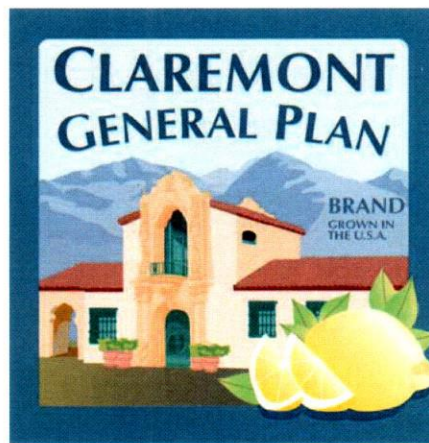


CHAPTER 5
OPEN SPACE, PARKLAND,
CONSERVATION, AND AIR
QUALITY ELEMENT



THE CITY OF CLAREMONT
GENERAL PLAN

CHAPTER 5 OPEN SPACE, PARKLAND, CONSERVATION, AND AIR QUALITY ELEMENT

Claremont General Plan

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Sustainability Icon

The leaf icon identifies goals and policies involving sustainability (see example). The leaf signifies that the concept of sustainability – either economic, environmental and/or social – is promoted by that particular goal and policy.

CHAPTER 5

OPEN SPACE, PARKLAND, CONSERVATION, AND AIR QUALITY ELEMENT

Claremont General Plan

Our Vision: Valuing Our Natural Resources and the Open Spaces that Define Claremont

Claremont is one of the leaders in the region in creating a legacy of open space for future generations. We recognize two general categories of open space: natural and constructed (developed). Natural open space is the more precious because it cannot be replaced once lost.

The continued existence of natural open space within the City is crucial to the distinctive character of Claremont. Such areas provide visual relief from the built environment. Natural open spaces may be valued for their beauty or interest, for their recreational value, for their educational value, for providing refuges for native plants and animals and preserving ecosystems, or for their evocation of our area's cultural and environmental history. They contribute to the City's sense of place. Because such areas are limited in number and irreplaceable, the

Open Space, Conservation, and Parks Vision Statement

**This Vision Statement was crafted by the
Citizens' Committee for Claremont, Hillside,
Open Space, and Conservation Subcommittee.**

City makes great efforts to conserve them wherever they occur, taking into consideration the rights of property owners, and encourages first the use and reuse of already changed lands. The City is creative in its exploration of all avenues leading to the long-term preservation of all natural areas throughout the City for the benefit of present and future generations.

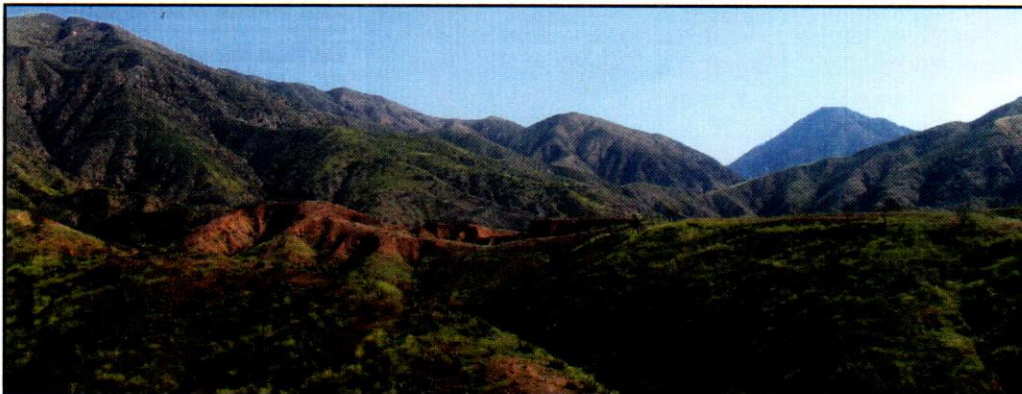
Claremont values constructed open space as an easily accessible resource for the entire community. Such open spaces are vital to the continued well-being of the citizens of Claremont, providing beauty and opportunities for mental and physical recreation. The City continues to look for "spaces between" to use as constructed open space in every sector of the City, and requires that new development make provision for such open space. The City acts to ensure physical open space links through construction of paths, greenways, bikeways, and drainage corridors, and to ensure visual access to open spaces by establishing view corridors and controlling massing within the built environment.

Claremont is an innovative leader in hillside preservation and management strategies, and acts to preserve the hillsides from development, taking into consideration the rights of property owners, so that the hillsides remain a resource for future generations. Claremont is in part defined by its irreplaceable natural resources and viewsheds. The hillsides are integral to the character of the City in this respect and extend the recreational opportunities available.

Claremont takes the initiative in conservation activities, assuming a leadership role in sustainable development within the region. Claremont recognizes its obligation to future generations to conserve its limited natural habitats and the diverse native plants and animals within them, as well as to control energy and water usage and to improve air quality. The City protects and manages its groundwater, watersheds, and mineral deposits. The City promotes the use of renewable resources along with the wise use, reuse, and conservation of all its natural resources. In addition, Claremont continues to increase and maintain its Community Forest, to protect views of the mountains throughout the City, and to preserve and enhance areas important to its history and the character of its neighborhoods.

Claremont Hillside Wilderness Park

The San Gabriel Mountains form the backdrop for the Claremont Hillside Wilderness Park, as undisturbed rolling foothills and sky-touching mountains create brilliant imagery of the natural environment.



The Underpinnings of Community Sustainability: Open Space and Parkland Preservation and Enhancement

Claremont residents value open space, which is broadly defined as land without buildings or few or no permanent improvements. These spaces can range in size from a few square feet to hundreds of acres. Some are natural habitats such as the Claremont Wilderness Park, while others consist of constructed or improved areas such as parks, school fields, plazas, and parkways. Many open space areas are publicly owned, but open space can include private land that is used for private recreation, resource protection, or similar purposes. Open space can be found in all areas of the City, from private yards in residential districts to courtyards and landscaped gardens in non-residential areas. The designation of Parks/Resource Conservation in this General Plan (Chapter 2) applies to open spaces such as parks and groundwater recharge basins that are restricted to uses to preserve natural resources, allow for the managed production of resources, and provide outdoor recreation.



Preservation of open space is a feature of sustainability. Native habitat within the open space areas supports functions associated with atmospheric and biological processes that keep our air and water clean, and that contributes to the survival and reproduction of plant and animal life. Open space allows the recharge of groundwater basins, benefiting the Claremont community with a clean source of water for everyday use. Open space provides plentiful opportunities for recreation activities such as hiking and bird watching. Open space provides areas of scientific and educational value while protecting views and aspects of our environmental and cultural history. Open space also provides protection from natural hazards such as flooding and wildland fires. And finally, open space is not just a resource in the hillsides, but provides many beneficial sustainability functions within the urban areas as well.

Claremont has a healthy mix of open space, from the Wilderness Park and hills that provide a dramatic visual backdrop to the community, to the carefully located and planned public parks, to our tree-lined streets, and small private spaces in our yards.

California Government Code

It is the intent of this Element to be consistent with language under the California Government Code §65560 to 65570 regarding open space lands.

Open Space for the Preservation of Natural Resources

Natural resources are the materials and capacities supplied by nature.¹ Claremont's wealth of natural resources is obvious: vast open spaces, native vegetation and habitat, wildlife communities, streams, ridgelines, mineral resources, and geologic formations. These are excellent examples of resources supplied by nature. The common thread interwoven among these resources is open space. By preserving open space, the City can achieve preservation and conservation of treasured resources.



Open Space for the Preservation of Natural Resources

Wildlife Communities and Habitat Protection

Preserving and protecting wildlife habitat equates to the preservation and protection of wildlife species. The great diversity of vegetation types and habitat in Claremont supports a wide variety of animal populations. Natural habitat, such as riparian areas, provides food, cover, and shelter for birds, mammals, reptiles, and insects. Wildlife corridors provide areas of undisturbed open space that allow regional wildlife migration between natural habitats, promoting proliferation of indigenous species.

One of the most valuable features of natural habitats is their great diversity of living organisms. The diversity is the result of millions of years of evolution. The interdependence of the organisms within an ecosystem is adversely affected by development. If we protect habitat, we help to maintain diversity. If we lose habitat, we are likely to lose species which could be of considerable help to people and are necessary for a healthy ecosystem. Creating a balance between habitat preservation and meeting people's needs for housing and resources represents a key planning challenge.



Coyotes

Oftentimes the actions we take to secure our safe place in the world have consequences for the other species with which we share the local environment.

The presence of coyotes and other wildlife in neighborhoods is not uncommon in areas near hills and other wilderness areas.

¹ Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary's. "natural resources."

Fuel Modification Zones

Fire is a natural part of Southern California's Mediterranean climate. Core samples from trees located in the San Gabriel Mountains indicate that large fires occurred long before man arrived on the continent. Fire is a mechanism that recycles nutrients in dead vegetation and provides the food necessary for future plant generations. This climate is too dry for bacterial action to significantly recycle nutrients as is common in the humid Pacific Northwest. The native chaparral vegetation has adapted to this cycle by re-sprouting from burned root crowns or requiring the heat of a fire to break seed dormancy and to initiate growth.

Elimination of the potential for wildfire within the chaparral community would require the total removal of all vegetation. This is not feasible due to erosion and environmental and aesthetic concerns. The objective must then be to minimize the impact of wildfire, within the limitations of environmental and regulatory constraints.²

In the hillsides, where dense vegetation creates fire hazards for homes that may be built there, our historic fire prevention practices have involved extensive clearing, or "fuel modification." Often the area of fuel modification is underestimated, necessitating subsequent habitat-damaging encroachment into dedicated open space to satisfy this requirement. Insurance carriers may require an even greater fuel buffer zone than the local fire code mandates.

The impact from wildfire and resulting erosion and mud flows into neighborhoods adjoining the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park can be significantly reduced but not eliminated. It is then the responsibility of the adjoining community to take appropriate actions to reduce or eliminate combustible surfaces and flammable vegetation on their property.

Human/Wildlife Encounters

Encroachment of human development into natural wildlife habitat invites increased conflicts between humans, their pets, and wildlife. In these situations, wildlife may be harmed by urban features such as spiked fencing, automobiles, secondary pesticide poisoning, competition with and predation by free-roaming domestic pets, etc. Often these conflicts may be avoided or reduced with appropriate planning and public education.

Native Nesting Birds

Some native bird species may survive within native and nonnative urban landscape plantings which provide food, shelter, and nest sites. Landscaping may, in fact, provide the only habitat available for native bird species within an urban environment. Impacts to native nesting birds from development projects are commonly overlooked during the

² Claremont Hills Wilderness Park Vegetation Management Plan prepared by the County of Los Angeles County Fire Department, Forestry Division for the City of Claremont Community Services Department, adopted January 1999, and revised May 2003.

planning process. Some site disturbance activities may cause the death of bird embryos (eggs) and/or nestlings. Adverse impacts to birds may be avoided or reduced by avoiding the nesting season, conducting surveys prior to development activities planned during the nesting season, and employing methods to assist in avoiding unnecessary mortality during construction activities.

