



resource management

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- urban forestry

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- natural resources and conservation

- air quality, greenhouse gases, and associated health effects

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- urban forestry

- tribal resources

introduction

In Whittier, natural resources surround us: the hillside habitats that support abundant wildlife, tall trees that shade our streets and cool us as we walk through a park, and the rivers and streams that recharge our groundwater basins. These resources contribute to the quality of life in Whittier and allow residents to enjoy features not found in many urban environments. We must take care to protect these resources, as many cannot be replaced if diminished or destroyed. This Element focuses on preserving, protecting, conserving, reusing, and efficiently using Whittier’s natural resources.

Natural resources include the lands, fossil fuels, water, wildlife, plants and trees, air, and other resources obtained from the Earth. Some resources are managed, such as landscaped parks. Other resources are meant to flourish through conservation, such as the varied habitats in the Puente Hills Preserve.

In addition to providing welcome green space in our urban areas, Whittier’s parks offer opportunities for residents to improve mental and physical health, enjoy outdoor activities, and socialize with neighbors. Parks beautify neighborhoods and become assets to the residents and visitors who use them. Access to parks, trails, open space, and recreational facilities contributes to complete neighborhoods and supports a strong economy. Lower rates of obesity, asthma, and heart disease have been linked to proximity to parks and open space, especially if access to nature is part of everyday life. A city with strong park access—which can be measured by the amount of time it takes to walk to a park—makes active and passive park use more likely, frequent, and attainable.



Penn Park

key terms

Active Recreation Spaces refer to amenities, facilities, and space for active physical activity or organized sports and game. Examples include sports fields, game courts, playgrounds, and exercise equipment.

Brine, or produced water, is an oil and gas production byproduct. It consists of water from the geologic formation, injection water, oil, and salts.¹

Bulb-outs (also called curb extensions) extend the sidewalk into the right-of-way to narrow the roadway and provide additional pedestrian space at key locations; they can be used at corners and at mid-block. Bulb-outs can often be lengthened to create public spaces, landscaped areas, or transit waiting areas.

CALGreen refers to the California Green Building Standards Code included in the California Code of Regulations (Title 24, Part 11), originally adopted in 2007 to establish building standards that move the State toward achieving greenhouse gas reduction targets. The code is periodically updated to reflect emerging technologies and revised reduction targets.

Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO₂e) is a term used to describe different greenhouse gases in a common unit. For any quantity and type of greenhouse gas, CO₂e signifies the amount of CO₂ that would have the equivalent global warming impact.

Climate Change means a change in global or regional climate patterns.

Conservation refers to the management and sustainable use of natural resources to minimize waste, destruction, or degradation.

Cool Pavement(s) refer to pavements that stay cooler in the sun than traditional pavements through such means as reflective coatings, vegetation, pervious pavements that allow water infiltration, and surfaces shaded by trees.

Global Warming occurs when carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other air pollutants and greenhouse gases collect in the atmosphere and absorb sunlight and solar radiation that have bounced off the earth's surface. Normally, this radiation would escape into space—but these pollutants, which can last for years to centuries in the atmosphere—trap the heat and cause the planet to get hotter.

Green Building refers to a holistic approach to design, construction, and demolition that minimizes the building's impact on the environment, the occupants, and the community.

¹ <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/publications/environment-natural-resources/environmental-impacts-of-brine-produced-water>

Greenhouse Gases (GHG) occur naturally and from human activity. Greenhouse gases produced by human activities include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride.

Greenhouse Gas Effect results when carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases act like a blanket, absorbing infrared radiation and preventing it from escaping into outer space. The net effect is the gradual heating of Earth's atmosphere (global warming).

Ecosystem Services includes all benefits to humans provided by the natural environment, such as food, water, climate, and recreational benefits.

Environmental Justice is the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.²

Multimodal transportation considers and accommodates the many ways users get around, including walking, bicycling, public transportation, and driving.

Natural Resources constitute the lands, minerals and fossil fuels, wildlife, plants and trees, air, water, groundwater, drinking water, and other resources that make up the Earth.

Open Space refers to land that is not developed for residential, commercial, or industrial use and that is set aside for natural resource preservation/conservation or for outdoor recreation. Open space lands can encompass wildlife habitat, rivers, groundwater recharge areas, and areas containing mineral deposits. Trails, parks, outdoor recreation areas, utility easements, scenic highway corridors, and areas with limitations on usage to mitigate hazardous conditions (such as earthquake fault zones, unstable soils, flood plains, and watersheds) are also often considered open space.

Parks refers to lands developed for the purpose of enjoying outdoor spaces for active and passive recreation, as further described in the Parks and Open Spaces discussions in this element.

Particulate Matter refers to tiny particles made of any material suspended in the air, except pure water that exists in the solid or liquid state. The notation PM10 is used to describe particles 10 micrometers or less in diameter, and PM2.5 represents particles less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter. Smaller PM particles cause lung irritation, and exposure can trigger asthma attacks.

Passive Recreation Spaces are unimproved open spaces for low-impact recreational use. Passive recreation spaces typically provide quiet or passive use opportunities, such as walking paths, fountains/water features with seating, picnic areas, and shade shelters. Passive recreation may

² Defined by California Law

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ELEMENT

contain environmentally sensitive areas.

Pocket Parks are small parks frequently created on a single vacant lot or on small, irregular pieces of land and sometimes in parking spaces. They also may be created as a component of the public space requirement of large building projects.

Preservation is the act of maintaining, protecting, or preventing something from being damaged. The term can be applied to a wide range of topics beyond open space and natural resource conservation (for example, for a building or structure).

Public/Quasi-Public are land uses operated and maintained for public administration and welfare. May include government, civic, cultural, schools, libraries, post offices, public utilities, public parking, religious institutions, and infrastructure.

Renewable Energy sources capture energy from natural processes such as sunshine, wind, flowing water, biological processes including biomass, and geothermal.

Scenic Areas pertain to natural features of the landscape that are visually or historically significant, as determined by the federal, state, or a municipal government, including interests in land that have been acquired for restoration, preservation, and enhancement of scenic beauty.

Sensitive Receptors are land uses such as residences, residential care facilities, schools, day-care centers, playgrounds, and medical facilities, all of which have occupants—particularly children and older adults—who are sensitive to harmful effects from air pollution.

Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) are officially designated areas within Los Angeles County which are applicable in portions of unincorporated Los Angeles County. SEAs are identified as having irreplaceable biological resources. These areas represent the wide-ranging biodiversity of the County and contain some of the County's most important biological resources.

Trails are publicly owned or maintained designated travel paths planned for and used by equestrians, pedestrians, and/or non-motorized cyclists.

Urban Forest is a collection of trees in an urbanized area planted for the purpose of providing shade in parks and other public spaces, beautifying the streetscape, attracting birds, and cleaning the air.

Urban Water Suppliers, whether publicly or privately owned, provide water for municipal purposes either directly or indirectly to more than 3,000 customers or more than 3,000 acre-feet of water annually.



Whittier Greenway Trail on Opening Day 2009

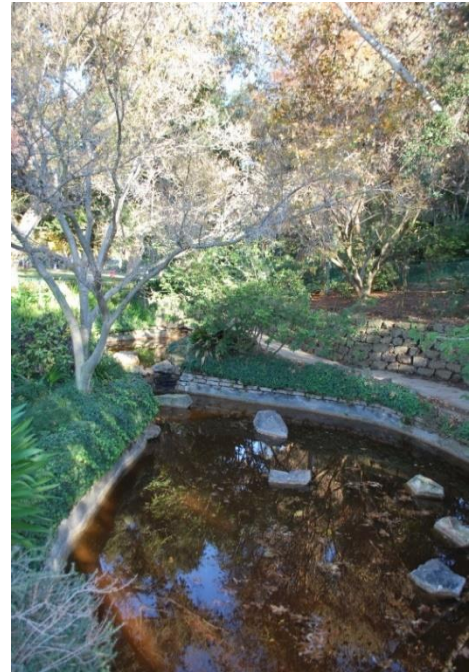
Vegetation Community is a classification of similar plant species. The fundamental aim of vegetation classification is to group together plant communities perceived as similar and thus, simplify the description of the vegetation patterns within a given geographic area.

Watershed refers to an area of land that drains collected rainfall via streams to a common collection point, such as a groundwater recharge basin or flood control infrastructure.

baseline issues

natural resources and conservation

- Whittier's most prominent natural resource is the Puente Hills Preserve located along the City's northern edge. Over 70 percent of Whittier's total park acreage comprises natural parks within the Puente Hills Preserve. Continued conservation efforts are essential to maintain the unique diversity of vegetation communities and habitats for several special status wildlife species found within the Preserve.
- The Puente Hills Preserve is managed by the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority. The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority, established in 1994, is a public agency formed by a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Whittier, County of Los Angeles, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, and the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association. The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority and the Preserve ultimately were formed as a condition of approval for the Puente Hills Landfill, which funds most of its operations.
- The Puente Hills Preserve is designated a Significant Ecological Area (SEA), a Los Angeles County-designated area with irreplaceable biological resources. The SEA program implements a Los Angeles County ordinance that regulates development within these areas to balance the preservation of biodiversity and private property rights.³ See Figure RM-1 for a map showing the full extent of the SEA. Preserve surveys have reported a variety of native species including dragon flies and damselflies, butterflies, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and



Penn Park

³ <https://planning.lacounty.gov/site/sea/home/>

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mammals, including mountain lion, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, and American badger.⁴ The jurisdiction of Los Angeles County and its SEAs only exist in the Sphere of Influence surrounding Whittier; its authority does not extend into the City limits, as Whittier is responsible for establishing its own policies within its borders.



California Gnatcatcher and Black Sage
Courtesy of the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority

- Five major native vegetation communities within the Puente Hills Preserve are coastal sage scrub, chaparral, grassland, riparian, and woodland. These communities support a rich diversity of wildlife—including species either protected or threatened—that contribute to healthy natural ecosystems in a suburban environment. Much of the Puente Hills Preserve serves as a wildlife corridor, called the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor, that

connects the Cleveland National Forest in Orange County to the Whittier Narrows area of Los Angeles County. The connectivity of the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor allows for better breeding and dispersal opportunities for indigenous wildlife and plants.

water resources

- Water conservation is a priority in Southern California to ensure the continued availability of the water supply. Whittier’s main source of domestic water is groundwater pumped from both the Main Basin and the Central Basin, which are part of the San Gabriel River watershed. Much of the watershed is fed by flows from the San Gabriel River, which drains 689 square miles of eastern Los Angeles County. Pollutants from dense clusters of residential and commercial activities have impaired water quality in the watershed.
- Because the City is an “urban water supplier,” California law requires that the Public Works Department, Water Division prepare an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) and review it every five years in accordance with the California Urban Water Management Planning Act (UWMP Act) of 1983. The purpose of the UWMP is to identify reliable water sources during extended drought periods. Periodic plan updates provide the opportunity to identify emerging conditions regarding water conservation efforts and measures to implement alternative and supplemental water conservation.

⁴ https://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/sea_PHLNHA-resource-mgmt-plan.pdf

