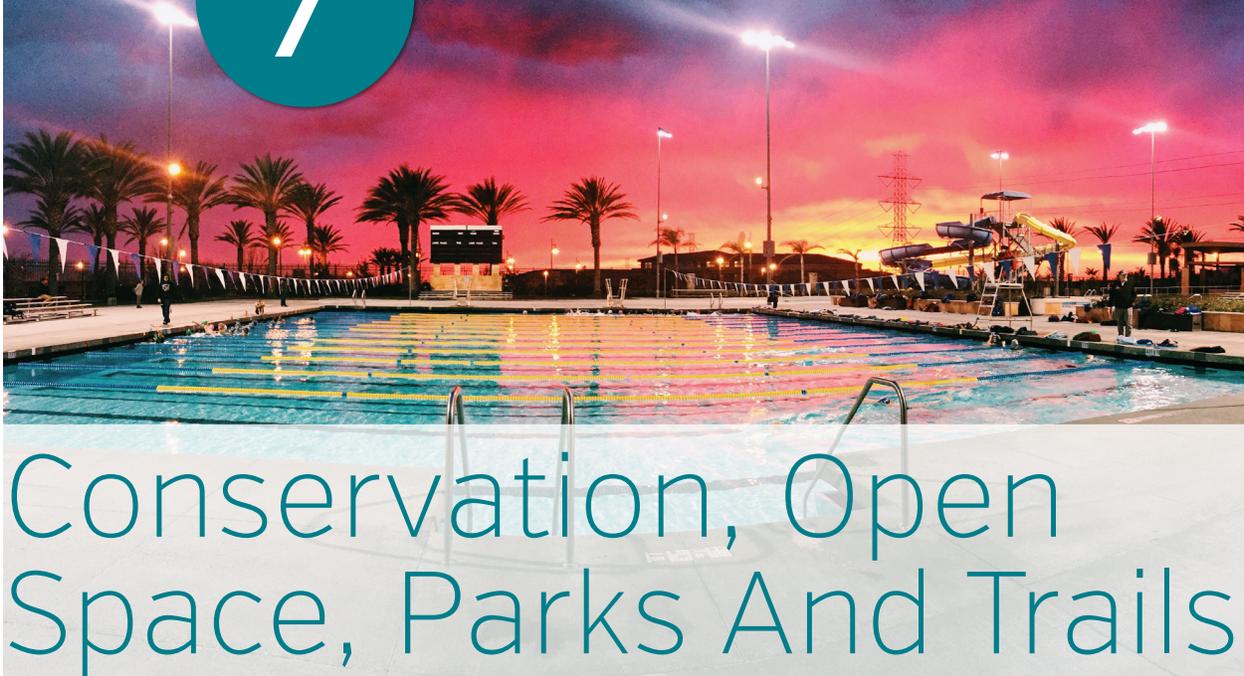


7



# Conservation, Open Space, Parks And Trails





# Conservation, Open Space, Parks And Trails

Open space and parks are very important to Fontana residents and a key aspect of what they like about living in Fontana. They want existing parks to be well-maintained and improved, and they support the addition of new parks and trails. Moreover, residents recognize the importance of conserving sensitive lands, such as the foothills at the north and south edges of the city, and they would like to see more opportunities for nature-based recreation—for example, hiking trails—in these locations.

# A. Conservation, Open Space, Parks and Trails in the Fontana Forward Vision and Principles

## VISION

**Our system of parks and natural open spaces, community centers, and recreational opportunities is second to none in the Inland Empire.** Open spaces, community centers, and recreational opportunities is second to none in the Inland Empire. Residents throughout the city have easy access to state-of-the-art facilities and a broad array of athletic and recreational activities in well-maintained parks, as well as trails for nature recreation in protected open spaces. Our park system is fully connected by a network of safe and attractive walking and biking routes for children, youth, and older residents.

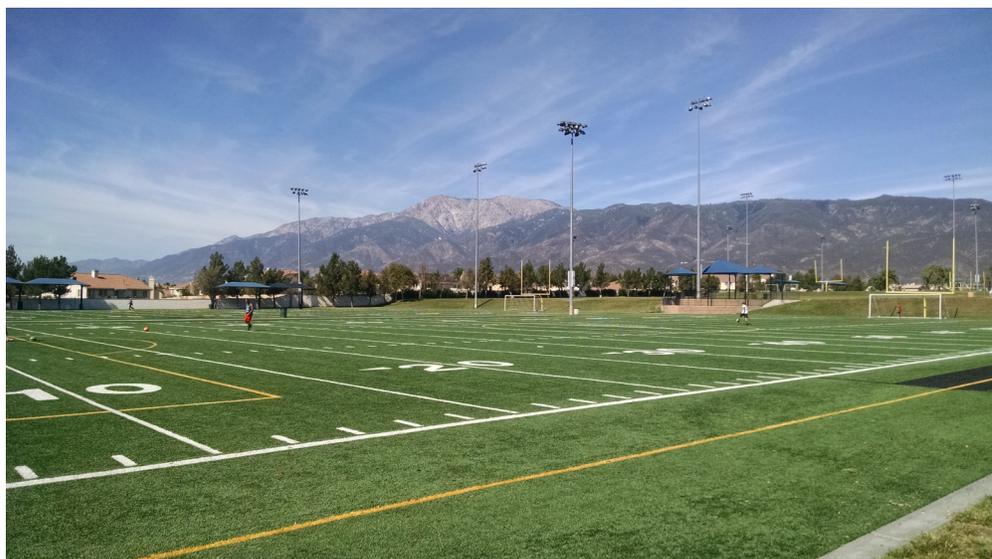
## PRINCIPLES



Connect people and places by providing safe and efficient transportation choices, including pedestrian, bicycle, and transit opportunities, along with well-maintained streets, to connect people to city destinations.



Make healthy lifestyles easy and fun by creating policies and physical conditions that promote healthy lifestyles through easy access to physical activity, healthy food, and medical care.



## B. Goals and Policies

GOALS	POLICIES
<b>Conservation, Habitat, and Urban Forest</b>	
Fontana continues to preserve sensitive natural open space in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains and Jurupa Hills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider permanent protection for all these lands through acquisition and deed restrictions.</li> </ul>
Large city parks and open spaces include plantings and natural areas attractive to birds and other wildlife.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use public open space to support wildlife habitat as appropriate.</li> </ul>
Fontana has a healthy, drought-resistant urban forest, 25% tree canopy, and an urban forestry program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support tree conservation and planting that enhances shade and drought resistance.</li> </ul>
<b>Open Space For Outdoor Recreation, Public Health And Safety</b>	
The City of Fontana has a no-net-loss policy for public parkland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish legal requirements for replacement, when any city-owned park land listed in the California Protected Lands database is transferred to other uses, with land of equivalent environmental, recreational, or aesthetic value.</li> </ul>
All Fontana residents live within walking or biking distance of a public park and there are sufficient public parks to serve all areas of the city.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish park access by walking and biking as a criterion for park location and for design of active transportation networks.</li> <li>Continue to use a minimum standard of 5 acres of public parkland per 1,000 persons.</li> <li>Pursue park development where parkland is insufficient.</li> </ul>
All public parks are designed and maintained to a high standard.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote park designs that can serve multiple constituencies and provide aesthetic benefits.</li> <li>Provide sufficient funding to support adequate park maintenance.</li> </ul>
The Fontana parks system has a nonprofit partner that raises money for park improvements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote creation of a Fontana Parks Foundation, a nonprofit to support park system improvements and activities.</li> </ul>
Fontana updates the Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan at least every 10 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support a Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan update consistent with the General Plan in 2018 and every 10 years thereafter.</li> </ul>
<b>Trails</b>	
Fontana has multiuse trails that provide north-south links and connections with the Pacific Electric Trail and other city pedestrian and bicycle routes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek funding sources to implement the San Sevaine Trail, and design and implement an “Eastside Trail” linking the City from north to south in the eastern part of the city.</li> <li>Advocate with other municipal partners to state lawmakers for opportunities to use utility easement land as trails and parks.</li> </ul>
Trails in natural areas offer nature recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support trail creation and maintenance in natural areas.</li> </ul>

