VII. OPEN SPACE, CONSERVATION, PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT

A. Introduction

1. Overview

The Open Space, Conservation, Parks and Recreation Element outlines how the City of San Fernando will manage and protect its natural and cultural resources. It identifies existing resources and provides strategies to guide their responsible use, long-term preservation, and continued availability. The Open Space, Conservation, Parks and Recreation Element establishes policies and programs to protect natural resources, expand park access, and enhance recreational opportunities.

San Fernando is committed to sustainable development that meets the needs of today while protecting resources for future generations. This includes ensuring access to clean water, preserving local plant and animal life, maintaining a healthy network of parks and open spaces, and supporting the efficient use of energy. Proper management of these resources is essential to public health, environmental quality, and economic stability. The city also recognizes the importance of its cultural resources, shaped by a long history of Indigenous, Latino, and immigrant communities. Protecting and honoring this cultural heritage, alongside investing in recreational opportunities that bring people together, are important to maintaining community identity and cohesion. Together, San Fernando's natural, cultural, and recreational resources are vital to the well-being of residents and the overall strength of the city.

2. Relationship to other Elements

The Open Space, Conservation, Parks, and Recreation Element is closely interconnected with every other element of the San Fernando General Plan, as open space serves as a unifying framework that supports community health, environmental quality, and climate resilience. Its guidance on habitat conservation, tree canopy enhancement, and water resource management complements the Safety Element, while its focus on equitable park access and recreational programming reinforces the Environmental Justice and Housing Elements by improving quality of life and addressing disparities in access to green space.

The Element was prepared in tandem with the Mobility Element and the Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP) to ensure a coordinated approach to citywide livability and resilience. Together, these plans advance a shared vision for a connected, healthy, and climate-adapted San Fernando. Policies supporting active transportation networks, shaded corridors, and trail linkages promote seamless access between neighborhoods and open spaces, aligning with Mobility Element goals for safe, multimodal travel. Similarly, the integration of climate adaptation strategies, such as urban greening, shade infrastructure, and heat

mitigation, ensures that the Open Space, Conservation, Parks and Recreation Element contributes to achieving the City's carbon reduction and resilience targets established in the CARP.

3. Community engagement

The Open Space, Conservation, Parks, and Recreation Element was developed in close coordination with the Mobility Element and the CARP, in partnership with Climate Resolve and Pacoima Beautiful. Outreach for all three plans was conducted simultaneously to ensure an integrated approach to community priorities related to parks, mobility, and climate resilience. In total, the City hosted 17 events throughout San Fernando, including workshops, "walkshops," and hosted tables at community gatherings such as the San Fernando Mile, Spring Jamboree, and Movies in the Park. Events were widely advertised through the city and project partners' social media pages, and designed to promote equitable participation by providing food, raffles, and other incentives. During the "walkshops," residents acted as citizen scientists, helping to identify areas vulnerable to extreme heat and sharing ideas for new shade, greening, and open space improvements. Community feedback from these events played a critical role in shaping the Open Space, Conservation, Parks, and Recreation Element's goals and programs, while ensuring alignment with the Mobility Element's efforts to create safe, connected, and accessible routes to parks and recreation areas.

B. Abbreviations

Abbreviations used in the Conservation, Parks, and Open Space Element are listed below.

AB	Assembly Bill
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CARP	Climate Action and Resilience Plan
CO	Carbon Monoxide
FTBMI	Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
LADWP	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
MWD	Metropolitan Water District
NO_2	Nitrogen Dioxide
NO_x	Nitrogen Oxides
SB	Senate Bill
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SMMC	Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
TCE	Trichloroethylene
VOC	Volatile Organic Compounds

C. Open Space and Conservation

1. Wildlife and habitat

The City of San Fernando lies within a region that includes habitats suitable for several special-status species. Although no designated critical habitat occurs within city boundaries, nearby areas support endangered species such as Braunton's milk-vetch, Gambel's watercress, Nevin's barberry, and the Slender-horned spineflower. Several wildlife species with special regulatory status may also use nearby habitats, including the California spotted owl, Coastal California gnatcatcher, Least Bell's vireo, Southern willow flycatcher, Southwestern pond turtle, Western spadefoot, Santa Ana sucker, and Monarch butterfly. All are either listed or proposed for listing as endangered or threatened.

Photo of the Southwestern pond turtle by Gary Nafis.

Many migratory birds frequent the San Fernando area as well. Species with a high probability of presence include Allen's hummingbird, California thrasher, Lawrence's goldfinch, Nuttall's woodpecker, Oak titmouse, Santa Barbara song sparrow, and Wrentit. These birds rely on urban trees, landscaped areas, and riparian corridors during breeding or migration. While Bald and Golden eagles are unlikely to be present, regulations still apply to prevent disturbance during potential seasonal presence.

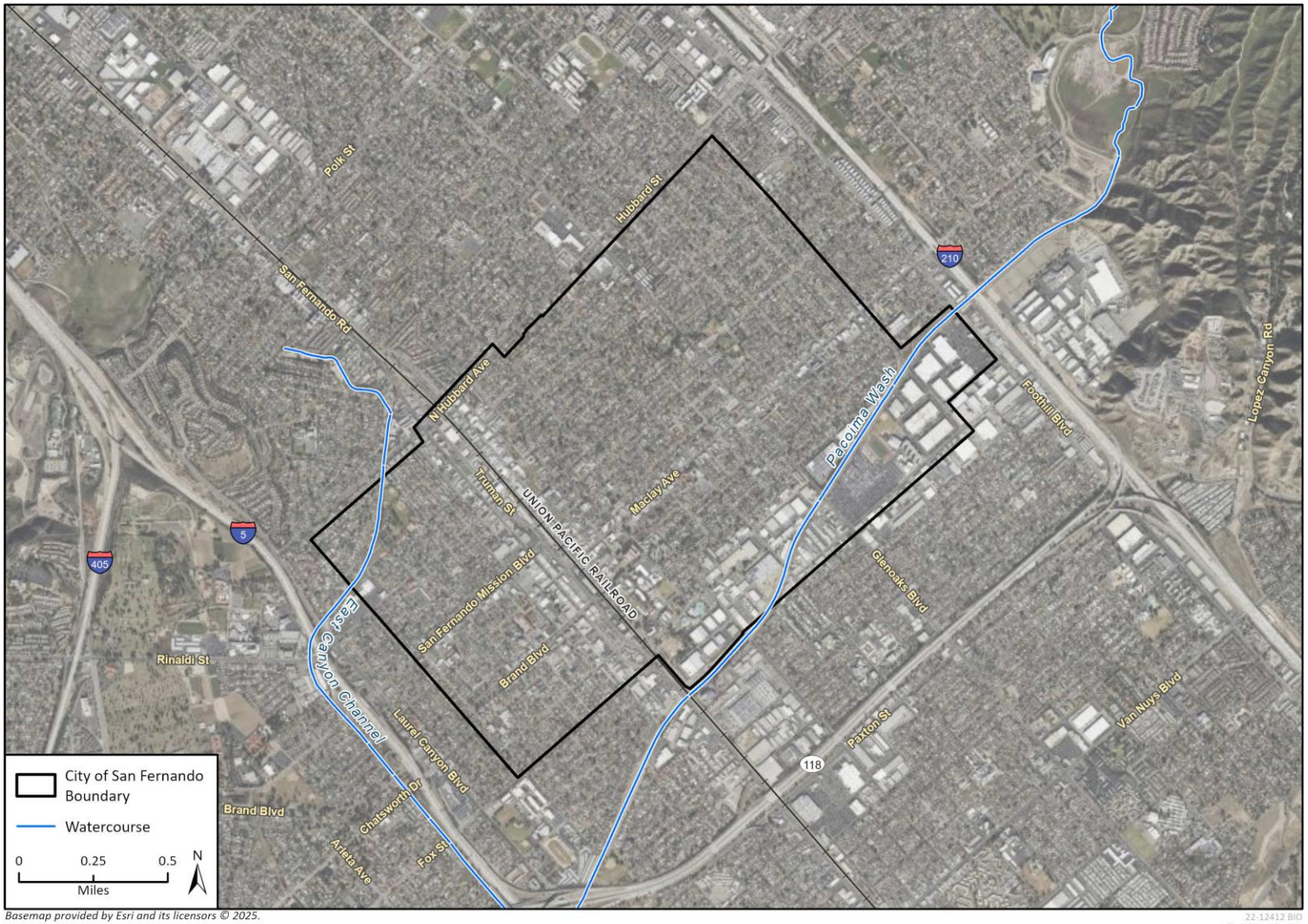
The Pacoima Wash, a riverine corridor running through the city, supports native coastal sage scrub and riparian habitat, providing important ecological functions (see Figure 1). Despite the urbanized setting, this feature contributes to the movement and seasonal use of the area by birds and small wildlife. However, there are no formally recognized wildlife corridors or large-scale natural landscape linkages within the city. Although the City of San Fernando lies in the northern San Fernando Valley near the base of the San Gabriel Mountains, decades of urbanization and roadway development have limited opportunities for wildlife movement. Remaining connections occur primarily along the Pacoima Wash and other narrow, linear open spaces that link the City to less developed areas outside its boundaries.