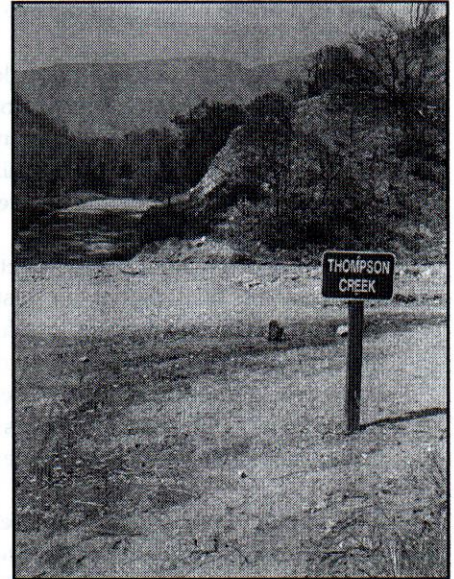
Streams and Riparian Corridors

All of the streams in Claremont are classified by the United States Geologic Survey as intermittent, meaning water does not flow year-round but occurs during periods of sufficient rainfall and/or snowmelt, generally from November to March. Some of the streams originate within the City limits, while others originate at higher elevations of the San Gabriel Mountains north of Claremont. Watercourses in the San Gabriel River Watershed that originate within the boundaries of Claremont include intermittent streams in the following canyons: Webb, Gail, Burbank, Cobal, Williams, and Chicken. The intermittent streams in Live Oak and Palmer Canyons originate farther north of the City limits. Flows from Burbank, Cobal, Williams, and Palmer Canyons are checked by the Thompson Creek Dam. Below this dam, the watercourse is called Thompson Creek, which is a flood control channel maintained by the County of Los Angeles.

San Antonio Creek and the watercourse in Evey Canyon, both of which are in the Santa Ana River Watershed, originate north of Claremont in the San Gabriel Mountains. Both of these watercourses are also intermittent. Below San Antonio Dam, San Antonio Creek is channelized for flood control purposes.

Watershed Protection

A watershed is an area of land where the majority of the water drains into nearby streams, creeks, and storm drains or spreading grounds. In Claremont, this includes the San Gabriel River and Santa Ana River Watersheds. Typically, a watershed boundary is defined by ridgelines or high elevation areas. All water runs downhill, from the highest points, by the force of gravity. In our region, water ultimately reaches the Pacific Ocean. Water that does not enter storm drains can flow into spreading grounds designed to facilitate percolation into underground water basins where water is stored for public use. Watersheds are very important because they provide critical natural services that sustain and protect us. They supply drinking water, critical habitat for plants and animals, areas of natural beauty, water bodies for recreation and relaxation; they reduce flooding potential, and prevent erosion. Pollution anywhere within the watershed can potentially affect life downstream from it. Watersheds are not constrained by political boundaries. Protecting both the San Gabriel River and Santa Ana River Watersheds must be a cooperative effort among jurisdictions to protect the health and viability of the watersheds, and long-term health of the environment. By taking responsibility for ensuring the overall



Thompson Creek

The natural portion of the Thompson Creek headwaters arrive from the various canyons in the Claremont hillsides. These waters flow into the Thompson Water Basin. From the basin, the creek changes into a concrete channel where, after 20 miles, it connects to the San Gabriel River and eventually flows into the Pacific Ocean.

health of the watershed and minimizing actions that adversely impact natural resources - urbanization, urban runoff, loss of critical habitat, and an increase in impermeable surfaces - we can assure their viability for future generations, thus leading to greater sustainability.

Urban Runoff

Urban runoff consists of water that has drained from human-made, non-porous surfaces in densely populated areas. These surfaces consist of roads, freeways, sidewalks, roofed structures, parking lots, and industrial sites, among others. Any form of precipitation and/or irrigation can scour these surfaces and wash away the materials on top of and from which the surfaces are made. Much urban terrain is non-porous and does not have the ability to filter or biodegrade contaminants like natural soils are capable of doing. Suspended sediment is the primary pollutant in urban runoff. Urban runoff can also contain quantities of oil, grease, pesticides from turf management, metals, bacteria and viruses, and toxic chemicals from automobiles, among others. As the water transports pollutants within the watershed system, it pollutes rivers and streams which can contribute to pollution of the ocean, even though Claremont is over 30 miles away.

State and federal regulations work to protect watershed and recharge areas. In particular, the State Regional Water Quality Control Board mandates control of urban runoff to eliminate the percolation of pollutants from surface runoff into underground water supplies. At the local level, cities must ensure provision of vegetated swales, buffers, and infiltration areas in new development projects. Additional approaches include designing sidewalks, roads, and driveways utilizing alternative materials to minimize impervious surfaces.

Hillside Preservation History

Since our beginnings as a community, local residents have used the natural open space and hillside areas in northern Claremont as a recreation resource. Picnics, hiking, and wildflower plantings took place on Johnson's Pasture, and camping trips were organized off San Antonio Canyon prior to the 1900s. Early Claremont residents recognized the importance of open space as a community recreation benefit and a source of scenic beauty. Recognizing this importance, Claremont has a long history of adopting governmental policies aimed at preserving the open space we admire, including an innovative hillside ordinance and hillside management polices.

Hillside preservation became an important issue during the 1970s as an increasing number of residential subdivisions were constructed in the foothills of surrounding communities. In 1977, the Claremont League of Women Voters completed a two-year study of the issue, which resulted in a number of recommendations on how to manage development in the local hillsides.

Claremont Hillsides

Claremont's hillsides are an integral part of the community's image and identity, providing a stunning visual backdrop, an environmental sanctuary, and a recreational resource. That is why preserving them has been such an important community goal for the past 30 years.

In response to the public's concern, the City began the process of developing new policies governing hillside development. The first step was adoption of the Natural Environment Element of the City's General Plan in 1977, which articulated the City's general goals and policies regarding hillside development. The element stated that development in the hillsides is acceptable, provided it is performed with extreme care in a manner compatible with the environment and that it keeps the area relatively safe from hazards such as fire, flood, and erosion.

However, these new General Plan goals and policies could not be implemented until several additional actions were completed, particularly the adoption of hillside zoning regulations and the annexation of a portion of the hillside area. At the time, the hillsides north of Claremont were under the jurisdiction of Los Angeles County, which had very lenient standards for hillside development.

Crafting the Hillside Ordinance

In keeping with Claremont's participatory style of addressing significant community issues, a task force representing concerned organizations, City commissions, and the City Council was created in 1979 to develop and evaluate various alternatives. The group worked for over a year, eventually crafting a draft ordinance that was presented to the Planning Commission and the public for review. What followed was a series of nine public hearings over seven months in 1980. Among those who actively participated in the hearings were hillside landowners, developers, the League of Women Voters, and a number of local residents. The discussions were intense, touching on the full range of issues related to hillside development, including environmental protection, property rights, and community values.

The ordinance was adopted by the City Council on January 13, 1981. The ordinance provides the framework for allowing residential development in the hillsides within concentrated areas where the terrain is flatter and easier to develop. These areas are known as "cluster sites". Property owners with development credits in the non-cluster areas, or steeper areas, are allowed to transfer development credits to the cluster areas. In summary, the ordinance ensures that:

- The majority of acres of hillsides between Webb Canyon and the San Bernardino County line will be preserved as permanent open space.
- Homes will not be dotted across the hillsides.
- Large, contiguous tracts of open space will be preserved.
- Development will be focused in those areas best suited for it. Owners of all parcels receive some economic benefit from their properties because the development credits can be transferred.

Claremont Open Space Preservation Organizations

Claremont Hills Conservation Corporation

The Claremont Hills Conservation Corporation is a non-profit corporation created in 1995 to receive and hold powers of termination, conservation easements, or other real property interests to facilitate acquisition of hillside land for public parks, other open space uses, and recreation purposes.

Claremont Wildlands Conservancy

The Claremont Wildlands Conservancy is a non-profit organization started in January 2000 with the mission of preserving natural open space land in Claremont's foothills for future generations to enjoy. Since its establishment, the Conservancy has been working with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and the City to pursue grants and other resources to purchase hillside properties. This working relationship has resulted in successful grant applications to purchase additional properties to be included in the hillside open space system.

Open Space for the Managed Production of Resources

Groundwater Protection and Recharge

Groundwater resources are important to Claremont because of the community's reliance on local groundwater for drinking water. As early as the 1850s, Claremont citrus growers and farmers used San Antonio Canyon and Thompson Creek runoff for irrigation. They used a system of streambeds and ditches as a method of channeling flood waters and conserving annual flood waters. With the formation of the Pomona Valley Protective Association (PVPA) in 1908, this group has been able to capture billions of gallons of flood waters for the replenishment of local groundwater basins for use every day by Claremont residents.⁵ The retention and protection of groundwater resources in terms of volume and quality are essential to both Claremont and surrounding areas for drinking water, recreation, and community sustainability.

The City of Claremont overlies parts of five groundwater basins: the Upper Claremont Heights, Lower Claremont Heights, Live Oak, Canyon, and Pomona Basins. These groundwater basins are designated on the basis of geological and hydrological conditions, usually associated with the occurrence of alluvial or unconsolidated deposits. These groundwater basins are also regulated for water supply.

⁵ Wright, pp. 142-145.

Open space allows the recharging of groundwater basins. The San Antonio Spreading Grounds, the Thompson Creek Spreading Grounds, and the Pedley Spreading Grounds allow rainwater and snow runoff to recharge the Canyon Basin and the Upper Claremont Heights Basins. Ensuring the groundwater basins provide adequate water to Claremont residents will improve the management and sustainability of groundwater in the local area.

Permeable Surfaces for Groundwater Recharge

Permeable surfaces are areas characterized by materials that allow stormwater to infiltrate the underlying soils. During the rainy season, when water hits streets and parking lots, it typically speeds on its way, via storm drainage facilities, to the Pacific Ocean. However, if a raindrop can fall upon a permeable surface, it can help recharge groundwater basins, filter away potential pollutants, and contribute to enhanced habitat and urban landscaping.

Septic Tanks

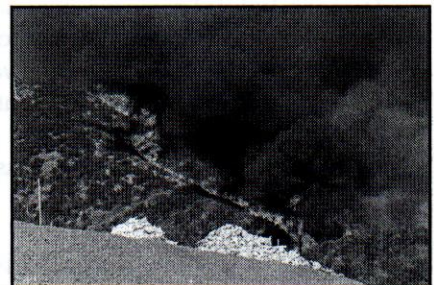
Septic systems are on-site systems designed for safe disposal of biological sanitary waste. Septic tanks are feasible as long as they are in areas where housing units are at lower densities, are properly maintained, and do not aggregate nitrate concentrations in the groundwater. Although septic tanks are often suitable for rural environments, if they are not sited, designed, or maintained properly, they can pose a threat to the environment and human health, specifically if clean groundwater supplies are contaminated. As a matter of policy, the City requires all properties within the City limits to connect to the City's sewer system because of nitrate issues within the water basins. Properties within the sphere of influence and under the jurisdiction of Los Angeles County that use septic tanks are encouraged to annex into the City and connect to the public sewer system.

Open Space for Public Health and Safety

Although natural open space is admired for its scenic beauty and native vegetation, it also can buffer private property from nature's destructive forces.

Protection from Natural Hazards

Claremont has been susceptible to many natural hazards over the years, including wildland fires, earthquakes, mudslides, and flooding. Other physical conditions in Claremont such as earthquake fault zones, liquefaction areas, landslide areas, and steeply sloped hillsides present additional danger to the general community. Open space can help mitigate this danger by prohibiting development within hazard areas. The swath of homes located in Palmer Canyon (an unincorporated area in the City's sphere of influence) were largely destroyed by the 2003 wildland fires that roared across the base of the San Gabriel



Open Space for Public Health and Safety

Mountains because of their location within a very narrow and steeply sloped canyon.

Although the need to allow property owners viable use of their lands may prevent total prohibition of development in areas with known hazards, attention to and mitigation of these hazards will be required to protect residents' health and safety. Depending on the property, designation for very limited uses may be the only option.

Open Space in Urban Areas

Open space within the urban sections of Claremont serves many purposes. In addition to parks, urban open space can include public plazas, parkways, tree-lined streets, and school fields, all of which add to the quality of life in Claremont neighborhoods. Such open spaces within the urban environment create a feeling of space. Shade and foliage create areas for relaxation.

