
INTRODUCTION

Monterey Park residents value the many resources that distinguish the community: a diverse and well-maintained park system, the historic Cascades Park and Jardin del Encanto complex, and an Arts and Cultural Commission that promotes community awareness and participation in the arts. The Resources Element focuses on the conservation and enhancement of these resources, and addresses regional water and air quality resource issues that affect planning decisions.

Scope and Content of the Resources Element

State General Plan law requires every community to address the preservation of open space and the conservation of natural resources. Section 65302 of the Government Code calls for preparation of both a Conservation and Open Space Element which, because they address overlapping issues, are often combined. Because Monterey Park is a built-out urban community, the City offers few “natural” resources such as forests or wildlife habitat or agricultural land. This Resources Element, therefore, directs policy toward preserving those resources important in the urban environment of Monterey Park and critical to preserving this City’s heritage for future generations. These resources are:

- ☞ City parks and other improved open space areas,
- ☞ Historic resources,
- ☞ Water resources, and
- ☞ Air quality.



IMPORTANT TERMS AND CONCEPTS

These definitions highlight key resource-related terms and concepts.

Open Space

Open space is defined as any parcel or area of land or water essentially unimproved and set aside, designated, dedicated, or reserved for public or private use or enjoyment.

California Register of Historical Resources

The California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) is an authoritative listing and guide to be used by state and local agencies, private groups, and citizens in identifying the existing historical resources of the state. By definition, the California Register includes all “properties formally determined eligible for, or listed in, the National Register of Historic Places,” and certain specified State Historical Landmarks. The California Register also includes resources that are listed following procedures and criteria adopted by the State Historical Resources Commission, as well as resources that are nominated by an application and listed after a public hearing process. The minimum age criterion for the California Register is 50 years. Properties less than 50 years old may be eligible for listing on the California Register “if it can be demonstrated that sufficient time has passed to understand its historical importance” (California Code of Regulations, Sections 4850.1 through 4852).

Air Quality Terms

The South Coast Air Quality Management District, or SCAQMD, is the regional agency responsible for implementing state and federal laws that mandate the improvement of air quality in the South Coast Air Basin. The South Coast Air Basin is a 6,600-square-mile area bounded by the Pacific Ocean on the west and south, and the San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and San Jacinto mountains on the north and east. The Basin includes all of Orange County and non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties.

The topography and climate of Southern California combine to make the Basin an area of high air pollution potential. During the summer months, a warm air mass frequently descends over the cool, moist marine layer produced by the interaction between the ocean’s surface and the lowest layer of the atmosphere. The warm upper layer forms a cup over the cool marine layer, which prevents pollution from dispersing upward. This inversion allows pollutants to accumulate within the lower layer. Light winds during the summer further limit ventilation.

Because of the low average wind speeds in the summer and a persistent daytime temperature inversion, emissions of hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen have an opportunity to combine with sunlight in a complex series of reactions. These reactions produce a photochemical oxidant, more commonly known as smog. Because the Los Angeles region experiences more days of sunlight than any other major urban area in the United States except Phoenix, the smog potential in the region is higher than in most other major metropolitan areas in the country.



RELATED PLANS AND PROGRAMS

Several state and federal plans and programs pertain to the park land, historic resources, and air and water quality issues addressed in this Element. Such plans are administered by agencies or special districts that have been delegated the power to enforce the legislation.

The primary federal law concerned with environmental protection is the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Follow-up legislation includes the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act.

Quimby Act

Section 66477 of the Government Code provides local jurisdictions with the authority to acquire park lands in association with new land divisions. Commonly referred to as the Quimby Act, this provision of state law allows a city, by ordinance, to require the dedication of land, payment of an in-lieu fee, or a combination of both, for park and recreational purposes as a condition on approving a subdivision map. Monterey Park has adopted such an ordinance to require the payment of fees and allow for improvement of its parks.

