

# OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION ELEMENT

## ELEMENT DESCRIPTION FOR HOMEPAGE

The Open Space and Conservation Element emphasizes “growing green” and ensuring environmental sustainability in terms of Upland’s outdoor spaces and natural resources. Our open space areas provide important contributions for the community, including flood control, groundwater recharge, mining of mineral resources, and habitat. Our park system provides a variety of both passive and active recreational opportunities.

## OVERARCHING GOAL

Increased health and quality of life for citizens of Upland as well as environmental sustainability through conservation of open space and natural resources, and encouraging greenhouse gas reductions and alternatives to the use of non-renewable resources.

## GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTIONS SECTIONS

- Open Space and Natural Resources
- Parks and Recreation
- Air Quality
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Non-Renewable Energy
- Mineral Resources

## GENERAL PLAN FIGURES:

- Figure OSC-1 (Parks, Trails and Recreation Facilities)

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

- Upland General Plan Existing Conditions Report: Natural Environment
- Upland General Plan Existing Conditions Report: Community Services and Facilities

## OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Upland is located at the southern foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. Most of the City is fully developed with urban uses however it still contains a few open space areas that are largely dedicated to active mining, flood control, and groundwater recharge. These areas provide shelter and habitat for hawks, falcons and a variety of other birds as well as the occasional coyote, possum and raccoon. Upland’s useable open space is found in its parks and trails. The City’s residential neighborhoods feature extensive tree canopies which makes its streets and sidewalks pleasant places to live and provide memorable landscapes for those passing

through the City. This urban forest also serves the more practical end of absorbing carbon dioxide and pollution, and producing oxygen that contributes to improved air quality and human health.

<b>Goal OSC-1</b>	<b>Upland’s natural resources such as open space, wildlife and vegetation, are protected and enjoyed as limited and valuable resources and integral parts of a sustainable environment.</b>
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### **Policies**

Policy OSC-1.1 **Resource Preservation.** Preserve open space and habitat areas by promoting conservation and preservation easements that protect habitat areas, habitat corridors, and sensitive biological resources.

Policy OSC-1.2 **Open Space Corridors.** Focus on areas that are adjacent to larger open space areas and corridors as the first priority in siting preservation areas.

Policy OSC-1.3 **Joint Use.** Work with property owners and regional agencies to allow safe, joint use of open space areas that are used for other purposes such as flood control, groundwater recharge, utility corridors, and mining for passive recreational activities such as trails or view spots.

Policy OSC-1.4 **Regulatory Protection.** Ensure that new development meets all federal, State, and regional regulations for habitat and species protection.

Policy OSC-1.5 **New Development.** Encourage new development to preserve on-site natural elements and incorporate low impact development techniques.

Policy OSC-1.6 **Public Education.** Support educational programs for residents and visitors about the uniqueness and value of the natural resources, plants, and wildlife in the region, and how to manage development to preserve wildlife populations.

Policy OSC-1.7 **Dark Sky Protection.** Promote shielded, dark-sky friendly lighting for Upland’s outdoor lighting needs in order to reduce light pollution and glare; increase energy efficiency; protect wildlife; and promote better health.

<b>Goal OSC-2</b>	<b>Upland’s urban forest and rich landscaping tradition is managed and enjoyed as a valuable resource that imparts a character to the community.</b>
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### **Policies**

Policy OSC-2.1 **Street Tree Canopy.** Maintain the City’s tree-lined streets as an integral component of the City’s character by replacing parkway and median trees in conjunction with public and private projects.

Policy OSC-2.2 **Streetscapes.** Maintain the City’s landscaped parkways and medians as aesthetic buffers that improve the appearance of the community.

Policy OSC-2.3 **California-Friendly Species.** Encourage new and existing public and private development to incorporate California-friendly and drought-tolerant vegetation into landscape plans to reduce water demand.

