




A Green and Growing Place

 *We commit to build a green, environmentally sound community that increases the park space and recreational opportunities available to our residents.*

San Gabriel in 2020 will be a greener, more sustainable community. But getting there will take some doing. The general plan background report shows that:

- **Existing Open Spaces:** San Gabriel has only a fraction of the open space available that national standards recommend – 26 acres of public park land versus the 400 that are recommended using National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) standards. Much of the City's recreational space is shared with school sites that are themselves undersized and feeling the pinch. Few land resources are available to acquire.
- **Recreation Facilities:** San Gabriel has wide-ranging needs for community center space, a rehabilitated swimming pool, and a gymnasium. The historic Las Tunas Adobe also poses an opportunity for a city shy of facilities.
- **Bikeways & Trails:** San Gabriel has only one designated bikeway. The nearest regional bike trail is located several mile southeast of San Gabriel. The City may consider establishing a trail system along existing storm drain easements to access existing regional bike trails.
- **Other Spaces:** The only other large open spaces remaining in San Gabriel are the Edison easements,

BIG IDEA:

“A park is a work of art.”

Frederick Law Olmstead

which are under increasing pressure for commercial development.

- **Financing:** Existing financing – particularly the existing park facilities fee – is insufficient to meet the task ahead. San Gabriel will need to develop new resources, but opportunities such as the San Gabriel Rivers and Mountains Conservancy provide the chance to fund new improvements.

Our Goals

San Gabriel sets the following goals for itself to achieve over the next 20 years. Like all these goals, they are constrained by funding, time and other resources—but they are an important point of departure to build San Gabriel’s park, recreation, and open space potential.

Goal 7.1 Increase the City’s open space resources. ↻

Target 7.1.1 Develop miniparks, medians, and other green spaces to offset the impacts of denser population and more intense development.

- Action 7.1.1.1 Establish as a priority for public funding the acquisition and development of parks and recreational facilities in neighborhoods in which there is a shortage.
- Action 7.1.1.2 Acquire small sites such as the Edison easements, cul-de-sacs, and street corners that can be assembled for future development of community gardens, neighborhood parks, skate parks, and recreational/sports facilities. ↻
- Action 7.1.1.3 Provide an adequate balance between funding for acquisition and funding for maintenance and staffing.

Target 7.1.2 Adopt a Citywide park standard of 4.0 acres for every 1,000 residents to include community, neighborhood and vest-pocket parks.

- Action 7.1.2.1 Establish a park and recreation system with the classification shown in Table 7.7 Park System Classification.

Goal 7.2 Develop new and increased funding sources to maintain, acquire and develop parks and recreational facilities. ↻

Target 7.2.1 Ensure that new development pays its fair share for development of parks and recreational facilities. ↻

- Action 7.2.1.1 Increase the existing park and recreation impact fee to offset additional demands generated by new residential population and to address the significant shortfall of public open space created by new development.

7.7: Park System Classification		
Type	Acres	Location
Vestpocket or Minipark: Small neighborhood park	0.1-1.0	Grapevine Park Plaza Park
Neighborhood Park: City- or county-owned land intended to serve the recreation needs of people living or working within one-half mile radius of the park.	1.0-5.0	Roosevelt Park & School
Community Park: Land with full public access intended to provide recreation opportunities beyond those supplied by neighborhood parks. Community parks are larger in scale than neighborhood parks but smaller than regional parks.	6.0+	Smith Park Vincent Lugo

Target 7.2.2 Consider the sale of bonds as a means of generating funds for parks and recreation land and facilities.

Target 7.2.3 Encourage the formation of Community Facilities Districts to acquire additional parklands.

- Action 7.2.3.1 Establish a trust fund to pay for the acquisition and development of new parks through the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982, special taxes, benefit assessment districts, facilities bonding, State and Federal grants or loans, developer assessments (Quimby Ordinance or exactions on commercial developments).
- Action 7.2.3.2 Establish the administrative and legal mechanisms to allow for the creation of benefit assessment districts, Community Facilities Districts, and Special Taxes.