Los Angeles County Proposition A

In 1992, Los Angeles County voters approved Proposition A, a bond measure which established funds for improving the safety of recreation areas, and for facilitating acquisition, restoration, and preservation of open space resources county-wide. Proposition A identifies specific projects to be pursued and also provides for a competitive grant program whereby public agencies and non-profit organizations can compete for funds for parks and recreation facilities and programs.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

The State legislature adopted CEQA in 1970 to ensure that environmental protection received due consideration in the planning and development process. CEQA requires a thorough analysis of potential environmental consequences which could result from a development project or plan that guides future development. CEQA provides a means by which City officials and the public can identify the potential impacts a project will have on a community, and to allow for mitigation or avoidance of such impacts.

Air Quality Management Plan

The federal Clean Air Act requires preparation of plans to improve air quality in any region designated as a non-attainment area. (A nonattainment area is a geographic area identified by the Environmental Protection Agency and/or

California Air Resources Board as not meeting state or federal standards for a given pollutant). The plan must outline specific programs and strategies — and timelines — for bringing the area into compliance with national and/or state air quality standards. The *Air Quality Management Plan* prepared by the South Coast Air Quality Management District, first adopted in 1994 and updated on a three-year cycle, contains policies and measures designed to achieve federal and state standards for healthier air quality in the South Coast Air Basin. Many of the programs address circulation improvements, since fossil-fuel-powered vehicles account for more than 60 percent of the NOx emissions and 70 percent of the carbon monoxide emissions within the basin.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

As part of a multi-pronged effort to improve the quality of water resources nationwide, the federal government authorizes the State Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region to set up programs to implement National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) goals. Under the NPDES Stormwater Permit issued to the County of Los Angeles and Monterey Park, as co-permittees, most new development projects in the City are required to incorporate measures to minimize pollutant levels in storm water runoff. Compliance is required at the time construction permits area issued, as well as over the long term through periodic inspections.

Historical-Heritage Commission

The City recognizes historic resources as an important part of the community. The Monterey Park Municipal Code established a Historical-Heritage Commission in January 1984 with the responsibility of increasing public awareness of Monterey Park's history, maintaining a written history of the City, and acting in an advisory capacity to the City Council on all matters pertaining to the City's history and heritage. Members of the Commission are appointed by the Mayor, confirmed by the City Council, and carry out a three-year term.

Arts and Cultural Commission

Established in 1972, the City's Arts and Cultural Commission's purpose is to promote arts and cultural activities in Monterey Park.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Monterey Park prides itself in offering residents attractive, well-maintained public parks at locations central to the residential neighborhoods. Virtually every home in the community lies within one-half mile of a City park. The three largest parks – Barnes Park, Garvey Ranch Park, and Elder Park – provide many varied activity centers and areas for active and passive recreation. City residents also have opportunities to use public school facilities for recreation, as the City maintains joint-use agreements for use of elementary school grounds. In addition, the municipally owned Monterey Park Golf Course adjacent to the Long Beach freeway provides welcome open space in the urban environment and the opportunity for people of all ages to learn to golf.

As described in the Land Use Element, infill residential development and new homes within areas designated for mixed use will, over time, result in an incremental increase in the City's population. In the year 2000, the City had approximately 1.77 park acres per 1,000 residents (not including joint use of school grounds or the golf course). From a baseline population of 61,000 residents in the year 2000, the population has the potential to grow to 72,000. New residents will intensify use of existing parks and create increased demands on recreation programs. However, given that Monterey Park contains very few vacant parcels, expansion of current parks or the creation of new parks will be a challenge. The City's primary goal is to optimize use of established parks. As a secondary goal, the City will look for smaller open space and public areas to be provided in appropriate locations serving new development.

Optimizing Use of Established Parks



Figure R-1 identifies long-established City parks and other public open space areas. Public open space includes the Monterey Park Golf Course and the pedestrian/bicycle trail along the power line easement connecting Edison Trails Park to La Loma Park and Potrero Grande Drive. As described above, each park serves a residential neighborhood within a one-half mile radius. Barnes Park, Garvey Ranch Park, and Elder Park, because they provide diverse facilities within large park areas, notably pools and community centers and the Barnes Park amphitheater, also function as community parks.