# C. Findings And Challenges

## FINDINGS

### Overview

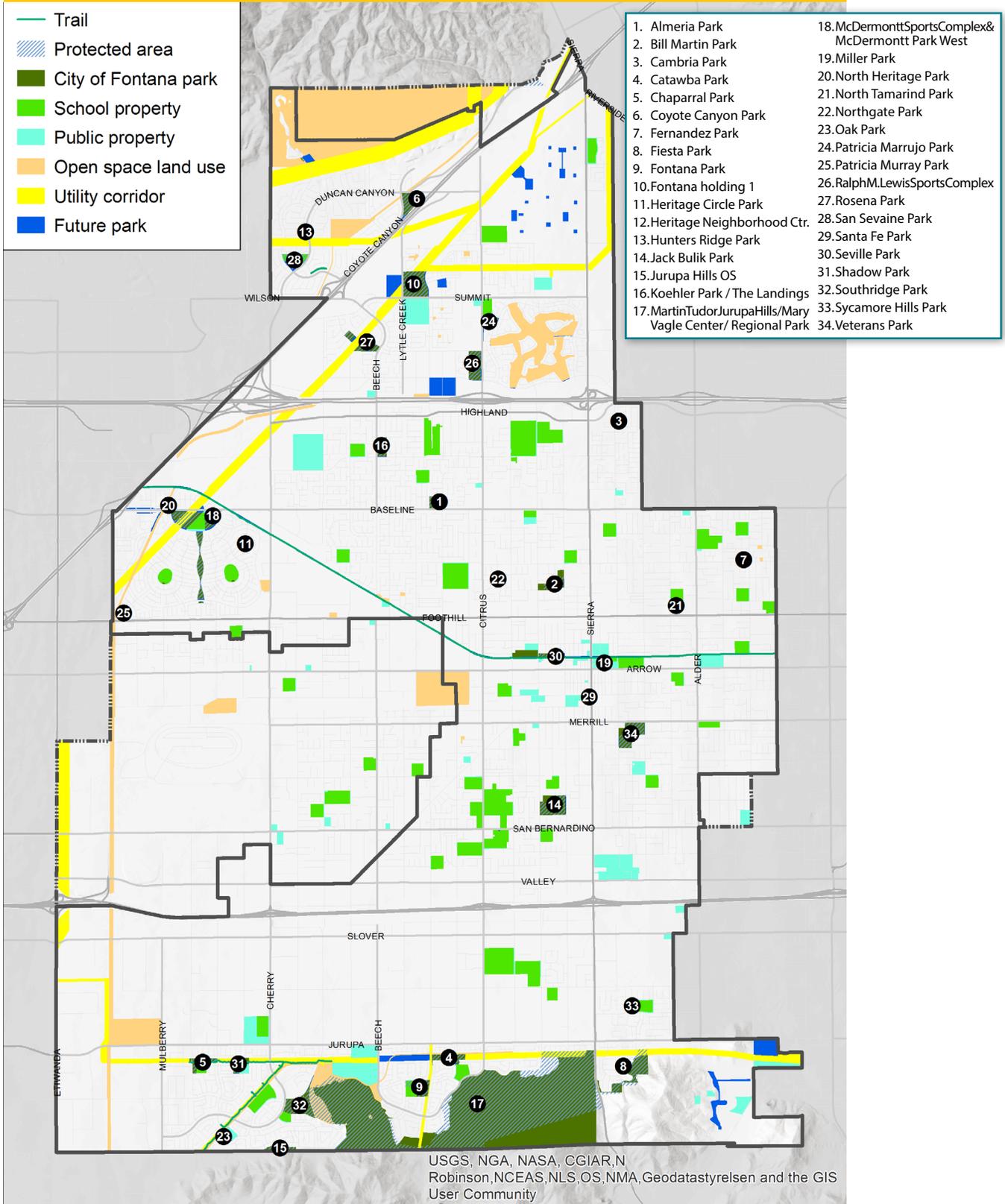
- The Conservation Element is required by California state law to address the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources including: water and its hydraulic force; forests; soils; rivers and other waters; harbors and fisheries; wildlife; and minerals and other natural resources, such as energy. [California Government Code 65302(d)] Natural resources most relevant to the City of Fontana are hydrology; wildlife; and energy.
- **Landscape character.** Fontana is located on the desert valley floor between the San Gabriel Mountains to the north and the Jurupa Hills to the south. Panoramic scenic view corridors towards the mountains and views of the city from the mountains dominate the city’s visual landscape character.
  - > Fontana’s open space is a mix of foothill natural areas, utility corridors, and parks.
  - > Open space on the foothills is found to the north at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains and to the south in the Jurupa Hills.
  - > The nearby mountains are part of the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests, and trailheads in their foothills connect to the larger region that eventually reaches as far as Mexico and Canada.
- **Open space zoning.** The City’s Zoning and Development Code includes two Open Space zoning districts and a Fire Protection overlay district. The purposes of these zoning districts are to:
  - > Protect lives and property from slope, fire, seismic, and flood hazards.
  - > Preserve views of and natural conditions within the Jurupa Hills and San Gabriel Mountains.
  - > Prevent premature development of significant aggregate and agricultural resource areas.
  - > Promote the managed use of significant biological habitat and groundwater recharge areas.
  - > Provide City residents with a wide range of recreational opportunities.
- **Protected open space:** According to the California Protected Lands Database (www.calands.org ) 34 parks, with a total of 1,195 acres, owned by the City of

San Sevaine Park



Fontana, constitute the city’s inventory of protected open space. (Seventy-two percent of that total is in the 861-acre Martin Tudor Jurupa Hills Regional Park, including the Mary Vagle Science Center, at the southern end of the city.) To qualify for this list, none of these parks have more than 50% hard surfaces (such as roofs of buildings, basketball or tennis courts). If the City wishes to convert any of these lands to another use, state law requires several steps

