



CHAPTER

6 Open Space and Conservation Element

INTRODUCTION

Greenprint for a Healthy Community

Parks are important. This statement is as true today as it was 100 years ago. Burbank has always recognized the importance of setting aside spaces within the community that support the natural environment, provide a home to habitat, provide active and passive recreation opportunities, and add to the beauty of the community. Today, their significance is greater still. Parks and open spaces help keep our community cooler; they're a "health club" that requires no membership fee, and they are an economic development tool that helps attract and retain viable businesses, industries, and employees seeking a high quality of life.



Parks and recreation facilities are vital resources for Burbank.

Looking forward, there are challenges to be addressed. High land costs make it difficult to introduce parks and open space into areas that have previously been built out. The increased diversity of the community requires the provision of a variety of programs and services to meet the needs of all people. Ongoing maintenance of parks, open space, and recreation facilities and the services to be provided by the City have to be balanced with an economic climate that demands fiscal conservation. Even with these challenges, the City is moving forward not only to provide areas that improve the livability of Burbank, but also to improve the community's health and its sustainability for future generations.

Purpose and Statutory Requirements

This Open Space and Conservation Element meets state requirements for open space and conservation elements as stated in Sections 65302(d) and 65301(e) of the California Government Code. It describes the conservation, development, and use of natural resources and addresses Burbank's parks and recreation opportunities. This element, in combination with the Air Quality and Climate Change



Element, also contains many of the key policies related to community sustainability. The City intends to prepare a Sustainability Element in the future to set the City’s sustainability goals, policies, and implementation strategies. This Open Space and Conservation Element addresses preservation of renewable and non-renewable natural resources; managed production of resources, such as energy and groundwater supply; outdoor recreation; and trail-oriented recreation use.

Relationship to Other Elements

The Open Space and Conservation Element overlaps with provisions of the Air Quality and Climate Change, Land Use, and Safety Elements. However, this element differs by being oriented almost exclusively toward natural resources. The conservation component contains goals and policies that further the protection and maintenance of natural resources in Burbank. These resources include water, soils, wildlife, minerals, and other natural resources that should be considered to prevent wasteful exploitation, degradation, and destruction.

OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION GOALS AND POLICIES

Burbank’s natural environment and abundant open spaces are unique assets to the community that have become an essential component of quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors. The goals, policies, and implementation programs of the Open Space and Conservation Element are intended to protect these resources and provide recreation opportunities to further enhance community health.

GOAL 1 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The public is involved in preserving open space, conserving resources, and improving the natural environment.

- Policy 1.1 Encourage citizen interest and participation in open space management and development.***
- Policy 1.2 Involve community groups in the identification, acquisition, and management of natural resource areas, recreation facilities, historical and cultural sites, and aesthetic and beautification programs.***
- Policy 1.3 Coordinate the City's open space program with regional parks, open space, and conservation plans.***
- Policy 1.4 Facilitate a continuing program of environmental resource presentations, surveys, and workshops to educate and inform the public.***

GOAL 2 PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Parks, open space and recreation facilities contribute to the high quality of life enjoyed by Burbank residents and the economic value of the community.

- Policy 2.1 Identify areas of the city that are currently underserved and focus park expansion and open space acquisition in these areas.***
- Policy 2.2 Provide a community or neighborhood park within 1/2 mile of all Burbank residences.***
- Policy 2.3 Provide park and recreation facilities at a minimum level of 3 acres per 1,000 persons, with the goal of 5 acres per 1,000 persons.***



Policy 2.4 *Seek opportunities to develop additional parks and open space in areas where needed, including pocket parks, dog parks, athletic fields, amphitheaters, gardens, and shared facilities.*

GOAL 3 PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

Parks and recreation facilities are improved and maintained to ensure they meet the needs of the community.

Policy 3.1 *Improve and rehabilitate existing parks and recreation facilities.*

Policy 3.2 *Improve existing athletic fields with lights, equipment, and seating.*

Policy 3.3 *Develop a clear and unified system of identification and directional signs for all park and recreation facilities.*

Policy 3.4 *Provide low-maintenance, vandal-resistant parks, recreation facilities, and equipment.*

Policy 3.5 *Provide adequate lighting in parking areas to ensure user safety.*

Policy 3.6 *Improve and maintain access to accommodate persons with disabilities at all parks.*

Policy 3.7 *Ensure that the public transit system connects parks and recreation facilities to the rest of the community.*

GOAL 4 RECREATION PROGRAMS

Burbank provides a variety of recreation opportunities that meet the needs of all members of the community.

