

CHAPTER 3 OPEN SPACE and CONSERVATION



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INTRODUCTION

The Open Space and Conservation Elements include a description of the lands and waterways that are unimproved and are to be devoted to natural and/or recreational uses. These Elements also provide a description of existing and planned recreational lands and facilities. These lands and waterways will be designated in the general plan land use diagram. Within Duarte's General Plan, the Open Space and Conservation Elements are combined into one because the topics discussed within these elements are closely related.

Recreational goals, policies, and programs are not specifically addressed in this document. For purposes of the general plan, recreational programs are viewed as implementation tools to be discussed at a later date.

Conservation Element Statutory Requirements

California law requires that each city's general plan include a Conservation Element. The Conservation Element must address *"...the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources including water and its hydraulic force, forests, soils, rivers and other waters, harbors, fisheries, wildlife, minerals, and other natural resources..."* The conservation element must also *"...consider the effect of development within the jurisdiction, as described in the land use element, on natural resources located on public lands..."*

Recently, State law has been added to require provisions that a portion of the conservation element, including waters, shall be developed in coordination with any countywide water agency and with all district and city agencies that have developed, served, controlled or conserved water for any purpose for the county or city for which the plan is prepared. *"...Coordination shall include the discussion and evaluation of any water supply and demand information described in Section 65352.5, if that information has been submitted by the water agency to the city or county..."*

Open Space Element Statutory Requirements

State law defines open-space land as *"any parcel or area of land or water that is essentially unimproved and devoted to an open-space use, and that is designated on a local, regional or state open-space plan as any of the following:*

(1) Open space for the preservation of natural resources including, but not limited to, areas required for the preservation of plant and animal life, including habitat for fish and wildlife species; areas required for ecologic and

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other scientific study purposes; rivers, streams, bays and estuaries; and coastal beaches, lakeshores, banks of rivers and streams, and watershed lands.

(2) Open space used for the managed production of resources, including but not limited to, forest lands, rangeland, agricultural lands and areas of economic importance for the production of food or fiber; areas required for recharge of groundwater basins; bays, estuaries, marshes, rivers and streams which are important for the management of commercial fisheries; and areas containing major mineral deposits, including those in short supply.

(3) Open space for outdoor recreation, including but not limited to, areas of outstanding scenic, historic and cultural value; areas particularly suited for park and recreation purposes, including access to lakeshores, beaches, and rivers and streams; and areas which serve as links between major recreation and open-space reservations, including utility easements, banks of rivers and streams, trails, and scenic highway corridors.

(4) Open space for public health and safety, including, but not limited to, areas which require special management or regulation because of hazardous or special conditions such as earthquake fault zones, unstable soil areas, flood plains, watersheds, areas presenting high fire risks, areas required for the protection of water quality and water reservoirs and areas required for the protection and enhancement of air quality.”

Relationship to other General Plan Elements and Program EIR

California law requires that all elements of the general plan be consistent. While all of the general plan elements are independent, they are also interrelated, some more so than others. As an example certain goals and policies of one element may also address items that are primary issues of other elements. This integration of issues throughout the general plan creates a strong basis for the implementation of plans, programs and achievement of community goals. The Open Space and Conservation Elements are most directly related to Land Use, Circulation, and Historic Preservation.

A Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be part of the 2005-2020 Duarte General Plan. Policies within the Open Space and Conservation Elements will also become mitigation measures within the Program EIR.

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GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

This section provides draft Goals, Objectives and Policies for the Open Space and Conservation Elements of the Duarte General Plan. Conservation of natural and recreational resources, open space, and air quality goals, objectives and policies are provided.

Conservation Goal 1: To protect the valuable watershed and natural habitat areas within and to the north of the urbanized areas.

Objective 1.1 Preserve Duarte's natural hillsides which provide significant wildlife habitat, open space, aesthetic and a visual backdrop to the community.

Policies

- Con 1.1.1 Continue to support the United States Department of Agriculture and their conservation efforts in the forest lands in Duarte.
- Con 1.1.2 Work with the San Gabriel Mountains Conservancy in its efforts to protect the wilderness area within Duarte.
- Con 1.1.3 To preserve the characteristics of the mountains, river beds, and canyons and to protect the valuable watershed, grading of lots should be kept to a minimum. Streets should be carefully designed to reduce or eliminate the possibility of erosion in the hillside and mountainous areas.
- Con 1.1.4 Promote and encourage multi-agency involvement in identifying opportunities for hillside preservation and protection.
- Con 1.1.5 Form partnerships with Federal, State, County, other agencies, and private entities to help protect and preserve hillside land.
- Con 1.1.6 Continue to investigate open space land opportunities for the preservation of natural resources and sensitive habitat.

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Conservation Goal 2: To protect and maintain the local water supply to ensure that the city's growing demand for water can be met.

Objective 2.1 Assist in the preservation, recharge and clean-up of water as a precious natural resource.

Policies:

- Con 2.1.1 Work to conserve current water supplies and seek new sources of water.
- Con 2.1.2 Maintain groundwater recharge areas to protect water quality and ensure continued recharge of groundwater basins.
- Con 2.1.3 Require the use of native and other drought-resistant plants to reduce the amount of water used for landscaping.
- Con. 2.1.4 Require the installation of water saving irrigation systems for all new development.
- Con 2.1.5 Reduce the amount of impervious surfaces through the use of porous ground cover materials.
- Con 2.1.6 Encourage water conservation in residential, commercial, and industrial development.