The Pacoima Wash at Cindy Montañez Natural Park.

Urbanization and channelization have significantly fragmented habitat in San Fernando, reducing opportunities for wildlife movement and limiting the ecological functions of remaining open spaces. Connectivity gaps are most apparent along the Pacoima Wash, within the urban core, and at the City's northern and eastern edges where development interrupts potential linkages to the San Gabriel foothills and regional habitat areas. The City has opportunities to enhance wildlife and habitat connectivity through restoration and greening along the Pacoima Wash, consistent with the Pacoima Wash Greenway Master Plan. Partnerships with Los Angeles County Flood Control District and local conservation organizations could support habitat restoration using native vegetation and pollinator-friendly plantings. Additional opportunities include developing wildlife-supportive landscaping guidelines for private development and city parks, and coordinating with regional biodiversity initiatives to establish microhabitats, nesting boxes, and shade tree corridors that improve local ecological function.

THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO

Figure 1 Waterbodies in San Fernando



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Additional data provided by LA County, 2024; NHD, 2024; Microsoft, 2024; NLCD, 2024.

22-12412 BID
Fig X Waterbodies

2. OPEN NATURAL SPACE

Open spaces are essential for linking fragmented habitats, supporting biodiversity, and maintaining healthy ecosystems. The City of San Fernando defines “open space” as land or water areas that are largely undeveloped and designated for purposes such as natural resource preservation, outdoor recreation, and public health and safety, especially in hazardous areas such as earthquake zones. The City's General Plan Open Space, Conservation, Parks and Recreation Element guides the protection and use of these areas, and recent state legislation (Senate Bill [SB] 1425 and Assembly Bill [AB] 1889) now requires cities to include policies addressing climate resilience, rewilding, environmental justice, and wildlife connectivity.

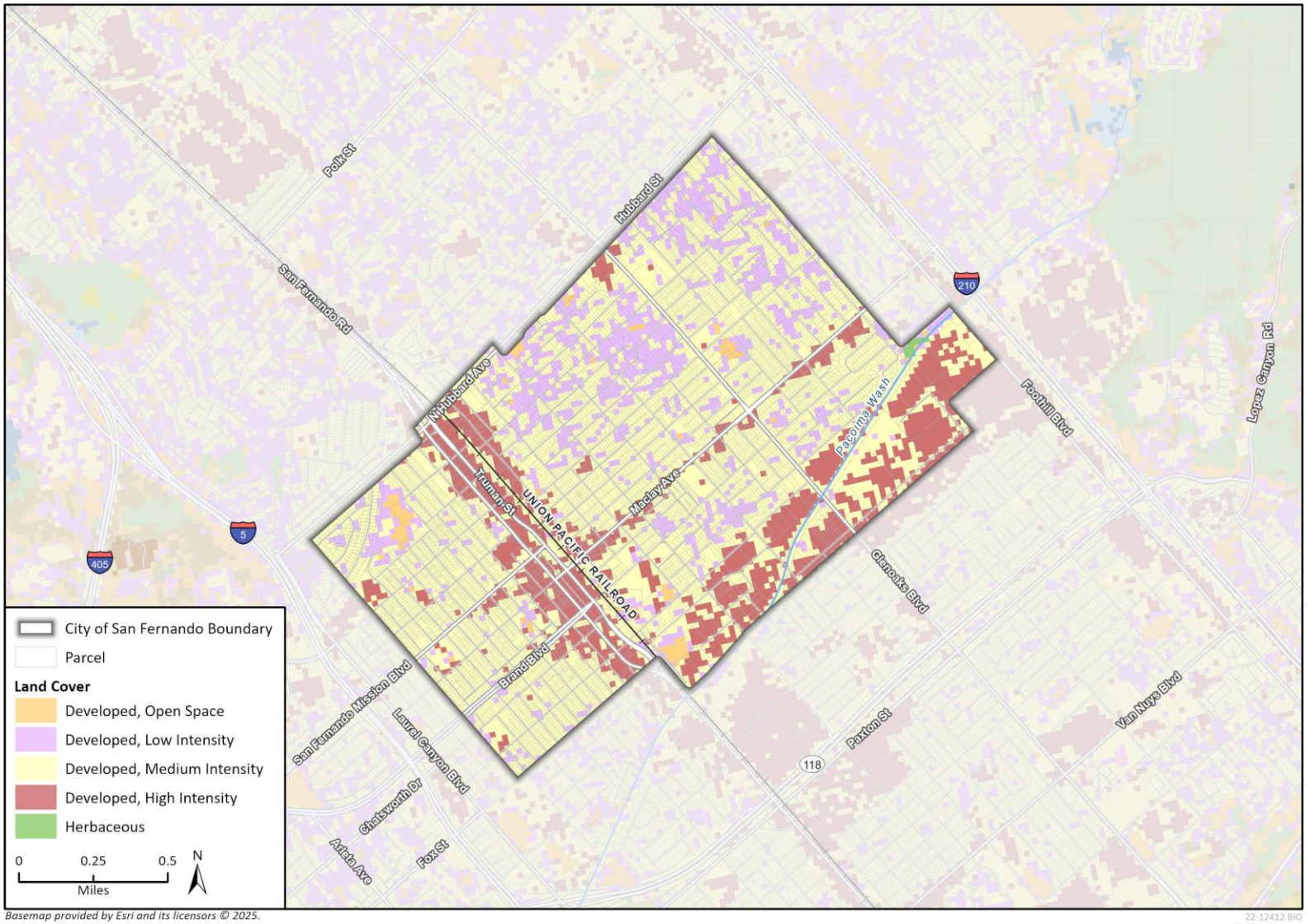
The city’s land cover is dominated by low- to high-intensity development, with open spaces limited to parks, recreational areas, and scattered patches of herbaceous vegetation (see Figure 2). Vegetation communities surrounding the city include scrublands, evergreen and deciduous forests, and developed open space within the Santa Susana and San Gabriel Mountains. Within city boundaries, land types range from developed open space, such as parks and lawns, to small areas of grassland and landscaped urban areas.

One key natural asset in San Fernando is the Pacoima Wash, which provides vital flood control, ecological benefits, and recreational opportunities. The area includes trails for walking, biking, and enhancing public access and enjoyment. It also helps manage stormwater, prevents flooding, supports a variety of wildlife through its riparian habitat, and contributes to regional water quality by filtering runoff.

The City manages flood-prone areas like Pacoima Wash and the San Fernando Flood Control Basin with natural and engineered infrastructure, maintained in partnership with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District. FEMA-designated flood zones such as Zone AE and Zone X help guide floodplain management. The City also promotes public preparedness through education on FEMA flood maps, emergency planning, and the creation of flood emergency kits.

San Fernando’s limited open space network and high degree of urbanization leave few areas that provide multiple community and ecological benefits, and many existing green spaces are isolated from one another and from natural corridors. Future opportunities exist to reconnect and enhance these spaces by expanding multifunctional open spaces that integrate habitat restoration, recreation, and stormwater management, especially along the Pacoima Wash and adjacent corridors. The City could explore small-scale greening and pocket park conversions of underutilized parcels, which can double as urban habitat nodes and passive recreation areas. Partnering with Los Angeles County, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and local non-governmental organizations could enable implementation of rewilding and connectivity goals under SB 1425 and AB 1889, creating linkages to the broader San Fernando Valley ecosystem.

Figure 2 Land Cover in San Fernando



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Additional data provided by LA County, 2024; NHD, 2024; Microsoft, 2024; NLCD, 2024.

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Fig X Land Cover

3. Trees and Urban Forestry

About 19 percent of the city's land area is covered by tree canopy, aligning with the statewide average for urban areas. The urban forest includes approximately 200 different tree species, with a majority of trees in good or fair condition. Parks have the highest canopy coverage at 29 percent, while industrial zones have the lowest at 7 percent. Public rights-of-way and school sites each have about 15 to 16 percent canopy. The city's tree population has a healthy distribution of young trees, contributing to long-term canopy renewal. However, tree canopy is unevenly distributed, and neighborhoods with fewer trees often experience higher temperatures and lower air quality. According to American Forests' 2023 Tree Equity Score analysis, 10 of San Fernando's 17 census block groups have a score below 75, indicating a need for additional tree planting to achieve equitable canopy coverage citywide. It is estimated that roughly 9,000 new trees would need to be planted to reach this threshold, increasing citywide canopy by approximately 8 percent.

Expanding the city's tree canopy can improve air quality, provide cooling benefits, and reduce energy use, particularly in areas most affected by heat. Even a moderate canopy increase would yield measurable annual benefits such as carbon sequestration, stormwater capture, and reductions in ozone and particulate matter pollution. Industrial districts and dense residential neighborhoods remain priority planting zones. The City could pursue funding through the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), California ReLeaf, or CalFire's Urban Forestry Grants to support large-scale shade planting and maintenance programs. Implementation of the City's 2023 Urban Forest Management Plan will help prioritize tree planting in lower-scoring neighborhoods and guide efforts to enhance shade, reduce heat exposure, and improve tree equity across the community. Integrating canopy expansion with "cool corridor" design and stormwater management initiatives would further strengthen neighborhood resilience.