Policy 4.1 *Provide a variety of arts, cultural, historical, fitness, and environmental education programs at parks and recreation facilities.*



Policy 4.2 *Enhance and expand existing recreation programs in response to community demographics and needs.*

Policy 4.3 *Continue the joint use of facilities owned by the Burbank Unified School District.*

Policy 4.4 *Continue the use of "drop-in" centers in existing and future recreation facilities.*

Policy 4.5 *Ensure that buildings, equipment, fields, and other recreation amenities are in full use and capable of accommodating changing program demands.*

GOAL 5 CREATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE TRAILS NETWORK

Parks, trails, and open spaces are connected within the city and to regional open spaces.

Policy 5.1 *Develop a comprehensive trails network linking hiking, biking, and equestrian trails to parks and open spaces both within and outside the city.*

Policy 5.2 *Develop a multi-functional path and trail system within the natural constraints presented by open space areas.*



Policy 5.3 *Encourage trail use and maintenance by recreation, educational, and community organizations.*

Policy 5.4 *Require that new development projects provide public access to adjacent open space areas.*

GOAL 6 OPEN SPACE RESOURCES

Burbank’s open space areas and mountain ranges are protected spaces supporting important habitat, recreation, and resource conservation.

Policy 6.1 *Recognize and maintain cultural, historical, archeological, and paleontological structures and sites essential for community life and identity.*

Policy 6.2 *Protect the ecological integrity of open spaces and maintain and restore natural habitats and native plant communities.*

Policy 6.3 *Prohibit incompatible recreation activities that may damage open spaces or expose people to hazards.*

Policy 6.4 *Promote the acquisition, conservation, and preservation of land in the Verdugo Mountains.*

GOAL 7 VISUAL AND AESTHETIC RESOURCES

Prominent ridgelines and slopes are protected as visual resources.

Policy 7.1 *Identify visually prominent ridgelines and establish regulations to promote their preservation.*

Policy 7.2 *Minimize the visual intrusion of development in the hillside area.*

Policy 7.3 *Recognize visual resources as a key element in open space acquisition programs.*

Policy 7.4 *Balance both public good and private property rights when considering the restoration of viewsheds.*

GOAL 8 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Burbank’s high-quality natural biological communities are sustained.

Policy 8.1 *Prohibit development that jeopardizes or diminishes the integrity of sensitive or protected plant and animal communities.*

Policy 8.2 *Improve ecological and biological conditions in urban and natural environments when reviewing proposals for site development, as well as when making public improvements.*

Policy 8.3 *Support public acquisition of parcels key to the integrity of ecosystems.*

Policy 8.4 *Naturalize disturbed areas and prevent the invasion of exotic plants.*

Policy 8.5 *Encourage landscaping that incorporates native plant species.*

GOAL 9 WATER RESOURCES

Adequate sources of high-quality water provide for various uses within Burbank.

Policy 9.1 *Meet the goal of a 20% reduction in municipal water use by 2020.*



Policy 9.2 Provide public information regarding the importance of water conservation and avoiding wasteful water habits.

Policy 9.3 Offer incentives for water conservation and explore other water conservation programs.

Policy 9.4 Pursue infrastructure improvements that would expand communitywide use of recycled water.

Policy 9.5 Require on-site drainage improvements using native vegetation to capture and clean stormwater runoff.

GOAL 10 ENERGY RESOURCES

Burbank conserves energy, uses alternative energy sources, and promotes sustainable energy practices that reduce pollution and fossil fuel consumption.

Policy 10.1 Incorporate energy conservation strategies in City projects.

Policy 10.2 Promote energy-efficient design features to reduce fuel consumption for heating and cooling.

Policy 10.3 Continue to acquire alternative fuel vehicles like hybrid, natural gas, electric, or hydrogen-powered vehicles when adding to the City’s vehicle fleet.

Policy 10.4 Encourage residents and businesses to reduce vehicle use or to purchase alternative fuel vehicles.

Policy 10.5 Promote technologies that reduce use of non-renewable energy resources.

Policy 10.6 Support private sources of sustainable, environmentally friendly energy supplies.

Policy 10.7 Encourage the use of solar energy systems in homes and commercial businesses as a form of renewable energy.

OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION PLAN

The Open Space and Conservation Plan describes the City’s approach to conserving and enhancing open spaces, parks, recreation opportunities, and natural resources. The plan is divided into sections specific to open space, parks, recreation, and conservation of natural resources—mainly water, energy, ecological, biological, mineral, and aesthetic and visual resources.

Open Space Resources

Open space lands are set aside for many purposes, including (1) parks for recreation or wildlife habitat preservation, (2) water resources for groundwater recharge and support of plant and animal habitat, (3) environmental hazard zones for the protection of public safety, and (4) prominent geologic features and scenic resources for the visual enhancement of the urban environment.

Burbank contains nearly 2,700 acres of designated open space, including approximately 700 acres of improved parkland. Wildwood Canyon Park and Stough Canyon Park are the two largest parks in the city, at 500 acres and approximately 100 acres, respectively. These regional parks are located in the



Verdugo Mountains and are less developed than other parks in the city, particularly those located in the flat developed portions of Burbank.

