

3 Racial, Social, and Environmental Justice

Racial, social and environmental justice for all is an important American ideal. The conversations about ethnic and racial disparities in our country have made it clear that our governments, communities, and people need to rededicate themselves and take actions toward creating a culture of belonging, equity, and racial justice. The City recognizes that it needs to increase its efforts to ensure that all the members of the Rohnert Park community (i.e., residents, workers, business owners, local organizations, and visitors) regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, disability, and socio-economic status feel valued, safe, respected, included, and secure. Increasing diversity and inclusion involves enhancing meaningful community engagement, considering the implications of City decisions for all members of the community, and exploring new approaches to meet the changing needs of Rohnert Park.

Generally, areas of Rohnert Park score between the 40th and 60th percentile on statewide environmental quality and health assessment tools CalEnviroScreen 3.0 and the California Healthy Places Index. In other words, the environmental quality in Rohnert Park is average for the state. This Element includes goals, policies, and implementation programs that promote environmental justice and support local efforts to increase public involvement in local governance processes. The themes addressed in this Element lay the foundation for creating a more equitable and inclusive environment for all residents, businesses, visitors, and organizations of Rohnert Park.

2019 City Demographics

As of 2019, the median household income in Rohnert Park was \$71,585 and the per capita income was \$34,880. Educational attainment in the city is relatively high, with 90.9 percent of residents over the age of 25 having at least a high school diploma, and of those, 29.3 percent have a bachelor's degree or higher. In Rohnert Park, 61.0 percent of residents identifying as white (alone, not Hispanic or Latino), 26.9 percent as Hispanic or Latino, 6.7 percent Asian, 3.0 percent as two or more races, 3.8 percent as Black or African American, and 1.3 percent as American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and other Pacific Islander.



3.1 Racial and Social Justice

This section identifies goals and policies which seek to advance City efforts toward diversity and inclusivity. Implementation of the programs will allow the City to monitor its progress in achieving racial, social, and environmental justice. It is the City's intent to take actionable efforts to establish a more racially and socially just community. The following goals and policies are intended to promote equality in Rohnert Park.



3.2 Environmental Justice

The State enacted Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000) in 2016 in response to increasing concerns about vulnerable communities in California that experience disproportionate environmental impacts. SB 1000 requires general plans adopted after January 1, 2018, to incorporate goals, policies, and objectives related to environmental justice. Effective environmental justice policies are those that reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by reducing disproportionate exposure to pollutants or other hazards, promote healthy habits, prioritize necessary infrastructure improvements and programs, and promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The City of Rohnert Park is committed to fostering a healthy environment for all city residents. The following goals and policies are intended to guide the advancement of environmental justice in Rohnert Park.



3.3 Civic Engagement in the Public Decision-Making Process

Racial, social, and environmental justice efforts must be rooted in a strong culture of civic engagement in the City's decision-making processes. Studies have shown that well-rounded public engagement processes increase social capital in projects and promote equitable community development. The City is committed to goals and policies that build social capital through engagement and empowerment of the public, while emphasizing public participation, transparency, and inclusion. The purpose of this section is to ensure residents are informed and empowered related to City decisions that may impact their health and well-being. The following goals and policies relate to civic engagement in the public decision-making process.