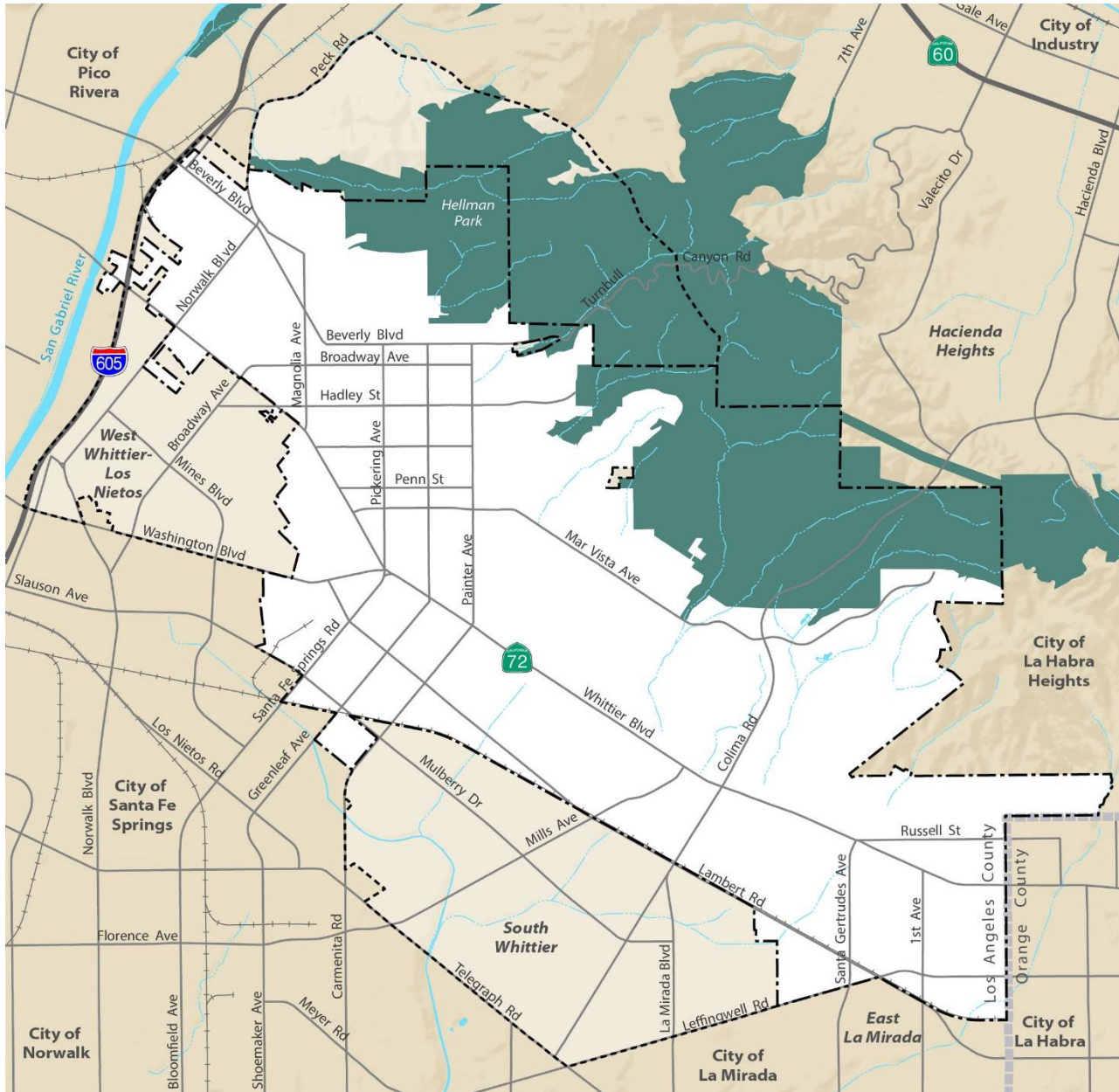


Figure RM-1: Significant Ecological Areas (SEA)

Source: City of Whittier, 2017.

The City-owned parcel located near Whittier Narrows is excluded from this map to increase the maps readability.

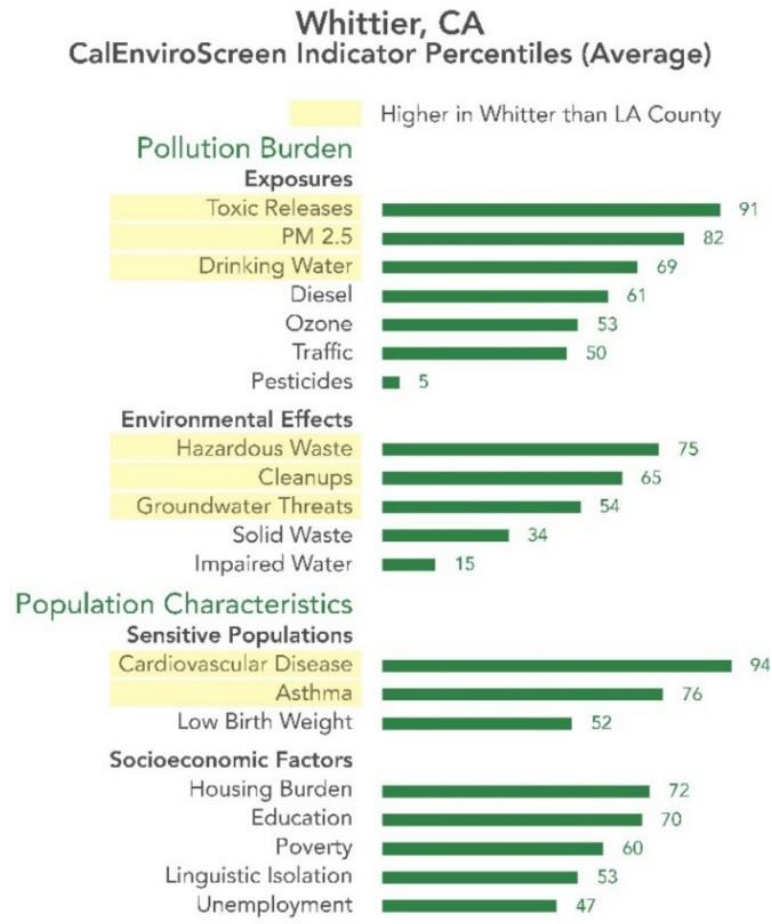
air quality, greenhouse gases, and associated health effects

- Whittier’s air quality can be considered “relatively good” for the Los Angeles Metropolitan area. The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is responsible for monitoring and improving air quality throughout the South Coast Air Basin, which encompasses all of Orange County and the urbanized portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties.
- The primary pollutant of concern is ozone, which forms from interactions between oxides of nitrogen and hydrocarbons due to heat and sunlight. While high ozone concentrations in the stratosphere (10 to 30 miles above Earth) are critical to protecting the Earth from ultraviolet rays, ozone occurring at low levels above our cities can cause breathing difficulties, especially in the elderly, the very young, or those that are sick.
- Local pockets of high and low particulate matter levels occur throughout Whittier, depending upon proximity to PM sources, such as I-605, railroads, and active construction sites. The western half of the City experiences much higher levels of air pollution than the eastern. The Whittier Boulevard (SR-72) and I-605 junction sees the third highest volume of heavy and light duty truck traffic and nitrous oxide emissions in SCAQMD’s region, which results in concerning localized air pollution.⁵
- Hazardous air pollutants are those known to cause cancer and other serious health impacts. Historically and in current times, industrial businesses, medical facilities, and landfills in Whittier have emitted hazardous air pollutants, with examples including the Savage Canyon Landfill, PIH Health, and Omega Chemical Corporation site. Hazardous air pollutant emissions are stringently regulated and monitored by the South Coast Air Quality Management District.
- The primary sources of regional GHG emissions are light-duty vehicles and electric power generation using fossil fuels. Other large contributors are heavy-duty vehicles, petroleum refining, and similar stationary sources.⁶ The Gateway Cities Air Quality Action Plan anticipates a decrease in GHG emissions by approximately 25 percent by 2035 due to increasingly stringent regulations, cleaner truck, train, and automobile technology, and the replacement of older vehicles.