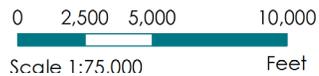
**EXHIBIT 7.1 PARKS & OPEN SPACE**



**Parks and Open Space**

June 2016

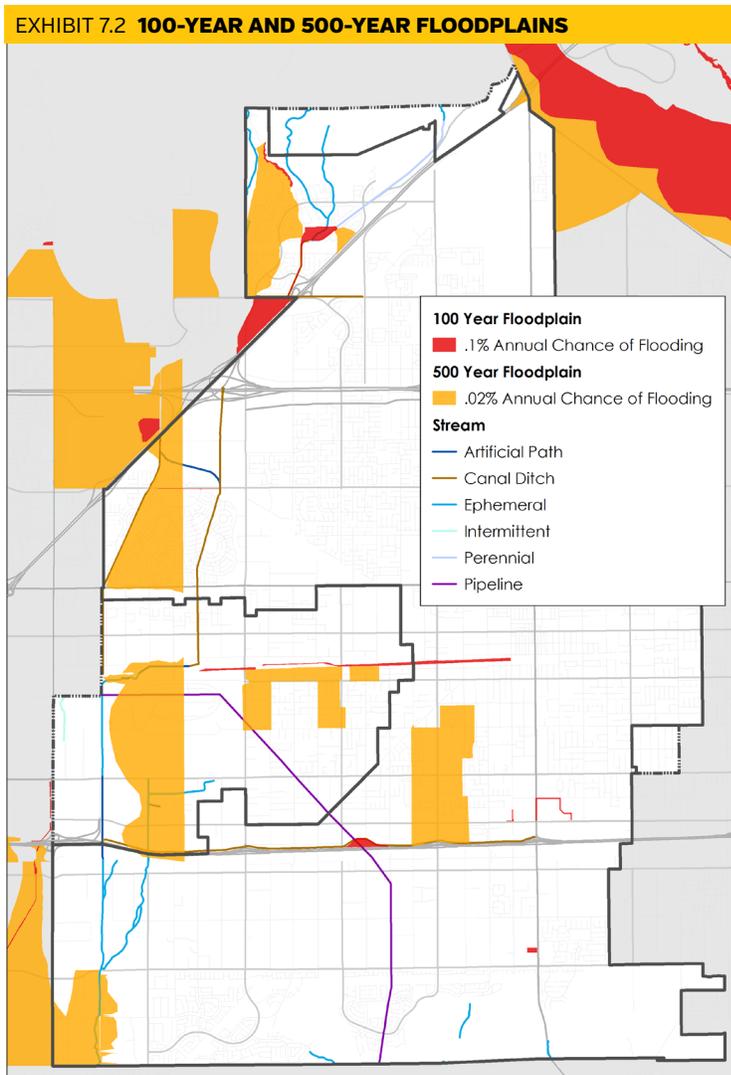
Data source: City of Fontana; Esri 2016



and a two-thirds vote of the City Council. Other recreational open space in the city, such as golf courses, are privately owned and therefore do not appear on the list of protected open space because they theoretically could be converted to another land use. (See Exhibit 7.1.)

## Conservation—Findings

- Hydrology.** Fontana has a few surface water bodies with permanent water flow. Most of the City is in the Chino North Watershed (San Sevaine Creek), with the northeast part of the city in the Rialto Watershed. Lytle Creek Wash and other dry washes have intermittent water flow from the San Gabriel Mountains and the Jurupa Hills. Groundwater aquifers serve as sources of drinking water. The city contains five areas determined to be “waters of the United States” that fall under the jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers, and there are several areas of California Department of Fish and Wildlife jurisdiction



over riparian (stream-side) resources. Two main natural drainage features in the developed part of the city have been modified for flood control.

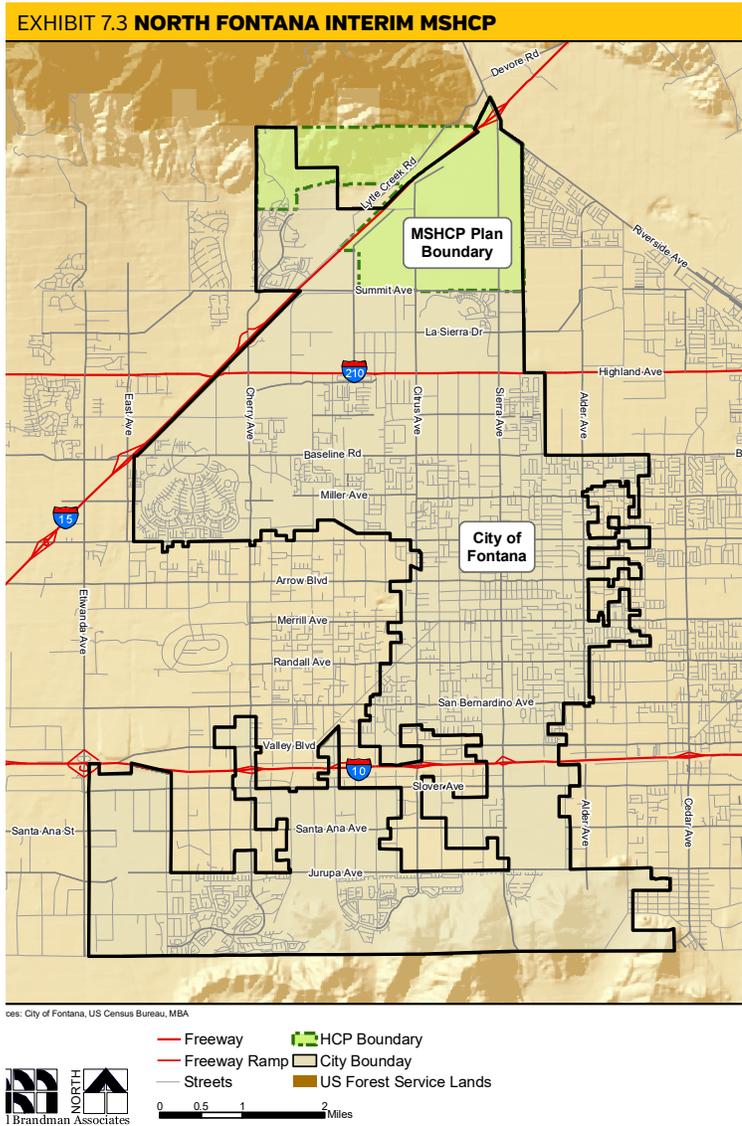
- Floodwater management.** Fontana has small areas in the 100-year and 500-year floodplains. Drainage infrastructure has been constructed for flood control.

- Plant and wildlife habitat.** Most of Fontana’s natural habitat has been changed by urbanization, and remaining natural habitat lies predominantly in the foothills at the north and south of the city. Five sensitive plant species, and 22 sensitive wildlife species are either known to be present in Fontana or could be present based on habitat requirements (See the Habitat Assessment in the Environmental Impact Report for more details.) In addition, one of the oldest plants in the country grows in Jurupa Hills Regional Park. Scientists estimate that the “Jurupa Oak” (*Quercus palmeri*) has survived for at least 13,000 years in a microclimate location, growing very slowly by regenerating itself clonally.

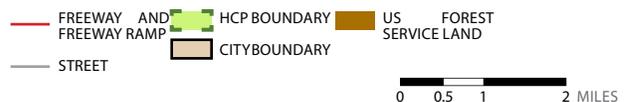
**100- and 500-Year Floodplains**  
 May 2016  
 Data source: FEMA, 2016



- Conservation open space:** In North Fontana, a Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) requires protocol studies for the San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat. In 2017, a conservation easement in South Fontana was approved to preserve habitat in the Mary Vagle and Jurupa Hills areas for the Delhi Sands flower-loving fly. The City of Fontana has acquired land for a conservation area, commissioned a Wildlife Preserve Management Plan (dated February 2016), and is expected to convey a conservation easement to the Riverside Land Conservancy for long term management of the habitat. (See the Habitat Assessment in the Environmental Impact Report in Appendix Five for more details.)
- Areas zoned for natural open space.** The Natural area (OS-N) zoning district includes areas which, for specific environmental reasons, have been planned to remain in largely a natural condition. Areas designated as OS-N include portions of the Jurupa Hills and the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains bordering the national forest land. There is a 20-acre minimum lot size for development.
- Information and maps** showing environmental constraints of all types can be found in the



**Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan**  
 See Habitat Assessment in the Environmental Impact Report (Appendix Five).