As the community demographic changes over time, use of parks and park facilities can be expected to change. For example, a proportional increase in the number of young families might intensify use of park playgrounds and athletic fields.

Figure R-1 – Monterey Park Open Space Assets

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Goals and Policies

Goal 1.0

Optimize use of established public parks, and provide park facilities that meet the needs of the City's population.

- Policy 1.1** On a regular basis, assess usage of park facilities, and identify physical changes needed to accommodate anticipated use patterns.
- Policy 1.2** Preserve existing park space.
- Policy 1.3** Continue to work cooperatively with the school districts to maintain and expand playground use through joint-use agreements.
- Policy 1.4** Work with East Los Angeles Community College to make the College's recreation facilities available to Monterey Park residents.

Opportunities for Additional Public Open Space and Recreation Facilities

New residential development activity will occur largely within the northeast neighborhoods of Monterey Park, along the mixed-use Garvey Corridor and on lots supporting densities substantially below maximum permitted densities. Thus, efforts to provide additional public open space and recreation facilities need to be focused to serve this new development. Given that established parks are surrounded by developed properties and vacant lots are scarce, public recreation facilities will take the form of small "pocket" parks, public plazas, and multi-use community buildings.

The City will seek sites suitable for small parks (less than one-half acre in size). Such parks could be built in conjunction with private development projects along Garvey Avenue or on existing lots within residential neighborhoods. Also, when community recreation needs assessments identify the demand for a teen center, satellite facilities to serve senior residents, or an additional multi-purpose community building, such a facility could occupy either a new or existing building.

Commercial development projects present another opportunity for providing public open space. Landscaped plazas and similar gathering places can be used by people of all ages. Within areas designated for mixed used development, the City can require new developments to incorporate plazas and/or partner with private developers to provide public spaces.



Goals and Policies

Goal 2.0

Create additional passive recreation opportunities in the City to further enhance the quality of life in all areas of the community.

Policy 2.1 Encourage future commercial development to incorporate public squares, plazas, or similar spaces.

Policy 2.2 Incorporate pocket parks, parkways, and similar recreation spaces into residential neighborhoods.

Policy 2.3 Incorporate into the development review process a means for new development to contribute to existing recreational facilities and/or to address maintenance and staffing needs.

Policy 2.4 Provide for the expansion of the City Library and other community services as needed to benefit all Monterey Park residents.



HISTORIC RESOURCES

Residents of Monterey Park show a keen interest in the buildings, parks, and other places that create a sense of community history. This civic pride is reflected in a collection of cultural resources, including a listed historic resource and a historical museum, and organizations dedicated to the preservation of Monterey Park's historic and cultural resources. Three organizations in Monterey Park are dedicated to history, art, and culture of the City: the Historic Society, Historical Heritage Commission, and Arts and Cultural Commission.

The Cascades Park and Jardin del Encanto complex is listed on the on the California Register of Historic Resources. The State Historical Resources Commission describes the prominent feature of this complex as a water fountain that falls 70 feet in graceful steps and pools down the slope above Atlantic Boulevard. The Monterey Park Historical Museum, which is operated by the Historical Society, features 21 scaled models of the California missions and local artifacts.

The City recognizes cultural resources as an important part of the community. The following goal and policies support the preservation of cultural resources for future generations.



Goals and Policies

Goal 3.0

Preserve the historical resources of Monterey Park.

Policy 3.1

Continue to support the efforts of the Historical Society, Historical Heritage Commission, and the Arts and Cultural Commission.

Policy 3.2

Raise public awareness about Monterey Park's history and cultural resources.

WATER RESOURCES

Throughout the state, water has become one of the most important planning issues for cities, especially in the desert climate of Southern California. Three water resource issues critical to long-range planning are: water supply, water quality, and water conservation.