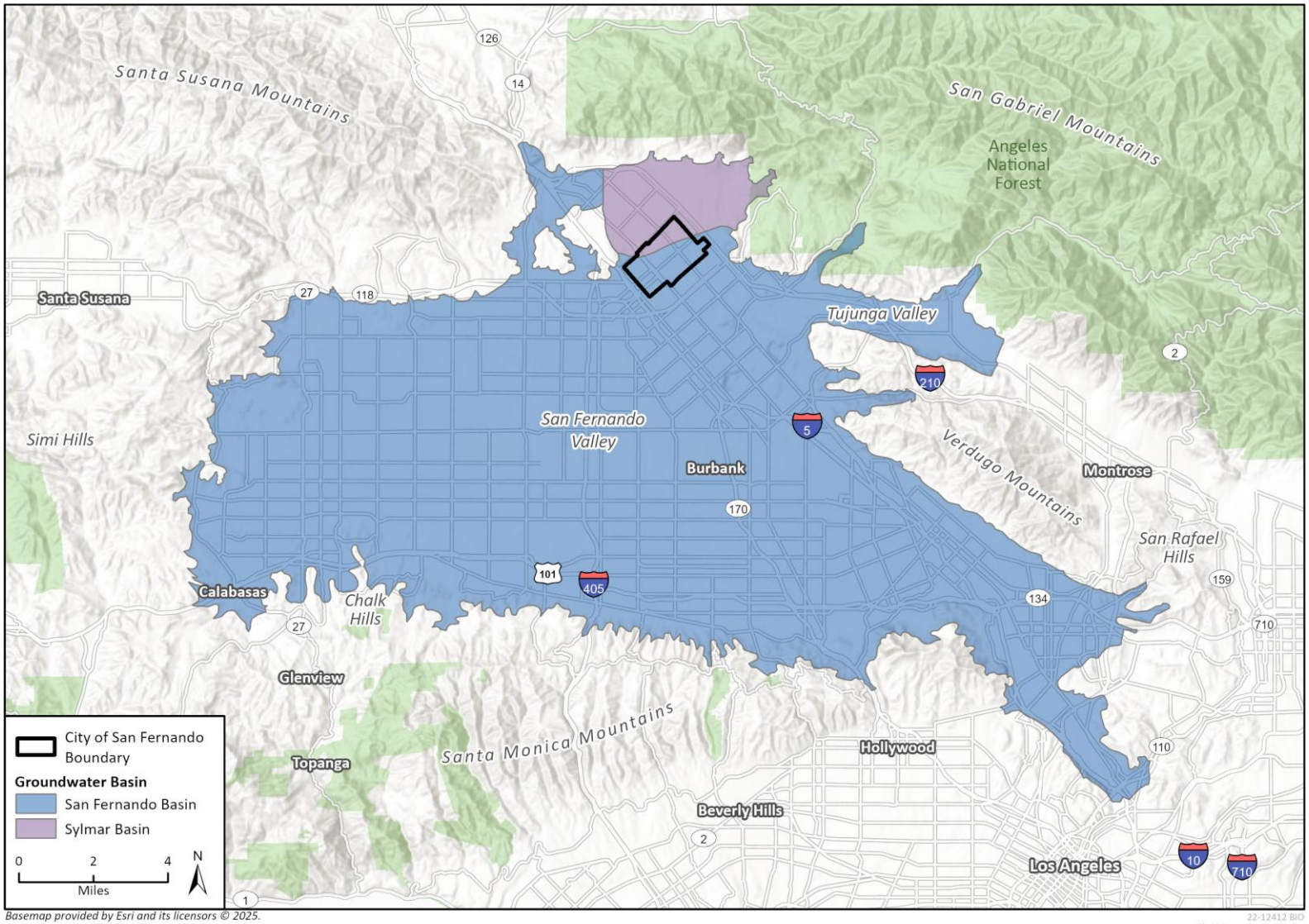
4. Water Quantity and Quality

In normal years, the city relies primarily on local aquifer water from the Sylmar Groundwater Basin for its potable water supply. The city's water system is designed to allow for a mix of locally produced aquifer water and imported water supplies. According to the Annual Water Quality Report, which contains recent system upgrades documented in a 2024 technical report, the city also has two interconnections that provide access to imported, treated water. These include a direct Metropolitan Water District (MWD) interconnection that can deliver imported water to the city's system, as well as two interconnections with the LADWP, one metered and one unmetered, which are seldom used but available for emergency or contingency purposes.

The Sylmar Groundwater Basin (Sylmar Basin) is part of the Upper Los Angeles River Area and lies beneath San Fernando and surrounding communities (see Figure 3). The Sylmar Basin is recharged by rainfall, stream flow, and subsurface inflow from adjacent mountain ranges, but natural recharge is limited due to urban paving and limited infiltration areas. As a result, long-term water reliability depends on careful management of aquifer water production, imported water availability, and conservation practices.

San Fernando operates its own municipal water utility and manages water production from the Sylmar Basin in coordination with the LADWP and other regional agencies. According to the Urban Water Management Plan, four active municipal wells produce water from the aquifer, with combined pumping capacity reaching 4,450 gallons per minute. Water production levels and water quality are monitored and reported to regional and state agencies in accordance with regulatory requirements.

Figure 3 Sylmar and San Fernando Valley Groundwater Basins



The Sylmar Basin has experienced contamination from nitrates, perchlorate, and volatile organic compounds such as trichloroethylene (TCE). To maintain water quality, treatment systems have been installed, including ion-exchange facilities that have restored previously inactive wells to operation. The City continues to address nitrate contamination as a key water quality concern through treatment, monitoring, and coordination with regional partners. Currently, no recycled water is used due to the lack of necessary infrastructure, and stormwater and wastewater are treated by facilities outside city limits, primarily the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant.

The City enforces statewide water conservation regulations and participates in regional drought-response programs administered by the Metropolitan Water District and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. While San Fernando has achieved compliance with required reductions, outreach and enforcement during drought periods remain ongoing challenges, particularly related to irrigation and landscape maintenance. Strengthening compliance monitoring and community education supports long-term groundwater reliability and aligns with State efficiency targets under SB 606 and AB 1668.

The City is in the process of designing a Water Master Plan, which will provide a comprehensive framework for managing aquifer water production, imported water supplies, infrastructure needs, and long-term water quality challenges. Expanding the use of sustainable water management practices would enhance both water reliability and water quality. The City could also pursue green infrastructure, enhanced stormwater capture programs, and expanded recycled-water partnerships; support household rainwater use and leak-detection technologies; and incentivize drought-tolerant landscaping. At the municipal level, opportunities include retrofitting City facilities, such as parks, community centers, and fire stations, with water-efficient fixtures, smart irrigation controllers, and drought-tolerant landscapes, supported by staff training on efficient maintenance practices. The City can also improve stormwater quality through trash capture, bioswale systems, and pollution-prevention outreach. Partnering with the LADWP and the MWD can support grant funding and technical assistance for implementing these improvements.

5. Climate Change and Climate Resilience

San Fernando's natural and recreational resources are increasingly vulnerable to climate change impacts, including species loss, habitat degradation, and diminished opportunities for outdoor recreation. Rising average temperatures, more frequent heat waves, shifting precipitation patterns, elevated ozone levels, and heightened risks of drought and wildfires are expected to intensify. These changes strain water and energy systems, degrade air quality, and pose serious health risks, particularly for vulnerable populations such as seniors and low-income households lacking access to cooling or green spaces. The city's dense urban form and limited tree canopy contribute to localized heat island effects, while aging stormwater infrastructure heightens vulnerability to flooding during extreme rain events.

Regional climate projections indicate that Southern California will face reduced water reliability due to declining snowpack and variable imported water supplies. As a city that operates its own municipal water utility and draws groundwater from the Sylmar Groundwater Basin, San Fernando coordinates with the LADWP and other regional agencies to manage shared basin resources and adapt to potential supply fluctuations while continuing to promote water conservation and efficiency. Extreme heat and drought also place additional pressure on public spaces and vegetation, requiring more resilient landscaping and shading strategies. In San Fernando, housing conditions compound these challenges: the city has higher-than-average rates of overcrowding, aging and substandard housing, and a legacy of historic redlining that limited neighborhood investment. Many homes lack adequate insulation, air conditioning, or private yards, making public open spaces essential for cooling, recreation, and mental health, particularly for households that cannot comfortably shelter indoors during extreme heat.

Employment patterns further heighten climate vulnerability. Many residents work in sectors such as construction, manufacturing, logistics, and service occupations that involve outdoor or non–climate-

controlled environments, increasing exposure to extreme heat and air pollution. Reliable access to shaded parks, tree-lined streets, and other public green spaces provides relief and improves public health outcomes for these workers and their families.