**EXHIBIT 7.4  
PROTECTED OPEN SPACE IN FONTANA**

PARK	ACRES
Almeria Park	8.389
Bill Martin Park	11.399
Cambria Park	2.176
Catawba Park	11.892
Chaparral Park	8.61
Coyote Canyon Park	15.023
Fernandez Park	3.207
Fiesta Park	1.285
Fontana Park	34.034
Fontana holding 1	14.384
Heritage Circle Park	3.008
Heritage Neighborhood Ctr.	16.905
Hunters Ridge Park	4.715
Jack Bulik Park	23.531
Jurupa Hills OS	9.652
Koehler Park / The Landings	9.998
Martin Tudor Jurupa Hills /Mary Vagle Center/ Regional Park	861.224
McDermott Sports Complex & McDermott Park West	22.461
Miller Park	5.604
North Heritage Park	1.343
North Tamarind Park	5.049
Northgate Park	1.363
Oak Park	3.382
Patricia Marrujo Park	5.049
Patricia Murray Park	1.804
Ralph M. Lewis Sports Complex	19.548
Rosena Park	13.578
San Sevaime Park	15.66
Santa Fe Park	0.999
Seville Park	3.795
Shadow Park	5.903
Southridge Park	24.807
Sycamore Hills Park	3.081
Veteran's Park	23.464
TOTAL	1,196.3
TOTAL WITHOUT REGIONAL PARK	335.1

Source: California Protected Lands database. Existing, unbuilt specific plans will provide an additional 52 acres of park land.

Environmental Impact Report (Appendix Five).

### Open Space For Natural Resources—Findings

- **Forests:** The Angeles and San Bernardino Natural Forests are located adjacent but outside the boundary of the City of Fontana or its Sphere of Influence.
- **Agriculture.** Fontana is an urbanized city. There are a few very small agriculture enterprises. Community garden plots are available at the Cypress Community Center.
- **Open Space Zones.** The Resource area (OS-R) zoning district accommodates quarries, flood control channels, groundwater percolation basins, and agriculture. The character of these areas is intended to remain as open space. While the OS-R category allows for the continued productive use of natural resources, only structures related to the management of resources are permitted, with some exceptions.

### Open Space For Outdoor Recreation And For Public Health And Safety—Findings

- **Inventory:** The California Protected Lands Database, which includes all Fontana park and recreation sites that have no more than 50% impervious area, lists 1,196.3 acres of land for park and recreation use, 72% of which is composed of the Martin Tudor Jurupa Hills Regional Park's 861.2 acres. In addition, the City counts 25% of the school lands available through joint use agreements with Fontana Unified School District and the Colton Joint Unified School District as usable recreation areas, resulting in an additional 163 acres. Added to the total in the protected lands database, Fontana has 1,359.3 acres of park and recreation land.
- **Metrics.** Using the Department of Finance 2016 estimate of Fontana's population and the total of 1,359.3 acres, there are 5.7 acres of park and recreation land per 1,000 residents. However, over 60% of the park acres are in South Fontana. If the 861 acres of the Regional Park concentrated in South Fontana were to be subtracted, the total would be 498 acres (including the joint-use school lands), resulting in a metric of 2.3 acres of park and recreation land per 1,000 residents.
  - > Existing specific plans that have yet to be built out will provide an additional 52 acres of park land.

> The 2003 General Plan set a standard of 3 acres of developed park land and 2 acres of open space per 1,000 residents.

- **Park categories.** Fontana recognizes two categories of parks: Neighborhood Parks that are intended to serve an area of 1/2-mile walking distance, and Community Parks that are intended to serve an area within a 1.5-mile radius of the park entrance.
- **Other open public lands.** Additional open public lands that are not classified as parks are utility corridors, land in the foothills, and pockets of open space throughout Fontana’s neighborhoods. These public lands are sometimes upgraded with trails and amenities, and in other locations are open areas in a natural or undeveloped state.
- **Quimby Act.** The Quimby Act (Sec. 55477 of the California Government Code) allows the City to require dedication of land or impose fees for park and recreation purposes in new subdivisions. The amount of land dedicated or fees paid is based on residential density and cannot exceed the amount necessary to provide 3 acres per 1,000 persons residing within the subdivision, except under certain conditions where the standard can go up to 5 acres per 1,000. In addition, a 2015 amendment permits Quimby Act fees to be used for new or improved facilities at an existing park if the residents of the new subdivision can reasonably be expected to use the existing park and other conditions are met.
- **Park access.** Researchers have found that people use parks more when 1) the parks are within walking distance (at most 1/2 mile), and 2) the parks have programming. Walking and biking access to parks is important for both adults and youth. When mapping access, real on-the-ground routes on public ways must be used. Exhibit 7.7, Park Access Analysis, shows that, while many Fontana parks have good walking access, some neighborhoods are underserved when considered from the point of view of access. Moreover, walking access to school recreational resources is problematic in a number of cases because the resources are behind fences. Taking this into account, in the central city most of the city east of Alder Avenue and west of Cypress and south of the train tracks, is underserved by parks, as are a few other areas.
- **Urban forest:** There are 61,328 trees (including 6,701 palm trees) maintained by the Public Works department on streets and in public places. Assuming a population of 210,000, there are 0.3 trees per capita in public spaces.

## Trails—Findings

- **Pacific Electric Trail (PET):** The only separated multiuse trail in Fontana is the PET, an east-west regional trail with 6.4 miles in Fontana.
- **San Sevaine Trail:** The master plan for this 11-



The Pacific Electric Trail at Juniper Avenue south of downtown.

mile trail linking Duncan Canyon and South Fontana has been completed, and the trail awaits funding for design and construction.

## **CHALLENGES**

- Providing shade trees in an increasingly arid environment.
- Providing parks in already developed areas.
- Ensuring walking-distance access to parks based on public routes that take into account barriers such as walls and fences, crossing of high-traffic streets, park entrances, and similar conditions.
- Design and cost difficulties for citywide connectors that must navigate freeways and other major barriers.

## **D. What The Community Said**

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### ***Public opinion survey***

The survey asked respondents to describe their satisfaction with various city services. A high percentage of respondents were very satisfied or somewhat satisfied:

- Provide a variety of parks and recreation facilities—90.7%
- Maintain parks and public landscapes—89.6%

When asked about their priorities for the future, majorities ranked the following as high and medium priorities:

- Preserve and protect natural open spaces—83.6%
- Expand and improve local parks—75.4%

### ***Community workshop and meeting input***

- Certain areas were identified as needing more/better lighting to be more secure.
- More police presence and safety is needed at some parks.
- A few areas were identified for additional parks or community activity centers.
- One to two more pools needed in South Fontana and south central area.
- Exercise stations along trails and in parks
- Dedicated football stadium
- More parking at some parks; parking with solar structures.
- Recreation facilities and parks should be paid for by developers.