- Policy OSC-2.4 **Invasive Species.** Prohibit the use of plant species known to be invasive according to the California Invasive Plant Inventory. Introduction or spread of invasive plant species during construction of development projects shall be avoided by minimizing surface disturbance; seeding and mulching disturbed areas with certified weed-free native mixes; and using California-friendly, noninvasive species in erosion control plantings.
- Policy OSC-2.5 **Shade Trees.** Prioritize the planting of large street tree species (greater to or equal to 50 feet in height) over smaller species to facilitate a larger canopy of trees that will serve to reduce the heat island effect, lower energy costs, sequester carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, reduce stormwater runoff, and increase water retention and water quality.
- Policy OSC-2.6 **Tree Preservation.** Promote the preservation of Upland’s large mature trees that occupy both public and private property through the preparation of a Tree Preservation Ordinance. Include the identification and protection of landmark trees, meaning trees of historic or cultural significance.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

Parks and recreational outlets are an important amenity for Upland’s residents. Upland strives to ensure that the size and number of parks and recreational facilities are adequate for the population served and that they are of high quality, well-maintained and designed to sustain the environment.

**Goal OSC-3 Park lands that are environmentally and fiscally sustainable and meet the needs of residents of all ages and interests.**

### Policies

- Policy OSC-3.1 **Park Preservation.** Preserve existing park space and discourage the use of parkland for non-park related uses or facilities.
- Policy OSC-3.2 **Existing Parks.** Upgrade and rehabilitate existing parks as necessary to meet the changing needs of the community.
- Policy OSC-3.3 **New Parks and Recreational Facilities.** Ensure that the provision of parks and recreational facilities and services keeps pace with population growth and changing recreational needs in Upland.
- Policy OSC-3.4 **Underserved Areas.** Prioritize the development of new parks in underserved areas and low-income neighborhoods.
- Policy OSC-3.5 **Quimby Act.** Continue to require residential subdivisions to provide at least 3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents or pay an in-lieu fee or some combination thereof, pursuant to Section 66477 of the California Government Code (the Quimby Act).
- Policy OSC-3.6 **Infill Development.** Encourage new infill development projects to provide mini parks in infill areas to help meet the park standard, as long as they are at least ½-acre in size and include sufficient amenities.
- Policy OSC-3.7 **Alternative Forms of Parks.** Facilitate the development of alternative forms of park and recreational resources, including community gardens, pocket parks and green alleys in Downtown.

- Policy OSC-3.8 **Joint-Use Facilities.** Combine new parks, where possible, with other compatible facilities such as schools, flood control, or water conservation areas.
- Policy OSC-3.9 **Connectivity between Parks.** Create pedestrian, bicycle and/or equestrian trail links between parks where possible, in order to increase the accessibility of parks to area residents.
- Policy OSC-3.10 **Trail System.** Maintain and expand the off-street trail system to provide a continuous system that loops through the City and connects to regional trails.
- Policy OSC-3.11 **Funding.** Support efforts to sustain a long-term funding source for parks acquisition, development, and maintenance in Upland. All State and federal support for parks and recreation should be explored.
- Policy OSC-3.12 **Maintenance Practices.** Incorporate sustainable practices into the ongoing maintenance of City parks and recreational facilities.
- Policy OSC-3.13 **Vandalism.** Provide a graffiti hotline and other measures to limit vandalism in park and recreational facilities.
- Policy OSC-3.14 **Sustainable Materials.** Use sustainable materials—reused, renewable, locally sourced and/or recycled—to the greatest extent possible in new parks and recreational facilities.
- Policy OSC-3.15 **California Friendly Plant Species.** When feasible, utilize California friendly non-invasive plants for landscaping park and recreational facilities.
- Policy OSC-3.16 **Stormwater Management.** Integrate low impact development techniques that retain natural features for stormwater management to the greatest extent possible for all parks facilities.
- Policy OSC-3.17 **Trees.** Maintain or plant trees where appropriate to provide shade, absorb carbon, reduce the heat island effect and reduce cooling loads in shaded buildings.
- Policy OSC-3.18 **Development Impact Fees.** Require new development to dedicate land or pay in-lieu fees to maintain park standards through the Park Acquisition and Development Impact Fee.