Additionally, open spaces in urban areas can remedy certain urban environmental issues. Such spaces mitigate stormwater and urban runoff, create permeable surfaces that allow precipitation to nourish landscaping, absorb air pollution, reduce the "urban heat island" effect, and create urban habitat for regional fauna. The reinvigoration of natural ecosystems through an opportunistic use of open spaces can provide economic, environmental, and social benefits to Claremont residents, and fulfill a balanced approach of sustainability.

Private Open Space in Urban Areas

The City of Claremont has been successful in ensuring that its residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional neighborhoods have remained green. As part of the development review process, private property owners are required to provide open space areas on their properties. In residential areas, these are yards, patios, balconies, and active recreational facilities. In non-residential areas, these include outdoor seating areas, landscaped parkways, courtyards, and plazas.

Street Trees and Community Forest

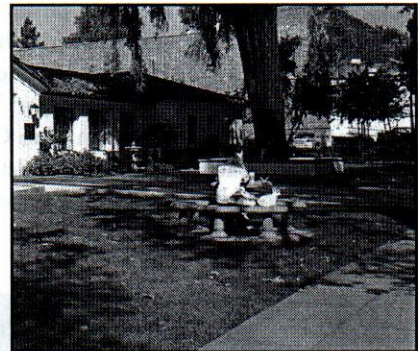
The formation of a street tree planting program began in 1944, when the Committee of One Hundred began to organize for the beautification of the City. After collecting funds from residents, they proposed to the City Council a uniform tree planting program, whereby committee members would remove and replace poor trees with new trees and water them for the first year if the City agreed to take over watering duties the following year. The City Council agreed. The committee eventually made recommendations for parkways and the requirement of developers to pay for the planting of street trees.⁴ Although the

⁴ Wright, p. 337.

Public Safety and Noise Element

The Public Safety and Noise Element provides additional background information and goals and policies regarding safety in the City of Claremont.

Open Space in Urban Areas



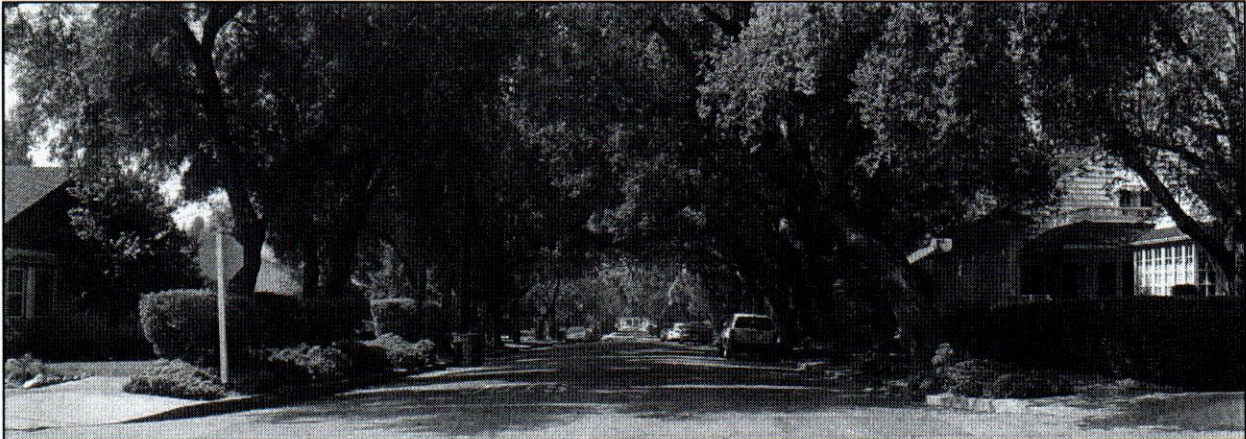
planting of trees has always been a part of Claremont's history, this event initiated the City's street tree program that has resulted in the many beautiful trees found on most streets in Claremont. Many refer to Claremont as the "home of trees and Ph.D.s."

While trees add considerably to the aesthetic quality of Claremont, "community forests" also promote a good community environment and provide biological benefits. They contribute to clean air, provide cooling shade, support wildlife, increase property values, control soil erosion and conserve water, create sound barriers, and provide protection from high winds. The community forest is comprised of a street tree system, trees on parks and other public lands, and trees on private properties and in yards throughout the City. The community forest is distinct within established areas of Claremont where trees have fully matured, particularly in The Village, Historic Claremont, Old Claremont districts, and on The Claremont Colleges' campuses. The City is committed to preserving its existing trees, replacing trees that are damaged or dying, and expanding community forests in newer areas of Claremont.

Claremont Street Trees

Trees have been a part of Claremont ever since the community was founded in the 1880s. It was only six days after the first town meeting in 1889 that the town's "shade tree committee" reported a gift of 250 trees, which were planted throughout the community shortly thereafter.

Since then, the number of City-owned trees along streets and in parks has grown to over 23,000. And that doesn't include the trees on private property. Trees provide a number of environmental and aesthetic benefits, from helping keep homes cool in the summer to creating visually stunning streetscapes.



Small-Scale Agriculture

Claremont has a rich agricultural history. Although the citrus industry is now gone, opportunities remain for agriculture. Residents can plant fruit trees and keep kitchen garden plots. Institutions can establish community gardens as part of their campuses. Vacant land can be used for growing of crops such as strawberries. If done without the use of chemicals common to large, commercial agriculture, such small-scale agriculture can result in fresh, local, organic food that is healthier and does not require processing, packaging, storing, and transporting.

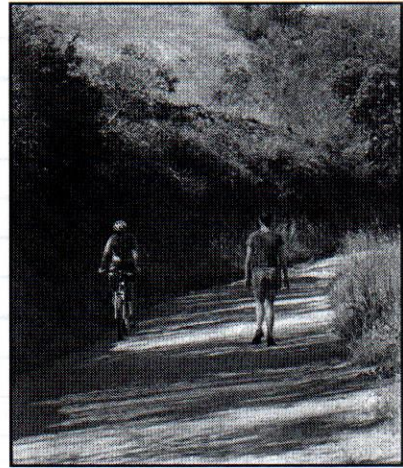
Street Trees

Historic Claremont – Trees and landscaped parkways line many of the neighborhood streets in Claremont, providing shade and lush greenery.

Open Space for Outdoor Recreation

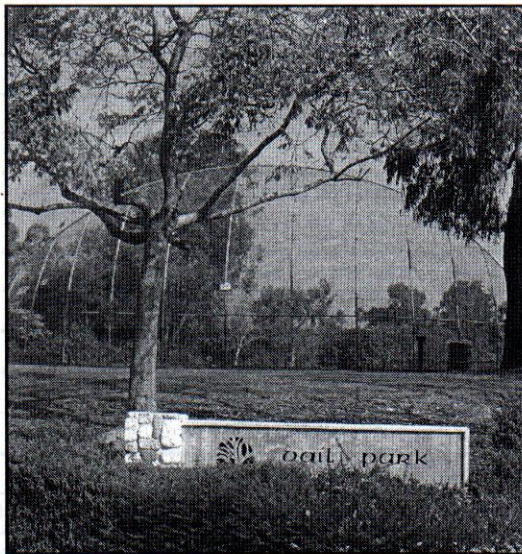
Parks are a large part of Claremont's open spaces. Parks in Claremont have always been valued by residents, as evidenced in 1946 when more than two-thirds of Claremont voters approved the Memorial Park project. The concept of locating park facilities adjacent to local schools occurred as a result of decisions made by the Postwar Planning Committee, a committee that started in 1944 as a forum for encouraging good planning.⁵ Many of the recommendations from this committee have influenced the design and character of Claremont, including the creation of a parkways and streets commission and a park and recreational commission, locating parks adjacent to schools, and the joint use of park and school facilities. During the 1970s, the community's focus changed to parks maintenance rather than growth. Programs developed in the 1970s focused on creating healthy neighborhood parks and accommodating more active recreational uses such as sport courts and fields in parks rather than planning for passive uses such as walking paths and seating areas.

Open Space for Outdoor Recreation



Parks in Claremont

Claremont has many community facilities, programs, and parks available to the public. As of 2005, Claremont had 20 parks, ranging in size from 0.5-acre Shelton Park to the 1,589 acres of hillside land in the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park. These parks vary from purely passive recreational use facilities to parks with heavily programmed use. The City offers diverse recreational



June Vail Park

A neighborhood park located in the northeastern section of the City

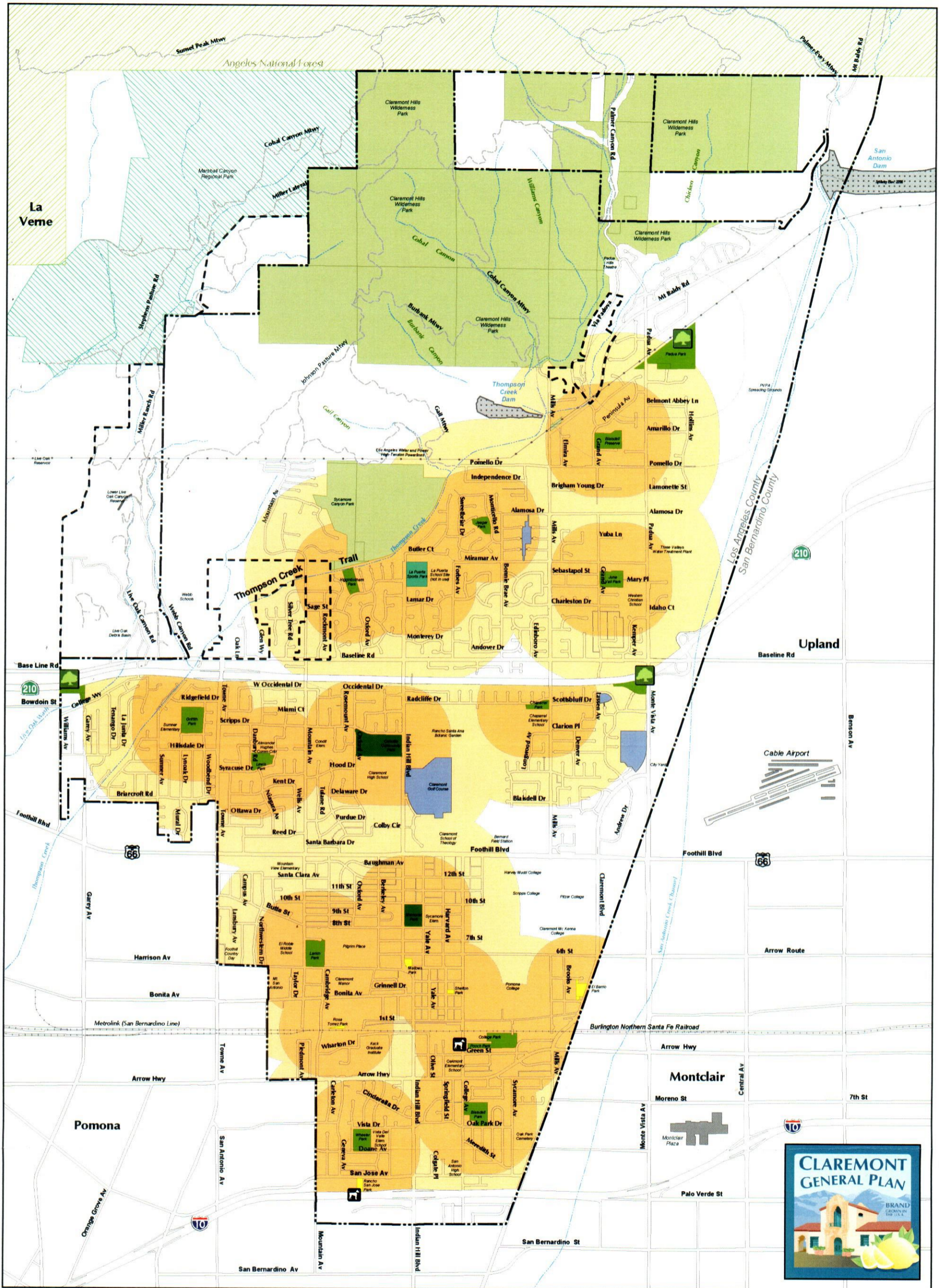
programs at each park depending upon the size of the park and the type of facilities. Many of Claremont's parks are adjacent to school or community center facilities. Table 5-1 lists parks (existing and planned), their size, and location. The facilities in each park are described in detail in Table 7-1 in the Human Services, Recreational Programs and Community Facilities Element. Figure 5-1 maps the location of these parks.