Workshop notations included:

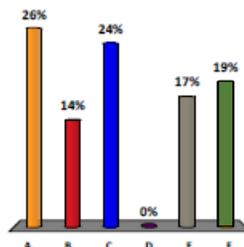
- Pocket parks
- Don't include the schools in the acreage for open space and parks because they are not available to the general public
- More parks like Fontana Park: trails, skate parks, dog parks, kids park, picnic tables, workout equipment all in one

- Community pool in south Fontana and central area
- More basins for water
- Need more bike lanes/trails in the city
- Need a bicycle store—repair and sales
- More tennis courts and handball courts (pelota)
- We need places for horses—perhaps trails or hills

**EXHIBIT 7.5 WORKSHOP PREFERENCES FOR ALLOCATING PARKS & RECREATION FUNDING**

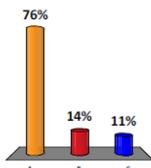
I think Fontana needs more parks.

- A Yes, especially for children and youth
- B Yes—especially for adult sports
- C Yes—especially for individual exercise and enjoyment
- D Yes—but none of the above
- E Maybe
- F No

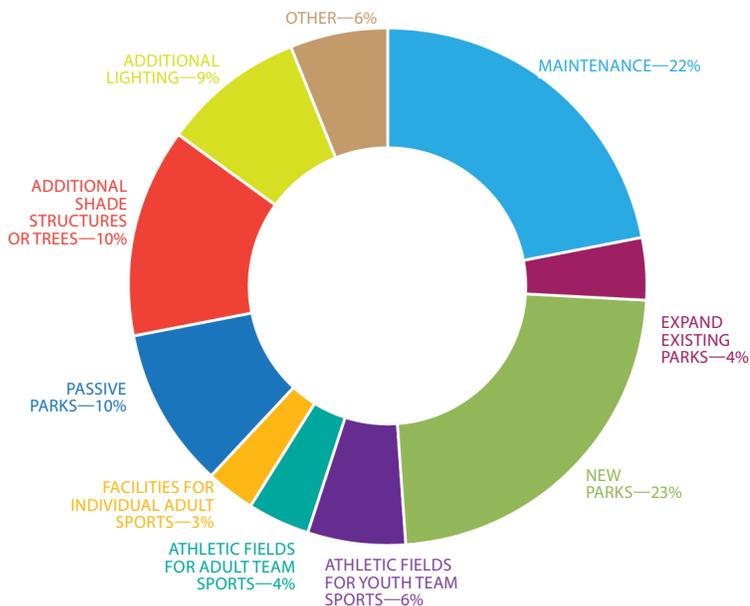


I think Fontana needs more recreational trails.

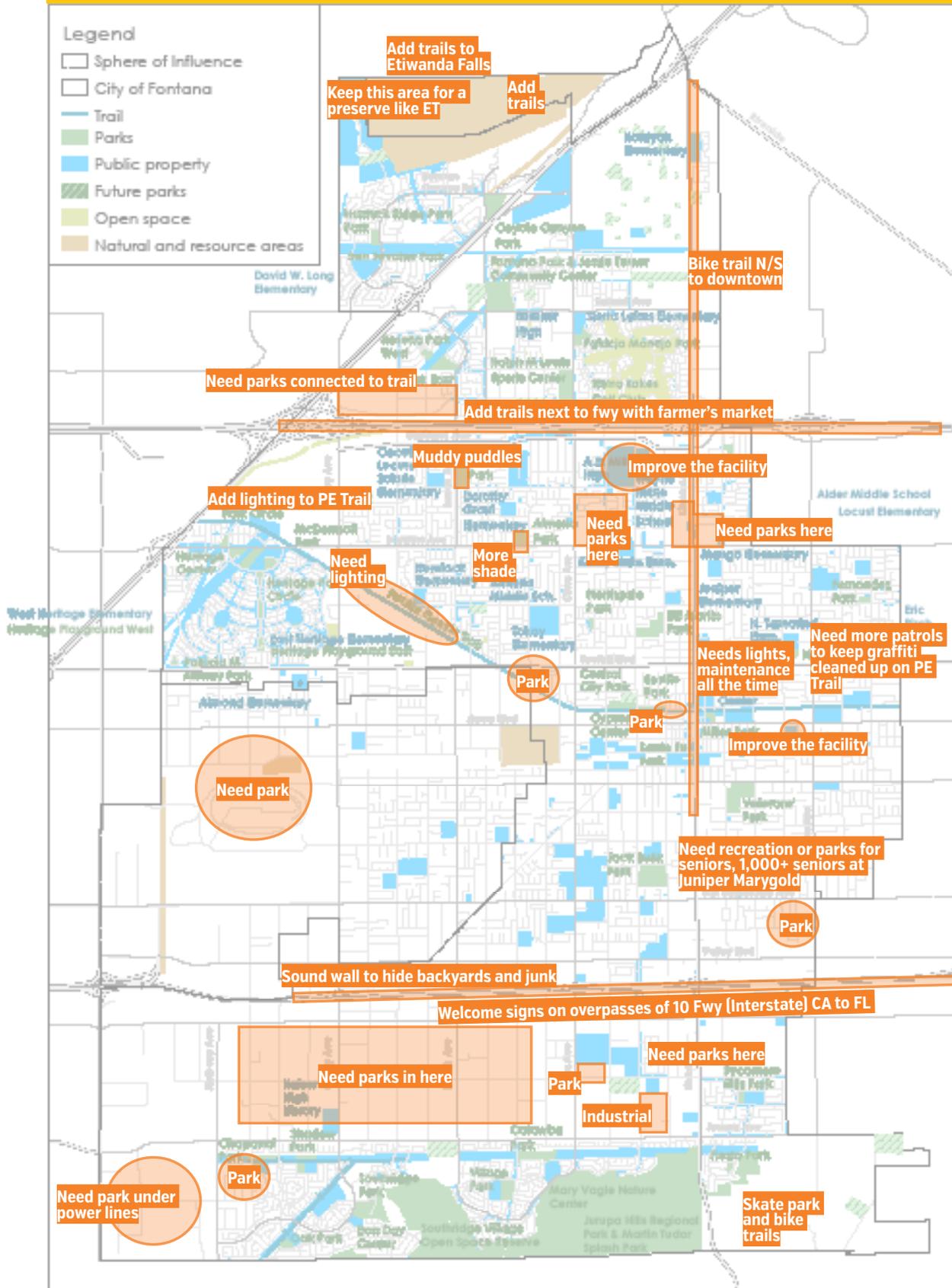
- A Yes
- B Maybe
- C No



How I would allocate parks/recreation funding



**EXHIBIT 7.6 CONSOLIDATED RESULTS OF WORKSHOP PARKS & OPEN SPACE MAPPING EXERCISE**



- Add Wi-Fi to community parks
- Meditation garden by Kaiser

## E. Policies and Actions to Achieve the Goals

### Goal 1: Fontana continues to preserve sensitive natural open space in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains and Jurupa Hills.

#### POLICY

- Consider permanent protection for sensitive foothill lands through potential partnerships with conservation organizations or acquisition and deed restrictions.