The remaining open space is located primarily in the Verdugo Mountains. This acreage connects to approximately 60,000 acres of additional open space managed by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. This connection provides for large contiguous areas of natural habitat for many plant and animal species. These natural open space areas also contain miles of trails and fire roads that can be used for passive recreation purposes, such as hiking, biking, and picnicking.

Parks, Recreation, and Community Services

The Park Services Division of Burbank’s Park, Recreation, and Community Services Department maintains public park grounds and landscaped areas, and manages the City’s urban forestry program. In total, 26 parks are located within Burbank, ranging in size from pocket parks less than 0.25 acre up to a 500-acre regional park. Along with park facilities, recreation programming is an important part of creating and maintaining a healthy community with a high quality of life. Burbank residents enjoy many recreation opportunities, provided by a City government committed to ensuring a well-rounded, healthy community. Recreation programming includes volunteering opportunities, human services programs, classes, sports, cultural arts, school programs, nature programs, and special events for residents from every walk of life, ranging from children to adults, senior citizens, and even pets. The City is committed to ensuring that residents of all ages, backgrounds, and interests have abundant available recreation opportunities.

Parks Inventory and Acreage Standards

Most communities have parkland acreage standards, which ensure that the area has enough parks to serve the population. In Burbank, based on the existing population of 103,340 in 2010, there are approximately 7.1 acres of parkland for every 1,000 Burbank residents. As shown in Table OSC-1 below, when broken down by park type, that translates to 5.84 acres of regional parks, 0.69 acre of community parks, 0.54 acre of neighborhood parks, and 0.02 acre of pocket parks per 1,000 residents.

Table OSC-1
Current (2009) and Recommended Parkland Ratios

Park Type	Parkland Acreage	Current Ratio (Acres/1,000 Residents)	Recommended Ratio (Acres/1,000 Residents)	Meeting Recommended Ratio?
Regional	603.57	5.84	8	No
Community	70.83	0.69	2	No
Neighborhood	55.43	0.54	1.5	No
Pocket	2.02	0.02	0.04	No
Total	731.85	7.1		

Notes: Service levels recommended by National Recreation and Park Association.

Table OSC-2 lists the names, park-type classifications, acreages, and locations of all 26 City parks. The classification system identifies parks greater than 50 acres as regional parks; parks between 10 acres and 50 acres as community parks; parks between 1 acre and 10 acres as neighborhood parks; and parks 1 acre or smaller as pocket parks. Overall, there are two regional parks, four community parks, 15 neighborhood parks, and five pocket parks.



**Table OSC-2
Burbank Parks Inventory**

Park Name	Address/Location	Park Type	Acreage
Regional Parks			
Stough Canyon Park	1335 Lockheed View Drive	Regional	103.57
Wildwood Canyon Park	1701 Wildwood Canyon	Regional	500.00
Total Regional Parks			603.57
Community Parks			
Brace Canyon Park	2901 Haven Way	Community	20.05
George Izay Park	1111 West Olive Avenue	Community	15.36
Johnny Carson Park	400 South Bob Hope Drive	Community	17.62
McCambridge Park	1515 North Glenoaks Boulevard	Community	17.80
Total Community Parks			70.83
Neighborhood Parks			
Abraham Lincoln Park	300 North Buena Vista Street	Neighborhood	2.50
Bel Aire Ballfield	1750 Bel Aire Drive	Neighborhood	1.75
Miller Park*	720 East Providencia Avenue	Neighborhood	1.60
Mountain View Park	751 South Griffith Park Drive	Neighborhood	2.48
Larry L. Maxam Memorial Park	3715 Pacific Avenue	Neighborhood	5.29
Palm Ballfield	1125 East Orange Grove Avenue	Neighborhood	1.50
Ralph Foy Park	3211 West Victory Boulevard	Neighborhood	10.00
Robert E. Gross Park	2800 West Empire Avenue	Neighborhood	4.85
Robert E. Lundigan Park	2701 Thornton Avenue	Neighborhood	1.32
Robert R. Ovrom Park	601 South San Fernando Road	Neighborhood	1.40
Valley Park	1625 North Valley Street	Neighborhood	4.44
Verdugo Park	3201 West Verdugo Avenue	Neighborhood	8.00
Vickroy Park	2300 Monterey Place	Neighborhood	1.40
Whitnall Highway Park North	1202 North Whitnall Highway	Neighborhood	4.50
Whitnall Highway Park South	610 North Whitnall Highway	Neighborhood	4.40
Total Neighborhood Parks			55.43
Pocket Parks			
Compass Tree Park	601 South Lake Avenue	Pocket	<0.25
Earthwalk Park	1922 Grismer Street	Pocket	0.53
Maple Street Playground	3820 West Jeffries Avenue	Pocket	0.4
Santa Anita Playlot	250 West Santa Anita Avenue	Pocket	0.34
Five Points Plaza	1075 West Burbank Boulevard	Pocket	0.50
Total Pocket Parks			2.02
Total Developed Parks			731.85
Other Facilities			
DeBell Golf Course	1500 Walnut Avenue	Community/Public Golf Course	113

