



City of San Antonio Sustainability Plan

Public Health

Draft

Vision

All San Antonians regardless of income, ability, or employment, benefit from a safe environment that inspires healthy, active lifestyles.

Outcomes

PH1: All San Antonians have access to affordable health care

PH2: Youth of all ages are engaged and provided the resources needed to maintain an active, healthy lifestyle

PH3: San Antonio promotes well-being by providing healthy and affordable food choices, convenient access to green spaces and recreational facilities, and a robust network of physical and mental healthcare designed to eliminate existing health disparities in the community

PH4: All San Antonians are prepared for changes in climate and weather

The Public Health focus area includes overall public health and well-being conditions, including obesity, diabetes, and general physical activity and wellness

Strategies

- Develop a strategy and incentives to encourage the implementation of additional parks, trails, and linear greenways to provide additional recreation amenities in communities where these amenities are deficient

The City will develop a strategy for encouraging private developers to create additional parks, trails, and linear greenways along with identifying opportunities to increase implementation in City-funded projects.

- Expand the number of publicly accessible parks and open space areas within the city

This strategy will involve using existing infrastructure, such as school yards as parks, along with creating incentives or requirements to increase publicly accessible open space in new public and private developments.

- Develop a “Healthy by Design” program for all new affordable housing projects

The program will provide guidelines for site design, walkability, open space, and green building techniques to create healthy environments that promote active lifestyles, social connectedness, and access to healthy food.

- Establish a network of "block captains" that can be activated to go door to door to check on the health of high risk neighbors during or after a disaster

The block captains could be existing or emerging neighborhood leaders who will play a critical role in immediate post-disaster recovery, to ensure the health and safety of all San Antonians.

- Review effectiveness of cooling centers and other high heat day strategies and identify underserved areas for expansion of existing strategies or new strategies to mitigate the effects of high heat days

Assess the effectiveness of existing cooling centers and other high heat day strategies, and develop a plan for implementing new high heat mitigation strategies or relocating centers to areas most in need.

- Provide mobile health clinics with free or extremely discounted services to underserved areas of the community

The City will provide this service by partnering with the County or existing private service providers to expand their existing services and ensure that those most in need are receiving the services.

- Expand public park access and programming to promote healthy lifestyles and physical exercise

The City will review existing parks programming and identify opportunities to expand programming, and will expand City services and partnerships to increase programming options.

- Open school yards to the public after school, to increase access to areas for physical activity for children

Opening school yards to the public increases accessibility to parks and open spaces and utilizes existing infrastructure and assets to promote healthy lifestyles.

- Launch a public education campaign to promote the benefits of active, healthy lifestyles

This public education campaign will be designed to target populations most at risk of obesity, to help promote active, healthy lifestyles.

- Partner with the school district to increase physical activity during the school day, and to expand physical activity opportunities before and after school

Physical activity for youth is critical to their health, and has been shown to improve educational attainment.