⁵ <https://www3.epa.gov/ttn/amtic/files/networkplans/CASCAQMDPlan2015.pdf>

⁶ Gateway Cities Air Quality Action Plan (2013)

- Exposure to pollutants or allergens where people live, work, or play is linked to higher rates of asthma.⁷ The asthma rate in children ages zero to 17 in Whittier (eight percent) is slightly higher than the Los Angeles County average (seven percent).⁸ The highest rate of hospital emergency department visits for asthma occurred in Whittier’s 90602 and 90606 ZIP codes. These are some of the same communities that have the highest CalEnviroScreen Disadvantages Communities score. CalEnviroScreen indicators are measures of



Note(s): CalEnviroScreen scores are calculated by census tract. Census tracts analyzed here include: 6037500300, 6037501001, 6037501002, 6037501400, 6037501504, 6037501803, 6037501804, 6037502003, 6037502004, 6037502100, 6037502200.

environmental conditions (reported as pollution burden indicators) and health and vulnerability factors (reported as population characteristic indicators). A higher percentile indicates a higher relative burden. Several CalEnviroScreen indicators are higher in Whittier than the Los Angeles County average.

- Parts of Whittier are considered both a Disadvantaged Community per SB 535 and a Low-Income Community per AB 1550⁹. These designations make Whittier eligible for special funding from the State’s cap-and-trade program. These investments are aimed at improving public health, quality of life, and economic opportunity in California’s most burdened communities while at the same time reducing pollution that causes climate change. Approved projects

must align with project types approved by the California Legislature, such as waste diversion and green infrastructure, among others.

⁷ <https://www.pcori.org/blog/addressing-disparities-health-outcomes-people-asthma>

⁸ County of Los Angeles Public Health, Whittier Health Profile (2018)

⁹ <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=2e984fca23184d6496ac0c6d09a1d965>

tribal resources

- The indigenous Chumash and Gabrieliño/Tongva peoples are the two native groups that have occupied current day Los Angeles County for thousands of years. Due to development, occupation, use, and natural occurrences, many historic, cultural, or sacred sites and artifacts have been disturbed or destroyed. State law requires tribal consultation in association with environmental review processes for discussion regarding preserving or mitigating impacts on cultural resources.

oil and gas

- The burning of fossil fuels has led to adverse worldwide environmental effects such as acid rain, smog, water pollution, and global climate change. Without prudent practices, exploratory drilling and extraction of nonrenewable energy sources (such as coal, petroleum, and natural gas)—and their attendant infrastructure—can damage natural resources and have adverse air quality effects. In California, the oil industry is highly regulated to guard against adverse environmental conditions.
- Whittier and the surrounding area have a legacy of oil production, particularly from 1890 to the 1920s. Although production in the Whittier Oil Field has largely ceased because of efforts to preserve the hillsides as natural areas, oil well sites remain active within northwest Whittier and its Sphere of Influence. According to the 2018 Los Angeles County Public Health Profile, 696 oil and gas wells remain in Whittier. All oil wells (active, plugged, idle, or otherwise) need to be maintained and monitored to avoid environmental and public health and safety impacts.
- Oil production and refining generate large quantities of wastes. Although most of the wastes produced are non-hazardous (brine and drilling fluids), they must still be managed and if possible, recycled.¹⁰ All waste brines share in their high salinity (or salt concentration), but other contaminants might vary. Contaminants commonly found in brine waste include suspended solids and particles, anti-scaling agents, heavy metals, microorganisms, organic material, and oil and grease. Contaminants such as these can pose a threat to human health and can also damage ecosystems at the discharge site if not properly treated before disposal.¹¹
- In circumstances in which hazardous waste is produced in conjunction with oil-producing operations, the hazardous waste must be transported to a licensed recycling or disposal facility. California, however, faces decreased hazardous waste disposal capacity. Waste disposal is regulated by several federal and State agencies. Hazardous waste control laws are

¹⁰ <https://www.epa.gov/hw/management-oil-and-gas-exploration-and-production-waste>

¹¹ <https://www.samcotech.com/treat-brine-waste-before-discharging-or-disposal/>

becoming more stringent, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to site new hazardous waste disposal facilities.

parks and open space



Outdoor Fitness Equipment along the Greenway Trail

▪ The City maintains an extensive system of parks, open space, and recreation resources, with 23 City parks and the 4.5-mile Greenway Trail comprising 164.7 acres (if Hellman Park is considered a Natural Park, parkland acreage increases to 443.7 acres of parkland), as detailed in Table RM-1. In addition, Pio Pico State Historic Park and three Los Angeles County parks within the sphere area provide open spaces readily accessible to Whittier residents (see Figure RM-2 and Table RM-2). The City’s neighborhood, community, and specialty parks provide a variety of active recreation space that include sports fields,

game courts, and playgrounds. Natural areas and mini parks provide passive recreation space such as walking paths, sitting and picnic areas, and natural undeveloped areas for enjoying nature.