To strengthen local resilience, San Fernando is working to integrate climate adaptation across multiple sectors, from expanding urban greening and energy-efficient public infrastructure to coordinating with regional partners such as Los Angeles County and the MWD. Building on ongoing adaptation efforts, the City can pursue projects that combine climate mitigation, resilience, and equity benefits. Expanding shaded pedestrian routes, improving access to cooling centers, and incorporating green infrastructure in park and street design can reduce heat exposure in vulnerable neighborhoods. Collaboration with Los Angeles County, Metro, and the South Coast Air Quality Management District can help integrate local climate initiatives into regional hazard mitigation, transportation, and environmental health programs. The City could also seek grant opportunities through California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, California Air Resources Board, and the Strategic Growth Council to fund nature-based and community-driven adaptation measures.

D. Parks and Recreation

1. Existing Facilities

Unique and diverse park and recreation facilities are available throughout the City of San Fernando. Currently, seven public parks, one privately owned park, and three additional community buildings provide active and passive recreation opportunities for the community.

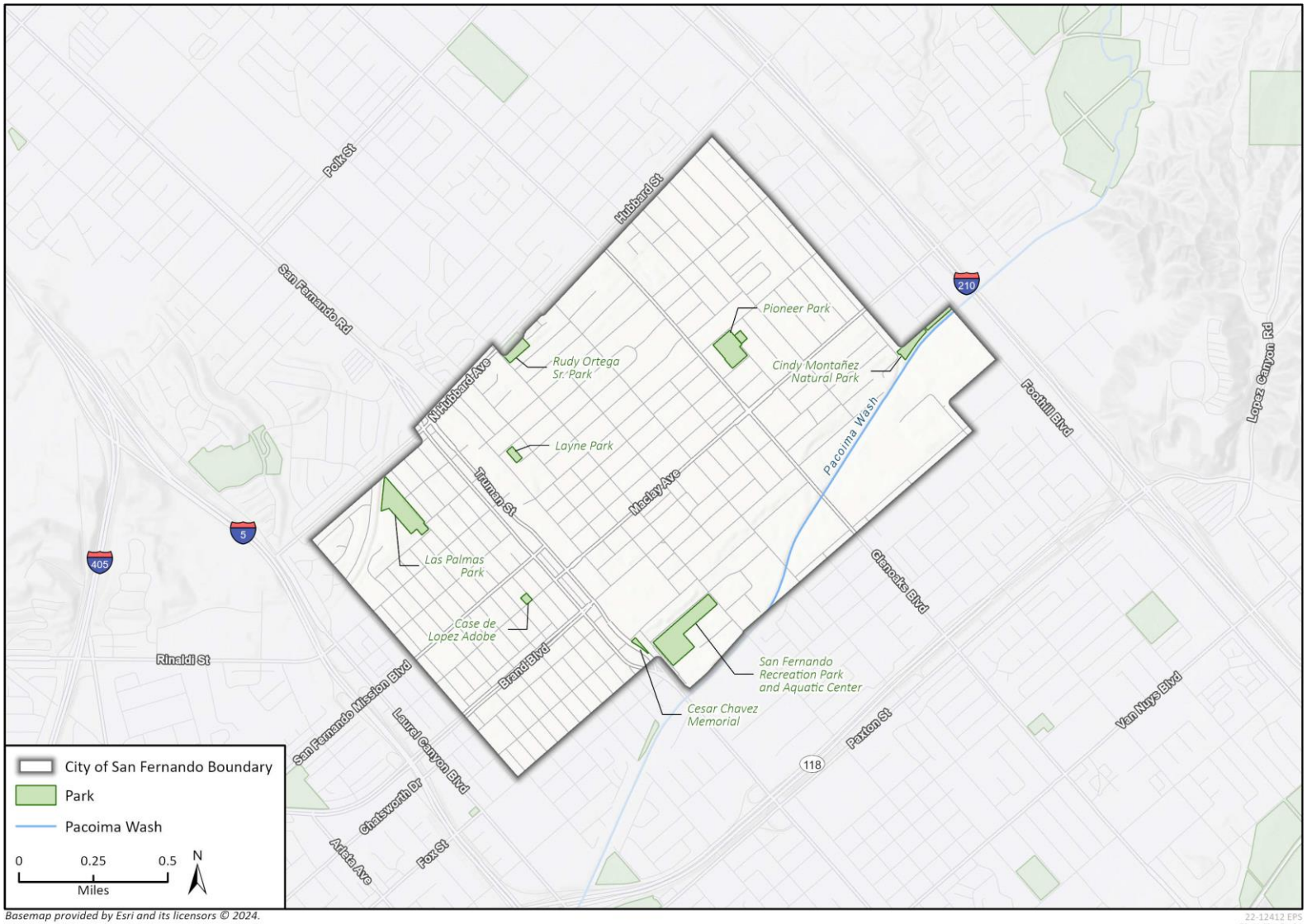
Recreation Park picnic area.

The current breakdown of park acreage is shown in Table 1. The City's existing park facilities are identified in Figure 4.

Table 1 Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities

Facility Type	Acres
Pocket/Mini Parks	1.42
Neighborhood Parks	3.32
Community Parks	19.48
Recreation Areas/Regional Parks	3.07
Special Use Facilities	0.34
Linear Parks	4.53
Total	**32.16**
Source: City of San Fernando Park and Recreation Master Plan (2017)	

Figure 4 San Fernando Parks and Open Space



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Additional data provided by NHD, 2024.

22-12412 EPS
Fig X City Parks

2. Recreational Programming

The City of San Fernando, through its Recreation and Community Services Department, provides a wide range of programs and events that support residents' physical, mental, and social well-being. Offerings include community clean-ups, cultural arts, fitness classes, youth and senior services, and citywide events like concerts and holiday celebrations.

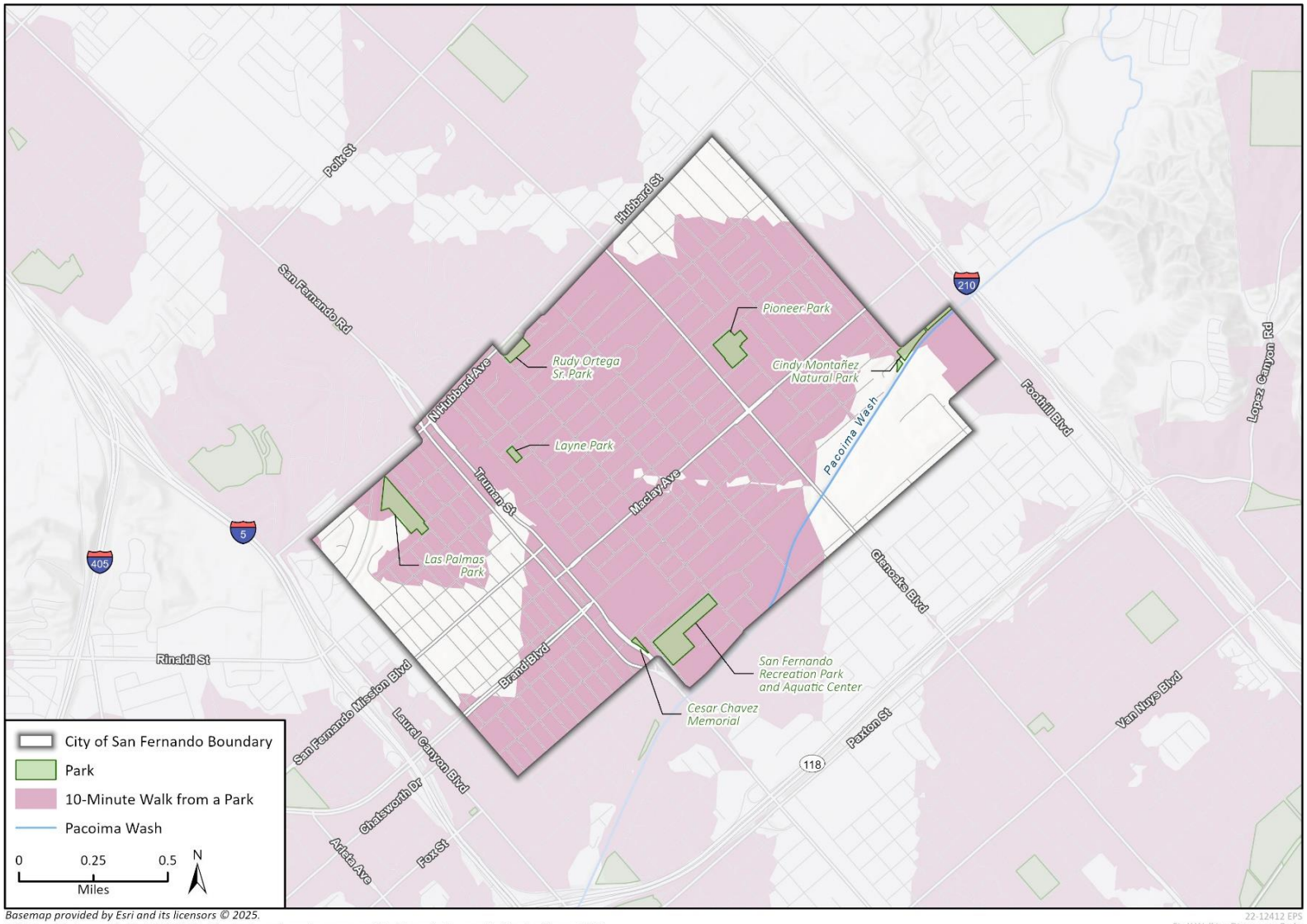
3. Park Access

The City of San Fernando has a well-used park system but falls short of local and federal standards for park quantity and accessibility. Section 78-215 of the San Fernando Municipal Code implements the Quimby Act and encourages the City to maintain a service ratio of three acres of park space per 1,000 residents. Yet, according to the Park Opportunity Plan, San Fernando provides only 1.4 acres per 1,000 residents. Despite this shortfall, most residents live within a 10-minute walk (0.5 miles) of a park, shown in Figure 5.

