklets.

Based on the success of the 2014-16 initiative, the City is continuing its downtown partnerships, re-investing \$272,000 in downtown parking fees to support a range of events and amenities that spur activity in the downtown while garnering support from merchants along the way.

Leveraging resources

“The partnership between the City, Walnut Creek Downtown, and the Chamber of Commerce is essential. When we leverage our resources, we can accomplish great things.”

Jay Hoyer
Executive Director, Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce

Byron Best
Executive Director, Walnut Creek Downtown Association

THE SHADELANDS EVOLUTION

The Shadelands’ transformation into a robust, innovative business and lifestyle center is just getting started. Improvements such as a free shuttle from Pleasant Hill BART, funded by Shadelands property owners and spearheaded by the Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce, have proved hugely popular, as have the zoning changes made by Walnut Creek last year that make it easier for a wider range of businesses to call Shadelands home.

HERE ARE A FEW HIGHLIGHTS:

Sportsplex-Ultimate Field House

Phase II of this Sportsplex is currently going through the

planning process. Plans call for indoor soccer, gymnastics, swimming and other youth-oriented athletics, along with a full-service restaurant and wine bar. Housed in the former Contra Costa Times facility, Phase I opened in December 2015 under the name Ultimate Fieldhouse, with basketball courts, separate training courts and shoot machines, as well as volleyball, badminton and pickleball activities.

Cali Craft Brewery Taproom

The brewery is set to open a taproom at its Mitchell Drive headquarters in August 2016, where visitors can taste craft brews right where the beer is made. In addition, there will be an outdoor beer garden, an organic

hopfield, and an “indoor urban agriculture” demonstration area.

Stearns Lending LLC

In January, Stearns Lending, LLC announced plans to relocate its 65 Bay Area employees to the Shadelands, citing the development of the nearby Orchards town center, with its shops, retail and restaurants, as a major attraction.

Learn more

Check out the City’s Economic Development page to learn more about the Shadelands and other opportunities in Walnut Creek: walnut-creek.org/econdev.

