

**City of Baldwin Park
2020 General Plan**

**Open Space and
Conservation Element**

November, 2002

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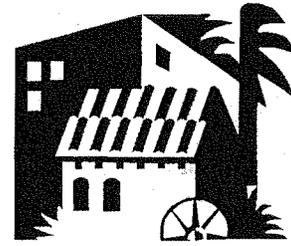
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OPEN SPACE/ CONSERVATION ELEMENT

Introduction

Purpose of the Element

The highly urbanized community of Baldwin Park contains limited parks and open space resources. The Open Space and Conservation Element focuses on managing existing parks, playgrounds, open space, and other recreational areas and programs, as well as the preservation of natural and historic resources.

The Open Space and Conservation Element outlines goals and policies that build on existing recreation and conservation programs. This Element considers the potential resources for new parks and open space provisions, recreational programs, and important conservation methods and programs. Policies focus on the creation of new mini parks; provision of additional joint-use playground facilities; cleanup and preservation of groundwater; and the continuation of waste management, hazardous waste, and recycling programs. Emphasis is also placed on preservation of historical resources in Baldwin Park.

Element Scope and Content

The Open Space and Conservation Element is comprised of three sections: 1) Introduction; 2) Issues, Goals and Policies; and 3) the Open Space and Conservation Plan. In the Issues, Goals and Policies section, community recreation needs and resource management issues are identified, and corresponding goals and policies are established. The Plan explains how the goals and policies will be achieved and implemented.

Related Plans and Programs

Several plans and programs have been enacted through State and local legislation that are applicable to the Open Space and Conservation Element. The following plans and programs help to ensure that parks and open space, and natural resources will continue to be available to the community.

Baldwin Park-
Park Master Plan

The City's Park Master Plan prepared in 1996 outlines a plan for development, renovation, and improvement of parks and open space. The Plan addresses the existing park system and recreation programs, facilities, and the function of the City's Recreation and Community Services Department.

The goals and policies of the General Plan support the implementation of the Park Master Plan, which ensures provision of basic park amenities, incorporates design guidelines for recreation facilities, and optimizes existing park sites and facilities.

The Quimby Act

The State Subdivision Map Act, Section 66477 (The Quimby Act) allows the legislative body of a city or county, by ordinance, to require the dedication of land, the payment of fees in-lieu of, or a combination of both, for park and recreational purposes as a condition to the approval for a final tract map or parcel map.

Los Angeles County
Proposition A

In 1992, a general election established the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the purpose of improving the safety of recreation areas and acquiring, restoring and preserving open space resources. This proposition allows a public agency or non-profit organization to receive funds in support of this purpose. The funds are authorized as grants on a competitive basis.

The National Recreation
and Parks Association
(NRPA)

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has established guidelines for public park service and facilities. These guidelines suggest that a city have a minimum of 2.5 acres of park space per 1,000 residents. Due to the limited park space in Baldwin Park, this standard has not been achieved. However, it is useful for determining existing parkland deficiencies and predicting the demand from future population growth.

National Pollutant
Discharge Elimination
System (NPDES)

Baldwin Park, along with other municipalities in Los Angeles County, is required to control pollutant discharges in runoff from construction projects, commercial and industrial uses, and significant new development/redevelopment projects. Under the NPDES Permit, the City is obligated to require these sources to comply with runoff pollution mitigation approaches known as Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Environmental Protection
Agency (EPA) Superfund
Site Cleanup

Baldwin Park is located in one of four San-Gabriel Valley Superfund sites that was found by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency to contain contaminated groundwater in its aquifer. EPA has identified the "potentially responsible parties" who have cooperated with EPA in designing a solution to remediate the contaminated water found in the San Gabriel Basin aquifer, a critical source of drinking water for Southern California.

City of Baldwin Park
Households Hazardous
Waste Element and
Source Reduction and
Recycling Element

The City's Household Hazardous Waste Element and Source Reduction and Recycling Element, respectively, outline methods for the safe disposal of hazardous wastes generated by households and formalize the City's integrated waste management procedures. Together these plans identify how the City will realize the California Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB939) requirements, which requires cities to reduce the amount of waste within their boundaries through source reduction and recycling.