While most residents live within walking distance of a park, access and quality are not distributed evenly across San Fernando. The city's central neighborhoods, where Layne Park and Rudy Ortega Sr. Park are located, are relatively well served, while the southern and eastern areas near the San Fernando Recreation Park and Cesar Chavez Memorial experience high usage due to limited alternatives. The northern neighborhoods around Pioneer Park and Cindy Montañez Natural Park have fewer shaded spaces and limited amenities, and small gaps in coverage remain near the city's industrial edge along First Street and the Pacoima Wash. Many of San Fernando's parks are small and lack restrooms, lighting, and shaded seating, constraining use during hot months and discouraging visitation by families and seniors. These disparities highlight the need to prioritize investments in amenity upgrades, shade coverage, and joint-use partnerships with local schools to ensure all residents, especially those in heat-vulnerable and high-density areas, have equitable access to high-quality open spaces.

Future park planning efforts could focus on improving amenities, accessibility, and equitable distribution of recreational spaces. Upgrading small neighborhood parks with shade structures, restrooms, and play equipment would enhance their usability, while new pocket parks and joint-use agreements with local schools could address service gaps in underserved neighborhoods. Connectivity improvements, such as trail extensions along the Pacoima Wash and safe pedestrian crossings to parks, would strengthen the overall recreation network. These actions align with the goals of the City's Park and Recreation Master Plan to improve local level of service and promote equitable park access.

Figure 5 Walking Distance to Nearest Park



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Additional data provided by NHD, 2024. 10-minute walk service areas and Park boundaries provided by ParkServe, 2025.

22-12412 EPS
Fig X Walking Distance to Parks

E. Cultural Resources

San Fernando's cultural landscape is deeply rooted in its indigenous, Spanish, Mexican, and American past. The region has been inhabited for thousands of years, with the Tongva and Tataviam peoples establishing settlements in the San Fernando Valley. These communities relied on hunting, gathering, and trade and cultivated local plant resources, such as oak trees, for sustenance. Both the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians and Tongva communities remain active stewards of cultural knowledge and continue to maintain deep ancestral, social, and environmental connections to the San Fernando area. Their leadership in local cultural education, land stewardship, and heritage advocacy plays a vital role in shaping the City's ongoing identity and partnerships for cultural and natural resource management.

Spanish colonization in the late 18th century brought profound change to these communities. The introduction of the mission system, Spanish land tenure, and new agricultural practices reshaped the landscape and disrupted existing social and environmental relationships. In 1797, Mission San Fernando was founded along El Camino Real, incorporating many Indigenous people into the mission system through forced labor and conversion. The mission became a regional center for agriculture and religious activity but also marked the loss of Indigenous autonomy and population decline due to displacement and disease.

During the Mexican period, the mission was secularized in 1834 under the Mexican Secularization Act, transferring mission lands to civil control and private ranchers, including the formation of Rancho Ex-Mission San Fernando. While some mission buildings remained active for worship, most Indigenous residents were displaced from their ancestral lands. Large land grants were distributed to private owners and government officials, and Indigenous people were largely displaced rather than granted property autonomy. Following U.S. annexation, the area became integrated into state development, with agriculture and railroads driving economic growth. The arrival of the Southern Pacific Railroad and the completion of the Los Angeles Aqueduct in the early 20th century significantly influenced the city's transformation into a hub of farming, industry, and residential development.

Today, several historic buildings and landmarks are preserved, including the Lopez Adobe, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register, and designated as a local landmark (see Table 2). Other designated historic resources include early 20th-century homes, schools, and civic buildings. Local policies promote the adaptive reuse and preservation of these resources and encourage public engagement with the city's diverse cultural heritage. Interpretive signage, educational programming, and community events support continued recognition of San Fernando's historic identity. Downtown San Fernando contains many of the city's early 20th-century commercial and civic buildings, including examples of Spanish Colonial Revival and Art Deco architecture that contribute to its historic character and walkable scale. These structures, many located along Maclay Avenue, Brand Boulevard, and San Fernando Road, represent opportunities for adaptive reuse and context-sensitive infill that can strengthen Downtown's identity as a cultural and economic hub. Incentivizing rehabilitation and compatible reuse can both preserve local heritage and support sustainability by extending the lifespan of existing buildings.

Table 2 Historic Resources in San Fernando

Resource Name	Designation Type	Date Listed
The Cascades	California State Historical Landmark	July 28, 1958
Elks Lodge	California Register of Historical Resources	N/A
Griffith Ranch	California State Historical Landmark	December 2, 1959
Lopez Adobe	National Register of Historic Places	May 6, 1971
Lopez Adobe/La Casa de Geronimo Lopez	Point of Interest	August 15, 1968

Resource Name	Designation Type	Date Listed
Morningside Elementary School	California Register of Historical Resources	N/A
Old Rock Scout House	California Register of Historical Resources	N/A
San Fernando Junior High School	California Register of Historical Resources	N/A
Santa Susana Stage Road	Point of Interest	October 5, 1971
216 Hagar Street	California Register of Historical Resources	N/A
447 Hagar Street	California Register of Historical Resources	N/A
Source: California Register of Historical Resources 2025; City of San Fernando Historic Preservation Element		

The City has an established foundation for historic preservation through its Historic Preservation Element, landmark designations, and adaptive reuse projects such as the Lopez Adobe. However, many eligible or culturally significant sites, particularly mid-century buildings and community heritage landmarks, remain undocumented or underutilized. Expanding the City's inventory, incentive programs, and public interpretation efforts represents an opportunity to strengthen local identity, encourage reinvestment, and ensure that preservation supports both cultural and environmental sustainability.

Photo of the Lopez Adobe taken by Andrew Schmidt.

Expanding cultural resource programming and strengthening preservation through public engagement and adaptive reuse are also top priorities for the City of San Fernando. The City recognizes the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians as a sovereign government with ancestral ties to San Fernando and acknowledges their inherent right to self-determination in decisions affecting Tribal cultural resources. The City will continue to engage in government-to-government consultation and, where appropriate, co-stewardship agreements that honor Tribal authority, traditional ecological knowledge, and cultural protocols. Collaboratively developing walking tours, interpretive art installations, and partnerships with local

schools could enhance awareness of San Fernando's layered heritage, from Indigenous settlements to early mission and railroad-era development. Updating the City's Historic Resources Inventory to include mid-century and community heritage sites would ensure a more inclusive representation of local history and support future designation and funding opportunities.

F. Goals and Policies

Access to parks, open space, and recreational opportunities play a key role in supporting a healthy and livable community. Protecting natural areas, maintaining safe and welcoming public spaces, and expanding recreational facilities contribute to residents' physical and mental well-being. The following goals and policies focus on the conservation of open space, enhancement of park and recreation resources, and equitable access to these amenities throughout the City of San Fernando.

1. Wildlife and Habitat

Goal 1.0

Preserve and protect wildlife habitat areas for the maintenance and enhancement of biological diversity and ecological integrity.

Objective

Implement habitat restoration projects in key wildlife corridors and establish protective measures to support the long-term conservation of native species and ecosystems.

Policy

Policy 1.1. Collaboration for Species Protection. Collaborate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Los Angeles County Flood Control District, and local conservation-focused community-based organizations to identify and implement measures that protect listed species and maintain ecological connectivity in the Pacoima Wash corridor.

Policy 1.2. Encourage Native Landscaping. Update the Municipal Code to require native or drought-tolerant landscaping in new developments, parks, and public rights-of-way to support local biodiversity and reduce water use.

Policy 1.3. Wildlife Connectivity Planning. Identify and enhance potential wildlife movement routes along the Pacoima Wash and other drainage corridors to connect urban green spaces with regional habitat areas.

Policy 1.4. Pacoima Wash Enhancement. Prioritize the enhancement and restoration of habitat along the Pacoima Wash to support migratory birds and other native species, including the improvement of wetland areas and vegetation.