Table RM-1: Park Resources Summary

Park Types – City of Whittier	Size	Number of Parks	Total Park Acres
Mini Parks	0.25 to 1 acre	4	2.8
Neighborhood Parks	1 to 7 acres	9	23.5
Community Parks	7 to 30 acres	4	42.3
Natural Parks	50 + acres	2	48.5
Specialty	NA	4	12.9
Greenway	NA	1	34.7
City of Whittier Total		24	164.7
Park Types – Other Jurisdictions		Number of Parks	Total Park Acres

Table RM-1: Park Resources Summary

Park Types – City of Whittier	Size	Number of Parks	Total Park Acres
Pio Pico State Historic Park		1	5.7
LA County Parks (Within Sphere of Influence)		3	26.7
Other Jurisdictions Total Acres		4	32.4
Whittier + Other Jurisdictions Total		28	475.8

- While residents enjoy diverse park and recreation facilities, the amount of natural or park space does not meet recommended national standards. Whittier has 5.07 acres of natural space and parkland per 1,000 residents. According to the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), this rate is below the national median of 7.7 acres per 1,000 residents for similarly sized cities (cities with 50,000 to 99,999 people).¹² However, the 2016 Los Angeles Countywide Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment (which excludes regional open space or natural preserves, such as Puente Hills Preserve) states that Whittier fares better than most Los Angeles County cities, with 3.8 acres of active parkland per 1,000 residents compared to the County average of 3.3 acres.¹³
- A more meaningful ratio for identifying park resources focuses on accessibility: the distance any resident should live from the nearest park or open space. The Trust for Public Land suggests a one-half mile or 10-minute walk as a reasonable distance to access a park.¹⁴ When the 10-minute walk standard is applied to Whittier (Figure RM-1), the northwestern neighborhoods demonstrate tremendous access to local parks: nearly two-thirds of Whittier’s parks are in the northwest. Specifically, residents living in neighborhoods stretching from Michigan Park to Orange Grove live within one-half mile walking distance to a park. However, southeastern neighborhoods such as Friendly Hills, Sun Gold, and Whittwood do not enjoy easy walking distances to parks.
- With limited space to create new parks and open space, Whittier’s attention will turn toward developing non-traditional parks. In addition, additional sports facilities—baseball/softball, football, and soccer fields and an aquatic center in the eastern and southern areas—are needed. The 2016 Los Angeles Countywide Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment identified four priority projects, of which three are construction of additional sport facilities

¹² <https://www.nrpa.org/siteassets/nrpa-agency-performance-review.pdf>

¹³ https://lacountyparkneeds.org/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_187.pdf

¹⁴ <https://www.tpl.org/our-initiatives#parks>

such as multi-use sport fields, pools, and soccer complexes.

- Whittier has a unique recreation facility: the 4.5-mile Whittier Greenway Trail. The Greenway Trail shines as an example of repurposing a vacant or underused use for recreation purposes. The Greenway Trail involved the repurposing of an abandoned railroad right-of-way for off-street walking, biking, and exercising with equipment at select stops. The trail begins on the City's western boundary near the San Gabriel River Trail and terminates at Mills Avenue. Neighborhoods within a 10-minute walk include Orange Grove, Palm Park, Uptown, Quad, Anaconda Park, and portions of South Whittier, North West Whittier, Rideout Heights, and Historic Whittier. The Greenway Trail will be extended an additional 2.8 miles to the Orange County boundary. When extended, the Greenway Trail will provide recreational facility access to the South Whittier and Whittwood neighborhoods.

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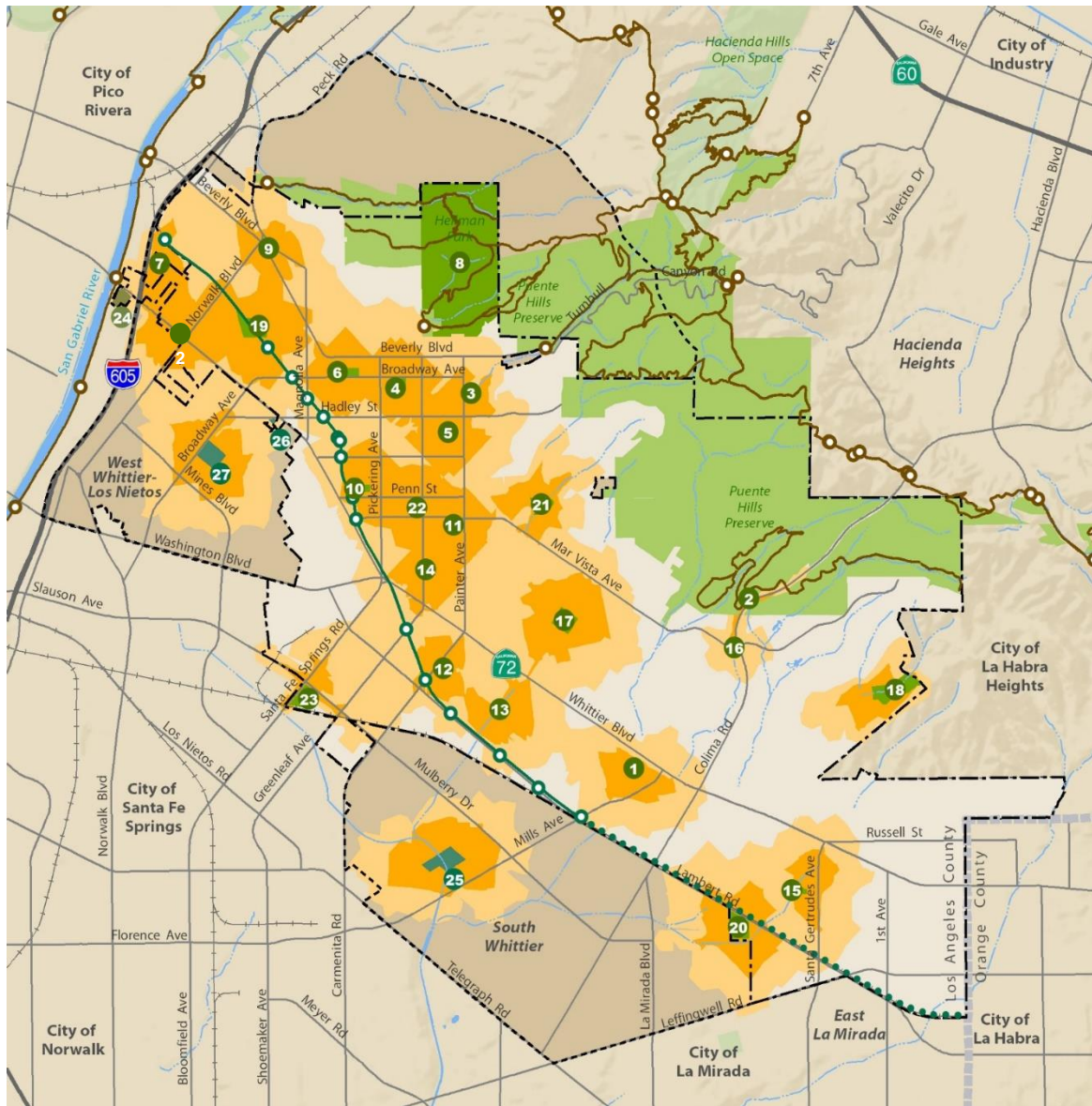