Conservation Goal 3: To protect Duarte's environment through proper consideration of the environmental implications of new development in the city.

Objective 3.1 Keep current on environmental legislation to protect Duarte's environment.

Policies:

- Con 3.1.1 Update Duarte's California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) standards as provided by State guidelines.
- Con 3.1.2 Analyze all projects as defined in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for potential impacts on the community and utilize the proper mitigation measures to mitigate any potential adverse impacts on the community.

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- Con 3.1.3 Minimize the aesthetic impacts of signs through the strict enforcement of the Municipal Sign Ordinance.

Conservation Goal 4: To prolong the life and safety of landfills and find an environmentally safe alternative means for the disposal of solid waste.

Objective 4.1 Reduce the solid waste disposal stream through recycling.

Policies:

- Con 4.1.1 Work towards achieving waste-reduction and diversion goals.
- Con 4.1.2 Remove as much as possible from the waste stream, and, preferably, to reuse it and to continue to increase alternative ways to create diversion.
- Con 4.1.3 Promote the city's recycling program as a viable alternative to trash disposal.
- Con 4.1.4 Consider increasing bulk community round-ups from twice a year to more frequent round-ups.

Conservation Goal 5 To restrict future surface streets from cutting up areas of open space.

Objective 5.1 Promote the preservation of open space by discouraging development that is not sensitive to this resource.

Policies:

- Con 5.1.1 Encourage the planned unit development or specific plan approach to land use which will minimize streets and provide more open space or green belts.
- Con 5.1.2 Discourage the extension of urban service into areas which are to remain open as open space. Streets and roadways should avoid large open areas as much as possible.
- Con 5.1.3 Maintain open space areas around noise generators to buffer the noise impacts on noise sensitive uses including

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schools and residential areas.

- Con 5.1.4 To protect the public health, safety, and welfare, the city should designate open space where there is danger of flood, fire, or earthquake, unless these risks can be adequately mitigated.

Conservation Goal 6 To ensure that developments in the mountain and hillside areas are sensitive to the local environment.

Objective 6.1 Assure that development maintains the character of open space natural resources.

Policies:

- Con 6.1.1 Maintain very low densities in the northernmost portion of the city not included in the national forest. Further development must be sensitive to the terrain, natural environment and aesthetics.

Open Space Goal 1 Protect and/or enhance Duarte's Open Space acreage.

Objective 1.1 Ensure that open space is available and accessible to both existing and future residents.

Policies:

- OS 1.1.1 Work with conservation groups to identify and conserve open space and protect lands accessible to public use.
- OS 1.1.2 Continue to conserve open space through public-private funding sources and management strategies, including conservation easements.

Open Space Goal 2: To develop enough park acreage to meet the needs of the population and upgrade existing facilities.

Objective 2.1 To provide open space ratios for current and future Duarte residents at current acreage per capita.

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Policies:

- OS 2.1.1 Continue to cooperate with the Duarte Unified School District in providing open space amenities for Duarte residents and students.
- OS 2.1.2 Require new development to mitigate the burden it creates on existing parks through parkland dedication, recreational space development and/or mitigation fees.
- OS 2.1.3 Provide for the future expansion of existing parks in a way that does not adversely affect adjacent areas.
- OS 2.1.4 Coordinate circulation and recreation developments in Duarte with those planned for the Santa Fe Dam regional recreation area.
- OS 2.1.5 Provide recreation programs for all age groups, utilizing first those facilities now existing and developing new facilities as the need arises.
- OS 2.1.6 Establish neighborhood parks designed and located to conveniently serve the needs of various segments of the community.
- OS2.1.7 Protect Duarte's natural foothill areas by maintaining low overall residential densities and by utilizing their potential for recreational and open space purposes.

Open Space Goal 3: To provide parks throughout the city, on a pedestrian scale as much as possible. Neighborhood parks generally should have a one-half mile service radius.

Objective 3.1 Make parks facilities convenient to all Duarte residents without having to use a motorized vehicle.

Policies:

- OS 3.1.1 Multiple recreation uses for open space areas should be encouraged. For example, horseback trails entwined with pedestrian paths can be enjoyable for both parties. Trail

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markers can be used to point out interesting views and directions (e.g., the direction to the waterfall in Fish Canyon).

- OS 3.1.2 Develop new city parks when and where this is possible to meet the future recreational needs of the community.
- OS 3.1.3 Expand and improve recreational facilities at existing parks within the city.
- OS 3.1.4 Promote the development of new neighborhood and recreation facilities, as appropriate, including parks of 4 acres or more to be used as satellite parks.

Air Quality Goal 1: Create Land Use policies that address the relationship between land use and air quality to protect public health and minimize impacts on existing land use patterns and future land use developments.

Objective 1.1 Through land use plans provide heightened consideration of policies and strategies to minimize exposure of sensitive receptors and sites (e.g. schools, hospitals, and residences) to health risks related to air pollution.

Policies:

- AQ 1.1.1 Facilitate communications among residents, businesses and the Southern California Air Quality Management District (AQMD) to quickly resolve air pollution nuisance complaints. Distribute information to advise residents on how to register a complaint with the AQMD (cut smog program).
- AQ 1.1.2 Promote and support mixed-use land patterns that allow the integration of retail, office, institutional and residential uses.

