



City of Milpitas

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Milpitas Wins in Multiple Categories at the 2022 American Planning Association Awards

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The City of Milpitas has won two [2022 American Planning Association \(APA\) California Northern Section Awards](#), one for its [2040 General Plan](#), and another for its [Development Review Handbook](#), [Accessory Dwelling Unit \(ADU\) Toolkit](#), and implementation of [Symbium Build](#).

The APA is a professional, membership-based organization representing the field of urban planning in the United States. The APA's functions include releasing publications, administering a certification program, providing educational resources, and hosting national and state conferences. Each year, the APA California Northern Section awards dozens of Planning Awards to honor the most outstanding planning efforts in the Section. The purpose of these awards is to encourage quality in planning and increase the public's awareness of the planning profession through recognizing outstanding achievement in the planning field.

The City of Milpitas applied in two award categories for the 2022 program. The City submitted its recently adopted 2040 General Plan for an award under the Comprehensive Plan, Small Jurisdiction award category, which recognizes general plans of unusually high merit completed within the past 3 years. The City also submitted its Development Review Handbook, ADU Toolkit, and implementation of Symbium Build as one application ("Milpitas Planning Tools for Housing") for an award under the Best Practices award category, which recognizes innovative and state-of-the-art planning tools and practices that help create communities of lasting value.

On June 24, 2022, the APA California Northern Section announced that the City of Milpitas won an award of merit for the Milpitas 2040 General Plan and an award of excellence for the Milpitas Planning Tools for Housing. Milpitas is one of only two cities to win an award in multiple categories.

The Milpitas 2040 General Plan comprehensively updates the previous General Plan and establishes a new planning horizon of 2040 by providing land use goals, policies, and actions

for the next 20 years. The 2040 General Plan is being recognized for its creative and sustainable approach to accommodating growth, emphasis on multimodal transportation, effective land use strategy for economic development, extensive public outreach process, and successful implementation to date.

The Development Review Handbook provides a step-by-step explanation of the City's development review process and an introduction to planning. The ADU Toolkit informs, inspires, and guides homeowners through a full-service review process to streamline ADU production. Symbium Build is a web based ADU visualization tool that allows homeowners to determine where an ADU can be located on their property. The aforementioned tools are being recognized for originality and innovation in streamlining and facilitating housing and establishing a new standard of customer service and education that helps improve the partnership between planners and communities that they serve.

According to Mayor Rich Tran, "Receiving recognition from the 2022 American Planning Association California Northern Section Awards shows how forward-looking and thoughtful Milpitas is in striving to continuously improve the community's quality of life. I could not be more proud of our staff and the General Plan Advisory Committee, which consisted of residents, business leaders, and other local stakeholders. Congratulations to everyone who contributed to this collaborative effort!"

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About the City of Milpitas

Located at the southern end of San Francisco Bay, Milpitas is a progressive community that is an integral part of Silicon Valley. A full-service city with water utility, sewer utility, police and fire services, Milpitas celebrates a diverse population of 80,273. Under a Council-Manager form of government, the City Council has established the following seven priority areas of service and policy: public safety, environment, transportation and transit, economic development and job growth, neighborhoods and housing, community wellness and open space, and governance and administration. For more information, visit: www.milpitas.gov

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