Goal 2.0

Conserve and support natural habitats and key species within the city through targeted preservation efforts in planning decisions.

Objective

Incorporate natural habitat conservation and key species protection into the City's planning processes by requiring habitat assessments for new development projects and prioritizing the preservation or enhancement of critical habitats.

Policy

Policy 2.1. Biological Resource Evaluations. Require focused biological resource review for projects located near the Pacoima Wash, existing greenways, or sites containing mature native vegetation to identify and mitigate potential habitat impacts.

Policy 2.2. Planning for Habitat Conservation. Integrate identified critical habitat data into the City's development regulations and planning decisions.

Policy 2.3. Construction Monitoring. Require qualified biological monitors during construction in areas supporting sensitive species or riparian habitat to minimize disturbance.

Policy 2.4. Regional Coordination. Coordinate with Los Angeles County, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and regional conservation agencies to align habitat protection with regional connectivity and flood-control projects.

2. Natural Open Space

Goal 3.0

Enhance the accessibility, preservation, and multifunctional use of open space areas to support biodiversity, recreation, and community well-being in San Fernando.

Objective

Promote the development and preservation of multi-use open spaces by facilitating public access, enhancing natural areas for wildlife habitat, and encouraging the retention and restoration of natural stream corridors, ensuring that all new developments incorporate appropriate mitigation measures for environmental impacts.

Policy

Policy 3.1. Encourage Open Space Usage. Support improvements that strengthen safe, convenient, and equitable access to the Pacoima Wash Greenway and community parks, encouraging more residents to enjoy these spaces.

Policy 3.2. Preserve and Enhance Natural Areas. Expand and enhance opportunities for habitat restoration and naturalization within developed and publicly owned lands, such as along the Pacoima Wash, within parks, and through joint-use agreements with private and public schools, using native and pollinator-friendly landscaping guided by biological resources data.

Policy 3.3. Support Multi-Use Spaces. Enhance existing parks, public rights of way, and flood control corridors to function as multi-benefit green spaces that support recreation, habitat value, stormwater management, and urban cooling in the built environment.

Policy 3.4. Small-Parcel Greening. Establish criteria to identify and convert underutilized public parcels and rights of way into pocket parks or greenways that provide shade, habitat, and stormwater capture.

3. Trees and Urban Forestry

Goal 4.0

Preserve and expand the urban tree canopy in San Fernando to enhance ecological health, air quality, and the city's character.

Objective

Protect mature trees, increase tree planting in public spaces and new developments, and manage tree health through the Urban Forestry Management Plan.

Policy

Policy 4.1. Tree Preservation. Protect mature native oaks and other significant trees that contribute to San Fernando's history, character, and environmental quality, using evaluation criteria that consider safety, ecological integrity, and aesthetic value.

Policy 4.2. Canopy Design Standards. Increase tree canopy coverage by setting measurable canopy targets and ensuring new developments include adequate parkway or setback widths to sustain healthy street trees.

Policy 4.3. Canopy Maintenance. Maintain and monitor the health of all public trees through proactive pruning, pest management, and replacement to sustain citywide canopy coverage.

Policy 4.4. Urban Greening. Identify and map heat-vulnerable neighborhoods and areas lacking canopy cover to prioritize tree planting and green-infrastructure investments.

Policy 4.5. Green Redevelopment. Integrate tree canopy, habitat corridors, and green infrastructure into areas transitioning from industrial to mixed-use or residential development.

Policy 4.6. Urban Forestry Management Plan. Implement the Urban Forestry Management Plan to guide planting, maintenance, and monitoring efforts. Review progress every five years and update the Urban Forestry Management Plan as needed.

Policy 4.7. Tribally-Informed Urban Forestry Partnership. Partner with the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (FTBMI) through the Tribally-Informed Urban Forestry Program to co-lead tree-planting events, integrate traditional ecological knowledge, and provide culturally grounded tree-care education.

4. Water Quality and Quantity

Goal 5.0

Protect and maintain water quality in San Fernando.

Objective

Advance site design strategies, water reuse strategies, and community engagement initiatives that reduce runoff, protect groundwater, and support long-term watershed health.

Policy

Policy 5.1. Runoff and Groundwater-Considerate Site Planning. Utilize planning, permitting, and site design processes to reduce pollution from stormwater runoff and protect groundwater quality, including low-impact development practices, limiting new impervious surfaces, and incorporating green infrastructure to filter runoff before it reaches water sources.

Policy 5.2. Sustainable Stormwater Design. Integrate sustainable stormwater-management practices, such as bioswales, rain gardens, and infiltration basins, into all applicable projects to minimize runoff and prevent erosion.

Policy 5.3. Community-Based Water Stewardship. Promote and implement community-driven approaches to address water quality issues, including public education, local stewardship programs, and collaborative projects that engage residents in protecting and improving local water resources.

Goal 6.0

Maintain long-term water supply sustainability through effective conservation, efficient use, and community-driven stewardship.

Objective

Strengthen the city's water resilience through strategic partnerships, innovative conservation practices, and active community involvement.

Policy

Policy 6.1. Water Supply Coordination. Expand the coordination with LADWP and MWD to maintain a reliable and diversified water supply through joint infrastructure planning.

Policy 6.2. Interagency Partnerships. Maintain active partnerships with regional and state agencies to expand and promote conservation rebates, drought-response coordination, and public outreach.

Policy 6.3. Conservation Measure Compliance. Maintain and strengthen compliance with State and local water conservation regulations by coordinating with regional agencies, monitoring use, and expanding education to reduce water consumption in both residential and nonresidential areas.

Policy 6.4. Greywater Use. Encourage installation of greywater and recycled-water systems for landscape irrigation in new development and major retrofits.

Policy 6.5. Municipal Efficiency. Enhance water use efficiency at City facilities by implementing retrofit projects, such as irrigation upgrades, water-efficient fixtures, and drought-tolerant landscaping, and providing education and training for staff.

Policy 6.6. Building Retrofit Incentives. Promote available incentives through City communication channels, coordinating with regional agencies on outreach efforts, and streamlining local permitting for qualifying upgrades to support property-owner participation in water-efficiency retrofit and leak detection.

Policy 6.7. Drought Resilience and Recharge. Collaborate with regional partners to explore small-scale groundwater-recharge and stormwater-capture projects to enhance drought resilience.

5. Climate resilience

Goal 7.0

Strive to be a climate-resilient community supported by cleaner air, greener spaces, and adaptation to environmental change.

Objective

Strengthen San Fernando's climate resilience by prioritizing nature-based solutions, fostering adaptive planning, and leveraging broader policy and funding opportunities.

Policy

Policy 7.1. Urban Heat Island Mitigation. Reduce urban heat-island effects through expanded tree canopy, cool-roof and pavement technologies, and reduced impervious surfaces in public and private projects.

Policy 7.2. Carbon Sequestration. Preserve, restore, and enhance San Fernando's vegetation and soil systems that support carbon sequestration and strengthen climate resilience by promoting native and drought-tolerant landscaping, soil health improvements such as compost application, and riparian restoration along the Pacoima Wash to increase shade, reduce heat exposure, improve water retention, and support biodiversity.

Policy 7.3. Climate-Adaptation Coordination. Coordinate with Los Angeles County, LADWP, and regional partners to implement nature-based adaptation projects consistent with the Safety Element's climate change strategies, the City's CARP, and regional frameworks such as the Los Angeles County Sustainability Plan and Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) Regional Climate Adaptation Framework.

Policy 7.4. Community Mitigation. Improve community health and sustainability by reducing greenhouse-gas emissions and expanding clean-energy adoption through energy-efficiency programs, renewable energy installations, and electrification incentives, and by coordinating with regional climate action and adaptation plans to align local implementation efforts.

Policy 7.5. Funding and Implementation Alignment. Pursue state and federal funding for green-infrastructure and resilience projects that deliver multiple benefits for public health, open space, and climate adaptation.

6. Recreational Parks and Open Space

Goal 8.0

Provide accessible and connected parks and recreational facilities while encouraging community involvement to ensure equitable access for all San Fernando residents.

Objective

Ensure equitable access to parks by prioritizing development in underserved areas, enhancing park connectivity through trail projects, and fostering community involvement through stewardship programs and partnerships with local schools.

Policy

Policy 8.1. Park Access Mapping and Equity Analysis. Regularly identify and map neighborhoods with limited access to parks and recreational facilities using geographic and demographic data to guide equitable park investment, programming, and future site selection.

Policy 8.2. Parks Investment Prioritization. Give highest priority to developing and enhancing parks in neighborhoods with limited access to open space and recreational facilities, emphasizing improvements that increase shade, reduce heat exposure, and expand opportunities for active and passive recreation.

Policy 8.3. Park Accessibility. Improve accessibility and ease of travel to parks and recreation areas by enhancing safe walking, rolling, biking, and transit connections and removing physical and design barriers.

