

# Menlo Park Problems & Opportunities

Menlo Park needs to identify, evaluate, prioritize and initiate specific private and public projects that would make the central business districts great places to live and work. Here is an unofficial “wish list” of specific problems and opportunities that need to be explored and vetted during 2015. Residents are encouraged to submit their own ideas.

## Twelve Vision Plan Goals

**#1 Vision Plan Area Character:** Maintain a village character unique to Menlo Park.

- *Need to decide what this means and where it applies.*

**#2 East-West Connectivity:** Provide greater east-west, town-wide connectivity.

- *The Sand Hill-El Camino-Alma intersection should be redesigned so traffic from and to Palo Alto does NOT unnecessarily pass-thru Menlo Park. This will become a huge problem when Stanford develops its 500 ECR parcels.*

- *Sand Hill needs to be at least two lanes its entire length to reduce commuter congestion on both El Camino and Sand Hill. That means the elimination of the existing single lane configuration from El Camino to Arboretum.*

**#3 El Camino Real Circulation:** Improve circulation and streetscape conditions on El Camino Real.

- *Improve the configuration of the two adjacent Ravenswood-El Camino and Ravenswood-Alma intersections.*

- *Configure El Camino with three lanes in both directions for its entire length.*

**#4 Neighborhood Context:** Ensure that El Camino Real development is sensitive to and compatible with adjacent neighborhoods.

- *Implement measures that protect neighborhoods from commuter cut-thru traffic.*

**#5 Vacant and Underutilized Parcels on El Camino Real:** Revitalize underutilized parcels and buildings.

- *Ensure the Stanford and Greenheart developments deliver the most benefits possible for our community.*

**#6 Train Station Area:** Activate the train station area.

- *Ideas: TBD*

**#7 Santa Cruz Avenue Pedestrian Character:** Protect and enhance pedestrian amenities on Santa Cruz Avenue.

- *Ideas: TBD*

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**#8 Downtown Vibrancy:** Expand shopping, dining and neighborhood services to ensure a vibrant downtown.

*- Provide free lunch time shuttle service between Stanford project and Santa Cruz Avenue.*

**#9 Housing:** Provide residential opportunities in the Specific Plan Area.

*- Ideas: TBD*

**#10 Open Space:** Provide plaza and park spaces.

*- Build either a park or pedestrian-friendly plaza in a central area of the Santa Cruz shopping district.*

*- Ensure that both Stanford and Greenheart include easily accessed and appealing public plazas in their developments.*

**#11 Pedestrian and Bicycle Circulation:** Provide an integrated, safe and well-designed pedestrian and bicycle network.

*- Cyclist should safely and conveniently travel east-west and north-south without sharing El Camino Real.*

*- Pedestrians should easily and conveniently cross El Camino without interrupting traffic.*

**#12 Parking:** Develop parking strategies and facilities that meet the commercial and residential needs of the community.

*- Downtown will need much more parking in the future; otherwise shoppers will go elsewhere. Build underground or above ground parking structure (s).*

**Proposed New Goal.** Reduce the number of commuter vehicles travelling to and from Menlo Park during peak commute times

*- Increase convenience of using public transit*

*- Incent commuters to car pool, use public transit and avoid peak time vehicle use*