Objective 1.2 Reduce mobile source emissions by reducing vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled associated with land use patterns.

Policies:

- AQ 1.2.1 Establish a Mixed-Use Zoning District that offers incentives for mixed-use developments.

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- AQ 1.2.2 Create opportunities to receive State transportation funds by adopting incentives (e.g. and expedited review process) for planning and implementation infill development projects that include job centers and clean transportation nodes (e.g. preparation of a “transit village” plan).

Air Quality Goal 2: Reduce air pollution from mobile sources.

Objective 2.1 Reduce motor vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled.

Policies:

- AQ 2.1.1 Collaborate with local transit agencies to:
- Develop programs and educate employers about employee rideshare and transit.
 - Establish mass transit mechanisms for the reduction of work-related and non-work related vehicle trips.
 - Promote mass transit ridership through careful planning of routes, headways, origins and destination, and types of vehicles.

AQ 2.1.2 Provide merchants with fliers/posters that publicize mass transit schedules to encourage their customers to use mass transit.

AQ 2.1.3 Consider providing incentives such as preferential parking for alternative-fuel vehicles (e.g., compressed natural gas (CNG) or hydrogen).

Objective 2.2 Reduce mobile source emissions through efficient management of transportation facilities and system infrastructure using cost-effective management and innovative demand-management techniques.

Policies:

AQ 2.2.1 Synchronize traffic signals throughout the City and with adjoining cities while allowing free flow of mass transit

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systems.

AQ 2.2.2 Monitor traffic and congestion to determine when and where the city needs new transportation facilities to achieve increased mobility and efficiency.

AQ 2.2.3 Consider replacing existing vehicles in the City fleet with the cleanest vehicles commercially available.

Objective 2.3 Secure all available funding from local, state and federal sources to improve Transportation System Management (TSM) cost effectiveness.

Policies:

AQ 2.3.1 Develop and coordinate a plan with local agencies for cost-effective use of AB 2766 (emissions reductions benefits) funds so that revenue is used for projects and programs identified in the AQMP.

AQ 2.3.2 Develop and adopt a policy to utilize federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funds in coordination with regional agencies in a manner consistent with projects approved in the AQMP.

AQ 2.3.3 Apply annually to the AQMD Mobile Source Reduction Committee (MSRC) for AB 2766 "Local Government Match Program" grants for projects that reduce mobile source emissions (e.g. purchases of alternative-fueled vehicles).

AQ 2.3.4 Seek opportunities to pool AB 2766 revenue with neighboring cities to fund programs that will reduce mobile source emissions (e.g., traffic synchronization, fueling station infrastructure, teleconferencing facilities).

Air Quality Goal 3: Achieve ambient levels of particulate matter that meets state and federal clean air standards.

Objective 3.1 Reduce the amount of fugitive dust that is re-entrained into the atmosphere from unpaved areas, parking lots, construction sites and nearby quarries.

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Policies:

- AQ 3.1.1 Where fugitive dust is causing a chronic public nuisance or the air quality is in exceedance of PM 10 standards, consider adopting a dust control policy that requires preparation and approval of a dust control plan.
- AQ 3.1.2 Cooperate with local, regional, state and federal jurisdictions to better control fugitive dust from stationary, mobile and area sources.
- AQ 3.1.3 Ensure that vehicles do not transport aggregate or similar material upon a highway unless the material is stabilized or covered, in accordance with state law and AQMD regulations.
- AQ 3.1.4 Consider rerouting the Duarte fixed route bus system to help minimize vehicle trips.

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RELATED AGENCIES, LAWS AND PLANS

U.S. Environmental Protection Act

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is responsible for establishing the national ambient air quality standards and enforcing the federal Clean Air Act. This agency also regulates emission sources under the exclusive authority of the federal government, such as aircraft, certain types of ships and locomotives. The USEPA has jurisdiction over emission sources outside state waters (e.g., beyond the outer continental shelf) and establishes various emission standards, including those for vehicles sold in states other than California. Automobiles sold in California must also meet the often stricter emission standards established by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). For additional information about the USEPA, contact the USEPA's general internet address at www.epa.gov. Information on the programs and activities in USEPA Region IX, which includes California, can be found at www.epa.gov/region9, and additional information on mobile source emissions is available from the Office of Mobile Sources at www.epa.gov/otaq/index.htm.

California Air Resources Board (CARB)

The CARB became part of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) in 1991. The agency is responsible for ensuring implementation of the California Clean Air Act, meeting state requirements of the federal Clean Air Act, and establishing state ambient air quality standards. It is also responsible for setting vehicle emission standards and fuel specifications, and regulating emissions from other sources such as consumer products and certain types of mobile equipment (e.g., lawn & garden equipment, industrial forklifts). The internet address for CalEPA is www.calepa.ca.gov; the internet address for CARB is www.arb.ca.gov.