Policy 8.4. Advance Park Connectivity Projects. Advance projects such as the Pacoima Wash Connectivity Project to establish a robust network of walking and biking trails that link parks and open spaces.

Policy 8.5. Enhance Park Stewardship. Expand the City's existing recreational programs to include clean-up initiatives, tree planting drives, and recreational programs offered by the Recreation and Community Services Department.

Policy 8.6. Inclusive Park Design. Incorporate universal-design and ADA-compliant features in all park renovations and new recreational facilities.

Policy 8.7. Joint-Use Partnerships. Expand joint-use agreements with Los Angeles Unified School District and other institutions to increase public access to school-based recreational facilities.

Policy 8.8. Park Biodiversity and Habitat Connectivity. Restore native vegetation and strengthen ecological linkages between parks, the Pacoima Wash, and regional habitat corridors.

Policy 8.9. Park Safety and Activation. Improve park safety and activation through enhanced lighting, programming, and partnerships with community groups and local law enforcement.

7. Cultural resources

Goal 9.0

Celebrate the City's historic identity by preserving and reimagining its historic buildings as active, valued parts of the community.

Objective

Encourage the adaptive reuse and ongoing care of historic structures by supporting preservation-minded design, investment, and community engagement.

Policy

Policy 9.1. Adaptive Reuse. Preserve and revitalize historic structures, particularly those within and around Downtown San Fernando, through adaptive reuse and context-sensitive rehabilitation that maintain character-defining features, promote sustainability, and contribute to the vitality.

Policy 9.2. Historic Resource Preservation. Maintain and expand long-term preservation of historic resources through creative, energy-efficient rehabilitation and compatible new uses that reinforce community identity.

Policy 9.3. Historic Resource Harm Prevention. Strengthen ongoing efforts to prevent the misuse, disrepair, and demolition of historic resources and buildings by promoting regular maintenance, early identification of at-risk sites, and collaboration with property owners.

Policy 9.4. Cultural Interpretation and Education. Enhance and broaden public appreciation of San Fernando's diverse cultural history through heritage signage, walking tours, and interpretive exhibits at key historic sites.

Goal 10.0

Preserve archaeological, tribal, and historic resources for future generations to protect and honor the City's cultural heritage.

Objective

Integrate cultural resource stewardship into planning and decision-making by fostering collaboration with tribal partners, maintaining accurate inventories, and ensuring City policies support long-term preservation.

Policy

Policy 10.1. Archaeological Resource Protection. Safeguard prehistoric and historic archaeological sites through early identification, avoidance, and preservation in coordination with qualified professionals.

Policy 10.2. Tribal Engagement. Engage early with local Native American tribes to identify, protect, and manage tribal cultural resources during planning and development review, extending beyond legally mandated consultation to include voluntary coordination, co-stewardship opportunities, and integration of traditional ecological knowledge in City planning and management activities.

Policy 10.3. Tribal Partnership and Cultural Collaboration. Establish ongoing partnerships with the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (FTBMI) and other interested tribes to co-develop cultural programs, heritage education, and stewardship initiatives that celebrate Indigenous history and strengthen community awareness of traditional ecological knowledge.

Policy 10.4. Archaeological Documentation. Inventory and document archaeological sites, in collaboration with Tribal governments and with consent-based data collection practices, for potential inclusion in state or national registers and integrate findings into City GIS databases consistent with cultural resource confidentiality requirements.

Policy 10.5. Integrated Cultural Stewardship. Align City policies to ensure coordinated protection and management of historic, archaeological, and tribal resources across departments.

Policy 10.6. Compatible Infill Design. Update and enforce design standards to require new construction within historic areas to complement existing architectural scale, form, and materials, consistent with the City's design guidelines and preservation objective.

G. Implementation Measures and Programs

Table 3 identifies implementation measures for the Open Space, Conservation, Parks and Recreation Element. All implementation measures have been assigned a time frame necessary for completion: short term (1-3 years), intermediate term (3-5 years), and long term (5 + years). Funding needs have also been identified: Low (ongoing staff time or a one-time relatively low cost), medium (requires technical studies and analyses), and high (requires capital investment).

Table 3 Open Space, Conservation, Parks, and Recreation Implementation Measures

Program Number	Implementation Measure or Program	Time Frame (Short, Intermediate, Long)	Responsibility	Funding Needs (Low, Medium, High)
Wildlife and Habitat				
1	**Wildlife Corridors.** Coordinate with Los Angeles County, the City of Los Angeles, Caltrans, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to update local mapping of wildlife movement corridors using existing regional datasets and tools. Focus local updates on the Pacoima Wash and nearby open-space linkages, adding site-specific verification only when needed for project review.	Short Term	Community Development, Recreation & Community Services, Public Works	Medium
2	**Regional Habitat and Watershed Connectivity.** Align rewilding and restoration efforts with ongoing regional habitat-connectivity and watershed initiatives, pursuing external funding through agencies such as Caltrans, the SCAG, the Wildlife Conservation Board, and SMMC for implementation.	Intermediate Term	Community Development, Recreation & Community Services, Public Works	High
3	**Parks Rewilding.** Establish criteria for integrating rewilding strategies into both existing and newly developed parks. This could involve creating naturalized areas within developed parks to support habitat protection, groundwater recharge, and wildlife movement. Methods may include features like native plant gardens, landscaping with native species, and dedicated naturalized zones within the park's design.	Intermediate Term	Recreation and Community Services, Public Works	Medium
4	**Advance the Pacoima Wash Greenway Master Plan.** Move forward with the Pacoima Wash Greenway Master Plan by coordinating with interested parties to integrate recreational spaces with environmental restoration efforts. This will include developing trails, parks, and community spaces while restoring natural habitats, enhancing biodiversity, and improving water quality along the wash.	Short Term	Public Works	High

Program Number	Implementation Measure or Program	Time Frame (Short, Intermediate, Long)	Responsibility	Funding Needs (Low, Medium, High)
5	**Naturalized Landscaping.** Build on the City's existing drought-tolerant landscaping and turf-replacement programs develop a maintenance and expansion strategy for publicly owned lands. Coordinate with the City's Public Works Department, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), and the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) to pursue grants, rebates, and partnerships that sustain and expand these ongoing efforts.	Intermediate Term	Public Works	Medium
6	**Wildlife-Friendly and Night-Sky-Sensitive Design.** Adopt a Dark Sky Lighting Ordinance to incorporate wildlife-friendly and bird-safe design practices into new development and major renovations, such as minimizing reflective glass, shielding lighting to reduce disorientation for birds and nocturnal species, and applying dark-sky lighting standards. Prioritize these measures near the Pacoima Wash and other open-space areas that provide habitat or movement corridors.	Short Term	Community Development	Low
7	**Native Vegetation in Habitat Areas.** Adopt maintenance strategies that prioritize native vegetation and control harmful invasive plant species in natural habitats, open spaces, and City-managed landscaped areas. Update the City's landscape and maintenance standards to limit the use of non-native species to highly urbanized or ornamental settings where native options are not viable. Require that any non-native plantings provide clear functional or aesthetic benefits without displacing or competing with native vegetation.	Intermediate Term	Public Works Recreation & Community Services	Medium
8	**Habitat-Sensitive Site Design.** Update site and landscape design standards to encourage wildlife-friendly features, such as native plantings, pollinator-supportive landscaping, habitat buffers, permeable fencing, and low-glare lighting, especially near the Pacoima Wash, utility easements, and other landscaped open spaces that function as minor movement pathways.	Short Term	Community Development	Low
Open Space and Urban Forestry				
9	**Urban Forestry Planning.** Implement the Urban Forest Management Plan to guide tree planting and maintenance, focusing on enhancing biodiversity, air quality, and shade. Prioritize planting and maintenance efforts in neighborhoods with both limited canopy coverage and higher heat exposure, air pollution, or social vulnerability, as identified through the City's Tree Equity Score and Environmental Justice analysis. Ensure the long-term health and sustainability of the urban forest through equitable investment, monitoring, and community participation.	Short Term	Public Works, Community Development, Recreation & Community Services	Low