Figure RM-2:
Recreation Facilities and Access

- Parks and Recreation Facilities**
- Whittier Parks
 - Los Angeles County Parks
 - Pio Pico State Historic Park
- Park Service Areas to Neighborhoods**
- Within 1/4-Mile Walking Distance
 - Within 1/2-Mile Walking Distance
- Open Space**
- Puente Hills Habitat Authority
 - Open Space/Natural Areas
- Trails**
- Greenway Trail
 - Greenway Trail Extension
 - Greenway Trail Access Points
 - Other Trails
 - Other Trail Access Points/Trailheads
- Base Map Features**
- Whittier City Boundary
 - Whittier Sphere of Influence
 - County Boundary
 - Major Streets
 - Freeways
 - Railroads
 - River and Creeks
 - Waterbodies

Source: City of Whittier and Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department, 2017.

Prepared by MIG, July 2017.

The City-owned parcel located near Whittier Narrows is excluded from this map to increase the maps readability.

Table RM-2: Parks and Recreation Facilities

Map ID	Park Name	Recreational Amenities		Park Type	Managed or Owned	Acres
1	Anaconda Park 14575 Anaconda Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Play Equipment ▪ Restrooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basketball Half Courts ▪ Fitness Stations & Jogging Trail 	Neighborhood Park	City of Whittier	2.71
2	Arroyo Pescadero Trailhead 7531 Colima Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trailhead ▪ Wilderness Trails 		Natural Park	City of Whittier	0.52
3	Bailey Ranch House 13421 Camilla Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Museum/Historic Depot 		Specialty	City of Whittier	0.38
4	Broadway Park 12816 Broadway Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lighted Tennis Courts ▪ Play Equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restrooms ▪ Horseshoe pit 	Neighborhood Park	City of Whittier	1.95
5	Central Park 6532 Friends Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Play Equipment ▪ Restrooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gazebo ▪ Fishpond 	Neighborhood Park	City of Whittier	1.70
6	Founders Memorial Park 6031 Citrus Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Passive Turf Areas 		Neighborhood Park	City of Whittier	5.93
7	Guirado Park 5760 Pioneer Boulevard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Small Banquet Facility ▪ Play Equipment ▪ Restrooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Handball Courts ▪ Basketball Half Court ▪ Softball Field 	Neighborhood Park	City of Whittier	4.74

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Table RM-2: Parks and Recreation Facilities

Map ID	Park Name	Recreational Amenities		Park Type	Managed or Owned	Acres
8	Hellman Park 5700 Greenleaf Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trailhead Wilderness Trails 		Open Space	City of Whittier	279.00
9	Hoover Fountain 10839 Beverly Boulevard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fountain 		Mini Park	City of Whittier	0.62
10	J. G. Whittier Park 7227 Whittier Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play Equipment Restrooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spray Pool Softball Field 	Neighborhood Park	City of Whittier	1.87
11	Joe Miller Field 7630 Washington Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skate Park Softball Diamond 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restrooms 	Specialty	City of Whittier	2.03
12	Kennedy Park 8530 Painter Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play Equipment Outdoor Classroom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restrooms 	Neighborhood Park	City of Whittier	1.54
13	Laurel Park 8825 Jacmar Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restroom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play Equipment 	Neighborhood Park	City of Whittier	0.84
15	Leffingwell Park 15740 Starbuck Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play Equipment Lighted Tennis Courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restrooms 	Neighborhood Park	City of Whittier	2.18
16	Mar Vista Fountain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fountain 		Mini Park	City of Whittier	0.44

Table RM-2: Parks and Recreation Facilities

Map ID	Park Name	Recreational Amenities		Park Type	Managed or Owned	Acres
	Mar Vista Street/Colima Road					
17	Michigan Park 8228 Michigan Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Play Equipment ▪ Softball Field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fitness Stations ▪ Restrooms 	Community Park	City of Whittier	10.00
18	Murphy Ranch Park 16200 Las Cumbres Drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wilderness Trails 		Natural Park	City of Whittier	48.00
19	Palm Park 5703 Palm Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Banquet Room and Pool ▪ Play Equipment ▪ Softball Field ▪ Basketball Court ▪ Lighted Tennis Courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fitness Stations ▪ Restrooms ▪ Horseshoe Pit ▪ Tennis Center ▪ Swimming Pool 	Community Park	City of Whittier	12.66
20	Parnell Park 10711 Scott Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Banquet Rooms ▪ Play Equipment ▪ Basketball Court ▪ Softball Field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restrooms ▪ Senior and Community Building ▪ Zoo 	Community Park	City of Whittier	11.59
21	Penn Park 13950 Penn St	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Play Equipment ▪ Restrooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Waterfall, Streams and Pond 	Community Park	City of Whittier	8.00

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Table RM-2: Parks and Recreation Facilities

Map ID	Park Name	Recreational Amenities		Park Type	Managed or Owned	Acres
22	Whittier Depot Park 7333 Greenleaf Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banquet Room Meeting Room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restrooms 	Specialty	City of Whittier	1.34
23	York Field 9110 Santa Fe Springs Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseball and Softball Fields Play Equipment (covered) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restrooms 	Specialty	City of Whittier	9.17
24	Pio Pico State Historic Park 6003 Pioneer Boulevard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Museum 		Specialty	State of California	5.71
25	Adventure Park 10130 Gunn Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children’s Play Area Gymnasium Sports Fields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tennis Courts Walking Path Community Buildings 	Community Park	County of Los Angeles	14.60
26	McNees Park 11590 Hadley Boulevard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passive Turf Area 		Mini Park	County of Los Angeles	0.61
27	Sorensen Park 11419 Rose Hedge Drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library Sports Fields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basketball Courts Children’s Play Area 	Community Park	County of Los Angeles	11.44
28	Dorland Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passive Grass Area 		Mini Park	City of Whittier	1.16

Table RM-2: Parks and Recreation Facilities

Map ID	Park Name	Recreational Amenities	Park Type	Managed or Owned	Acres
	10713 Whittier Boulevard				

Original Source: City of Whittier, Community Services Department, 2017.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ELEMENT

- The Puente Hills Preserve’s Schabarum Trail connects numerous other hiking trails within the Preserve. This extensive trail network is accessed from multiple trailheads in the City. A 2016 parks usage field survey, summarized in Table RM-3, reveals that Whittier residents and people from nearby communities frequently use the trails’ access points. However, being located close to trails poses its own set of difficulties. Local residents have expressed concern with the lack of public parking for trail users, thus forcing visitors to park on nearby residential streets, resulting in noise and litter.