South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD)

Because Southern California has one of the worst air quality problems in the nation, the AQMD was created by the 1977 Lewis Air Quality Management Act. Four county air pollution control agencies were merged into one regional district to better address the issue of improving air quality in Southern California. Under the act, revised and renamed the Lewis-Presley Air Quality Management Act in 1988, the AQMD is the agency principally responsible for comprehensive air pollution control in the South Coast basin. Specifically, the AQMD is responsible for monitoring air quality and planning, implementing, and enforcing programs designed to attain and maintain state and federal ambient air quality standards in

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the district. Programs developed include air quality rules and regulations that regulate stationary source emissions, including area and point sources and certain mobile source emissions. The AQMD is also responsible for establishing permitting requirements and issuing permits for stationary sources and ensuring that new, modified, or relocated stationary sources do not create net emissions increases. The AQMD enforces air quality rules and regulations through a variety of means, including inspections, educational and training programs, and fines.

The AQMD has jurisdiction over an area of 10,743 square miles, referred to in this document as the South Coast Air District. This area includes all of Orange county, all of Los Angeles county except for the Antelope Valley, the non-desert portion of western San Bernardino county, and the western and Coachella Valley portions of Riverside county. The South Coast basin is a sub-region of the district and covers an area of 6,745 square miles. The South Coast basin includes all of Orange county and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties.

Both the district and the South Coast basin are surrounded by mountains, which tend to restrict air flow and concentrate pollutants in the valleys or “basins” below. The South Coast basin is almost entirely urban, and its pollution is typically related to dense population and associated area sources, heavy vehicular traffic, and industrial sources.

The AQMD is organized according to procedures established by the California Legislature and specified in the Lewis-Presley Air Quality Management Act. The AQMD is organized into three branches. The first branch is the 12-member Governing Board, which is the decision-making body of the AQMD that adopts rules, regulations, and plans, such as the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP). The Governing Board is comprised of nine elected officials, one county supervisor from each of the four counties in the district and five members representing the cities of each county. Because of its size, Los Angeles county has both an eastern and western cities representative. The three remaining board members are appointed to the board by state elected officials: one is appointed by the governor, another is appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, and the third is appointed by the state Senate Rules Committee. Several advisory committees review and recommend actions to the Governing Board. For example, the Local Government and Small Business Assistance Advisory Group is made up of local government officials, small business representatives, and members of the general public. This committee, therefore, offers local governmental agencies the opportunity to comment on the AQMD’s rule-making and planning processes.

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The second branch of the AQMD is the Hearing Board, which is a quasi-judicial panel authorized to provide relief to regulated facilities from AQMD regulations. Relief from regulations can only occur under specific circumstances, such as emergencies, etc. State law requires that the Hearing Board be appointed by the Governing Board, but the Hearing Board acts independently of the Governing Board.

The third branch is management/staff, which is the bulk of the agency and reports to the AQMD Governing Board. This branch includes the divisions responsible for: developing rules and rule amendments; permitting of air pollution sources and rule compliance; planning programs such as the AQMP; air quality monitoring; public outreach and small business assistance; and prosecuting cases of rule violations. Additional information on the AQMD is available at AQMD's internet address - www.aqmd.gov .

In late 2005, as a result of Duarte's concerns of possible dust and other pollutants resulting from nearby quarries, Royal Oaks School at 2499 Royal Oaks Dr., was selected for the monitoring station, by AQMD, based on weather patterns and air flow. The site provides an open plain area of the city where potential emissions can be measured as they flow from the northeast at the Vulcan facility (an active quarry operation located in adjacent Azusa) down into the City of Duarte.

AQMD Rule 403 (Reduction of Fugitive Dust)

Fugitive dust is a generic term used to describe any solid particulate matter that becomes airborne, other than that emitted from an exhaust stack, directly or indirectly as a result of the activities of any person. Fugitive dust can vary in size and composition, depending on the location, wind direction, time of the day, and the time of season for its source. The AQMD includes two air basins that exceed state and federal ambient air quality standards for PM10 (fine particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter). Studies indicate that approximately one-third of the South Coast basin's ambient PM10 concentrations and over ninety percent of Coachella Valley's ambient PM10 levels are a result of fugitive dust.

AQMD regulates fugitive dust via several district rules. For example, Rule 403 (Fugitive Dust) requirements are applicable to the South Coast Air District and to the Coachella Valley portion of the Salton Sea Air Basin. The purpose of Rule 403 is to reduce the amount of particulate matter entrained in the ambient air as a result of anthropogenic (man-made) fugitive dust sources. Rule 403 requires implementation of control measures to prevent, reduce, or mitigate fugitive dust emissions and includes a performance standard that prohibits visible emissions

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from crossing any property line. Under Rule 403, large operations (projects greater than 50 acres and/or more than 5,000 cubic yards of daily earth-movement) are required to notify the AQMD of the project location and implement Table 2, and, if necessary Table 3, control measures and maintain recordkeeping. Rule 403 can be viewed or downloaded at the following web site <http://www.aqmd.gov/rules/reg/reg04/r403.pdf> Forms for large operation submittals can be viewed or downloaded from the following AQMD web site http://www.aqmd.gov/comply/Forms/403N_8_2004.doc.

Rule 403 requires all projects and activities in the South Coast Air Basin to control dust generation, with specified control measures for large operations of 50 acres or more. In spite of these basin-wide requirements, ground disturbances, geological conditions, or meteorological conditions may result in dust generation that constitutes a chronic public nuisance, or would prevent attainment of federal PM10 standards. These limited areas may warrant additional dust control efforts on the part of local governments. A local dust control policy that requires preparation and approval of a dust control plan for all projects seeking a grading permit in such limited areas may be needed to supplement current Rule 403 requirements. Local governments may also choose to apply specific control measures crafted to address their chronic public nuisance dust problems or PM10 exceedances.