Used Oil
and Recycling Program

The City participates in a used oil recycling program funded by the California Integrated Waste Management Board. Eight convenient Certified Used Oil Collection Centers are located in Baldwin Park, as well as curbside pick-up. Most of the collection centers are located within another business, with the exception of the County Yard.

Historic Resources Code

The City recognizes historic resources as an important part of the community. The Baldwin Park Zoning Code contains a Historic Resources Code that protects and encourages the preservation of the City's heritage. Under the Historic Resources Code, the Planning Commission acts as the Historic Resource Advisory Committee for review of alterations to buildings and other activities regarding historic resources.

Issues, Goals, and Policies

This section sets forth policies that address the conservation of open space, natural resources, energy, and historic resources. Goals and policies are grouped by issue areas with the potential to affect the City.

Parks and Open Space

Baldwin Park is an urban community with limited opportunity for the addition of new open space. The City's Park Master Plan designates over 530 acres of land as open space, including parks, joint-use school playgrounds, utility rights-of-way, and water channels. However, very little of the open space is actually park land and available for recreational use. The following policies focus on providing enhancements to existing park facilities and recreational programs and pursuing additional funding to support these enhancements.

Goal 1.0 Provide and maintain adequate parks and open space.

- Policy 1.1 Preserve all existing park space, and provide improvements to enhance utilization.
- Policy 1.2 Establish as a priority for funding the acquisition and development of parks and recreational facilities in neighborhoods where there are a shortage of parks.
- Policy 1.3 Pursue acquisition of property through purchase or donation to create mini-parks where it is not possible to acquire sufficient acreage for neighborhood parks.
- Policy 1.4 Continue to work cooperatively with the Baldwin Park Unified School District to maintain and expand playground use.

Goal 2.0 Provide a diversity of recreational programs to meet the needs of all individuals and groups in Baldwin Park.

- Policy 2.1 Conduct ongoing needs assessment and evaluation of demands for recreational activities, and modify programs where necessary to meet these demands.
- Policy 2.2 Notify City residents of the types of recreation and programs available, and encourage their participation.
- Policy 2.3 Incorporate areas for both active and passive recreation in parks and facilities, and ensure that these are accessible to all age groups, as practical.

- Goal 3.0** Ensure that parks are accessible and safe for their users and compatible with adjacent residences and commercial uses.
- Policy 3.1 Ensure that all parks are adequately illuminated for safe use at night.
- Policy 3.2 Provide for the supervision of park activities, and promote enforcement of codes restricting illegal activity.
- Policy 3.3 Continue coordination of park security between the Recreation and Community Services Department and the Police Department to ensure that they are adequately patrolled.
- Policy 3.4 Restrict and control nighttime park use so that adjacent residences are not adversely affected.
- Goal 4.0** Ensure that the costs of park and recreation facilities and programs are borne by those who benefit and contribute to additional demands.
- Policy 4.1 Require that developers contribute to provide parks and recreational facilities to offset additional demands brought about by new development.
- Policy 4.2 Pursue the utilization of various state and county funding mechanisms to provide additional funding resources.
- Policy 4.3 Establish a formal mechanism by which the City may accept gifts and dedications of parks and open space.
- Policy 4.4 Encourage the development of recreation programs by non-City public and private sports organizations to involve more children and adults in outdoor recreation activity. Use volunteers to operate and maintain programs whenever possible.

Natural Resources

The State of California requires that a general plan identify ways to protect and manage natural resources. Natural resources include, but are not limited to, water and its hydraulic force, forests, soils, rivers, and other waters, harbors, fisheries, wildlife, minerals, and air quality. Air Quality is discussed in the Air Quality Element of this General Plan. Since Baldwin Park is a completely urbanized community with no forest, river, wildlife, or similar resources, this Element focuses on water supply and quality, energy resources, and integrated waste management.