## AIR QUALITY

Upland takes steps to promote clean air for its citizens and for the region. These steps include encouraging compact development and best management practices in the construction and operation of new development, and through land use measures that control the proximity of sensitive uses to pollution sources. Upland also promotes the viability of modes of travel other than the car, and coordinates its efforts with other jurisdictions.

<b>Goal OSC-4</b>	<b>Healthful air quality in Upland and the surrounding region, and reduced locally generated pollutant emissions.</b>
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## Policies

- Policy OSC-4.1 **Land Use Patterns.** Promote land use patterns that reduce the number and length of motor vehicle trips.
- Policy OSC-4.2 **Compact Development.** Where development opportunities near shopping areas and transit corridors exist, prioritize higher-density residential development.
- Policy OSC-4.3 **Mixed Retail Development.** Encourage employment areas to include a mix of retail support services, and allow new small-scale retail and service uses within established residential neighborhoods to reduce vehicle trips.
- Policy OSC-4.4 **Separation of Sensitive Land Uses.** To the extent practicable, separate sensitive land uses (schools, senior centers, medical facilities, and residences) from significant sources of air pollutants, toxic air contaminants, or odor emissions.
- Policy OSC-4.5 **Design of Sensitive Uses.** Require new development with sensitive uses located adjacent to mobile and stationary toxic air contaminants to be designed with consideration of site and building orientation, location of trees, and incorporation of appropriate technology for improved air quality (i.e., ventilation and filtration) to lessen any potential health risks.
- Policy OSC-4.6 **Protect all Residents Equally.** Ensure that all land use decisions are made in an equitable manner in order to protect residents, regardless of age, culture, ethnicity, gender, race, socioeconomic status, or geographic location, from the health effects of air pollution.
- Policy OSC-4.7 **Proximity to Freeways.** Require developers of projects that include sensitive land uses (schools, senior centers, medical facilities, and residences) within 500 feet of State Route 210 and Interstate 10 to prepare a health impact assessment (HIA) to determine the significance of the impact, and to incorporate project-specific mitigation measures to avoid this risk.
- Policy OSC-4.8 **Reduction in Commuting.** Promote expansion of employment opportunities within Upland to reduce commuting to areas outside of the City.
- Policy OSC-4.9 **Rideshare Incentives.** Encourage employers to offer employees incentives for ridesharing.
- Policy OSC-4.10 **Vehicle Idling.** Continue to enforce the vehicle idling restrictions established by the State.
- Policy OSC-4.11 **New Development.** Review proposed development projects as required by CEQA to ensure projects incorporate feasible measures that reduce construction and operational emissions for reactive organic gases, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>) through project design.
- Policy OSC-4.12 **Health Risk Assessment.** New sources of toxic air pollutants shall prepare a Health Risk Assessment as required by Section 44300 of the California Health and Safety Code. The Assessment shall be used to establish appropriate land use buffer zones around those areas posing substantial health risks based upon the California Air Resources Board's guidance provided in the Air Quality Land Use Handbook.

- Policy OSC-4.13 **Best Management Practices.** Require best management practices to reduce air pollution associated with construction of development projects.
- Policy OSC-4.14 **Construction Mitigation.** Review construction plans associated with development projects to determine if all feasible mitigation measures are included.
- Policy OSC-4.15 **Green Building Practices.** Promote green building practices that support healthy indoor living and working environments that are well-ventilated and contaminant-free.
- Policy OSC-4.16 **Lead Abatement.** Support lead-abatement programs.
- Policy OSC-4.17 **Mold Growth.** Disseminate information about methods for reducing mold growth.
- Policy OSC-4.18 **Coordinated Planning.** Coordinate air quality planning efforts with other local, regional and State agencies, and encourage community participation in air quality planning.
- Policy OSC-4.19 **Community Involvement.** Design and conduct efforts to involve the public and affected/interested parties in the implementation of air quality improvement plans and programs. This may include public forums and workshops, community and education programs, informational brochures and web postings, and a variety of other media forms to maximize citizen involvement. (Existing GP)

## GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

There are a number of steps that Upland will take in order to reduce greenhouse gases. These include requiring the implementation of green building standards for new developments and taking voluntary steps in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in municipal activities. Examples of the latter include choosing low-emissions fleet vehicles and meeting high green-building standards in the design and construction of municipal buildings. Upland also educates the public in the advantages of green building and provides other information about ways citizens can reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

<b>Goal OSC-5</b>	<b>Greenhouse gas emissions will be at 1990 levels by 2020.</b>
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### Policies

- Policy OSC-5.1 **Citywide Greenhouse Gas Assessment.** Comply with pertinent State regulations to assess citywide greenhouse gas emissions for existing land uses and the adopted General Plan buildout.
- Policy OSC-5.2 **Greenhouse Gas Reduction in New Development.** Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from new development by promoting water conservation and recycling; promoting development that is compact, mixed use, pedestrian friendly, and transit oriented; promoting energy-efficient building design and site planning; improving the jobs/housing ratio; and other methods of reducing emissions.
- Policy OSC-5.3 **Climate Change Assessment and Monitoring.** Assess and monitor the effects of climate change on an ongoing basis with periodic inventories of greenhouse gas emissions in the City and compare those to historical levels to monitor the efficacy of climate change mitigation efforts.

- Policy OSC-5.4 **CEQA Review.** Evaluate greenhouse gas emission impacts from proposed development projects as required by the California Environmental Quality Act.
- Policy OSC-5.5 **Emissions Reductions.** Require development projects that exceed AQMD ROG and NOX operational thresholds to incorporate design or operational features that reduce emissions equal to 15 percent from the level that would be produced by an unmitigated project.
- Policy OSC-5.6 **Reduced Emissions for City Operations.** Promote reduced idling, trip reduction, routing for efficiency, and the use of public transportation, carpooling, and alternate modes of transportation for operating City departments.
- Policy OSC-5.7 **Fleet Operations.** Purchase low-emission vehicles for the City’s fleet and use available clean fuel sources for trucks and heavy equipment, where economically feasible.
- Policy OSC-5.8 **Zero-Emission and Low-Emission Vehicle Use.** Encourage the use of zero-emission vehicles, low-emission vehicles, non-motorized vehicles and bicycles, and car-sharing programs by requiring sufficient and convenient infrastructure and parking facilities in residential developments and employment centers to accommodate these vehicles.
- Policy OSC-5.9 **Preference for Reduced-Emission Equipment.** Give preference to professional maintenance providers using reduced emission equipment for contracts for services (e.g., landscape maintenance), as well as businesses which practice sustainable operations, to the extent that it is economically feasible to do so.
- Policy OSC-5.10 **Transportation Systems Management and Trip Reduction.** Encourage all City employees to use means other than a single-occupant vehicle for their daily work commute.
- Policy OSC-5.11 **Minimum Green Building Standards.** Require new development to comply with the California Green Building Code (CalGreen) adopted by the California Building Standards Commission at the time of building permit application.
- Policy OSC-5.12 **LEED Standard for Public Buildings.** Evaluate the feasibility of constructing new public buildings to meet, at a minimum, a LEED-Silver building standard or an equivalent standard, and construct said buildings toward meeting this standard to the extent feasible, using these buildings to demonstrate green building practices to builders, developers, homeowners and others.