⁵ Wright, pp. 339-340.

**Table 5-1
Claremont Parks**

Name	Location	Acres
Mini-Parks/Pocket Parks		
El Barrio Park	Claremont Blvd.	1.3
Mallows Park	520 N. Indian Hill Blvd.	1.1
Rancho San Jose Park	610 W. San Jose Ave.	1.3
Shelton Park	NE corner of Harvard Ave. and Bonita Ave.	0.5
Rosa Torrez Park	Western terminus of First St.	0.7
Neighborhood Parks		
Blaisdell Park	440 S. College St	7.5
Blaisdell Preserve	NE corner of Grand Ave. and New Orleans Ct.	7.3
Chaparral Park	1899 N. Mills Ave.	3.0
College Park and Pooch Park	100 S. College Ave.	8.6
Griffith Park	1801 Woodbend Dr.	9.7
Higginbotham Park	Mt. Carmel Dr.	5.4
Jaeger Park	Monticello Rd.	4.5
June Vail Park	NE Corner of Grand Ave. and Bluefield Dr.	5.8
Larkin Park	660 N. Mountain Ave.	9.0
Lewis Park	881 Syracuse Dr.	4.7
Wheeler Park	626 Vista Dr.	7.0
Community Parks		
Cahuilla Park	Indian Hill Blvd. and Scripps Dr.	18.2
Memorial Park	840 N. Indian Hill Blvd.	7.2
Thompson Creek Trail	Adjacent to Thompson Creek	24.9
Sports Park		
La Puerta Sports Park	2430 N. Indian Hill Blvd.	10.0
Total Existing Parks		137.7
Planned New Parks		
Padua Avenue Park	Padua Avenue	24
Freeway Mini Park - Williams Avenue	East side of Williams Avenue - South of 210 Freeway	2.1
Freeway Mini Park - Monte Vista Avenue	West side of Monte Vista Avenue - South of 210 Freeway	3.1
Total Planned New Parks		29.2
Natural/Wilderness Parks		
Claremont Hills Wilderness Park	North Claremont, entrance north end of Mills Ave.	1,589.0
Sycamore Canyon	North of Thompson Creek Trail	144.0
Total Wilderness Parks		1,733.0

Source: City of Claremont Park System and Public Facilities, Community Services Department.



<p>Park Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Park Neighborhood Park Sports Park Mini-Park Wilderness Park Dog Park Proposed and Future Parks 	<p>Parks and Recreation Service Area*</p> <p>Claremont Park 1/4 and 1/2 mile radii</p> <p>* Mini-park radius is 1/4 mile only. No service radius for wilderness parks.</p>	<p>Other Recreation Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Claremont Private Recreation Facilities Los Angeles National Forest Marshall Canyon Park 	<p>Base Map Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Boundary Sphere of Influence
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Source: City of Claremont, 2005.

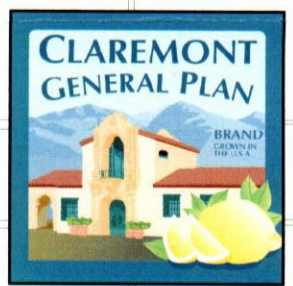


Figure 5-1
Parkland

Park Classifications

The following are the classifications of City parks in Claremont.

Mini-Park/Pocket Park. A mini-park (or sometimes referred to as a pocket park) serves the immediate neighborhood and typically occupies infill parcels. Mini-parks generally are no larger than one acre, address limited recreation needs, and offer few amenities.

Neighborhood Park: These parks are the basic unit of the City's park system. Neighborhood parks range in size from one to ten acres and generally accommodate spaces for informal activities and active recreation.

Community Park: These parks serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks, and meet recreation needs for more formal and highly programmed activities (e.g., Cahuilla and Padua Avenue Parks).

Sports Park: A sport park consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities at larger sites (for example, La Puerta Sports Park).

Wilderness Park: Wilderness parks are primarily unimproved open space areas with hiking and equestrian trails, with the primary park purpose of protecting and preserving natural resources. Wilderness parks contain geologic features, functioning ecosystems, and wildlife habitat.

Surplus Remnant Freeway Right of Way

As a result of the 210 Freeway construction by Caltrans, a few surplus remnant pieces of land adjacent to the freeway right of way have resulted. Both the cities of Claremont and La Verne were led to believe that these parcels were either going to be landscaped or left as open space for the cities to use for park purposes following the completion of the freeway (based on the 1999 Memorandum of Understanding between Caltrans and the individual cities and/or on verbal assurances made by Caltrans staff during the construction process). Claremont has designated two such parcels as Parks/Resource Conservation, as reflected on the Land Use Plan (Figure 2-3). Both La Verne and Claremont hope to acquire/lease and develop the linear open space immediately south of the 210 Freeway at the Claremont/LaVerne boundary on Williams Avenue. On the parcel located at the southwest corner of the 210 Freeway and Monte Vista Avenue, Claremont looks to acquire/lease the parcel and develop a neighborhood park to meet the needs of the adjacent underserved neighborhood.

Passive/Casual and Active Spaces

The current trend cities have followed is providing recreational facilities, but many other cities have recognized the importance of creating passive recreation spaces as well. The task for cities is to provide a balance for both passive and active recreational parks that meet the demands of their residents.

Park Needs

Recreational Parkland Needs

Table 5-2 identifies the park acreage, population, and the ratio of park acres per 1,000 residents, as documented for 2005 and projected for 2025. The total park acreage does not include the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park and Sycamore Canyon Park, as these parks do not provide organized recreational space.

At the national level, professional park planners have not adopted a parkland acreage goal or standard for urban areas. As a rule of thumb, many cities throughout California use 3.0 to 5.0 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents as a benchmark for sufficient park space. The Claremont City Council has adopted a standard of 4.0 acres per 1,000 residents. This is the ratio the City uses for park dedication/fees requirements. As shown in Table 5-2, as of 2005 Claremont did not meet this target. The City will meet the target goal ratio with the construction of Padua Avenue Park and proposed parks adjacent to the 210 Freeway.

**Table 5-2
Park Needs**

	2005	2025
Park Acres Citywide	137.7 (a)	166.9 (b)
Population (c)	36,600	41,205
Park Ratio (Acres/1,000 residents)	3.8	4.1

- Notes:
- (a) Existing Park total from Table 5-1.
 - (b) Includes Padua Avenue Park acres (24.0) and planned 210 Freeway mini-parks (5.1)
 - (c) Numbers based on population in the City and does not include population in the sphere of influence.

Park Facility Needs

Providing sufficient parkland means more than setting aside adequate acres. Equally important in parks planning is locating parks and providing facilities that meet the needs of the population. When taking into account park location, service area standards recommended by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) indicate that a park typically should cover a one-quarter to one-half-mile service area radius, depending on the size of the park. In general, most residential sections of the City, except in the most northeasterly section of the City, are currently within one-half mile of a park facility (see Figure 5-1).

In Claremont, the construction of sports fields has not kept pace with population growth and the popularity of organized youth sports. The

last sports park was built in 1982. The Public Facilities Needs Assessment Task Force in 1996 identified development of a park for sports and community use as a top priority. The type of sports facilities planned for Padua Avenue Park respond to a 1998 analysis by the City's sports committee about what uses most need to be addressed. These include a variety of sports fields, children's play area, walking paths, and picnic areas.

Additionally, Claremont's collection of pedestrian connections and pathways increase accessibility to parks and community facilities.



San Jose Park

San Jose Park is Claremont's newest park facility, filling a great need for the multi-family residential uses located within this neighborhood.

Wilderness Parks

Wilderness can be defined as an area of undeveloped land that retains its primitive character and influence — where naturalness prevails. Wilderness has no permanent human inhabitants. Outstanding opportunities exist within wilderness parks for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding. Claremont has two wilderness parks within its boundaries: Claremont Hills Wilderness Park and Sycamore Canyon Park. Also, Claremonters have ready access to the Angeles National Forest and Marshall Canyon Park.

Claremont Hills Wilderness Park

Breathtaking views of the San Gabriel Mountains, rolling foothills, and lush vegetation during spring are some of the amenities of the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park.



Claremont Hills Wilderness Park

The Claremont Hills Wilderness Park is the heart and soul of Claremont's natural open space. The park, which opened in 1997 as a result of successful transfer of development credits, covers the lower foothill area of the San Gabriel Mountains. It is a topographically diverse wilderness area, with an elevation variance from 1,800 feet above sea level (around the Mills Avenue entrance) to over 3,000 feet (at the peak of Potato Mountain). Over five miles of trails wind through the park, allowing for hiking, mountain bike riding, and horseback riding. These trails connect to the Thompson Creek Trail, Marshall Canyon Regional Park, Palmer Canyon, and Evey Canyon (and a trail that leads to Potato Mountain peak) off Mt. Baldy Road.

Sycamore Canyon Park

Sycamore Canyon Park, located north of Thompson Creek and east of the Claraboya residential neighborhood, is a small, unimproved canyon consisting of rolling hills and chaparral.

Trails

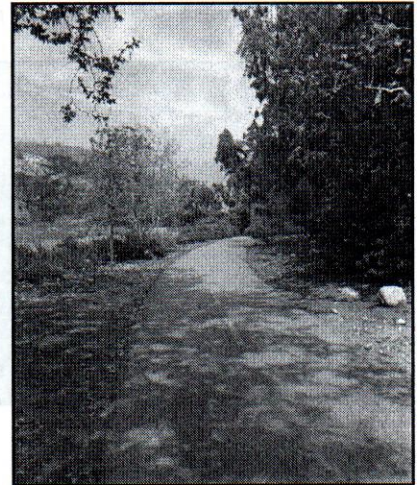
Trails are multipurpose pathways located along drainage channels, roadways, or within wilderness parks, as shown on Figure 5-2. Pedestrian trails and bikeways enhance community mobility, and provide opportunities for recreation and exercise. A well-defined, interconnected trail system also reduces dependence on the automobile for local trips. The key is designing a system that is comfortable, suitable, and safe for those who wish to use it.

Wilderness trails allow access into open space, and provide recreational activities for the hiker, mountain biker, naturalist, and equestrian. Urban trails increase the connection within the urban fabric of a city. Cities and urban centers are stronger and livelier when access is easily accomplished by good public transportation, bicycling, or on foot. In Claremont, one can enjoy both wilderness and urban trails through a connected trail system.

The Claremont Wilderness Park contains trails that permit enjoyment of the local hillsides. The Thompson Creek Trail provides nearly three miles of paved trails for walking, running, biking, or horseback riding. The trail also connects to other parkland areas and can be directly accessed from several neighborhoods located along the channel. Shorter trails are located within greenways and parks.