Note: * Indicates that this is a shared facility with Burbank Unified School District



Although Burbank maintains more than 7 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents, most of this is in the form of regional parks. Some recreation facilities are located in these parks, but much of this acreage is unimproved. Without including these two parks in the calculation of the parkland acreage ratio, the ratio would be only 1.2 acres per 1,000 Burbank residents, which is considered low by most nationally accepted parkland standards. The table compares these recommendations to Burbank’s existing (2010) parkland-to-residents ratio by park classification type. In general, communities with less parkland than these recommended ratios tend to see increased rates of deterioration of park facilities because of overuse.



The Starlight Bowl is located in Stough Canyon Park and provides a wonderful venue for many large community events.

This Open Space and Conservation Element establishes a citywide parkland level of service goal of 5 acres of improved parkland per 1,000 residents. The element also establishes a requirement applicable to new development of 3 acres of new parkland per 1,000 new residents, which is intended to correct existing parkland deficiencies as new development and redevelopment occur.

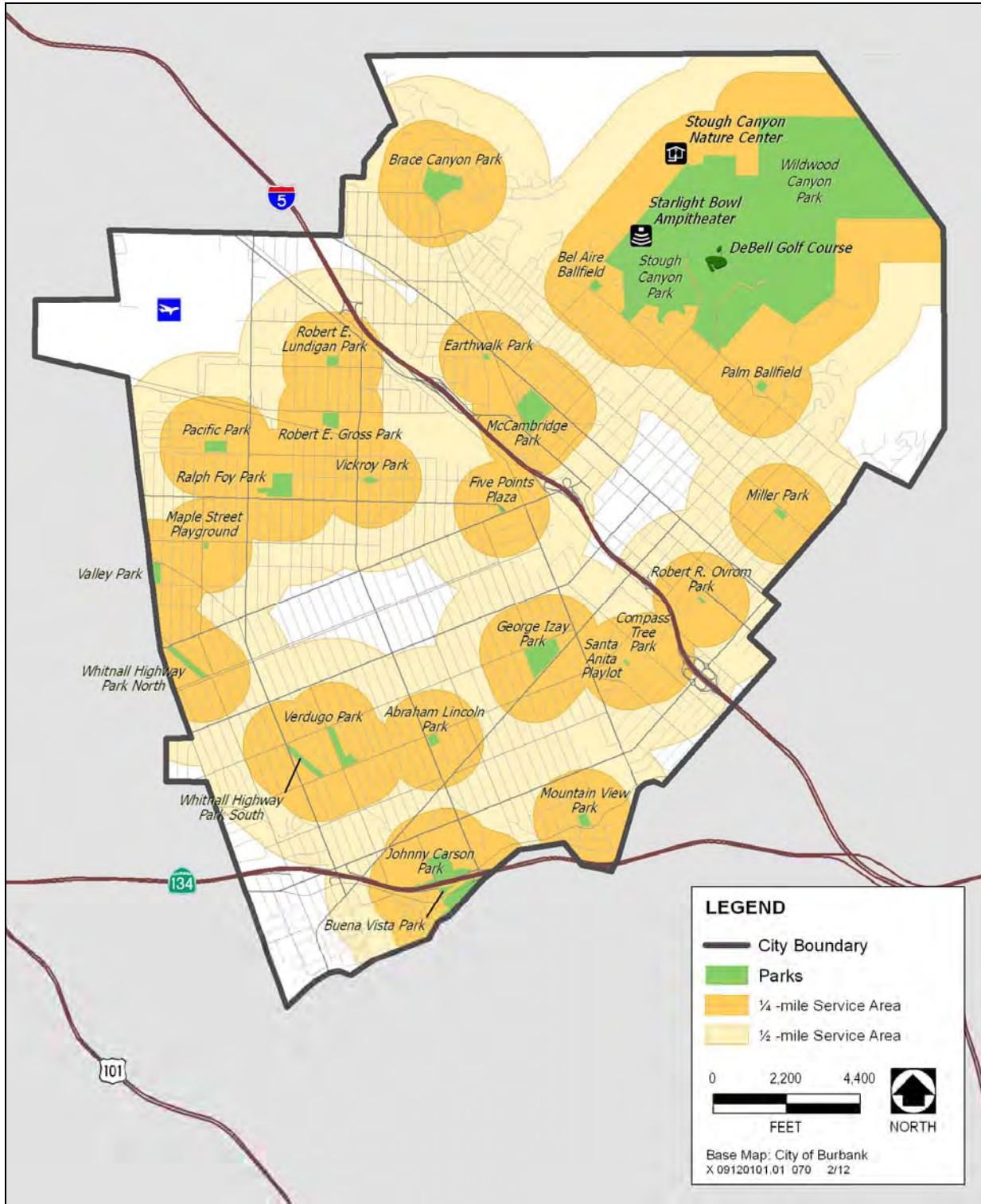
In addition, because of the location of the regional parks in the Verdugo Mountains, these parks are less accessible than other parks to most Burbank residents, who live in flatter, more developed portions of the city. The City seeks to ensure that all residents have access to adequate parkland within a reasonable distance from their homes. For this reason, this Open Space and Conservation Element establishes a policy requiring that all residences in Burbank be located within 1/2 mile of a community or neighborhood park. Exhibit OSC-1 depicts areas that are currently served by parks from a distance perspective. Areas shown in white on the exhibit are not within 1/2 mile of a park, and are considered to be underserved. To implement this new policy, the City will prioritize developing new park facilities in underserved areas, to the extent feasible. However, this is particularly challenging in a built-out city.