The Regional Air Quality Management Plan

The AQMD has authority to reduce emissions from stationary sources, some area sources, and certain indirect sources. The AQMD is the lead agency in charge of, with input from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and CARB, developing the AQMP. The AQMP is a comprehensive plan that includes control strategies for stationary and area sources, as well as for on-road and off-road mobile sources. SCAG has the primary responsibility for providing future growth projections and the development and implementation of transportation control measures. CARB in coordination with federal agencies provides the control element for mobile sources.

Quimby Act

The City of Duarte has adopted a Quimby Act ordinance to require the dedication of land and/or the payment of in-lieu fees for the purpose of providing park and recreational facilities. Section 66477 of the Government Code provides local jurisdictions with the authority to acquire park land 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-

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lieu fee, or a combination of both, for park and recreational purposes as a condition on approving a subdivision map

California Water Code

California Water Code §10644(a) requires urban water suppliers to file with the Department of Water Resources, the California State Library, and any city or county within which the supplier provides water supplies, a copy of its Urban Water Management Plan, no later than 30 days after adoption. California Water Service Company provides Duarte's potable water supply. Urban water suppliers are required to file an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) at least once every five years on or before December 31, in years ending in five and zero.

The 2005 Urban Water Management Plans were due December 31, 2005. All urban water suppliers as defined in Section 10617 (including wholesalers), either publicly or privately owned, providing water for municipal purposes either directly or indirectly to more than 3,000 customers or supplying more than 3,000 acre-feet annually are required to prepare an Urban Water Management Plan.

An UWMP is considered to be a source of information for Water Supply Assessments (Senate Bill 610) Water Code §10613 *et seq.* (Added by Stats. 2001, c. 643), and Written Verifications of Water Supply (SB 221) Water Code §66473.7 (Added by Stats. 2001, c. 642). In addition, an UWMP may serve as a long-range planning document for water supply, a source of data for development of a regional water plan, and a source document for cities and counties as they prepare their general plans.

A complete UWMP could be a foundation document and source of information for a Water Supply Assessment and a Written Verification of Water Supply. An UWMP also serves as:

- A long-range planning document for water supply,
- Source data for development of a regional water plan, and
- A source document for cities and counties as they prepare their General Plans.
- A key component to Integrated Regional Water Management Plans.

General plans are source documents for water suppliers as they prepare their UWMPs. General plans and UWMPs may be linked, as their accuracy and usefulness are interdependent. Therefore cities, counties, and public and private water suppliers will find it useful to work closely when developing and updating these planning documents. Cities, counties, water districts, property owners, and

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developers will all be able to utilize the UWMP when planning for and proposing new projects. The UWMP is discussed again in the Safety Element.

OVERVIEW OF DUARTE'S OPEN SPACE RESOURCES

About 3.6 square miles (about 53%) of the 6.8 square miles of Duarte's incorporated land area is undeveloped and within or adjacent to the Angeles National Forest along the west slope of the San Gabriel Mountains. While much of this land is within the Angeles National Forest, Duarte's open spaces take many forms and serve a variety of functions. The community surveys conducted in September of 2005 revealed that open space areas including the City's many parks represent a significant and desirable component of the community's character.

Duarte's open space maintains natural, recreational, and visual resources for current and future community use and enjoyment. Duarte's open space is valuable for both passive and active uses. The city has done a good job of designating and preserving lands as open space for: protection of natural habitats and species; managed production of natural resources such as forest products; recreational uses; scenic, aesthetic resources; and avoidance of development on such areas as steep slopes, faults, and flood zones that are potentially hazardous to the community.

Open space for the preservation of natural resources includes the recently acquired 329 acres of wilderness land. In November 2005, the City was awarded a \$4 million grant from the State of California Wildlife Conservation Board. This money was combined with the previous \$3.5 million awarded by the San Gabriel Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Board. In December 2005, escrow closed on this site making this large site a very significant city owned open space. The City of Duarte also owns 70 acres of vacant hillside adjacent to the 329 acres previously mentioned.

Within and abutting Duarte significant natural waterway resources include the San Gabriel River, and the following intermittent seasonal streams within canyons in the wilderness area of the city: Fish Canyon, Fern Canyon and Van Tassel Canyon, Spinks Canyon and Maddock Canyon. Fortunately, the Angeles National Forest abutting Duarte's urbanized area is protected from urbanization.

Open space for the managed production of resources includes Angeles National Forest lands on the west slopes of San Gabriel Mountains, water recharge lands within the San Gabriel River and other seasonal waterway. These areas are

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important for protection of flora and fauna and maintaining water quality and other ecological functions.

Open space for outdoor recreation can be found on the following pages under “Parks and Recreation Facilities”. City owned parks and lands owned by the Duarte Unified School District used for recreation purposes in coordination with the City of Duarte are specifically identified in more detail in that section. In 2005, the City opened the .78 acre Lena Valenzuela Park located on Mountain Avenue further adding to its active park acreage. Edison and flood control easements are also considered open space.

Open space for public health and safety includes earthquake fault zones, steep sloped hillsides, liquefaction areas, and 100-year floodplains. The Open Space and Conservation Elements are closely linked to the Safety Element. In addition, they are closely linked to the bike trails component of the Circulation element.