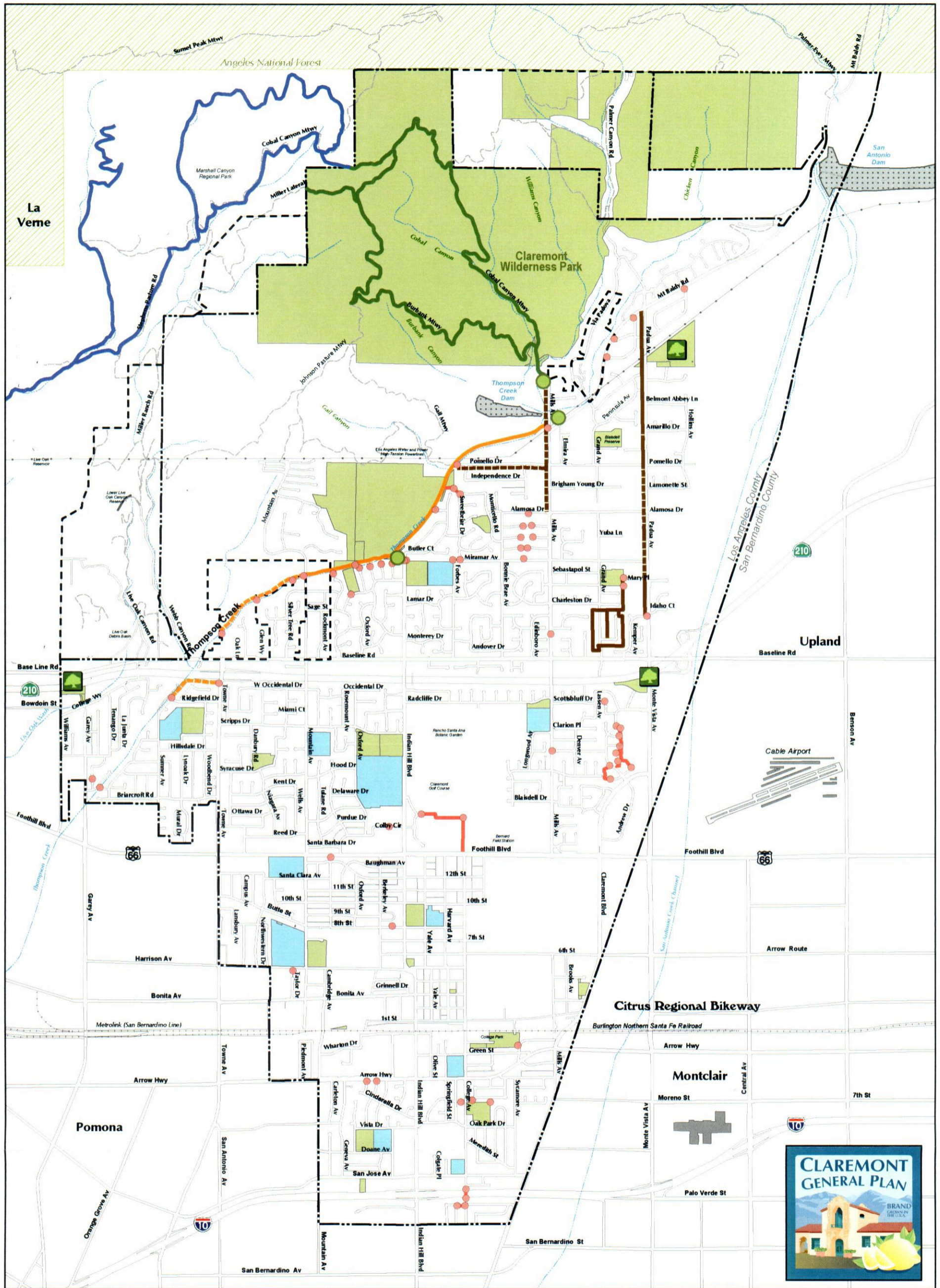
Staging Areas

Staging areas link an existing public facility or street right-of-way to a recreational area such as the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park. A linkage normally consists of two components: (1) a staging area where people can gather and park, and (2) the trail head (the beginning of a



Thompson Creek Trail

This connector/multipurpose trail lies on the northern end of the City. It parallels the Thompson Creek flood control channel. The paved trail is popular with walkers, runners, bicyclists, and leashed dogs. The native vegetation that grows alongside the trail adds to the feeling of "being out of the city" for trail users.



- | Trails | | Trail Types | | Base Map Features | |
|--------|--|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Thompson Creek Trail | | Walking/Running | | Claremont City Boundary |
| | Thompson Creek Trail (no equestrian trail) | | Hiking | | Claremont Sphere of Influence |
| | Equestrian Trail | | Equestrian | | Parks |
| | Proposed Equestrian Trail | | Mountain Biking | | Proposed Park |
| | Claremont Hillside Wilderness Park Trail | | Bike Trails | | Schools |
| | Pedestrian Connector Trails | | Los Angeles National Forest | | |
| | Marshall Canyon Park Trails (Los Angeles County Trail) | | | | |
| | Trail Staging and Parking Areas | | | | |
| | Neighborhood/Pedestrian Connection | | | | |

Source: City of Claremont, 2004.

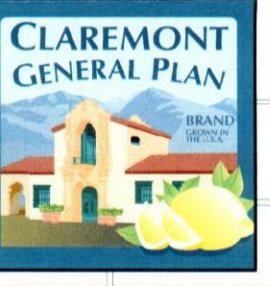
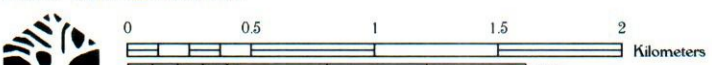


Figure 5-2
Trails Plan

trail). Trail heads can include amenities for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians to prepare for, start, and return from hikes or rides.

Staging areas are located adjacent to the Wilderness Park trail on Mills Avenue, adjacent to Thompson Creek Trail at Mills Avenue, and adjacent to Thompson Creek Trail at the north end of Indian Hill Boulevard.

Pedestrian Connection Points

Pedestrian connection points are openings or shortcuts (through gates or walls, for example) that connect many parks and residential neighborhoods within Claremont. Many neighborhoods are connected to the Thompson Creek Trail.

Other Outdoor Recreational Open Spaces

Other facilities not owned or maintained by Claremont also provide recreational opportunities for the community. In Claremont, these include the Angeles National Forest, Marshall Canyon, the Claremont Club, and the Claremont Golf Course, as well as various small private parks.

Angeles National Forest

The Angeles National Forest was established by presidential Executive Order in December, 1892. It covers over 650,000 acres and abuts Claremont's northern boundary. Much of the forest is covered with dense chaparral, which transitions to pine and fir-covered slopes on the majestic peaks at higher elevations.

Marshall Canyon Regional Park

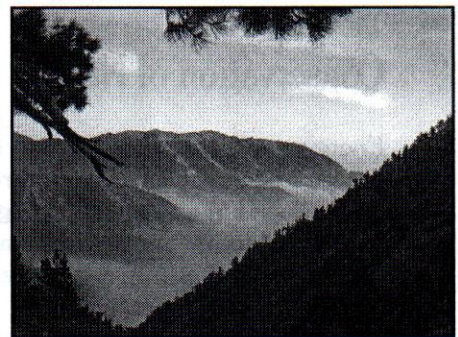
This large, County of Los Angeles unimproved park has several trails leading through it and connects to other foothill wilderness areas, including Claremont Hills Wilderness Park and the Angeles National Forest.

Private Recreation Facilities

Private recreation facilities in the community include:

- The Claremont Club, located at 1777 Monte Vista Avenue, which offers tennis facilities, swimming, indoor fitness and exercise, and social activities to its members.
- Several of The Claremont Colleges maintain athletic fields for use by students, faculty, and staff.
- The Claremont Golf Course, owned and operated by The Claremont Colleges, is open for public use.
- Several residential developments contain private parks and recreation facilities owned and maintained by homeowner associations.

Angeles National Forest



Conservation: A Comprehensive, Sustainable Approach to Resource Preservation and Enhancement

Conservation is the protection and careful use of resources to ensure their availability in the future. Conservation may mean using less energy or water, using more efficient technologies, or changing wasteful habits. Our air can be cleaner and water safer to drink when natural resources are conserved. Preserving and renewing natural resources will assure their greatest economic or social benefit over the longest period of time. Clean rivers and streams, wilderness areas, a diverse plant and animal population, healthy soil, and clean air are natural resources worth conserving for future generations.

Conservation of Natural Resources

Energy resources, water, natural habitat, mineral resources, and open spaces are examples of natural resources. Many of these resources can be found in Claremont. Energy resources exist elsewhere and are transferred to many households and businesses in Claremont for use. Some forms of energy can be generated in Claremont, such as solar power.

Energy Resources

When we drive our children to school, boil a pot of water, or cool down the house on a warm sunny day, we use energy. The energy that keeps our appliances and vehicles running frequently requires burning fossil fuels. Recognizing the sources of our energy - particularly those sources that are nonrenewable - and understanding the consequences associated with energy waste will assist in more efficient use.

We recognize the importance of efficient energy use and conservation by all Claremont consumers. Efficient energy use can be encouraged by changing customer behavior, rewarding use of energy-saving appliances, and employing building design and construction approaches that reduce electric power and natural gas usage. Alternative/renewable energy sources such as solar - both active and passive - provide opportunities to reduce reliance on more traditional sources. Claremont residents, the business community, and institutions can use less energy through simple conservation techniques, thereby contributing to environmental enhancements locally and throughout the region.

Sustainability Defined

Sustainability is the capability to equitably meet the vital human needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by preserving and protecting the area's ecosystems and natural resources. The concept of sustainability describes a condition in which human use of natural resources, required for the continuation of life, is in balance with Nature's ability to replenish them. - *American Planning Association*

Discussion of transportation alternatives is in Chapter 4. Goals and policies are included to increase use of public transit and provide better facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Renewable Energy Use

Renewable energy sources capture energy from on-going natural processes such as sunshine, wind, flowing water, biological processes, and geothermal heat flows. Neither nuclear power nor fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas are renewable. Renewable forms of energy, other than geothermal and tidal power, ultimately come from the sun. Biomass, for example, is accumulated over a period of months, as with straw, or through many years, as with wood.

These renewable energy resources may be used directly or used to create other more convenient forms of energy. Examples of direct use are solar ovens, geothermal heating, and water-wheels and windmills. Examples of indirect use which require energy harvesting are electricity generation through wind turbines or photovoltaic cells, or production of fuels such as ethanol from biomass.

Solar Energy

Claremont is fortunate to have abundant sunshine, making it possible to design or modify buildings to take advantage of passive solar heating and natural cooling. Use of solar heating and natural cooling can also result in more pleasant interior environments because of increased natural light and reduced noise from mechanical equipment. Costs for solar systems can be offset by lower utility costs, special buy-downs, and tax incentives.

Sustainable Building Practices – Green Buildings

Sustainable building practices include designing, constructing, and operating buildings and landscapes to incorporate energy efficiency, water conservation, waste minimization, pollution prevention, resource-efficient materials, and high standards of indoor environmental quality in all phases of a building's life. Information and resources related to sustainable building will be provided to the public on the City's website. The City has implemented standards for recycling of construction and demolition debris. Green approaches to building design involve an integrated, interdisciplinary approach to design and construction, together with investments in energy- and resource-efficient materials and technology. Benefits include:

- Efficient use of water, energy, lumber, and other resources, which also minimizes maintenance and operation costs to homeowners
- Designs that are site, climate, and context specific
- Site plan design that promotes a sense of community
- Pollution prevention and reduced waste

Claremont works to reduce the use of nonrenewable energy resources by encouraging applicants for new construction to achieve energy

Solar Energy Systems

The City of Claremont has adopted a policy of encouraging the use of solar energy for electricity. It is the intent of this Part to make possible the successful use of solar energy by permitting the use of solar energy systems in all zones as a matter of right and by protecting solar access to such systems. –
Chapter 4 Part 7 Claremont Land Use and Development Code.

efficiency and conservation beyond the minimum required by the State of California in Title 24, Part 6 (C.C.R.). This can be accomplished in a number of ways, such as installing a solar hot water system; upgrading to low "e" (high R-value) windows; locating air ducts within conditioned spaces; increasing wall and attic insulation; utilizing value-engineered framing techniques; orienting the building to maximize glazed surfaces facing north and south; installing a whole-house fan; and using energy-efficient appliances.