Site Selection Standards for New Parks

Because Burbank residents will benefit from additional parkland and recreation programming, Burbank will work actively to acquire, build, and maintain additional parkland and facilities. Because Burbank is largely a built-out city, locating new parks will be difficult. The City will prioritize developing new park facilities in locations where residences are not located within 1/2 mile of a park. The City will seek vacant and underutilized lots and acquire these lots as they become available, and as funding allows.

The City will also prioritize accessibility as a major factor in the selection of future park sites. A park that is inaccessible, lacks usable open space, or is otherwise constrained has limited utility to the residents it is designed to serve. To ensure that such a scenario does not occur, the following standards are established to apply to the acquisition of new parkland:

- The service area should not be divided by natural or human-made barriers such as arterial highways, railroads, freeways, and commercial or industrial areas that would render the site inaccessible or undesirable as a park.



Sources: City of Burbank 2010, data compiled by AECOM in 2011

Exhibit OSC-1. Parkland Distribution



- Neighborhood parks should be located adjacent to elementary schools whenever possible. The primary consideration should be whether the existing school has adequate play space to serve both its educational needs and the needs of the neighborhood for playground space.
- The site for a community park should be of sufficient size to include a recreation building unless adjacent school facilities can be designated to serve public uses when school is not in session.
- Neighborhood parks should have street frontage. If a park is located where adjacent streets are insufficient for parking, the site should have a parking lot. Community park sites should be readily accessible from pedestrian and bicycle routes.
- All neighborhood and community park sites should be accessible by foot or by bicycle.

Conservation

The quality of natural resources—air, water, energy, biological, and mineral resources—must be preserved to maintain and improve public health, the environment, the economy, and quality of life for Burbank residents, businesses, and visitors. These resources, with the exception of air resources, are discussed in further detail below. Although energy resources are described below, additional information about energy, as well as air resources, can be found in the Air Quality and Climate Change Element and the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan (GGRP).

Water Resources

Water Supplies



Burbank relies on imported water for about half of its water supply.

Like many Southern California communities, Burbank depends on deliveries of water supplies from other locations. Water is imported to Southern California from three major sources: the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta via the State Water Project, the Colorado River via the Colorado River Aqueduct, and the Owens Valley/Mono Basin via the Los Angeles Aqueduct. Local agencies have emphasized diversifying their water sources given the level of uncertainty about the water supply from the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta and Colorado River.

In Burbank, water is supplied by Burbank Water and Power (BWP), which provides potable water, water for fire protection purposes, and recycled water to more than 26,000 service connections within the city. BWP receives most of its potable water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan). Metropolitan wholesales imported water to a consortium of 26 cities, including Burbank; to water districts; and to a county authority.

BWP’s water supplies are supplemented locally by groundwater wells that draw from the San Fernando Groundwater Basin, which accounts for the remaining portion of the city’s water supply. BWP is required to purchase additional untreated water supplies from Metropolitan to replenish local groundwater supplies. About 3/4 of the city’s water is used by residential customers. The City has relied on imported water for about half of its water supply since the 1950s.

Water Quality

Groundwater and surface water are critical resources that must be preserved for public health, environmental, and economic reasons. Water quality is a regional issue that requires the cooperation of many other jurisdictions and agencies. Pollutants entering the hydrologic system are dispersed outward, with the potential to affect all who use the water within the system.