Table RM-3: Recreational Trail Use in Whittier

Trailhead	Number of Visitors ¹
Hacienda Hills	1,239
Hellman Park	3,262
Powder Canyon	912
Sycamore Canyon	330
Turnbull Canyon	1,425

- In addition to traditional parks and recreation facilities, Whittier operates four community centers: the Whittier Community Center, Parnell Park Community and Senior Center, Palm Park Community Center, and Uptown Senior Center, shown in Table RM-4. These facilities, together with two libraries, provide space for social, recreational, and educational programming.
- The City recognizes opportunities to partner with other agencies to provide additional outdoor recreational space and indoor facilities. Whittier has joint-use agreements with three local school districts: the East Whittier City, Whittier City, and Whittier Union High School districts.¹⁵
- Like most Southern California jurisdictions, Whittier has a diverse, multicultural, and multi-generational population with a broad spectrum of recreational interests and enrichment needs. Recreational programs and enrichment opportunities should be developed or expanded to serve people of all incomes, cultural backgrounds, ages, and levels of physical capability.

¹⁵ City of Whittier, Community Services Department, 2017.

Table RM-4: Recreation Buildings and Major Facilities

Park Name	Park Type	Management	
Whittier Community Center	7630 Washington Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fitness classes, ▪ Open sports play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Room rental
Whittier Center Theatre	7630 S. Washington Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Theatre classes / productions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Theatre rental
Whittier Depot	7333 Greenleaf Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Room rental 	
Palm Park Aquatic Center	5703 Palm Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aquatic Center ▪ Swim classes and recreation swim 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diving classes ▪ Pool rental
Parnell Park Community and Senior Center	15390 Lambert Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Health screenings ▪ Fitness classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Senior classes, events, and support services ▪ Room rental
Uptown Senior Center	13225 Walnut Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Health screenings ▪ Fitness classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Senior classes, events, and support services ▪ Room rental
Whittwood Branch Library	10537 Santa Gertrudes Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Room rental 	
Whittier Public Library	7344 Washington Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Room rental 	
Guirado Park	5760 Pioneer Boulevard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Room rental 	

Source: City of Whittier, Community Services Department, 2017.

urban forestry

- Whittier has an extensive urban forest, with mature trees of diverse species providing beauty and shading within City parks and along major street corridors. The Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department takes great care to maintain tree health consistent with standards established by the International Society of Arboriculture, the National Arborist Association, and the American National Standards Institute. Whittier is proud of its status as a Tree City, USA. Local ordinances protect parkway trees, and the Parkway Tree Manual sets forth regulations for protecting existing trees and planting new ones. Trees represent an important local resource and significantly contribute to the City’s visual character.

goals and policies

natural resources and conservation



Goal 1: Preserve and protect natural open spaces that contain significant natural resources, including sensitive biological resources, native habitats, and vegetation communities supporting wildlife species

- RM-1.1: Preserve open space areas with a diversity of habitats and plants native to Whittier while balancing the community’s recreational, scientific, economic, educational, and scenic needs.
- RM-1.2: Promote native habitat preservation within the Puente Hills Preserve, including efforts to restore native vegetation damaged due to overuse or wildfire.
- RM-1.3: Control invasive and non-native vegetation in natural open space areas.
- RM-1.4: Encourage preservation of continuous open space that promotes movement of wildlife, such that wildlife corridors are maintained and/or reestablished.
- RM-1.5: Team with landowners and wildlife agencies to promote sustainable land use and reduce impacts to the environment and wildlife habitats.
- RM-1.6: Collaborate with wildlife and conservation agencies to identify areas to target for conservation and preservation of native habitats, while allowing open space to be accessed for recreation, resource management, and public safety purposes.



Native and drought tolerant plant landscaping along Whittier Greenway Trail

- RM-1.7: Continue collaborations with Los Angeles County and natural resource agencies for evaluating proposed developments in areas adjacent to and within sensitive habitats of Whittier, including the Puente Hills, with an aim to reduce impacts to ecosystem services and wildlife habitat.



Goal 2: Protect soil and water resources from poor management practices and pollution

- RM-2.1: Encourage soil conservation practices that retain native vegetation, maximize water filtration, and provide slope stabilization in the Puente Hills.
- RM-2.2: Enhance the urban forest along street corridors, in parks, and on City-owned properties to provide soil stabilization and erosion reduction as well as reduce flood hazards.
- RM-2.3: Minimize the impact of human activity on the quality and availability of the water supply.
- RM-2.4: Work with federal and State agencies to expedite the clean-up of local groundwater basins.
- RM-2.5: Require the use of innovative stormwater best management practices in all new development, including water quality monitoring during construction projects in the vicinity of sensitive water resources.
- RM-2.6: Encourage the use of site and landscape designs that minimize surface runoff and retain or detain stormwater runoff, minimizing volume and pollutant concentrations.
- RM-2.7: Reduce impermeable surface coverage citywide by replacement with natural vegetation and soils to reduce runoff and flood hazards.
- RM-2.8: Access reliable data and information on water use (based on customer usage reports) and supply to evaluate water supply impacts and the needs of proposed development projects to promote effective decision-making.
- RM-2.9: Encourage, facilitate, and/or require the use of water-conserving appliances and fixtures in new developments.
- RM-2.10: Encourage the use of native and climate-appropriate and drought tolerant landscaping to reduce overall and per capita water demand.
- RM-2.11: Reduce water consumption on a per capita basis.

air quality, greenhouse gases, and associated health effects

Goal 3: Energy efficiency and conservation measures that reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ELEMENT



- RM-3.1: Reduce emissions generated by motorized vehicles.
- RM-3.2: Reduce energy use in municipal and construction operations.
- RM-3.3: Support the use of energy-efficient design and renewable energy technologies in public and private spaces and development projects.



- RM-3.4: Prioritize compact and equitable development that supports walking and biking to nearby destinations.
- RM-3.5: Increase public awareness about climate change and encourage residents and businesses to become involved in improvement projects and lifestyle changes that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Goal 4: Increased vegetation and open space on both public and private property to improve air quality, reduce stormwater runoff, and mitigate urban heat island effects.