The City has a program to recognize property owners and builders for utilizing construction techniques, materials, and appliances that result in buildings that achieve energy efficiency and conservation beyond the minimum required by the state energy code. The City promotes the use of photovoltaic cells to generate electricity, and supports the California Solar Rights Acts and the protections the Acts give to owners of solar energy systems.



Water Conservation

The Los Angeles Basin is a semi-arid desert environment. Claremont, like the rest of the basin, receives less than 17.9 inches of rainfall annually, on average (median is 15.6).⁶ Water is considered a limited natural resource given climate conditions and due to the fact that Southern California communities rely upon domestic water supplies imported from as far away as the Colorado River and the Bay Delta in Northern California.⁷ The City obtains 40 to 60 percent of its water from very reliable groundwater resources, while the remainder comes from imported water at the Three Valleys Municipal Water District's Miramar Treatment Plant in Claremont.⁸ As part of a larger water system that imports water, Claremont could, with careful management, reduce demand for water, enhance local water resources, and reduce the City's reliance on imported water. Chapter 7 provides additional information regarding water supplies, infrastructure, and wastewater treatment.

Drought-Tolerant Landscaping

With careful selection, planning, and execution, drought-tolerant landscapes can be as pleasing as those needing heavy irrigation.

Water conservation represents the most cost-effective and environmentally sound way to reduce current and future demand.

⁶ Nancy Hamlett, "Climate." . *Robert J. Bernard Biological Field Station website*, 1997, edited 18 July 2004 <<http://bfs.claremont.edu/environment/bfsclime.html>> (8 October 2005).

⁷ Southern California Water Company website, Region 3. <http://www.aswater.com/Organization/Company_Links/Regions/Region_3/region_3.html> (20 October 2005).

⁸ City of Claremont website "Water Conservation Efforts Paying Off." *What's News*, 8 June 2004. <<http://www.ci.claremont.ca.us>> (2 November 2005).

Homeowners can take many actions to reduce water use, such as using water-conserving toilets and washers, fixing leaks, planting drought-tolerant landscaping, and simply avoiding over-watering plants. Gardens and turf consume a high percentage of residential water. Landscaping with drought-tolerant plants represents an effective method of conserving water.

The City has adopted yard landscaping requirements limiting the amount of turf in new development and requiring the use of drought-tolerant plants. Drought-tolerant planting is also incorporated into City landscape projects. An approximate 50 percent decrease in outdoor irrigation by the City, residents, and businesses would lower the community's total daily water use by approximately 30 percent.⁹ Drought-tolerant plants, shrubs, and trees are specially adapted to grow well in regions that get little, or infrequent, amounts of rain. These plants require less water to live in Southern California's climate and soil, and tend to be more pest and disease resistant.

Reclaimed or recycled water (water that has received at least secondary treatment and basic disinfection at a domestic wastewater treatment facility) can be used for landscape irrigation and industrial use. Wastewater within Claremont's corporate boundary flows via regional trunk lines to regional wastewater treatment facilities operated by the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County located in Pomona. The Sanitation Districts do make this reclaimed water available for nonpotable uses, primarily for landscape irrigation. However, Claremont's distance from the regional wastewater treatment facilities, and the lack of infrastructure such as dedicated pipelines, and a supply and storage network, hinder Claremont's uses of this reclaimed water. The City will need to continue to explore alternatives for how reclaimed water can be used in the community.

Solid Waste Generation and Recycling

Throwing away a gift box at home or a shipping box at the office adds to the solid waste stream with one final destination: the landfill. Although one or two boxes may seem insignificant, imagine a region with over 10 million people and thousands of businesses constantly throwing away recyclable materials. Many landfills in Southern California are quickly reaching capacity, with new locations sought in the desert and beyond. Land is a valuable resource in Southern California. Recycling of solid waste and diverting recyclable materials from landfills help reduce the environmental costs associated with expanding and siting new landfills.

Recycling is not entirely new to Claremont. Since the first recycling center opened in 1972 with the help of the Lions Club and the City of Claremont, recycling efforts have been a mainstream effort by residents

⁹ City of Claremont website "Major Water Supply Pipeline to be Shut Down for Urgent Repairs," *What's News*, 28 May 2004, <<http://www.ci.claremont.ca.us>> (2 November 2005).

and the City.¹⁰ With curbside pick up, variable rates by trash can size, green waste collection, and comingled recycling, the City is diverting waste away from landfills and into recycling facilities. Claremont's efforts in recycling have been tremendous in terms of sustainability, and remain on the leading edge of refuse and recycling technology.

Construction Recycling

Construction and demolition materials account for almost 22 percent of the waste stream. Many of these materials can be reused or recycled, thus prolonging our supply of natural resources and potentially saving money in the process. Common construction and demolition materials include lumber, drywall, metals, masonry (brick, concrete, etc.), carpet, plastic, pipe, rocks, dirt, paper, cardboard, and green waste related to land development. Of these, metals are the most commonly recycled material, while lumber makes up the majority of construction debris deposited in landfills.

Reuse and recycling of construction and demolition materials is one component of a larger, holistic practice of sustainable or green building construction. The efficient use of resources is a fundamental tenet of green building construction. This means reducing, reusing, and recycling most, if not all materials, that remain after a construction or renovation project. Green building construction practices can include salvaging dimensional lumber from the project, using aggregates reclaimed from crushed concrete, or grinding drywall scraps for use on-site as a soil amendment. Reuse of existing buildings through restoration or adaptive change of use reduces the need for new material and waste stream.

Mineral Resources

The California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) requires that all cities address in their general plans the significant aggregate resources classified by the State Geologist and designated by the State Mining and Geology Board. SMARA was enacted to promote conservation and protection of significant mineral deposits. The law also ensures that significant aggregate resources are recognized and considered before land use decisions are made that may compromise the availability of these resources.

The State Geologist classifies lands in California based on geological factors, and without regard to existing land use and land ownership. Because available aggregate construction material is limited, four designations have been established for the classification of sand, gravel, and crushed rock resources:

MRZ-1 - Mineral Resource Zone - adequate information indicates that no significant mineral deposits are present or likely to be present.

¹⁰ Wright, pp. 494-495

MRZ-2 - Mineral Resource Zone - adequate information indicates that significant mineral deposits are present or there is a high likelihood for their presence.

MRZ-3 - Mineral Resource Zone - the significance of mineral deposits cannot be determined from the available data.

MRZ-4 - Mineral Resource Zone - there is insufficient data to assign any other MRZ designation.

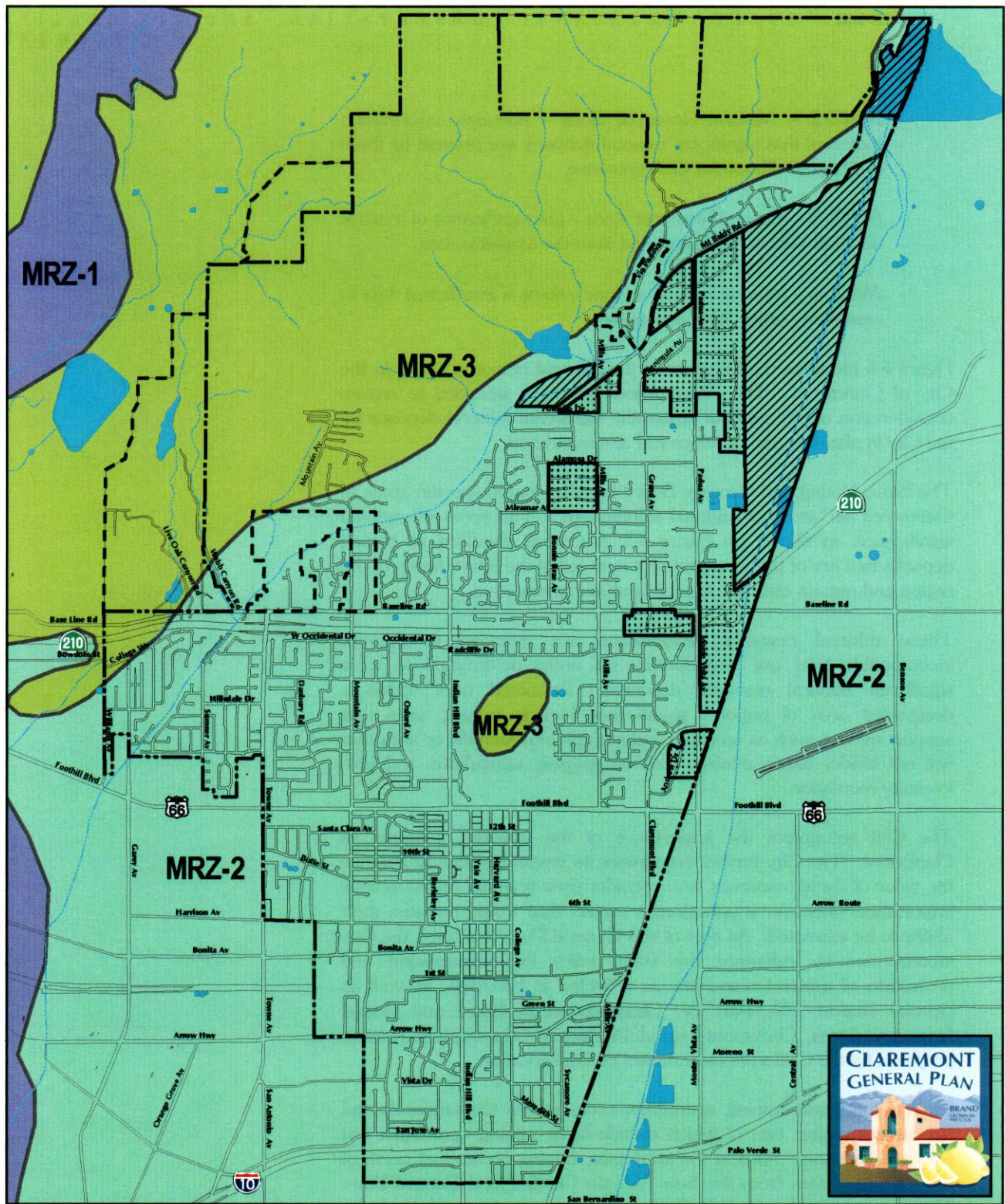
Figure 5-3 identifies the locations of the mineral resource zones in the City of Claremont. The classification system is intended to ensure consideration of statewide or regionally significant mineral deposits by the City in planning and development administration.

The State Mining and Geology Board has designated specific areas in Claremont as "areas of regional significance." The areas of regional significance, as shown on Figure 5-3, are areas identified as having deposits that are of prime importance in meeting the future needs of the region and remain available from a land use perspective.

These mineral resource designations are intended to prevent incompatible land use development on areas determined to have significant mineral resource deposits. Permitted uses within a designated area of regional significance include mining, uses that support mining, such as smelting and storage of materials, or uses that will not hinder future mining, such as grazing, agriculture, and low-intensity recreation.

The City recognizes the importance of the mineral resources in Claremont. The City further recognizes its responsibilities to balance the value of these resources, and consider their regional and statewide importance whenever it considers a project that would threaten their ability to be extracted. As part of this General Plan, therefore, the City incorporates by reference the state policy for conservation and protection of mineral resources, as reflected in SMARA, as well as Special Report 143, Part IV, Classification of Sand and Gravel Resource Areas, Claremont-Upland Production-Consumption Region, prepared by the California Department of Conservation.