Water sources are considered most vulnerable to contamination from industrial activities, such as chemical processing, gas stations, and sewer collection systems. The local issue of household chemicals entering water sources is also a challenge to water safety. Pollution of urban runoff and stormwater and threats to Burbank’s water supply arise from improper use of household hazardous materials such as solvents, fuels, paints, swimming pool chemicals, and miscellaneous flammable and corrosive substances, and from improper disposal of household hazardous wastes, including used motor oil. Reliable water supplies are essential to public health, safety, and welfare, and the City tests all water supply sources to assure safety and compliance with all drinking water standards.

Groundwater Quality and Supplies

Burbank is located atop the San Fernando Basin, an aquifer with groundwater ranging from 24 to 400 feet below the ground surface. The City is working with multiple federal, state, regional, and local government partners to identify and resolve known contamination issues in the San Fernando Basin. To bring water quality standards to levels appropriate for drinking water in Burbank, this groundwater is blended with water from other Metropolitan sources.

Urban Runoff

Urban stormwater runoff occurs when rainfall that in a nonurban environment would have been absorbed by groundcover or soil is instead collected by storm drains. In urbanized areas, native vegetation and topsoil have been largely replaced by impervious surfaces such as buildings, roads, sidewalks, and parking lots. When it rains, trash, litter, silt, automotive chemicals, fertilizers, animal wastes, and other contaminants are washed into the storm drain system. Because storm drains are designed to carry only stormwater, these drains typically are not equipped with filters or cleaning systems. Consequently, they can carry contaminants found in urban runoff directly into local flood control channels, lakes, and the ocean. Many of the contaminants found in this runoff affect water quality; at elevated concentration levels, they can be toxic to aquatic and marine life.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

Local stormwater pollution control measures are implemented in accordance with the 1972 Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The Clean Water Act prohibits any person from discharging pollutants through a “point source” into a “water of the United States” unless he or she has an NPDES permit.

The Clean Water Act authorizes states to operate their own NPDES programs, as long as such programs meet minimum federal requirements. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and nine regional water quality control boards (RWQCBs) administer the NPDES program in California. Burbank is located within the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles RWQCB. The permits administered by the Los Angeles RWQCB govern discharges to waters of the United States and include provisions that mandate notification, sampling and analysis, and reporting of dewatering and testing-related discharges. The NPDES permits all involve similar processes that include submitting notices of intent to discharge to the Los Angeles RWQCB and implementing best management practices (BMPs) to minimize those discharges.

The City will continue to require all new development and modifications to existing development to use BMPs to reduce stormwater runoff and increase on-site retention. BMPs are effective methods of preventing and controlling the amount of pollutants entering the storm drain system, where pollutants eventually enter the surface water system.



Low-Impact Development

Low impact development (LID) describes various natural stormwater BMPs such as vegetated swales, biofilters, and constructed wetlands. Typically, the first flush after a storm event flows over polluted land and carries the pollution to the City’s drainage system. LID measures ensure that the first flush gets cleaned by a natural process of vegetation filters, or at least delays the runoff using retention and infiltration methods before it runs into the City’s drainage systems.

The City is in the process of developing a Stormwater Master Plan. In this plan, the City promotes an LID approach to balance the needs of land development and stormwater management. This is especially important in areas in close proximity to sensitive habitats, which may potentially be polluted by runoff from developed areas.

Energy Resources

Energy is generated over large areas by many different sources, so tracking the specific source of energy used in any one place can be difficult. Energy that is not generated at a facility by an energy provider can be purchased from other producers and transmitted to the energy user through energy transmission networks. Energy sources used in Burbank include hydroelectric, transformation, geothermal, solar, wind, coal, natural gas, and nuclear. With the exception of the mini transformation power plant at the Burbank Landfill, all of BWP’s power plants use natural gas, while remote facilities use a range of coal, nuclear, hydroelectric, and wind-based resources.

BWP generates about half of the city’s electricity supply at its own facilities, and purchases the remaining half either from long-term firm resources or on the open spot market (a market for instantly purchasing surplus energy from producers). BWP owns and operates two power plants, the Olive Power Plant and the Lake One Power Plant, and holds a 31% share of the Magnolia Power Plant, a Southern California Public Power Authority project. All three facilities are located in Burbank. BWP also partially owns other energy sources and has firm contracts for energy from other sources. Southern California Gas Company provides natural gas to Burbank businesses and residents and to BWP for use in its power plants.

Green Building

Green building concepts can be incorporated into site and building design to reduce energy use within the city as a whole, to improve aesthetics and comfort, and to provide a more cost-effective means of living. Six concepts of green building can help conserve energy and preserve the environment:

- Sustainable sites
- Water efficiency
- Energy and atmosphere
- Materials and resources
- Indoor environmental quality
- Innovation and design process

Burbank2035 includes implementation of a GGRP, which incorporates measures designed to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases to aid in reducing Burbank’s contribution to global climate change effects. The GGRP includes measures that will require the City to implement many of these green building practices, which will conserve natural resources and energy.