Water Supply

The City owns and operates the water system which serves most of the City's population (approximately 60,000 customers). The Water Utility Division is responsible for the production and distribution of the water supply and maintenance of the overall water system facilities. The system is comprised of approximately 135 miles of pipeline, booster pump stations, a telemetry system, treated water reservoirs, and operating wells. The wells tap into the Main San Gabriel Basin. For emergencies, the City has the capability to obtain water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), although the City is not a MWD member agency. In addition, the City has two emergency interconnections with California Water Services Company (CWSC).

According to projections contained in the City's *Water Master Plan*, demand for domestic water is projected to increase to 12,400 acre-feet per year by 2015. This demand results from incremental growth consistent with land use policy. Additional well pumping capacity is needed to meet the anticipated water demands over the next twenty years. The most dependable manner to develop a new source of supply is to install VOC treatment facilities. Another potential source of supply is to drill new wells.

Water Quality – Drinking Water

Both the state and federal governments regulate the safety of drinking water. Generally, the quality of water from the local groundwater basin has met or surpassed the primary standards set by the state and federal governments. However, certain wells have been impacted by volatile organic chemicals (VOCs). VOCs are a growing concern to all water providers who use the Main San Gabriel Valley Basin. Some contamination plumes have been partially mapped, but their movement and extent are unknown. To ensure a viable supply of safe water for local consumers, the City will need to continue to address known sources of contamination.

Water Quality – Pollution Control in Runoff

Surface runoff in urban areas contains pollutants and sediments that accumulate in yards and on paved areas. Pollutants in urban runoff include landscape pesticides and fertilizers, engine oil, detergents, and household chemicals. Urban pollutants

degrade water quality and impact downstream wildlife and plants dependent on aquatic habitat. The City is a co-permittee with the County of Los Angeles in the National Pollution System Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program, which is designed to reduce pollutant loads in urban runoff.

According to the NPDES permit, all new development projects and substantial rehabilitation projects are required to incorporate Best Management Practices (BMPs). Proposed development projects (public and private) within Monterey Park must incorporate BMPs to preclude significant water quality impacts from non-point source pollutants, per Chapter 6.30 of the Monterey Park Municipal Code.

Water Conservation



Water conservation practices are important to ensure a sufficient water supply into the future. The City's Water Utility Division provides water conservation tips for households, includes methods for detecting leaks in pipes and encouraging use of landscaping that utilizes low-water-demand plants. The Water Utility Division has established a program to give low-flow toilets to single-family homes within Monterey Park.

Goals and Policies

Goal 4.0

Conserve and protect groundwater supply and water resources.

- Policy 4.1** Encourage water conservation through education, use of drought-tolerant landscapes, and water-conserving technology.
- Policy 4.2** Promote the use of drought-tolerant trees and native plant material in landscapes, especially in City-owned landscapes.
- Policy 4.3** Encourage use and production of reclaimed water.
- Policy 4.4** Install treatment facilities as necessary to ensure attainment of water quality standards.
- Policy 4.5** Work with state and federal agencies to identify the source and causes of contamination plumes with the groundwater basin, and to ensure clean up consistent with state and federal laws.
- Policy 4.6** Continue enforcement of National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit to protect groundwater resources from further contamination.
- Policy 4.7** Encourage and support the proper disposal of hazardous waste and waste oil. Monitor dry cleaners, film processors, auto service establishments, and other businesses generating hazardous waste materials to ensure compliance with approved disposal procedures.

AIR QUALITY



Monterey Park is located within the South Coast Air Basin, a geographic region which extends from the Pacific Ocean east to the San Jacinto Mountains, and from the San Gabriel Mountains south through Orange County. The Basin, due to its physical configuration and climatological influences, combined with daily pollutant emissions measured in the tons, experiences some of the worst air quality conditions in the nation. The Basin is a “non attainment” area for ambient air quality standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, and fine particulate matter. Although continued reduction in pollutant concentrations are expected, the Basin is not expected to meet air quality standards, particularly for ozone, in the foreseeable future. Table R-1 provides a description of key air pollutants of concern in the basin.