Several aggregate mining operations occur in the Claremont-Upland Production region, two of which include large mining operations just east of Claremont. Also in the local area, mining occurs just north of the City, upstream from the San Antonio Creek Flood Control Dam. This area, owned by the U.S. Government, is part of a catch basin for debris and flood control, and the basin is mined on a regular basis to clear the basin of annual sand and gravel deposits to maintain the capacity of the reservoir.



Mineral Resource Zones

- MRZ-1** Areas where adequate information indicates that no significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judge that little likelihood exist for their presense.
- MRZ-2** Areas where adequate information indicates that significant mineral deposits are present or where it is judge that a high likelihood exists for their presence.
- MRZ-3** Areas containing mineral deposits the significance of which cannot be evaluated from available data.

Areas of Regional Significance

- Regionally Significant Areas Zoned as Open Space
- Regionally Significant Areas Committed or Zoned for Urban Development

Source: Department of Conservation, Geological Survey.

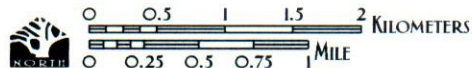
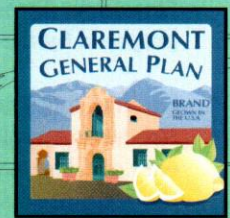


Figure 5-3

Mineral Resource Zones

CLAREMONT GENERAL PLAN



Most of the undeveloped land within the designated areas of regional significance is included in the extensive landholdings of the Pomona Valley Protective Association (PVPA), and is used for watershed and groundwater recharge. Although this land has been designated as a significant regional mineral resource, this land is also important ecologically as it contains Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub, a specialized habitat that has been largely lost in Southern California due to urban development. The PVPA land also serves as a buffer to separate Claremont residents from the extensive mining operations located east of Claremont and the negative impacts of the mining operations, including noise, vibration, traffic, dust, and the visual scarring of the environment.

In the City's Land Use Plan, the PVPA land is designated as Park/Resource Conservation in recognition of the land's important groundwater recharge function. With this designation, the land is protected from incompatible development that would prevent access to the aggregate deposits, should it be demonstrated in the future that the need to mine the deposits or benefits to the community outweigh the adverse impacts that the mining would have on the community and the environment. In the meantime, where any development is approved near the PVPA land that might threaten the potential for mining that land, the City will require sufficient mitigation for that development to address any land use incompatibilities that might arise between the approved developments and any mining of the PVPA that might later be permitted.

Air Quality

The average adult inhales about 12 times a minute, or takes over 17 thousand breaths a day. When we breathe in, we take in air that is contaminated daily by our activities: driving cars, burning fossil fuels, and manufacturing chemicals. Although air quality in Southern California has improved since the 1960s, even with the region's substantial economic expansion and population growth, further improvements are needed. The Los Angeles region still has some of the most polluted air in the nation.

Air Quality in Claremont

Blue skies above Claremont on a clear day



South Coast Air Basin

Claremont lies within the South Coast Air Basin, a geographic area that extends from the Pacific Ocean to the San Gabriel Mountains and from the Ventura County boundary east to the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains. The air basin is a "non-attainment" area for federal and state air quality standards for ozone and state standards for particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM10). The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) regulates air quality improvement programs within the basin, and works to improve regional air quality to achieve federal and state standards.

The SCAQMD monitors the air quality in the basin through a regional network of air pollution monitoring stations to determine if the national and state standards for air pollutants and emission limits of toxic air contaminants are being achieved. One of these monitoring stations is located in the city of Glendora, approximately six miles from Claremont's boundary, and another is located in the eastern end of Upland in San Bernardino County, approximately four miles from the City. The SCAQMD is also responsible for controlling emissions from stationary sources of air pollution. These can include anything from large power plants and refineries to the corner gas station. Claremont

has continued to work with the SCAQMD and in accordance with the applicable *Air Quality Management Plan* to improve the regional transportation system and regional air quality.

Sources of Air Pollution

Motor vehicles represent the major source of regional emissions throughout the basin and within Claremont. Land use patterns which inefficiently distribute housing densities, employment centers, and mass transit facilities lead to excessive automobile usage. Vehicles idling in heavy traffic congestion, such as those crawling along the freeways during peak hours of the day, can contribute to excessive exhaust. Most pollution control strategies have aimed at reducing vehicle usage and using cleaner-burning fuels.

Other sources of air pollution include auto repair businesses, dry cleaners, and businesses that regularly use chemical solvents. Common sources of fine particulate matter, or PM10, include road dust, construction activity, grading, and fireplaces. The Vulcan Mining Facility, Cable Airport, and the Ontario International Airport - all located outside of Claremont - are also regional sources of air pollution.

Claremont's local air quality conditions result largely from sources outside the immediate area, as prevailing westerly breezes push air pollution from the valleys up against the mountains.

Claremont benefits from being located at the mouth of the San Antonio Canyon. Clean, cool air drains into Claremont each evening. Also, Claremont participates in a number of efforts to improve air quality within the region.

Goals and Policies

Open Space and Parkland

Claremont values open space as a defining element of the City's character, giving the entire City a special sense of place. Over 1,700 acres of hillsides have been preserved for perpetuity so that present and future Claremont residents can enjoy and experience them. These goals and policies continue this tremendous task of protecting valuable natural open space areas, as well as providing additional areas of constructed open space throughout the urban areas of the City.

Preservation of Natural Open Space Resources

Once a natural resource is diminished or developed, it is gone forever. This General Plan focuses on preserving natural resources, including but not limited to open space, natural habitat and vegetation, wildlife, and blue line streams and riparian water courses.

Goal 5-1 **Maintain unique and diverse open space resources throughout Claremont for purposes of resource and habitat protection.**



Policy 5-1.1 Strive to acquire or otherwise protect open space areas that provide key wildlife corridors, and provide connectivity between habitat areas.



Policy 5-1.2 Work with state and federal agencies to protect areas containing rare or endangered species of plants and animals.



Policy 5-1.3 Encourage new development to preserve, where possible, on-site natural elements that contribute to the community's aesthetic character.





Policy 5-1.4 Develop and implement specific management programs for hillside properties and other natural areas acquired by the City. These programs should be based on sound ecological principles and professionally accepted methods to protect and enhance sensitive animal populations and their habitats.





Policy 5-1.5 Minimize disturbances and scarring of ridgelines and other distinctive landforms in the hillsides.



Policy 5-1.6 Encourage the preservation of natural areas so that future generations will have the opportunity to learn first hand about the natural environment and its importance. 

Policy 5-1.7 Preserve the integrity of riparian habitat areas, creek corridors, and other drainages that support biological resources, and contribute to the overall health of the watershed through the preservation of native plants and the removal of invasive, non-native plants. 


Policy 5-1.8 Manage limited natural resources to enable future generations to share in the environmental wealth of the Claremont area. 


Policy 5-1.9 Minimize impacts to birds by site disturbance activities. 


Preserve, Manage, and Enhance Open Space in the Hillsides


The preservation of open space in the hillsides will continue to be a community goal. The ultimate goal is not only to set aside as much protected open space as possible, but to manage and enhance the habitat, riparian areas, and other natural resources that currently exist there.


Goal 5-2 Preserve and manage open space areas in Claremont's hillsides. 

Policy 5-2.1 Actively pursue funding and other appropriate mechanisms to preserve and acquire as much of the hillside area as possible. 

Policy 5-2.2 Continue to implement/support the City's 1981 hillside ordinance in consideration of the landowners' property rights. 

Policy 5-2.3 Explore the use of bond issues, assessment districts, environmental partnerships, grants, and other methods for purchasing and managing hillside areas. 

Policy 5-2.4 Coordinate with other public agencies' plans, and pursue partnerships with local and regional environmental, and conservation organizations to locate, develop, and maintain hillside open space areas. 

Policy 5-2.5 Continue to plan and budget for effective management and stewardship of hillside areas. 

Policy 5-2.6 Promote and encourage environmental education for all residents through the appropriate use of hillside areas.



Policy 5-2.7 Work with other hillside communities in the San Gabriel Valley in establishing a protected hillside corridor along the entire length of the San Gabriel Mountains.



Wilderness Park Expansion

Claremont residents have emphasized the importance of wilderness parks to the City's open space. Expanding wilderness park areas is a high priority, in addition to creating greater access and proper management and stewardship of the parks.

Goal 5-3 Maximize wilderness park areas within Claremont's hillsides.



Policy 5-3.1 Pursue funding sources and programs to purchase privately owned hillside properties for expansion of the wilderness parks.



Policy 5-3.2 Encourage hillside land owners to dedicate land to the City voluntarily for open space purposes.



Policy 5-3.3 Provide access to public recreational lands in the hillsides.



Policy 5-3.4 Provide adequate funding to manage the hillside wilderness parks.



Groundwater Recharge

To maximize the potential of recharge areas to restore underground water supplies, such areas are best kept as open space where feasible, or limited to low intensity uses, to retain as much of the permeable surface as possible. Native vegetation essential to the water-holding characteristics should be preserved.

Goal 5-4 Protect groundwater resources.



Policy 5-4.1 Protect, preserve, and enhance the San Antonio Spreading Grounds and Thompson Creek Spreading Grounds as important open space resources for recharging groundwater basins.



Policy 5-4.2 Encourage use of drainage improvements designed, with native vegetation where possible, to retain or



detain stormwater runoff, minimizing volume and pollutant concentrations.

Policy 5-4.3 Design sidewalks, roads, and driveways to minimize impervious surfaces.



Groundwater Protection

Goal 5-5 Maintain and enhance groundwater resources.



Policy 5-5.1 Require all new development to connect to public sewers. Explore alternatives for connecting the existing development which is not currently connected to the sanitary sewer system.



Policy 5-5.2 Persuade water agencies that have wells in Claremont to develop programs that would pump water from high nitrate wells for irrigation use so the nitrates can be assimilated by vegetation, or if possible, that would blend the water for safe human consumption, so that over the long term the contaminated portions of the aquifer can be cleaned



Policy 5-5.3 Reduce the spreading of high nitrate fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and other chemicals in City landscaping that can contaminate groundwater.



Policy 5-5.4 Encourage the public to reduce the use of chemicals in maintenance of landscaping.



Open Space for Public Health and Safety

Open space shall be used as a method of protecting residential neighborhoods on the fringes of open space from natural disasters such as geologic and seismic hazards, flooding, and wildland fires.

Goal 5-6 Preserve open space as a public safety enhancement.

Policy 5-6.1 Require property owners to maintain slopes in a manner that minimizes erosion and slippage. Whenever feasible, slopes shall remain in their natural condition with appropriate vegetation cover. When necessary to avoid erosion and slipping, special designs and construction shall be utilized.

Policy 5-6.2 Require geotechnical evaluation and recommendations prior to new development. Recognize that the suitability of soil and rock formations for development should be a prime basis for the type and intensity of development permitted.

Policy 5-6.3 Permit development in areas designated as "high" or "extreme" fire hazard only when mitigation measures are provided to mitigate the hazard adequately.

Open Space in Urban Areas

Open space will be integrated into the entire fabric of the community, contributing to a balanced quality of life, including physical, emotional, and spiritual aspects.

Goal 5-7 Maximize the distribution of open space in urban areas.



Policy 5-7.1 Require that private open spaces be integrated with new development by providing "spaces in between", such as green spaces or landscaped plazas between buildings, to provide relief from density and confinement of the built environment.



Policy 5-7.2 Enhance the street corridor and existing spaces between buildings by incorporating small green areas, extensive landscaping, and street trees.



Policy 5-7.3 Explore opportunities to create mini-parks within the urbanized area for public and/or private use.



Policy 5-7.4 Support small-scale agriculture such as community gardens and the growing of organic produce.












Street Trees and Community Forest

The public and private vegetation that comprise the community forest is an integral part of the built environment of Claremont. Street trees are particularly valuable in maintaining the character of the City. The City is dedicated to the preservation, proper maintenance, and continued enhancement of the community forest.