Ecological, Biological, and Mineral Resources

To ensure the preservation and conservation of plant and wildlife resources within and surrounding Burbank, land must be protected from development to provide areas for native plants and wildlife to thrive. The following sections describe the City’s approaches to conserving these resources.



The City of Burbank is committed to protecting and preserving plant and wildlife resources.

Ecological and Biological Resources

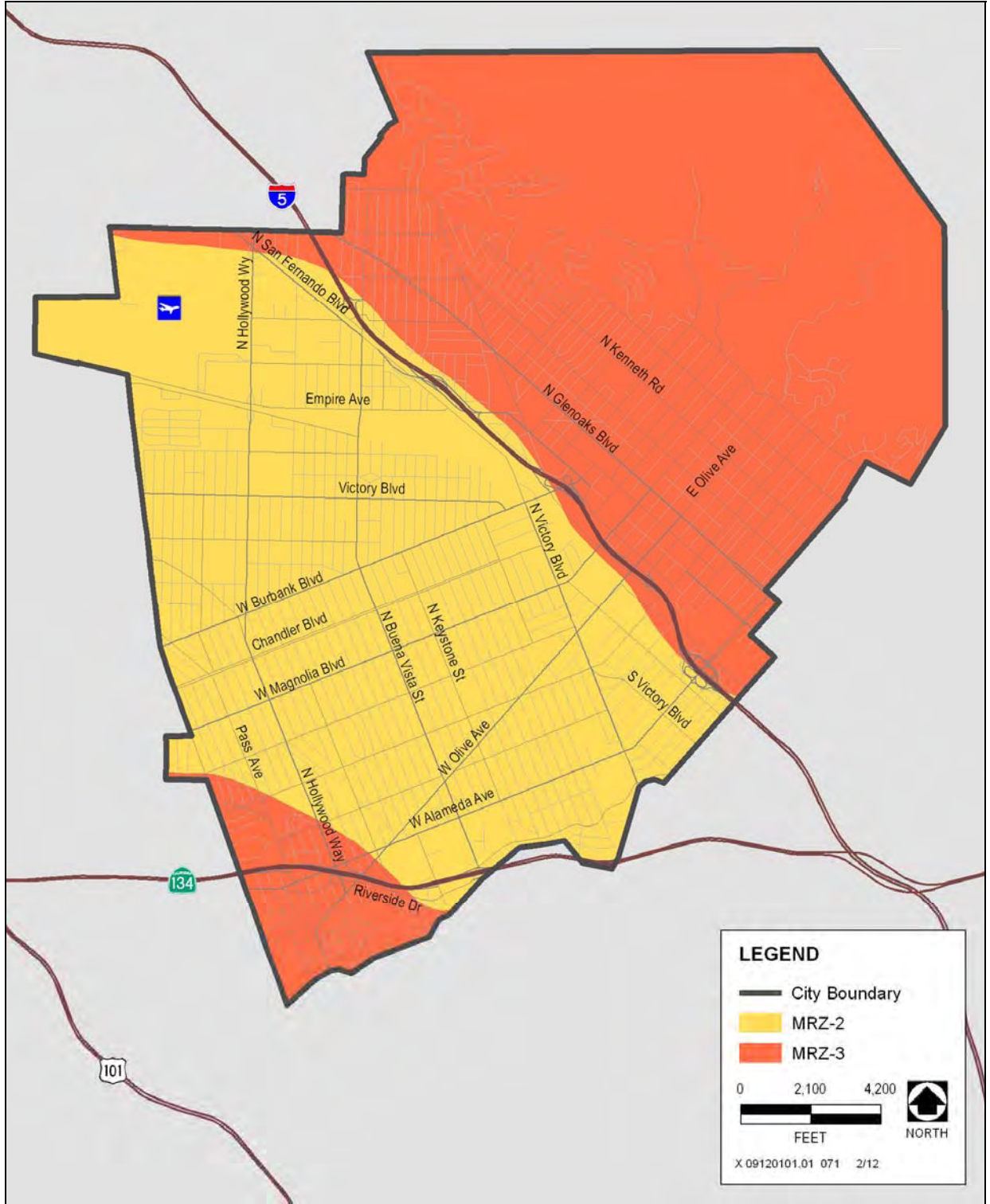
Although much of Burbank is urbanized and has low habitat value for wildlife, more than 2,700 acres of open space are located within the city limits, most in the Verdugo Mountains. These areas provide valuable habitat for plants and wildlife. The Verdugo Mountains are characterized by steep terrain, sharp ridgelines, and deep V-shaped canyons that contain drainages and native vegetation. With the exception of a few hillside residential neighborhoods, vegetative cover on the open slopes is dominated by shrub species characteristic of chaparral communities. Scattered trees and grasses occur in more open areas. The deep canyons contain relatively dense woodlands characterized by native oaks, with grassland, shrub, and herbaceous species occurring in openings and on the surrounding slopes.