Water Resources Water resources are restricted to the groundwater basins which provide a portion of the City's domestic water supply. Since groundwater contamination associated with industrial business practices has occurred in past years throughout the San Gabriel Valley, care must be taken to avoid any further contamination of the local groundwater basin.

Goal 5.0 Conserve and protect groundwater supply and water resources.

Policy 5.1 Encourage water conservation through education, use of drought tolerant landscapes, and water-conserving technology.

Policy 5.2 Promote the use of native plant material in landscapes and drought tolerant trees, especially in landscapes on City properties.

Policy 5.3 Encourage use and production of reclaimed water.

Policy 5.4 Continue enforcement of municipal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit to protect water quality within the San Gabriel River watershed.

Policy 5.5 Cooperate with the EPA in efforts to remedy groundwater contamination and implement cleanup practices for the Baldwin Park Superfund site.

Policy 5.6 Vigorously prosecute unlicensed dumping of toxic or hazardous materials into the ground or water in Baldwin Park. Encourage citizens to report dumping when they observe it.

Policy 5.7 Encourage and support the proper disposal of hazardous waste and waste oil. Monitor dry cleaners, film processors, auto service establishments, and other businesses generating hazardous waste materials to ensure compliance with approved disposal procedures.

Energy Conservation As Baldwin Park's population and business community continue to grow, additional demands will be placed on energy resources. Conservation of energy through implementation of energy efficient building designs and incentives to reduce consumption of energy are important considerations for the community.

Goal 6.0 Conserve energy resources through the use of technology and conservation methods.

Policy 6.1 Encourage innovative building designs that conserve and minimize energy consumption.

Policy 6.2 Enforce Title 24 regulations to conserve energy.

Policy 6.3 Encourage the residential and business community to install energy-saving features and appliances in existing structures.

Integrated Waste Management The California Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB939) requires cities to reduce waste within their boundaries through source reduction, recycling, and composting. AB 939 set levels of waste diversion at 25 percent in 1995 and 50 percent in 2000. The State legislature continues to refine the legislation.

Goal 7.0 Reduce the amount of solid waste produced in Baldwin Park.

Policy 7.1 Implement goals and policies contained in the City's Household Hazardous Waste and Source Reduction and Recycling Elements and mandated by AB939, as amended.

Policy 7.2 Maximize public awareness of all source reduction and recycling programs.

Policy 7.3 Encourage composting of organic materials and recycling in general as an alternative to waste disposal.

Policy 7.4 Encourage participation in local and County waste disposal programs for such household hazardous waste items as automotive products, paints, chemicals, tires, and batteries.

Historic Resources A number of buildings with historic, cultural, architectural, community, and aesthetic value exist throughout Baldwin Park. The City recognizes these historic resources as an important part of the community. The Zoning Code contains a Historic Resources Code that protects and encourages the preservation of the City's heritage. Under the Historic Resources Code, the Planning Commission acts as the Historic Resource Advisory Committee for the review of alterations to buildings and other activities regarding historic resources.

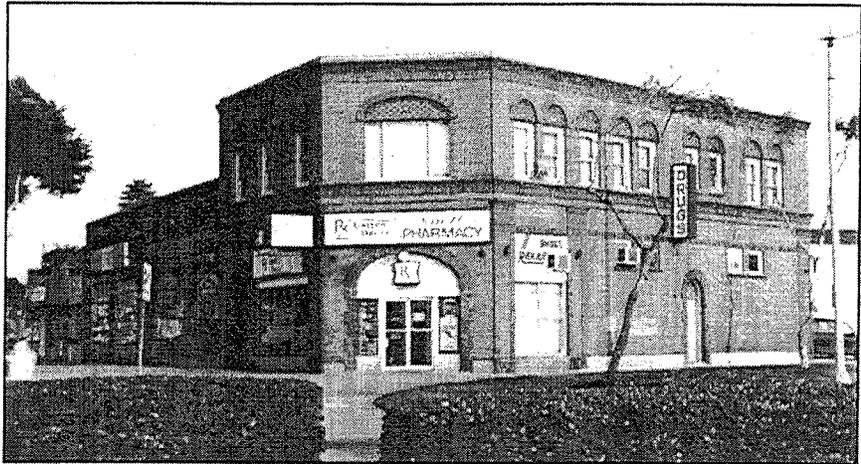
The Baldwin Park Historical Society has identified several structures of regional and local importance. More detailed information about these and other buildings is available from the Baldwin Park Historical Society and its extensive collection of research documents.