#### ACTIONS

- Evaluate the potential costs and benefits of permanent protection of sensitive foothill lands.
  - ▶ The Jurupa Hills in South Fontana have already been protected. In the north, the city’s Sphere of Interest includes foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, most of which is not considered developable at present. Permanent protection along with limited nature recreation use could be beneficial.
- Work with regional conservation organizations, such as the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District and regional conservation land trusts, to conserve sensitive foothill lands.

### Goal 2: Large city parks and open spaces include plantings and natural areas attractive to birds and other wildlife.

#### POLICIES

- Inform the public about the natural ecological character of Fontana.
- Use public open space to support wildlife habitat where appropriate.

#### ACTIONS

- Design parks and landscaped public spaces to include plantings attractive to birds and other regional wildlife.
  - ▶ The Mary Vagle Nature Center in South Fontana in the Jurupa foothills offers native plant gardens and opportunities to view wildlife, as well as educational programs for school children. Larger parks could also provide opportunities to showcase native



The Mary Vagle Nature Center

plants and wildlife.

- B. In large parks, create natural areas with educational information to raise public awareness about local environments.
  - ▶ The City could collaborate with school districts to create educational spaces with exhibits about the Fontana and regional environment in larger parks.
- C. Consider wildlife value when landscaping public spaces.

### **Goal 3: Fontana has a healthy, drought-resistant urban forest.**

#### **POLICIES**

- Support tree conservation and planting that enhances shade and drought resistance.
- Expand Fontana’s tree canopy.

#### **STRATEGY**

- A. Preserve and expand the city’s urban forest with drought-resistant trees.
  - ▶ Trees provide multiple benefits for cities, mitigating high temperatures and reducing energy consumption, improving air quality, reducing storm water, providing shade and aesthetic appeal, and increasing property value. Street trees are part of a city’s infrastructure and should be seen as an investment in the city’s future.
- B. Inventory the city’s urban forest, using volunteers if needed, and estimate the size of the tree canopy.
  - ▶ According to the Fontana Tree Policy Manual, Fontana’s Public Works Department keeps an inventory of all trees in public places. In addition to keeping that inventory current, the City should get a baseline inventory that includes trees on private property to the extent possible. With this inventory and analysis of aerial maps, the extent of the tree canopy and areas most lacking in trees can be identified.
- C. Perform a cost-benefit analysis for Fontana’s trees.
  - ▶ A cost-benefit analysis for public trees can be performed by using a free software tool created by the U.S. Forest Service called i-Tree or through American Forests’ competitive Community ReLeaf program.
- D. Review the Fontana Tree Policy Manual regularly and update it to incorporate new best practices.
  - ▶ Fontana has a Tree Policy Manual to guide the City’s management of the public urban forest. The manual focuses on protocols for planting and caring for trees and provides a list of acceptable trees, but it is not a plan for how many trees to plant, where to plant them, or tree replacement. The Tree Policy

#### Community ReLeaf Program

American Forests will assist 20 cities by 2020 with a program to assess, re-store and monitor their urban forests. The program did a resource analysis for Pasadena’s street trees in 2013, focusing on the economic and health benefits of street trees.

[www.americanforests.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/AF-Community-ReLeaf-Assessment\\_Pasadena.pdf](http://www.americanforests.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/AF-Community-ReLeaf-Assessment_Pasadena.pdf)

Manual also does not address the need for sufficient soil to allow for trees to flourish nor one of the most important aspects of maintaining the urban forest in an arid environment: water. For information on minimum soil volumes related to mature canopy and trunk size see <http://www.deeproot.com/blog/blog-entries/our-recommended-soil-volume-for-urban-trees>. Many native shade trees need to be irrigated during the first year or two after planting to get established but will thereafter be drought-tolerant. The Tree Manual should address irrigation standards and species diversity. For example, evergreen trees are “more effective than deciduous trees at capturing rainfall and cleaning pollutants from the air. (E. Gregory McPherson et al., City of Claremont Municipal Forest Assessment, April

#### i-Tree Software for Urban Forest Management

This free, state-of-the-art, peer-reviewed software suite from the USDA Forest Service provides urban-forestry analysis and benefits assessment tools. Tools of potential interest to Fontana include:

- i-Tree Canopy offers a quick and easy way to produce a statistically valid estimate of land cover types [e.g., tree cover] using aerial images available in Google Maps. The latest version also estimates values for air pollution reduction and capturing atmospheric carbon. Canopy can be used by urban forest managers to estimate tree canopy cover, set canopy goals and monitor canopy change over time. Canopy can also be used to estimate inputs for use in i-Tree Hydro and elsewhere where land cover data are needed.

- i-Tree Streets focuses on the benefits provided by a municipality’s street trees. It makes use of a sample or complete inventory to quantify and put a dollar value on the street trees’ annual environmental and aesthetic benefits. Streets also describes urban forest structure and management needs to help managers plan for the future.
- i-Tree Vue allows you to make use of the freely available National Land Cover Database (NLCD) satellite-based imagery to assess a community’s land cover, including tree canopy, and some of the ecosystem services provided by current urban forest. It can also model the effects of planting scenarios on future benefits.

([www.itreetools.org](http://www.itreetools.org) )

2015.) Increased use of green infrastructure and low-impact development best practices that can direct storm water to infiltrate while irrigating trees on streets and public places is a way to be resource-efficient while investing in trees and their benefits to the city.

#### E. Develop a Tree and Shade Plan for the long-term benefit of Fontana.

- ▶ The Tree and Shade Plan created by the City of Phoenix provides a best-practice example of a forestry plan for an urban desert environment. ([www.phoenix.gov/parkssite/Documents/071957.pdf](http://www.phoenix.gov/parkssite/Documents/071957.pdf) ) Phoenix receives an average of seven inches of rain annually, slightly more than half of Fontana’s average of 12.4 inches a year. Phoenix’s strategy for a “maintainable urban forest” requires attention to efficient water management. “High efficiency irrigation systems, use of drought-tolerant plant material, strategic placement of shade corridors and continued education” are necessary. (p.26) In addition to expanding the tree canopy to 25%, the Phoenix plan includes programs and projects that use shade structures. Other resources for this plan include American Forests ([www.americanforests.org](http://www.americanforests.org)).

A beautiful mature tree canopy on Nuevo Street in downtown Fontana makes walking and biking more comfortable by providing shade.



org ); the Urban Forestry Management Toolkit ([ufmptoolkit.com](http://ufmptoolkit.com) ); and Urban Forestry Best Management Practices for Public works Managers ([www2.apwa.net/Documents/About/CoopAgreements/UrbanForestry/UrbanForestry-4.pdf](http://www2.apwa.net/Documents/About/CoopAgreements/UrbanForestry/UrbanForestry-4.pdf))

- F. Expand the tree canopy in Fontana to at least 25% cover.
  - ▶ The urban tree canopy is the layer of trees (leaves, branches and stems) that covers the ground when viewed from above. It reduces heat and pollution and provides stormwater, habitat, aesthetic and economic benefits. Identify the extent of the existing tree canopy in Fontana and then set a goal of at least 25% tree canopy, the recommendation of the nonprofit organization American Forests for dry climates like Fontana’s.
- G. Create connected networks of shaded corridors.
  - ▶ This General Plan Update emphasizes the need to enhance connections in and among neighborhoods and city destinations to encourage healthy trips on foot and by bike. Routes designated for pedestrians should also be prioritized for providing shade—from trees and from structures. When using structures, shade demonstration projects can be tested by having designers work with neighborhoods.
- H. Prioritize expansion of street trees as part of the revitalization effort for downtown and adjacent neighborhoods.
  - ▶ Some of Fontana’s historic downtown blocks retain large shade trees. Adding shade trees along streets in the center of the city will make those streets more walkable and increase their appeal.
- I. Create a tree-donation program for public parks and other public spaces.
  - ▶ Many cities have tree-donation programs in which donors can buy a tree



This restaurant in Claremont has a shade structure above its outdoor seating. Shade structures can extend over sidewalks and streets to provide shade.

to be planted in a public space with a small plaque that displays the donor's name or in memory of a relative or friend. California cities with tree donation programs include Upland, Glendale, and Murrieta.