Open space is also valuable for preserving scenic views and other aesthetic considerations. The overall system is also enhanced when open space lands are linked by natural biological corridors, greenways, easements, and other types of connections.

In many cases, open space can provide multiple benefits. The steep slopes and valleys making up the Angeles National Forest on the western slopes of San Gabriel Mountains provide an important watershed to the San Gabriel River. Utility easements are not to be built upon. All of these lands are important for their natural and resource production capabilities. These lands also retain natural drainage systems, sustain natural habitats, enhance the community's viewshed and provide an aesthetic resource. Designating these and other open spaces in the general plan documents their value to the community. It also allows City decision-makers to identify open space as an important resource when considering proposed changes in community form.

Angeles National Forest

The terrain within the City of Duarte is divided into three districts: the San Gabriel Mountain Range of the Angeles National Forest, the foothills and canyons of the San Gabriel Mountains, and the alluvial slopes of the mountains. The latter is the area where the City's urban development is concentrated.

The San Gabriel Mountains are an east to west-trending mountain range that extend for approximately 60 miles from the San Fernando Valley on the west to Cajon Pass on the east, near the western edge of the San Bernardino

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Mountains. The San Gabriel Mountains are part of the Transverse Ranges physiographic province of southern California.

The Angeles National Forest consists of 693,667 acres of forest and chaparral in the San Gabriel Mountains. It was designated in 1892 by President Harrison as the first national forest in the state of California, and one of the earliest in the nation, its purpose being to protect the local watershed.

This mountainous area provides riparian habitat and is partially covered with coastal sage brush, chaparral, and woodlands. The San Gabriel River, adjacent to the City of Duarte originates from the foot of the 10,064-foot Mt. San Antonio (Old Baldy) and carries snow melt and runoff from a 635 square mile watershed.

Flora and Fauna in and around Duarte's Wilderness Area

Information taken from various environmental impact reports within and surrounding Duarte's hillside area revealed typical flora and fauna found with the undeveloped areas. Vegetation consists of chaparral, Southern coast live oak riparian forest, and small isolated islands of common coastal sage scrub species (*Salvia* and *Artemisia*) which were limited to the south-facing slope exposures. California live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) visually dominates the north-facing slopes. California live oak, scrub oak, elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), and California sycamore (*platanus racemosa*) are the largest plants in the mesic canyon bottoms. The sagebrush, oak, and sycamore are indicator species of coastal sage scrub, Southern oak woodland and Sycamore-Alder riparian forest are plant communities but these species do not occur in sufficient quantity to constitute vegetation units. Despite the extreme variations in topography, vegetation throughout the area is remarkably consistent. The vegetation is low in diversity and undisturbed except along the roads and the shallow soils on ridges where nonnative annuals can represent as much as 50 percent of the cover.

No endangered/threatened wildlife areas are believed to be within Duarte's wilderness area. Two bird species are restricted to nesting in riparian habitat and could potentially occur if suitable habitat exists. Only one species, the least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), has been recorded near the area (CNDDDB, 1998). The least Bell's vireo, a federal endangered species, has a low potential to occur in the area. This vireo is an obligate resident of willow dominated riparian woodland. The riparian habitat within the area contains little or no willow understory and is unlikely to support breeding vireos. The southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), another federal endangered bird species, occupies similar habitat in southern California. Neither of these two endangered species are believed to be within the area but more study may be necessary.

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For more specific information please refer to the “City of Duarte General Plan Update Background/Existing Conditions Report”.

Parks and Recreation Facilities

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) recommend a minimum of .6 to 1 acre of developed open space per 1,000 population for minimum needs of the community and 5 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population to provide a middle level of service to the community. Duarte has approximately 84 acres of developed recreation and parkland. The City owns 39.2 active park acreages and leases 26.5 acreages from the Duarte Unified School District for recreational purposes. In addition the 18.55 acre nine hole golf course, which is designated open space on the Duarte General Plan, is also used for recreational purposes.

The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for youth sports, adult sports, special events, recreation classes, senior, youth and adult excursions, cultural events, senior services and programs, the Fitness Center, teen services and programs, beautification awards, aquatics, and supervised parks. The Parks and Recreation Department is also responsible for maintenance of all City facilities. This includes repairs to buildings and park sites, custodial services, supervision of activities held in City facilities, and overseeing contractual maintenance agreements. For purposes of the general plan recreation programs are considered implementation tools to the Open Space Element and are not addressed in this document.

The City has recently negotiated an arrangement with Vulcan to allow access to the Fish Canyon Trail and the Fish Canyon Falls. Not included as park acreage is the 70 acres and 329 acres parcels of wilderness area owned by the City of Duarte, and the 22.7 acres recently dedicated to the City by Attalla Ranch.

Table 2-1 provides an inventory of parks and other open spaces within Duarte’s city limits. These assets are made up of city parks, school parks, privately held open space, city owned wilderness areas and undeveloped public utility acreage.