Target 7.2.4 Investigate opportunities available from State and Federal grants to increase open space and recreational facilities.

- Action 7.2.4.1 Explore monies available through the San Gabriel Rivers and Mountains Conservancy or similar agencies and foundations.

IDEA BOX:

"A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in."

Greek Proverb

Goal 7.3 Develop a system of bicycle and pedestrian trails that are sustainable. ↻

Target 7.3.1 Establish a trail system along existing storm drain easements to access existing regional bike trails.

Target 7.3.2 Develop new bicycle and pedestrian trails in commercial and residential neighborhoods, parks, or rail corridors that create "walkable" close-knit neighborhoods that will reduce air pollution and energy consumption. ↻

- Action 7.3.2.1 Explore the creation of a new trail system along Alameda Corridor East, near the San Gabriel Country Club, or along the Rubio or Alhambra Wash that will enhance environmental quality. ↻
- Action 7.3.2.2 Explore the possibility of creating a new De Anza trail or a trail running north and

southbound between Las Tunas Drive to Valley Boulevard. ↻

- Action 7.3.2.3 Explore the possibility of enhancing pedestrian crosswalks at major intersections. ↻

Goal 7.4 Restore and improve neglected opportunities to City's dwindling open space resources.

Target 7.4.1 Preserve existing park space and recreational facilities, especially open turfed areas and trees, while allowing for the redesign, reconfiguration, and replacement of existing spaces and facilities to increase their recreational potential and usability.

- Action 7.4.1.1 Participate in upgrading open space areas in public schools within the City for public recreational use, if such improvements do not impair the security of school facilities.

- Action 7.4.1.2 Parks and Recreation staff shall continue coordinating with San Gabriel Unified School district to organize efficient use of open space properties. ↻
- Action 7.4.1.3 Develop master plans for each park to ensure that new or redevelopment of buildings, open air facilities, and landscaping is unified, functionally related to improve efficiency and compatible with adjacent uses.
- Action 7.4.1.4 Continue coordination with the San Gabriel Unified School District for public use of parks and recreational facilities after school hours. ↻

Target 7.4.2 Purchase and preserve, where practical and financially feasible, historic buildings and those adjacent to parks for public facility uses. ↻

- Action 7.4.2.1 Monitor real estate activity in the City and consider purchasing available sites on the market that would be appropriate for a mini-park, neighborhood park, or community park.
- Action 7.4.2.2 Establish a strategy to secure protection of the remaining historic adobes (Rancho Las Tunas and/or Vigare) for a park, recreation, or appropriate adaptive reuse.

Target 7.4.3 Improve open spaces opportunities along the Alameda Corridor project.

- Action 7.4.3.1 Acquire air rights for development of a park over the corridor crossing at Mission Drive in conjunction with the development of the Alameda Corridor East.

Target 7.4.4 Develop a dedication program to accept private property for parks and open space opportunities.

Goal 7.5 Create commercial and residential streetscapes that are sustainable.

Target 7.5.1 Use drought-tolerant species on public and private developments to reduce water consumption.

Target 7.5.2 Create urban landscapes that will reduce heat/solar gain.

Implementation Measures:

The implementation of the goals, targets, and actions identified in this Open Space Element will be accomplished by taking the following steps:

- Develop and monitor programs annually for the recreational use of city parks and other available recreational resources by analyzing demographic trends of residents and recreation users, evaluating level of service and demands at existing facilities, and conducting public hearings on the adequacy of parks and recreation services and facilities.

- Adopt a new resolution to increase the park and recreation impact fee to fund new open space and maintain recreation facilities.
- Develop a long-range master plan for open space and recreational facility needs and opportunities.
- Establish a dedication program where the City may accept gifts of parkland and/or recreational facilities.



A large part of today's Mission Plaza was reclaimed by closing a portion of old Mission Road. Without much vacant land, San Gabriel must look to these types of solutions to find needed parkland and open space.