In Monterey Park, air quality problems result from emissions from both local and regional sources. The primary air pollution source is vehicle emissions from cars and trucks using City streets and the surrounding freeways. Responsibility for the control and oversight of emissions lies with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and the California Air Resources Board. The SCAQMD monitors air quality throughout the Basin at various monitoring stations.

The City has no direct ability to manage programs for emissions control. However, air quality problems affect the health of City residents. Measures that can help reduce the generation of air pollutants in the City include:

- Continue/expand the operation of the City-owned Spirit Bus Line, including the addition of a Downtown loop route to promote “park once and shop”.
- Mixed-use land use designations that will encourage a pedestrian environment.
- Encourage the use of alternative fuels in all city fleet vehicles.
- Improving traffic flow through and within the City.

**Table R-1
Air Pollution Standards, Sources, and Effects**

Air Pollutant	Sources	Primary Effects
Ozone (O ₃)	Atmospheric reaction of organic gases with nitrogen oxides in sunlight	Aggravation of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, irritation of eyes, impairment of cardiopulmonary function, plant leaf injury
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	Incomplete combustion of fuels and other carbon-containing substances such as motor vehicle exhaust, natural events, such as decomposition of organic matter	Reduced tolerance for exercise, impairment of mental function, impairment of fetal development, death at high levels of exposure, aggravation of some heart diseases (angina)
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	Motor vehicle exhaust, high-temperature stationary combustion, atmospheric reactions	Aggravation of respiratory illness, reduced visibility, reduced plant growth, formation of acid rain
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂)	Combustion of sulfur-containing fossil fuels, smelting of sulfur-bearing metal ores, industrial processes	Aggravation of respiratory diseases (asthma, emphysema), reduced lung function, irritation of eyes, reduced visibility, plant injury, deterioration of metals, textiles, leather, finishes, coatings, etc.
Fine Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	Stationary combustion of solid fuels, construction activities, industrial processes, industrial chemical reactions	Reduced lung function, aggravation of the effects of gaseous pollutants, aggravation of respiratory and cardio-respiratory diseases, increased coughing and chest discomfort, soiling, reduced visibility
Fine Particulate Matter (PM _{2.5})	Stationary combustion of solid fuels, construction activities, industrial processes, industrial chemical reactions, from pollutants in air from pollutants in air	Reduced lung function, aggravation of the effects of gaseous pollutants, aggravation of respiratory and cardio-respiratory diseases, increased coughing and chest discomfort, soiling, reduced visibility
Lead	Contaminated soil	Increased body burden, impairment of blood formation and nerve conduction
Visibility Reducing Particles		Visibility impairment on days when relative humidity is less than 70 percent

Sources: South Coast Air Quality Management District.
CEQA Air Quality Handbook. May, 1993 with November 1993 update.

Energy conservation is another strategy for improving air quality. Pollutants are generated by the combustion of fossil fuels to produce electricity, and by the combustion of natural gas. Reducing energy usage decreases the amount of pollutants generated. Energy requirements can be diminished through innovative architectural design, building construction, structural orientation, and landscaping.

The following goal and policies demonstrate Monterey Park's commitment to assist the SCAQMD with regional efforts to improve air quality over the long term.



Goals and Policies

Goal 5.0

Improve air quality for future generations of Monterey Park residents.

- Policy 5.1*** Continue to improve traffic flow through and within the City.
- Policy 5.2*** Review zoning regulations annually to identify whether revisions are required to accommodate and encourage the use of alternative-fuel vehicles (for example, electric cars).
- Policy 5.3*** Encourage employer rideshare and transit incentives programs by local businesses.
- Policy 5.4*** Enhance pedestrian and bicycle circulation within Monterey Park.
- Policy 5.5*** Support the development of higher density housing in close proximity to commercial service centers.
- Policy 5.6*** Synchronize traffic signals to reduce the number of stops and starts by automobiles.
- Policy 5.7*** Promote energy conservation and recycling by the public and private sectors.
- Policy 5.8*** Integrate air quality planning with land use and transportation planning.