## NON-RENEWABLE ENERGY

As with other efforts to promote sustainability, minimizing the consumption of nonrenewable energy resources requires action in many different areas. For example, our policies encourage the use of trees and the siting of buildings to reduce the need for heating and cooling. We also promote energy efficiency and sustainability indirectly by recruiting and maintaining businesses whose products and services promote the conservation of nonrenewable energy resources.

Goal OSC-6	<b>A community that minimizes the consumption of nonrenewable energy resources.</b>
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## Policies

- Policy OSC-6.1 **Compliance with Energy Efficiency Standards.** Require existing residential and commercial buildings to meet adopted energy efficiency standards prior to a completion of sale.
- Policy OSC-6.2 **New Development.** Encourage solar-oriented design and passive solar heating and cooling in all new residential, commercial and civic development.
- Policy OSC-6.3 **Renewable Energy.** Encourage the installation and construction of renewable energy systems and facilities such as wind, solar, hydropower, geothermal, and biomass facilities.
- Policy OSC-6.4 **Deciduous Trees.** Require that deciduous trees be planted on the south- and west-facing sides of new buildings onsite to reduce energy use in the summer and winter months.
- Policy OSC-6.5 **City Facilities.** Set an example for others to follow by using alternative energy sources such as solar for City facilities.
- Policy OSC-6.6 **Recruitment of Energy-Efficient Businesses.** Strive to recruit businesses that research, develop, manufacture, utilize, and promote energy efficiency, conservation and advanced renewable technologies such as waste-to-energy facilities.
- Policy OSC-6.7 **Citizen Education.** Work with appropriate agencies to proactively inform, educate and assist residents and developers regarding the objectives and techniques of sustainable development and resource conservation.

## MINERAL RESOURCES

While Upland supports mining operations, we require they be carried out in such a way as to conserve natural resources, and ensure that adjacent land uses are compatible and buffered from mining operations. We also recognize that the need for mining can be reduced by recycling aggregate construction material, so we encourage recycling concrete as an approach to resource conservation.