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**Table OS-1
Parks and Designated Open Spaces**

City Location	Parks	Size	Amenities
Duarte Park 1344 Bloomdale Street		2.96 acres	Recreation building, restrooms, picnic and barbecue area, lighted basketball court, playground equipment and the teen center
Encanto Park 751 Encanto Parkway		11.5 acres	Equestrian trail, multipurpose field, picnic area with shelters and barbecues, playground equipment, tennis courts, basketball courts and sand volleyball courts, restrooms – 11.5 acres
Hacienda Park 2695 Hacienda Drive		1.64 acres	Picnic and barbecue area, playground equipment
Moore Park 1100 Duarte Road		1.13 acres	Picnic and barbecue area, playground equipment
Royal Oaks Park 2627 Royal Oaks Drive Royal Oaks Park Extension 2701 Royal Oaks Drive		7.40 acres	Recreation building, restrooms, playground equipment, picnic and barbecue area, lighted tennis and basketball courts, volleyball courts
Third Street Park 1626 Third Street		.36 acres	Picnic and barbecue area, playground equipment
Town Center		2.9 acres	A major recreational facility is located in the Civic Center/Town Center complex. Facilities include a fitness center with two pools, two racquetball/wallyball courts, an exercise room, and locker and shower facilities. The Community Center is equipped with a senior center, an auditorium, meeting room, arts and crafts room, and kitchen.
Bike Path		9.96 acres	The Duarte Bike Trail extends essentially along Royal Oaks Drive and is 1.6 mile long and consist of 9.96 acres. The majority of the trail is a class 1 bike trail and is improved with asphalt with parallel dirt treadway from Buena Vista Street to Vineyard Avenue. The bike trail becomes a class 3 bike trail from Vineyard Avenue to the easterly city limit line.
Lena Valenzuela Park 2120 Mountain		.78 acres	This facility provides picnic, barbecue and playground facilities.
Thorsen Park		.45 acres	This is a passive park
Entrance Park		.13 acres	This is a passive park
Total City Parks		39.21 acres	

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**Table OS-1
Parks and Open Space Continued**

School Parks Location	Size	Amenities
Beardslee Park 2000 Buena Vista St.	4.91 acres	Picnic area and barbecue pits, playground equipment, restrooms, amphitheater and soccer field. This facility is leased by the City from the Duarte Unified School District for recreational uses.
Glen Miller Park 205 Mel Canyon Rd.	1.38 acre	Improvements provided include playground equipment and picnic area. This facility is leased by the City from the Duarte Unified School District for recreational uses.
Otis Gordon Sports Park 2351 Central Av.	5.50 acres	Picnic and barbecue area, playground equipment, lighted softball fields. This facility is leased by the City from the Duarte Unified School District for recreational uses.
Sports Park 1401 Central Ave.	12.25 acres	Improvements include three lighted softball fields, one lighted baseball field, six tennis courts (four lighted), a snack bar with restroom facilities and skate park. This facility is leased by the City from the Duarte Unified School District for recreational uses.
Northview Park 1433 Highland Avenue	2.02 acres	Multipurpose field. This facility is leased by the City from the Duarte Unified School District for recreational uses.
Andres Duarte	.48 acres	Improvements include playground equipment tot lot
Total School Parks	26.54 acres	

Wilderness Areas and Other Open Spaces	Size	Amenities
City Owned Wilderness Open Space	422 acres of purchased and dedicated property	No amenities other than natural open space
Utility Easements	95 acres of Edison and Los Angeles Co. Flood Control	Edison & flood control
Golf Course 100 Los Lomas	18.55 acres	This facility consists of a nine-hole executive course and a restaurant. This golf course, a former landfill, was once owned by the City and is now privately owned. The general plan land use designation on this site is Open Space.
Total Wilderness & Private	535.55 acres	
Total Parks and Open Space	601.3 acres	

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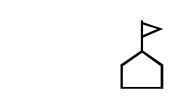
*Insert Diagram OS-1?
Parks, trails and Designated
Open Spaces*

**Parks, Trails and
 Designated Open Spaces
 Diagram OS-1**

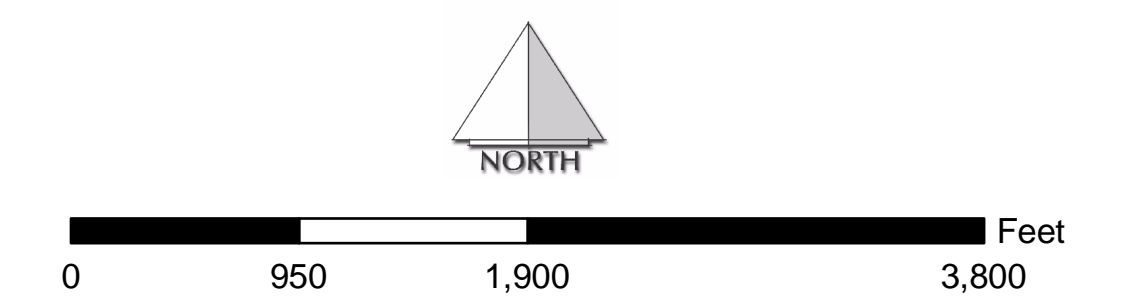


Overview Map

LEGEND

-  City Limits
-  School

Source: City of Duarte - June 2006



July 10, 2006

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IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

Government Code 65400 requires the legislative body to consider and adopt reasonable and practical means for implementing the general plan. This is necessary so that the plan will serve as an effective guide for orderly growth and development, preservation and conservation of open space land and natural resources, and the efficient expenditure of public funds relating to the subjects addressed in the general plan. The State also requires an annual report to the legislative body, State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and State Office of Planning and Research on the status of the plan and progress in implementing the plan. HCD checks to see if the city is making progress in meeting its fair share of regional housing needs.