Goal 8.0 Promote the preservation of historic resources in Baldwin Park.

Policy 8.1 Implement provisions contained in the City's Historic Resources Code to protect historically significant structures.

Policy 8.2 Encourage restoration of historic structures.

Policy 8.3 Maximize public awareness about Baldwin Park's history and historical resources.



Original Knoll Pharmacy, Ramona Blvd.

The Open Space and Conservation Plan

The Open Space and Conservation Plan establishes an approach to maintain and develop new recreational opportunities, and to protect environmental quality.

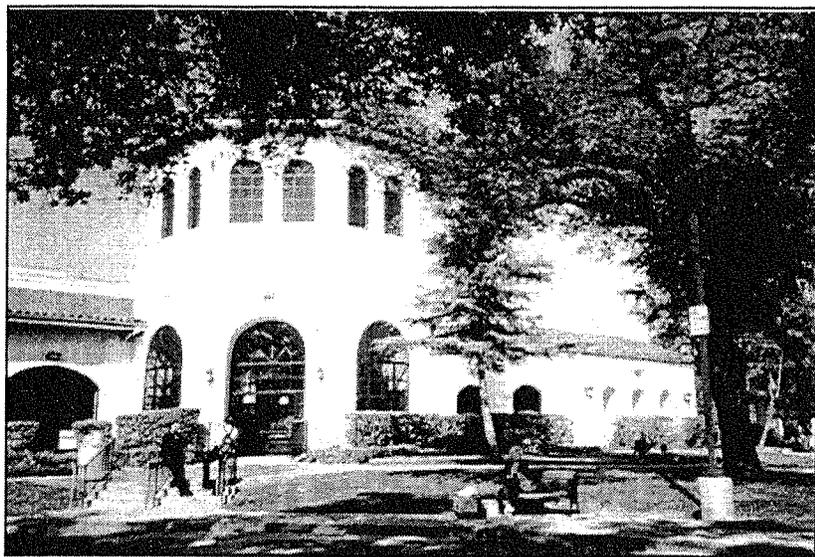
Parks and Open Space

Parks and open space are an important community amenity. In addition to providing opportunities for recreation and leisure, parks and open space enhance aesthetics and community character. Strategies for Baldwin Park include the creation of new mini parks and the provision of additional joint-use playground facilities, as well as enhancement of existing facilities and recreational programs.

The Open Space and Conservation Plan supports the City's Park Master Plan, which specifies recreation planning guidelines incorporating such issues as safety, provision of adequate facilities, cost efficiency, park design, community involvement, program development, and promotion of parks and recreational programs. Recommendations in the Park Master Plan include provision of proper security measures in the City's parks, such as adequate lighting; provision of basic amenities such as recreation buildings, shade, parking, accessible facilities; and adequate landscaping.

Table OSC-1 and Figure OSC-1 illustrate the location, acreage, amenities, and type of recreational resources available to the community. These facilities are described in the following section.

There are six parks located in the City, providing approximately 27 acres of open space. These parks include one community park and four neighborhood parks. In addition, the County operates regional parks within and around the planning area.