<b>Goal OSC-7</b>	<b>Mining activities in Upland are compatible with efforts for resource conservation, and with adjacent uses.</b>
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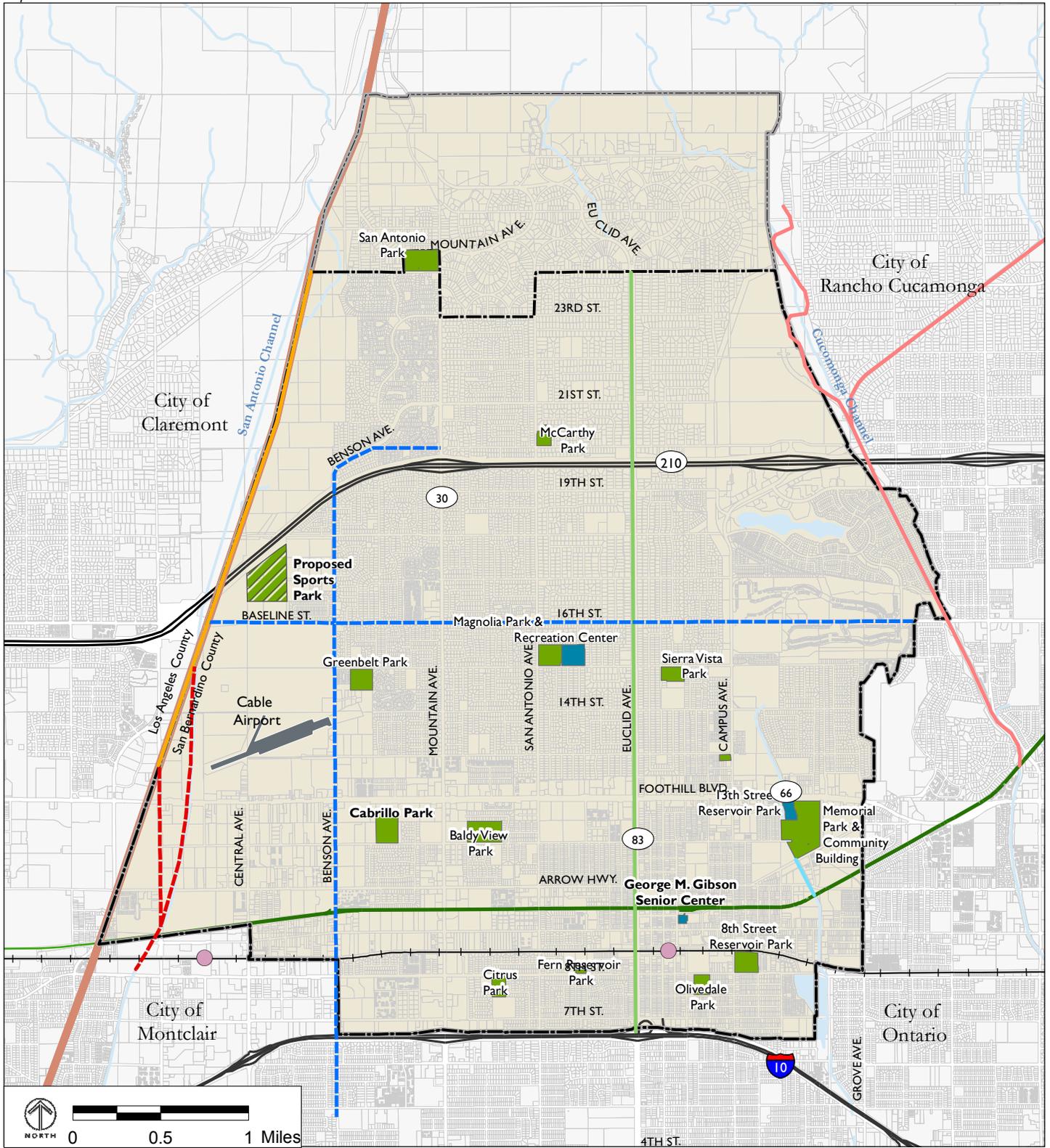
## Policies

- Policy OSC-7.1 **Resource Conservation.** Conserve the last remaining areas identified as containing significant mineral deposit potential as mapped by the California Geological Survey.
- Policy OSC-7.2 **Ongoing Extraction Activities.** Support ongoing environmentally sensitive mineral extraction activities within the City until these resources are depleted or extraction is no longer economically viable.
- Policy OSC-7.3 **Regulation and Management.** Regulate and manage the extraction of mineral resources through the Surface Mine and Reclamation Act (SMARA).

- Policy OSC-7.4     **Compatible Operations.** Restrict permitted uses on lands containing and adjacent to important mineral resources to those compatible with mineral extraction, except in cases where such uses offer public benefits that outweigh those of resource extraction.
- Policy OSC-7.5     **Protection of Adjacent Properties.** Enforce established conditions and performance standards to protect properties adjacent to mining operations and ensure the public’s health, safety and welfare.
- Policy OSC-7.6     **Reuse of Mined Land.** Require mined property to be left in a condition suitable for reuse in conformance with the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA).
- Policy OSC-7.7     **Recycling Aggregate Material.** Encourage the reuse and recycling of existing aggregate construction material for new residential, commercial, and industrial developments.



Map Date: 07/31/12



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|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| City Limits         | <b>Proposed Priority Trails</b> | <b>Existing Trails</b>        | Park Facilities      |
| Sphere of Influence | Priority Class I Trail          | Cucamonga Trail               | Proposed Park        |
| County Boundary     | Priority Class II or III Trail  | Euclid Trail                  | Recreational Centers |
| Upland Parcel       |                                 | Memorial Park Connector Trail |                      |
| Rail Line           |                                 | San Antonio Wash Trail        |                      |
| Metrolink Station   |                                 | Southern Pacific Trail        |                      |



**FIGURE OSC-1  
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