- J. Plant fruit-bearing trees in order to create community orchards.
- K. Develop standards and pilot projects for “engineered shade” and wind-blocking designs.
  - ▶ Fontana can be very hot and windy. While trees provide benefits that shade or wind structures cannot, it isn't always possible to plant trees for shade. Structures and public art that maximize shade and designs that mitigate prevailing winds should be part of the City's toolbox for creating appealing public spaces and connected corridors.
- L. Promote tree preservation and drought-tolerant planting (xeriscaping) on private property.
- M. Work with local nurseries for donations to create a tree give-away program at the City's annual Arbor Day celebration.
- N. Encourage laundry-to-landscape home irrigation systems to recycle water for establishing new trees in single-family properties. See Chapter 10 for more details.
- O. Continue to promote xeriscaping through educational materials available from government, agency, and private sources, such as the Fontana Water Company, Mary Vagle Nature Center, California Water Service, and CalRecycle.

#### **Goal 4: The city of Fontana has a no-net-loss policy for public parkland.**

##### **POLICY**

- Establish legal requirements for replacement, when any city-

owned park land listed in the California Protected Lands database is transferred to other uses, with land of equivalent environmental, recreational, or aesthetic value.

#### **ACTIONS**

- A. Develop the legal framework and language to pass a no-net-loss ordinance for city-owned park land listed in the California Protected Lands database.
  - ▶ Existing California law requires extra procedures for transfer of protected park land to other uses, but does not require its replacement. In the next two decades, most of Fontana’s greenfield development opportunities are likely to be built-out or entitled. Redevelopment in the central part of the city and along corridors like Foothill Boulevard will increasingly include more mixed-use and multifamily options. Existing park land will become more precious while pressures to find land for municipal purposes may also grow. While it may make sense to reprogram public lands for good reasons, a no-net-loss ordinance will make sure that there will be no loss in the total amount of park resources.
- B. Research and write an ordinance to require that City-owned public park land (as defined in the ordinance) cannot be transferred or converted to another use without an analysis of alternatives, public hearings, and substitute land of equal value (as defined) being received by the City.
  - ▶ A best-practice example of this type of ordinance is Chapter 15-100 of the Philadelphia Code. ([www.philaparks.org/guide-to-open-lands-protection-ordinance/](http://www.philaparks.org/guide-to-open-lands-protection-ordinance/))

### **Goal 5: All Fontana residents live within walking or biking distance of a public park, and there are sufficient public parks to serve all areas of the city.**

#### **POLICY**

- Establish park access by walking and biking as a criterion for locating parks and for design of active transportation networks.
- Continue to use a minimum standard of 5 acres of public parkland per 1,000 persons.
- Pursue park development where parkland is insufficient.

#### **ACTIONS**

- A. While continuing to use a minimum standard of 5 acres of park land per 1,000 persons, seek to exceed the minimum by increasing park opportunities in underserved areas.
  - ▶ Because the Jurupa Hills Regional Park (including Martin Tudor and Mary Vagle Nature Center) comprises over two-thirds of Fontana’s park land, seek improvement and expansion of park and recreation opportunities in

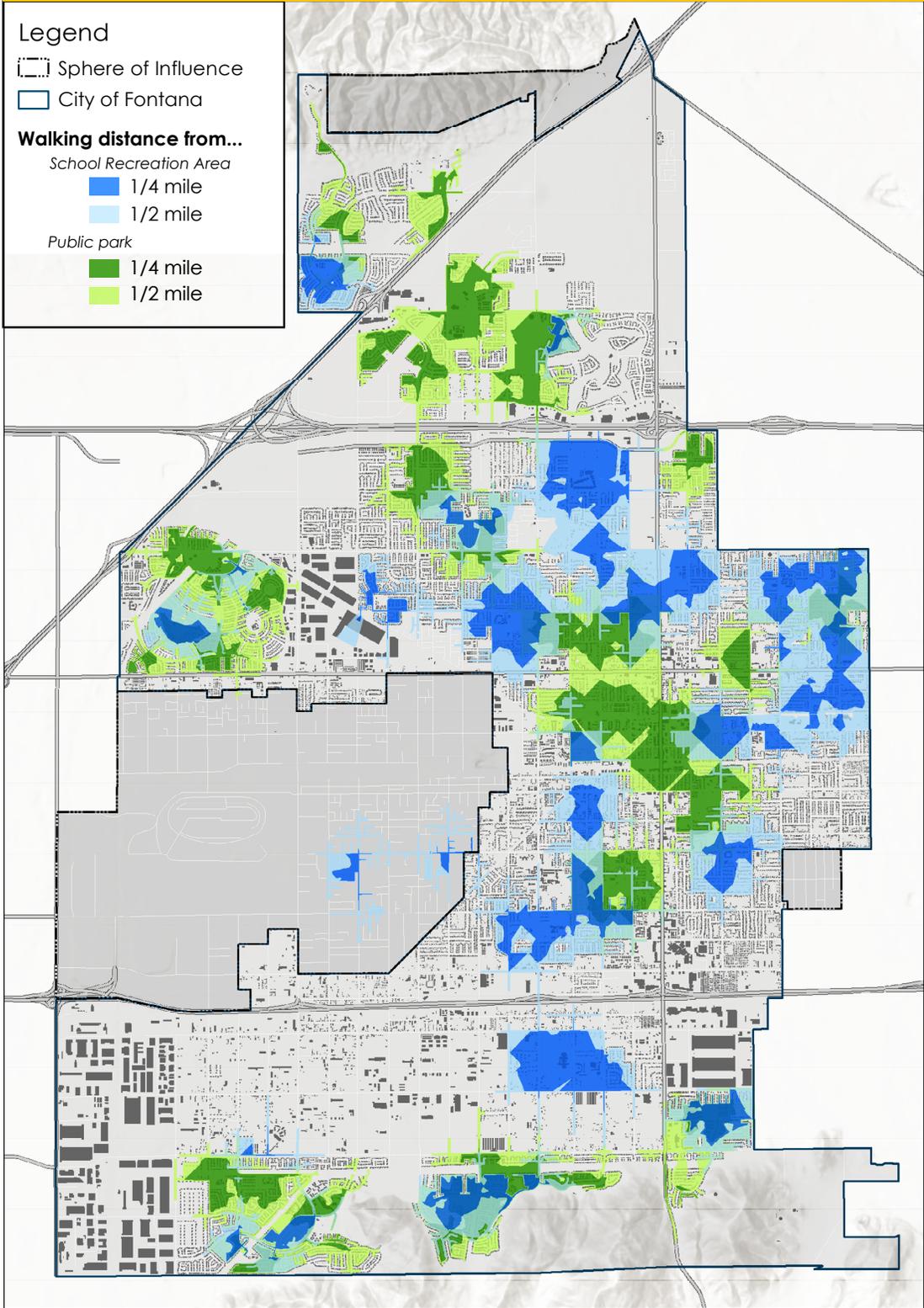


Fontana's Community Services Department offers many recreation programs to serve the city's children.