- RM-4.1: Select or identify appropriate trees for Whittier, focusing on native tree types and established tree types along corridors such as Beverly Boulevard.
- RM-4.2: Increase the City's tree canopy through the planting of additional trees, selecting tree types with wide leaf layers rather, and modifying tree maintenance to allow a fuller, leafier appearance.
- RM-4.3: Promote and encourage community involvement in urban ecology projects that preserve or expand neighborhood green space, create space for communities to gather, and connect people to nature, including a scenic corridor plan.
- RM-4.4: Mitigate urban heat island effect by incentivizing "green" technologies as part of the community benefits program (i.e., cool pavements, green roofs, solar, and reflective roofs).

Goal 5: Urban environments that guard against adverse air quality impacts on sensitive receptors



- RM-5.1: Comply with SCAQMD regulations and minimize adverse health impacts between facilities known to emit harmful contaminants, such as industrial uses and high traffic areas, and sensitive receptors such as schools, childcare facilities, and senior centers.
- RM-5.2: Pursue projects that improve public health and leverage funding available to Disadvantaged Communities.

Goal 6: A commitment to sustainability through progressive use of green building policies, practices, and technologies



- RM-6.1: Support energy efficiency through the Municipal Code and implementation of CALGreen standards.

- RM-6.2: Incentivize energy-efficient retrofit improvements, including energy and water conservation, in existing buildings.

Goal 7: Increased commitment to renewable energy sources



- RM-7.1: Support the efforts of energy suppliers to expand use of and access to non-fossil fuel-based energy sources such as geothermal, wind, and solar (i.e., an energy supplier that obtains geothermal energy for northern California locations and wind energy throughout the State).
- RM-7.2: Support efforts to develop small-scale, distributed energy (e.g., solar power, wind, cogeneration, and biomass) to reduce the amount of electricity drawn from the regional power grid, while providing Whittier with a greater degree of energy self-sufficiency.

oil and gas

Goal 8: Managed oil and gas production that balances contributions to City revenue and environmental protection goals

- RM-8.1: Maintain oil production and mineral extraction as a viable option and revenue source.
- RM-8.2: Plan for and approach energy production with a wider lens, encouraging collaboration between a spectrum of energy industries to address energy needs and production.
- RM-8.3: Encourage diversification of Whittier’s energy economy to conserve fossil fuels and improve air quality.
- RM-8.4: Avoid, to the extent feasible, environmental impacts of oil production-related activity on threatened and endangered species, habitats, and natural resources.
- RM-8.5: Insist upon the safe disposal and recycling of wastes associated with oil drilling, production, and processing, minimizing adverse impacts on the environment and public health.
- RM-8.6: Minimize conflicts between mineral and energy resource lands and urban growth, particularly residential areas and sensitive communities.
- RM-8.7: Promote and encourage the reuse of former petroleum production lands with development compatible to surrounding land use designations.

parks and open space

Goal 9: Create a superior system of parks, recreation facilities, amenities, green spaces, and open spaces accessible to all Whittier residents

- RM-9.1: Provide a system of park, recreation facilities, and green spaces that allows any resident to access those facilities via an easy 10-minute walk or bike ride.
- RM-9.2: Provide pedestrian, bicycle, and transit connections to new and existing parks and recreation facilities to enhance use and access.
- RM-9.3: Use creative or nontraditional methods to create additional park, recreation, and green spaces.
- RM-9.4: Promote preservation of open spaces providing native habitats that support wildlife diversity.
- RM-9.5: Collaborate with the County of Los Angeles, Southern California Association of Governments, Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority, neighboring cities and communities, and wildlife agencies to improve open space planning and implementation of the resource management policies and promote wildlife conservation within the City and its Sphere of Influence.
- RM-9.6: Partner with wildlife and conservation agencies, including the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority, to identify funding sources and areas within the Puente Hills for: (1) preservation of open space to support wildlife in perpetuity, (2) innovative conservation projects that allow for preservation of open space balanced with recreational land uses, and (3) promoting sustainable design and land development.
- RM-9.7: Dedicate as much of the planning area as feasible between Workman Mill Road and La Habra Heights within the Puente Hills to preservation as permanent open space.



*Arroyo San Miguel Trails
Courtesy of Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority*

Goal 10: Provide residents of all ages, cultures, and incomes with a range of recreation opportunities to meet multigenerational, environmental, and recreation interests

- RM-10.1: Improve existing and build new park spaces and recreation facilities responding to the community's changing demographics and needs.

- RM-10.2: Enhance park aesthetics, lighting, and design to provide safe and environmentally responsible park and recreation spaces.
- RM-10.3: Provide distinctive parks and recreation facilities that support places for social interaction, neighborhood/community identity, beauty, and livability through unique cultural, historic, and environmental features such as artwork, historic buildings, heritage trees, etc.
- RM-10.4: Acquire properties for open space that will provide values that support scientific, educational, scenic, and cultural values while also maintaining wildlife habitat and ecosystem services.
- RM-10.5: Support the efforts of Los Angeles County entities to procure unincorporated lands adjacent to Hellman Park for open space expansion of the park and for preservation purposes in partnership with the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority.

urban forestry

Goal 11: An urban forestry program that provides for shaded green spaces citywide, preserves long-established character of Whittier’s boulevards, and provides incentives for tree planting and preservation on private properties



- RM-11.1: Strengthen the City’s tree policies and ordinances.
- RM-11.2: Maintain a street tree and planting plan that includes strategies for long-term planned replacement of specimen trees due to age or disease.
- RM-11.3: Use urban forestry strategies to manage heat island impacts.
- RM-11.4: Communicate to the public the advantages of having a comprehensive urban forestry plan and a scenic corridor plan.
- RM-11.5: Continue to implement a regular street tree maintenance program.
- RM-11.6: Require tree planting for all new development projects with trees that are climate appropriate, add quality and character to a site, and forward the City’s climate adaption goals.
- RM-11.7: Aim to protect mature trees and our urban forest. Develop an urban forest management program.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ELEMENT

tribal resources

Goal 12: Preservation and respect for tribal cultural resources

- RM-12.1: Coordinate with local tribes in local land use decisions consistent with State law.