The habitat provided by these communities supports plant life, insects, birds, rodents, and larger mammals such as deer, coyote, fox, and mountain lion. These communities also help control erosion, filter toxins out of the air, provide natural water filtration and groundwater recharge for local drinking water supplies, and affect local microclimates. They represent unusual or relatively undisturbed examples of the original plant and animal species indigenous to the region that, in many cases, are not found outside Southern California. Several federally and state protected plant and wildlife species are either known to occur or have the potential to occur in the city.

The City recognizes that these natural resources are important and that their proximity to urbanized areas contributes to Burbank’s uniqueness and the quality of life of its residents. The City is therefore committed to protecting and preserving plant and wildlife resources, wherever possible. The City will also encourage the use of native landscape materials in new and renovated project sites to help prevent the spread of invasive species into these natural communities.

Mineral Resources

Burbank is located atop a large area classified by the State Mining and Geology Board as MRZ-2, a mineral classification that indicates that mineral resources may be present. As shown in Exhibit OSC-2, the MRZ-2 area extends from Bob Hope Airport in the north toward the southeastern border of the city. On either side of the MRZ-2 area are areas classified as MRZ-3, which indicates that the significance of mineral resources could not be evaluated from available data. Because this entire area is urbanized, further classification of the MRZ-2 area cannot be done to determine whether there truly are significant mineral resources in the area. In Burbank, land uses such as Bob Hope Airport; municipal infrastructure; residential, commercial, and industrial uses; and a transportation network (roadways and railroad lines) are located atop this MRZ-2 area. Past land use changes to accommodate planned urbanization now preclude mining activities in Burbank. Future mining activities could not occur without destroying large areas of the city. Although there is a possibility that significant mineral resources could be located within the MRZ-2 area, mining would not be feasible. Therefore, Burbank is not considered to be a potential future source for mineral resources.



Sources: City of Burbank 2010, CASIL 1990

Exhibit OSC-2. Mineral Resource Zones



Visual and Aesthetic Resources

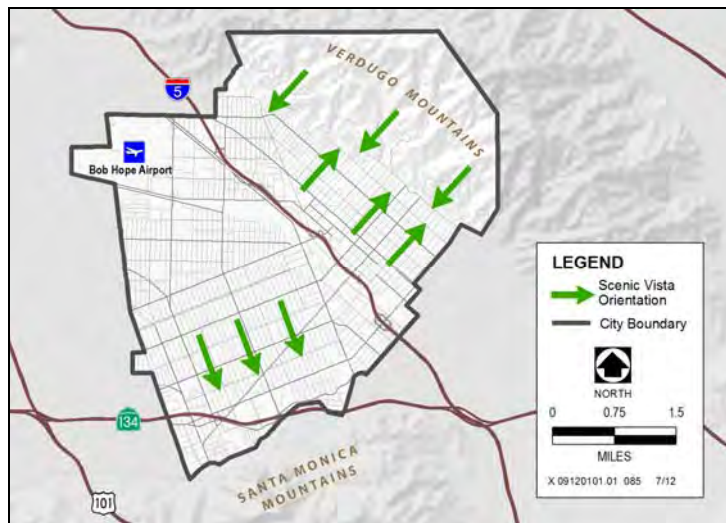
Given Burbank’s location adjacent to the Verdugo Mountains and the eastern Santa Monica Mountains, along with some notable examples of unique architecture and community character, the city has several important scenic vistas and scenic resources.

Scenic vistas are generally defined as viewpoints that provide expansive views of a highly valued landscape for the benefit of the general public. Scenic vistas within Burbank include views of the Verdugo Mountains to the northeast and views of the eastern Santa Monica Mountains to the south. Downslope views from hillside development in the Verdugo Mountains toward the city and the Santa Monica Mountains beyond are also considered to be a valued resource.

In more urbanized areas, the character of neighborhoods, architecture, vegetation, and landscaping all provide visual character. Scenic resources in Burbank include public parks and open space, such as Wildwood Canyon Park, Stough Park, Johnny Carson Park, and Brace Canyon Park. The architecture of historic structures, such as Burbank City Hall and the Portal of the Folded Wings Shrine to Aviation in Valhalla Memorial Park, are also scenic resources that represent aspects of the city’s history. Burbank’s residential, commercial, and industrial neighborhoods contain numerous examples of historic architectural styles, including Craftsman, Colonial, Mediterranean, Prairie, Google, Art Deco, and Mission Revival. Historic commercial signs throughout the city also contribute as scenic resources, such as the Bob’s Big Boy and Safari Inn signs.



Portal of the Folded Wings Shrine to Aviation



Scenic Vistas



Burbank in 2035: Drawing by Jonathan Topete of Stevenson Elementary School