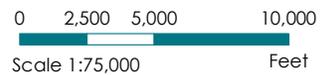
other locations.

- B. Continue to require dedication of park land or fees in new subdivisions.
- C. Identify opportunities for new or improved parks north of I-10, especially in the central part of the city.
  - ▶ Over the next 20 years, when Fontana's growth will increasingly come through redevelopment and some densification, more park and recreation space will be needed in downtown, adjacent neighborhoods, the center of the city in general, and the Foothill corridor.
- D. Include planning for downtown gathering places in the Downtown Area Plan.
- E. Implement the plan for a sports complex in South Fontana to provide sports opportunities in the southern part of the city.
- F. Identify existing park access by public routes and then develop a plan to provide park access for pedestrians and bicyclists in existing neighborhoods where access is limited except by car.
  - ▶ Exhibit 7.7, Park Access Analysis, shows that residents using public streets in some neighborhoods are farther than 1/2 mile from a park entrance. The map identifies 1/4-mile (five-minute) and 1/2-mile (ten-minute) walking distances, along public streets, from City parks and school recreation areas. Although joint agreements with school recreation areas expand access to some degree, in practice the recreation areas are not available at all times and, in many cases, require access to the rest of the school property. (See Chapter 9—Community Mobility and Circulation.)
- G. Identify barriers to access to parks, which may include gaps in the street network (such as culs-de-sac), missing sidewalks, gaps in the sidewalk network, walls and fences, or high-traffic streets without

**EXHIBIT 7.7 PUBLIC OPEN SPACE ACCESS**



**Access to Public Open Space**  
 August 2016  
 Data sources: City of Fontana; Esri 2015



safe crossings.

- H. Designate routes for neighborhood access to parks for improvements to enhance safe and comfortable walking and biking.
- I. Include existing and potential park access in development of the active transportation plan.

## **Goal 6: All public parks are designed and maintained to a high standard.**

### **POLICIES**

- Promote park designs that can serve multiple types of users and provide aesthetic benefits.
- Provide sufficient funding to support adequate park maintenance.

### **ACTIONS**

- A. Develop park design criteria for different kinds of parks and park uses through collaboration with all relevant departments, including Community Services and the Police Department.
- B. During the design process for new parks, organize at least two public meetings: one to gather community preferences for the park and one at the 75% design stage to gather community comments on the design.
- C. Ensure that tot lots, children's play areas, and sitting areas provide some shade.
- D. Incorporate exercise stations and/or walking routes in parks as much as possible.
- E. Review safety and maintenance criteria and protocols regularly.
  - ▶ Concerns about lighting and safety emerged during the plan update process, as did a general desire to ensure a high maintenance level.
- F. Develop a checklist for park maintenance in collaboration with park users and the Parks and Community Services Commission.
  - ▶ A set of park maintenance standards developed with the community, using



Downtown parks and gathering places support revitalization of the center of the city (see Chapter 14).

photographs to denote acceptable and unacceptable conditions, will give the Public Works Department an agreed-upon level of effort and work. A best-practice example of this kind of system is a manual created by the San Francisco Parks and Recreation Department. (<http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/Appendix-20-SFPEP-manual-2005.pdf>)

- G. Perform a safety and maintenance audit of parks at least twice a year, consulting with users if possible, and make any safety and maintenance improvements that are needed.
- H. Develop a plan to improve lighting in parks to ensure the minimum light standard of one foot-candle is met and maintained.
  - ▶ In addition to the safety concerns about parks and trail segments with insufficient lighting, parks in hot climates can attract more users during the cooler evening and night hours if they are well lit.
- I. Create “Friends” neighborhood organizations to assist in maintenance and programming at their neighborhood parks, such as through volunteer organizations made up of park users or athletic leagues that use the parks.
- J. Work with the Parks and Community Services Commission to identify potential parks where a Friends organization might be of interest.
- K. Develop a pilot program to gauge interest and potential of “Friends of the Park” organizations.
- L. Designate a staff person to work with the pilot groups.
- M. Evaluate the pilot program and, if successful, expand to other parks.

## **Goal 7: The Fontana parks system has a nonprofit partner that raises money for park improvements.**

### **POLICY**

- Promote creation of a Fontana Parks Foundation, a nonprofit to support park system improvements and activities.

### **ACTIONS**

- A. Explore creation of a Fontana Parks Foundation nonprofit to support the city’s park and recreation network.
  - ▶ Fontana is justifiably proud of its park and recreation system and how much it contributes to the city’s quality of life. As the city grows, the park and recreation system will face new needs and challenges. Many cities have a nonprofit foundation that raises money to benefit their park and recreation systems and mobilize volunteers. These foundations often make the difference between good and outstanding park systems. While many, but not all, of the park foundations are found in cities that are more populous than Fontana, and have a more established corporate presence as a source of donations, Fontana could start with a modest effort.

- B. Research parks foundations and discuss the potential of a Fontana Parks Foundation and its mission with the Parks and Community Services Commission.
- C. Create a 401(c)3 organization with a volunteer board and a mission statement, if there is interest in creating a parks foundation.
- D. Seek other partners, including health organizations, faith communities, and foundations (such as the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation), to help fund park improvements and a parks foundation.

**Goal 8: Fontana updates the parks, recreation and trails master plan at least every 10 years.**

**POLICY**

- Support a Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan update consistent with the General Plan in 2018 and at least every 10 years thereafter.

**ACTIONS**

- A. Prepare a parks and recreation master plan update that will make Fontana’s good park system into an outstanding park system.
- B. Prepare a master plan that builds on the goals, polices, and actions in this General Plan and the land use and transportation integration goals of the plan.

**Goal 9: Fontana has multi-use trails that provide north-south links and connections with the Pacific Electric Trail and other city pedestrian and bicycle routes.**

**POLICIES**

- Seek funding sources to implement the San Sevaine Trail and design and implement an “Eastside Trail” linking the City from north to south the east part of the city
- Advocate with other municipal partners to state lawmakers for



With the San Gabriel Mountains to the north and the Jurupa Hills to the south, Fontana has opportunities for nature recreation. The San Sevaine Trail will connect to the regional trail system, providing safer and more efficient access to recreational areas.

opportunities to use utility easement land as trails and parks.

**ACTIONS**

- A. Prepare grant proposals for funding, and implement the San Sevaine Trail Master Plan.
- B. Prepare a master plan for a north-south trail in the east part of the city and seek implementation.
- C. Advocate with the state legislature for municipal use of utility easements as trails and parks.

**Goal 10: Trails in natural areas offer nature recreation experiences.**

**POLICY**

- Support trail creation and maintenance in natural areas.

**ACTION**

- A. Work with San Bernardino County and hikers’ groups to develop and maintain nature trails in the foothills.
  - ▶ In many communities, Boy Scouts and similar groups help develop and maintain hiking trails.

## F. Getting Started

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
Update the Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan in 2018.	Planning Division, Parks and Recreation Department, consultant