This section provides an implementation matrix for policies found in the Open Space and Conservation chapter. The matrix identifies the policy to be implemented, the implementation measure to be used for that policy, the responsible agency or department that will be implementing the measure, the funding source and the estimated timeframe to complete the implementation.

Responsible Agency:

All = All Departments
 CD = Community Development
 CM = City Manager
 AS = Administrative Services
 PS = Public Safety
 P&R = Parks and Recreation

Funding Source:

GF = General Fund
 RA = Redevelopment Agency
 G = Grants
 DF = Development Fees
 SF = State funds
 FF = Federal Funds
 OF = Other Funds

Implementation Timeframe (or as resources provide):

ST = Short-term by 2009
 MT = Mid-term by 2015
 LT = Long Term by 2020
 On = Ongoing

**Table OS - 2
Open Space, Conservation and Air Quality Implementation Measures**

Policy #	Implementation Measure	Responsible Agency	Funding Source	Time frame
Con1.1.1 OS 2.1.7	Implement the Land Use Policy which designates forest land as open space	CD	GF	On
Con 1.1.2	Stay in contact with the Conservancy	CM	GF	On
Con 1.1.3	Implement the general plan land use policy. Implement the hillside ordinance	CD	GF	On

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Con 1.1.4 Con 1.1.5 OS 1.1.1 OS 1.1.2	Work with other cities and agencies to partner in preserving open space	CD, CM, P&R	GF, G, SF, FF, OF	On
Con 1.1.6	Keep abreast of funding opportunities	CM, P&R	G, SF, FF	On
Con 2.1.1	Work with Cal Am. Water to develop a water conservation handbook for distribution	CM	GF, G	ST
Con 2.1.2	Comply with NPEDS/SUSMP requirements	CD	GF	On
Con 2.1.3 Con 2.1.4	Expand the Development Code to include all zones	CD	GF	ST
Con 2.1.5	Amend the Development Code to require impervious materials where warranted.	CD	GF	MT
Con 2.1.6	Continue to examine water consumption impacts of new development in conjunction with environmental review	CD	GF	On
Con 3.1.1	Review current environmental review process and city guidelines and update as needed	CD	GF	On
Con 3.1.2	Comply with CEQA law and guidelines	CD	GF	On
Con 3.1.3	Continue enforcing sign ordinance	CD	GF	On
Con 4.1.4	Work with solid waste hauler to provider more frequent bulk round-ups	CM	GF, G	ST
Con 4.1.1	Continue implementing policies and programs pursuant to AB 939	CM	GF	On
Con 4.1.2	Support ongoing recycling programs	CM	GF	On
Con 4.1.3	Advertise the current recycling program in the waste hauler newsletter and City website	CM	GF	On
Con 5.1.1 Con 5.1.2	Implement the general plan land use policy	CD	GF	On
Con 5.1.3	Consider open space as a noise mitigation device in the review of future development	CD	GF	On
Con 5.1.4	Consider open space as a device for hazardous mitigation in the review of future development	CD	GF	On
Con 6.1.1	Implement the general plan land use policy Implement the city's hillside development ordinance	CD	GF	On
OS 2.1.1	Continue to update joint use agreements with the Duarte Unified School District	CM	GF	On
OS 2.1.2	Continue to enforce Quimby Act, impact fees and condition developments	CD	DF, OF	On
OS 2.1.3 OS 3.1.3	Review multiple listings for parcels for sale adjacent to parks	CD, P&R	GF, DF, G	On
OS 2.1.4	Review development proposal of Santa Fe Dam with Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation	CM, P&R	GF, G	On
OS 2.1.5 OS 2.1.6 OS 3.1.1 OS 3.1.2 OS 3.1.4	Prepare and implement a parks master plan including new and expanded parks	P&R, CD	GF, G, DF	MT

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AQ 1.1.1 AQ 2.1.1 AQ 2.1.2	Prepare an information brochure & distribute through different media	CD	GF, G	ST
AQ 1.1.2 AQ 1.2.1 AQ 1.2.2	Designate Planned Unit Development or Specific Plan areas where appropriate	CD	GF, SF, G RA	ST
AQ 2.1.3 AQ 2.3.1 AQ 2.3.2 AQ 2.3.4	Work w/AQMD and other agencies to receive grants for alternative modes of transportation and improved traffic flow	CM, CD	GF, RA, G, SF, FF, DF	ST
AQ 2.2.1	Continue to collaborate with adjacent cities to improve traffic flow	CD, PS, CM	GF, SF, FF	On
AQ 2.2.2	Perform traffic studies yearly and/or require traffic studies as development occurs	CD	GF, SF, FF G	On
AQ 2.2.3	Prepare a vehicle replacement plan	AS, CD	GF, SF, G	ST
AQ 2.3.3	Apply annually for Mobile Source Reduction and AQMD funds	CD,	GF, G, SF FF	On
AQ 3.1.1 AQ 3.1.2 AQ 3.1.3	Prepare and enforce a dust reduction ordinance that addresses mobile and stationary sources	CD	GF	ST
AQ 3.1.4	Review Duarte's fix route system annually to provide service and efficiency	CD	SF, GF	ST