Goal 5-8 Preserve Claremont's unique community forests, and provide for sustainable increase and maintenance of this valuable resource.







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- Policy 5-8.1 Develop a tree planting policy that strives to accomplish 50% shading of constructed paved and concrete surfaces within five years of construction. 
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- Policy 5-8.2 Provide adequate funding to manage and maintain the City's urban forest, including sufficient funds for tree planting, pest control, scheduled pruning, and removal and replacement of dead trees. 
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- Policy 5-8.3 Coordinate with local and regional plant experts (e.g. Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden) in selecting tree species that respect the natural region in which Claremont is located, to help create a healthier, more sustainable urban forest. 
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- Policy 5-8.4 Safeguard and enhance Claremont's community forest by protecting existing stands of trees and other plant material of substantial value. 
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- Policy 5-8.5 Continue to plant new trees (in particular native tree species where appropriate), and work to preserve mature native trees. 
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- Policy 5-8.6 Increase the awareness of the benefits of street trees and the community forest through a citywide education effort. 
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- Policy 5-8.7 Continue to manage and care for all trees located on City property or within the City's right of way. 
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- Policy 5-8.8 Provide information to the public on correct tree pruning practices. 
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- Policy 5-8.9 Encourage residents to properly care for and preserve large and beautiful trees on their own private property. 

Open Space for Outdoor Recreation

Goal 5-9 Provide a variety of park facilities that meet the diverse needs and interests of the community.

Policy 5-9.1 Develop a high-quality network of parks and open spaces that meet the needs of families, young adults, seniors, children, and disabled individuals. 

Policy 5-9.2 Achieve and maintain a park ratio of 4.0 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.


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- Policy 5-9.3 Provide similar or equal levels of parks and recreational facilities to all areas of the community. 
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- Policy 5-9.4 Continue the school/park joint use concept for increased recreational resources and year-round use of these facilities. 
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- Policy 5-9.5 Strive to make parks and related facilities accessible to Claremont residents, when feasible. 
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- Policy 5-9.6 Balance and prioritize parks and facilities construction considering the City's limited operational and maintenance funds.
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- Policy 5-9.7 Build and maintain parks and community facilities in a manner that is environmentally responsible. 
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- Policy 5-9.8 Plan for and designate adequate funding to maintain new parks and facilities.




Urban Pathways, Trails, and Access Points


Claremont Wilderness Park Trails


Walking and hiking are common leisure and recreational activities, as well as a means to get around town, access activity nodes, and enjoy wilderness areas. The urban environment should be accommodating to those who like to walk and particularly to school children. Sidewalks and pedestrian connection points should be continuous and part of a system that provides access to goods, services, schools, and homes.

Goal 5-10 Provide an extensive and safe system for walking and hiking that links areas of Claremont. 


Policy 5-10.1 Connect trails within Claremont Hills Wilderness Park and Sycamore Canyon Park to regional trails in 


Marshall Canyon Park, and the Angeles National Forest.

Policy 5-10.2 Increase accessibility to trails. 

Policy 5-10.3 Continue to implement the Wilderness Park Management Plan in a manner that preserves and maintains trails, minimizes user conflicts, encourages user cooperation, does not cause unacceptable environmental impact, promotes safety, and educates users. 

Goal 5-11 Develop and maintain a pathway system within the urban areas of the City. 

Policy 5-11.1 Require new development to provide pedestrian walkways, paths, and pedestrian connections that provide access between residential neighborhoods, parks, schools, and other activity nodes, as appropriate. 


Policy 5-11.2 Complete installation of curb cuts where needed to improve accessibility. 


Conservation

Conservation is important to Claremonters because of its long-term benefits in terms of sustainability. Claremont residents enjoy the wonderful benefits from the natural resources found in the City. Claremonters understand that conserving natural resources today will allow future generations to enjoy those same resources. The goals and policies provide long-term guidance in protecting Claremont's natural resources with the overall goal of achieving sustainability.


Natural Resources


Goal 5-12 Conserve and properly manage natural resources for future generations. 


Policy 5-12.1 Educate the public on the need for resource conservation and on ways to minimize the use and consumption of limited natural resources to assure that future generations share in the environmental wealth of the Claremont area. 

Policy 5-12.2 Consider the environmental impacts of proposed development of natural areas, recognizing the loss of natural resources is irreversible. The environmental 

analysis shall carefully weigh the costs and benefits of such development.


Policy 5-12.3 Encourage the reuse of already developed properties before developing natural areas. 


Policy 5-12.4 Implement land use patterns and policies that incorporate smart growth practices, including placement of higher densities near transit centers, allowing mixed-use development, and encouraging and accommodating pedestrian movement. 


Policy 5-12.5 Promote the use of public/private partnerships to upgrade existing buildings for energy efficiency, water conservation, and storm water runoff pollution reduction. 


Energy Conservation


Energy conservation will be implemented in Claremont to conserve fossil fuels, avoid black-outs, control air pollution, and carry out the principles of sustainability. Energy conservation will be accomplished through the use of energy-efficient design features and changing wasteful habits.


Goal 5-13 Maximize energy conservation throughout all segments of the community to reduce air pollutant emissions, and to reduce consumption of natural resources and fossil fuels. 

Policy 5-13.1 Promote the use of energy-saving designs and devices in all new construction and reconstruction. 

Policy 5-13.2 Incorporate the use of energy conservation strategies in City projects. 

Policy 5-13.3 Promote energy-efficient design features, including appropriate site orientation, use of light color roofing and building materials, and use of evergreen trees and wind-break trees to reduce fuel consumption for heating and cooling. 

Policy 5-13.4 Explore and consider the cost/benefits of alternative fuel vehicles including hybrid, natural gas, and hydrogen powered vehicles when purchasing new City vehicles. 

Policy 5-13.5 Continue to promote the use of solar power and other energy conservation measures. 

Policy 5-13.6 Encourage residents to consider the cost/benefits of alternative fuel vehicles.



Policy 5-13.7 Promote the use of different technologies that reduce use of non-renewable energy resources.



Sustainable Building Practices - Green Building

Green building will be widely promoted in the construction and development industry within Claremont. Education will encourage sustainable building practices.

Goal 5-14 Incorporate green building and other sustainable building practices into development projects.



Policy 5-14.1 Facilitate the use of green building standards and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) in both private and public projects.



Policy 5-14.2 Promote sustainable building practices that go beyond the requirements of Title 24 of the California Administrative Code, and encourage energy-efficient design elements, as appropriate.









Policy 5-14.3 Support sustainable building practices that integrate building materials and methods that promote environmental quality, economic vitality, and social benefit through the design, construction, and operation of the built environment.








Water Resources

Water resources can be enhanced with efforts to detain (slow down) and retain (hold) groundwater. This can be achieved through minimizing the amount of impervious surfaces and increasing percolation facilities. Water conservation will be carried out by encouraging the use of drought-tolerant landscaping, modifying plumbing and water fixtures, changing behavior practices and use habits, and supporting the use of reclaimed water for irrigation and other non-potable use.

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- Goal 5-15** **Achieve the highest level of water conservation possible.** 
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- Policy 5-15.1 Support water conservation through requirements for landscaping with drought-tolerant plants and efficient irrigation. 
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- Policy 5-15.2 Educate the public about the importance of water conservation and avoiding wasteful water habits. 
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- Policy 5-15.3 Work with the City water provider in exploring water conservation programs, and encourage the water provider to offer incentives for water conservation. 
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- Policy 5-15.4 Direct staff to work with Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County to explore infrastructure improvements that could make it possible to use reclaimed water in Claremont for nonpotable uses, such as landscape irrigation. 
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- Policy 5-15.5 Explore with Three Valley Water District water recycling opportunities in Claremont. 

Solid Waste Recycling

Waste reduction efforts will continue to focus on local recycling programs, with stepped-up initiatives for recycling of construction waste.

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- Goal 5-16** **Strive to achieve waste recycling levels that meet or exceed state mandates.** 
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- Policy 5-16.1 Promote reuse and recycling throughout the community. 
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- Policy 5-16.2 Utilize source reduction, recycling, and other appropriate measures to reduce the amount of solid waste generated in Claremont that is disposed of in landfills. 
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- Policy 5-16.3 Facilitate the maximum diversion from landfills of construction and demolition materials created in Claremont through recycling and reuse. 
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- Policy 5-16.4 Achieve maximum waste recycling in all sectors of the community, including residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and the construction industry. 

Mineral Resources

Goal 5-17 **Protect and conserve state-designated significant mineral resources from land uses that threaten their availability for future mining, and require that any future mining of those resources will not adversely impact the environment or the livability of Claremont's residential neighborhoods.**



Policy 5-17.1 Protect mineral resource deposits in designated areas of regional significance in order that such deposits may be available for future use, excepting in already urbanized locations where development has already occurred or is planned, as shown in Figure 5-3.



Policy 5-17.2 Balance the regional need to produce mineral resources against other City goals set forth in this General Plan.



Policy 5-17.3 Balance the importance of mineral resources against alternative land uses, and consider the value of the minerals to their market region or to the state in reviewing any project involving mineral resources from areas designated regionally significant.



Policy 5-17.4 Prior to the approval of any use that would threaten the potential to extract from any state-designated significant mineral resource, require that sufficient mitigation be provided to eliminate land use conflicts between the approved use and any future mining of the mineral resources.



Air Quality

Cooperation among all agencies within the South Coast Air Quality Basin is necessary to achieve desired improvements to air quality. Claremont can continue to participate and contribute its share to those efforts by reducing emissions and enhancing the airshed.

Goal 5-18 **Reduce the amount of air pollution emissions from mobile and stationary sources and enhance the airshed.**





Policy 5-18.1 Enhance pedestrian and bike facilities within the City and encourage alternative modes of transportation (see Chapter 4).





Policy 5-18.2 Encourage the use of clean fuel vehicles.





Policy 5-18.3 Promote the use of fuel-efficient heating and cooling equipment and other appliances, such as water heaters, swimming pool heaters, cooking equipment, refrigerators, furnaces, and boiler units. 

Policy 5-18.4 Promote the use of clean air technologies such as fuel cell technologies, renewable energy sources, UV coatings, and alternative, non-fossil fuels. 


Policy 5-18.5 Continue to require the planting of street trees along City streets and inclusion of trees and landscaping for all development projects to help improve airshed and minimize urban heat island effects. 


Policy 5-18.6 Encourage small businesses to utilize clean, innovative technologies to reduce air pollution. 


Policy 5-18.7 Implement principles of green building (see policies under Goal 5-14). 


Policy 5-18.8 Support jobs/housing balance within the community so more people can both live and work within the community. To reduce vehicle trips, encourage people to telecommute or work out of home or in local satellite offices. 

Goal 5-19 Reduce the amount of fugitive dust released into the atmosphere. 


Policy 5-19.1 Support programs and policies of the South Coast Air Quality Management District regarding restrictions on grading operations at construction projects. 

Policy 5-19.2 Cooperate with local, regional, state, and federal jurisdictions to control fugitive dust from stationary, mobile, and area sources. 

Policy 5-19.3 Enforce regulations that do not allow vehicles to transport aggregate or similar material upon a roadway unless the material is stabilized or covered, in accordance with state law and South Coast Air Quality Management District regulations. 

Goal 5-20 Elevate public awareness regarding air pollution sources and pollutant reduction initiatives. 

OPEN SPACE, PARKLAND, CONSERVATION, AND AIR QUALITY
ELEMENT

Policy 5-20.1 Encourage and publicly recognize innovative approaches that improve air quality. 

Policy 5-20.2 Encourage the participation of environmental groups, the business community, civic groups, special interest groups, and the general public in the formulation and implementation of programs that effectively reduce air pollution. 