Program Number	Implementation Measure or Program	Time Frame (Short, Intermediate, Long)	Responsibility	Funding Needs (Low, Medium, High)
10	**Tree Planting Review.** Update project review guidelines to streamline projects that introduce new tree plantings throughout the city to meet tree canopy cover targets and reduce urban heat-island effects, particularly in heat-vulnerable neighborhoods. Include updated standards for tree preservation during construction to maintain canopy benefits for cooling, shade, and air quality.	Short Term	Community Development, Public Works	Low
Water Quality and Quantity				
11	**Minimize Impervious Surfaces.** Revise the zoning ordinance to mandate site designs that support natural water infiltration and reduce the extent of impervious surfaces. Incorporate requirements for features such as vegetated swales, buffer zones, and other green infrastructure elements to manage and filter stormwater runoff. Prioritize green-infrastructure retrofits of existing storm drains with full trash-capture or bioretention devices to improve water quality and infiltration.	Short Term	Community Development, Public Works	Medium
12	**Water-Runoff Discharge Rates.** Update the Municipal Code to include post-development peak storm water runoff discharge rates and velocities to prevent or reduce erosion.	Short Term	Public Works	Medium
13	**Community Organization Partnerships.** Form partnerships with community organizations dedicated to natural resource protection and water conservation to collaboratively identify and support opportunities for public-led water stewardship initiatives.	Short Term	Public Works	Low
14	**Community Clean-Ups.** Work with local community groups and businesses to host manual cleanup of water bodies and open spaces.	Short Term	Public Works, Community Development	Low
15	**Water Use Education.** Launch an annual local water conservation campaign that shares multilingual resources on peak water usage times and easy behavior changes residents can adopt. Distribute materials through social media, school presentations, and community events to reach a broad and diverse audience.	Short Term	Public Works	Low
16	**Drought-Resistant Plantings.** Conduct a feasibility study to identify opportunities for incorporating drought-tolerant landscaping in landscaped medians and parkway strips to reduce water use and maintenance costs.	Intermediate Term	Public Works	Medium
17	**Greywater Integration.** Identify funding and conduct a feasibility study to explore opportunities for integrating greywater and recycled water infrastructure during the planning and implementation of water infrastructure projects.	Intermediate Term	Public Works	Medium

Program Number	Implementation Measure or Program	Time Frame (Short, Intermediate, Long)	Responsibility	Funding Needs (Low, Medium, High)
18	**Review Facilities for Inefficiencies.** Conduct a review of City facilities to identify any leaks or other inefficiencies in the existing water system. Update or upgrade water systems in identified City facilities to enhance efficiency, conservation, and reliability.	Intermediate Term	Public Works	Medium
Climate Resilience				
19	**Environmental Data Integration and Public Dashboard.** Develop a centralized GIS platform that consolidates data on park access, tree canopy coverage, habitat areas, air quality, and flood-risk zones. Use this data to track progress toward sustainability and equity goals and to strengthen grant applications and public transparency.	Intermediate Term	Community Development, IT, Public Works	Medium
20	**Industrial Greening.** Prioritize the city's industrial transition area for new improvements to greening, shade, and stormwater management features into redevelopment projects. Incorporate heat-response coordination measures to protect residents during extreme heat events, such as shade mapping, hydration stations, and partnerships with County agencies and community-based organizations. Define boundaries and standards through the zoning code or design standards to ensure consistent treatment of greening features maintenance.	Short Term	Community Development, Public Works	Medium
21	**Cross-Jurisdiction Greening Coordination.** Coordinate with Caltrans, Metro, LADWP, and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District to retrofit adjacent public rights-of-way, rail easements, and corridors with multi-benefit green infrastructure that connects to regional open space and trail networks.	Long Term	Public Works, Community Development	High
22	**Flood-Resistant Design.** Update and enforce building codes that require flood-resistant design features in areas prone to flash floods or heavy runoff, as identified by existing floodplain maps.	Short Term	Community Development	Medium
23	**Stormwater and Flood Infrastructure.** Improve stormwater infrastructure capacity by incorporating dry basins, detention basins, and retention ponds designed to capture and store stormwater during heavy precipitation events in new development and identify opportunities to incorporate water capturing infrastructure into existing developments.	Intermediate Term	Public Works	Medium
Recreational Parks and Open Space				
24	**Joint-Use Agreements.** Continue to identify opportunities to expand joint-use agreements with school districts that ensure public access to school recreation facilities, especially in parkland gap areas where acquisition and development of new parks is not feasible.	Short Term	Recreation and Community Services	Medium

Program Number	Implementation Measure or Program	Time Frame (Short, Intermediate, Long)	Responsibility	Funding Needs (Low, Medium, High)
25	**Small Recreational Facilities.** Identify opportunities to create small-scale passive recreation spaces and amenities on properties owned by partner agencies or on smaller park sites where larger parks are not viable. These may include seating areas, walking paths, community gardens, shade structures, or pocket greenspaces in underused areas, such as vacant lawns or areas around schools, libraries, fire stations, and utility corridors. Include park-safety enhancements such as lighting audits, shade structures, and activation events in project prioritization to improve public comfort and use.	Intermediate Term	Recreation and Community Services	Medium
26	**Inclusive Design Features.** Conduct a study to identify parks and recreational facilities that lack inclusive design features, such as ADA-compliant playgrounds, and identify funding to support the development of new inclusive features.	Short Term	Recreation and Community Services	Medium
27	**Park and Open Space Project Development.** Utilize the new Park Opportunity Plan to develop a detailed list of target park and open space projects, including budgets and timelines, to expedite grant application development and ensure San Fernando is competitive in applying for grants	Short Term	Recreation and Community Services, Community Development, Public Works	Medium
28	**Matching Funds.** Set aside monies in an established fund to leverage for matching grants and have monies available when opportunities arise for supporting or leading efforts that align with the City's parks and open space goals.	Short Term	Finance	High
29	**Climate Resilient Parks.** Develop and apply citywide design standards that require shade trees, native and drought-tolerant landscaping, permeable surfaces, and passive cooling elements in all new and renovated parks. Standards should integrate water efficiency, sustainable materials, and long-term maintenance practices.	Short Term	Recreation and Community Services, Public Works	Medium
30	**Climate Resilient Park Retrofits**. Through the Capital Improvement Program, prioritize park upgrades that add shade structures, native vegetation, and sustainable irrigation systems in the most heat-vulnerable areas. Pursue funding through Proposition 68 and other resilience or recreation grants.	Intermediate Term	Recreation and Community Services, Public Works, City Manager's Office	High
31	**Expand Ecological Value.** Partner with schools, nonprofits, and community groups to establish demonstration areas and citizen stewardship programs that connect residents to nature.	Intermediate Term	Recreation and Community Services, Community Development	Medium

Program Number	Implementation Measure or Program	Time Frame (Short, Intermediate, Long)	Responsibility	Funding Needs (Low, Medium, High)
32	**Equitable Access.** Maintain an updated park-equity and heat-vulnerability map to guide project selection and grant funding. Use this mapping to identify priority neighborhoods for investment.	Long Term	Recreation and Community Services, Public Works, Community Development	High
33	**Joint-Use Opportunities.** Work with LAUSD to expand community access to recreational facilities through joint-use agreements with the school district and implement shaded walking and biking routes linking homes to parks and open spaces.	Intermediate Term	Recreation and Community Services	Medium
Cultural Resources				
34	**Adaptive Reuse and Design Standards.** Develop design guidelines and incentives for adaptive reuse projects that maintain historic integrity, including streamlined permitting and design guidance for energy-efficient rehabilitation consistent with the State Historic Building Code. Provide design guidance and technical support to property owners and developers, including information on state and federal tax credits, restoration best practices, and compatibility with new uses such as housing or creative businesses.	Intermediate Term	Community Development	Medium
35	**Adaptive Reuse Assistance.** Establish a grant or technical assistance program to help property owners explore sustainable reuse options for historic buildings.	Long Term	Community Development	High
36	**Cultural Resource Survey.** Partner with local historians, Tribal representatives, academic institutions, or cultural resource consultants to survey and evaluate known and potential cultural and historical sites. Document and evaluate structures, districts, and landmarks of architectural, archaeological, and community significance, including mid-century and underrepresented heritage sites, and incorporate findings into a GIS-based Cultural and Historic Resources Inventory. Ensure that information regarding Tribal cultural resources is collected and shared only with the free, prior, and informed consent of the appropriate Tribal government(s) and that sensitive location data remains confidential in accordance with State and Tribal protocols. Maintain this inventory as a living database accessible to City staff for early project screening and integrate it into the development review process to support proactive protection, adaptive reuse, and interpretation of significant resources.	Intermediate Term	Community Development	Medium

Program Number	Implementation Measure or Program	Time Frame (Short, Intermediate, Long)	Responsibility	Funding Needs (Low, Medium, High)
37	**Cultural Resource Protection.** Review and update the Municipal Code to reflect best practices in cultural resource management and ensure consistency with state and federal preservation laws. Establish a formal consultation protocol consistent with SB 18 and AB 52 to ensure early and ongoing coordination with local Native American tribes on projects with potential impacts to tribal cultural resources.	Intermediate Term	Community Development	Medium
38	**Public Art & Interpretation.** Work with artists and cultural groups to create interpretive signage, murals, and multimedia installations that highlight San Fernando's diverse heritage in public spaces, especially near parks, transit hubs, and historic corridors.	Intermediate Term	Community Development, Community & Community Services	Medium
39	**Promote Cultural Heritage.** Integrate historic and cultural preservation into the City's economic development and placemaking strategies. Coordinate with local businesses, arts organizations, and the Chamber of Commerce to activate historic sites through events, public art, and cultural tourism initiatives. Establish a Historic and Cultural Recognition Program that celebrates successful rehabilitations and highlights San Fernando's diverse heritage through signage, tours, and storytelling.	Long Term	Community Development, City Manager's Office, Recreation and Community Services	Medium