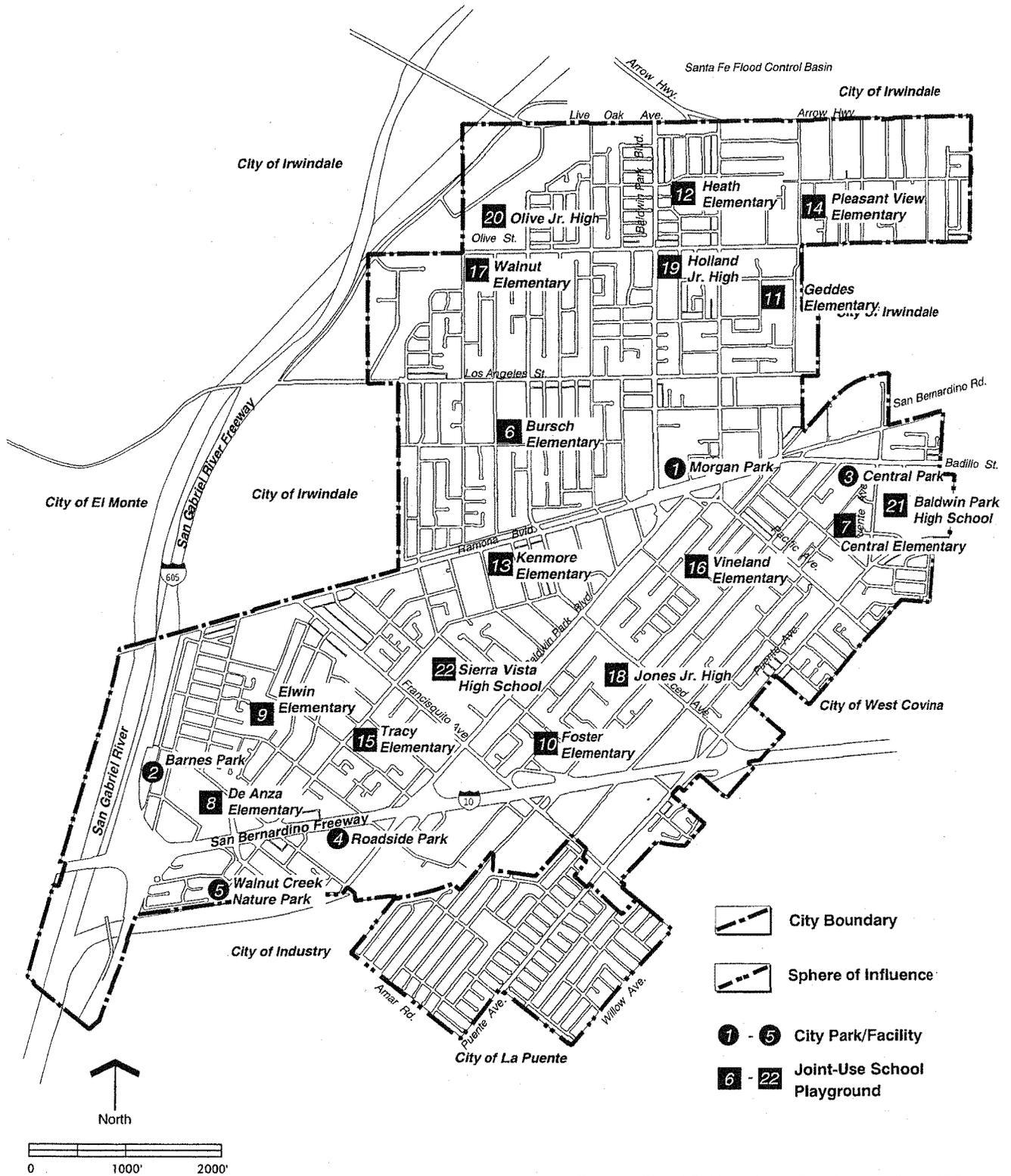


Baldwin Park Community Center

**Table OSC-1
Park and Recreation Facilities**

City Park/Facility	Acres	Amenities
1. Morgan Park	12	Community Center, Senior Center, pool, multipurpose sports courts, playground, night lighting, electronic marquis
2. Barnes Park	5.6	Playground, field sports
3. Central Park West	3.6	Recreation building, sports courts, playground equipment, tot lot
4. Roadside Park	2	Picnic benches
5. Walnut Creek Nature Park	4	Passive recreation, tot playground, picnic area
6. Syhre Park	1.1	Baseball field, passive open space
Joint Use Park/Facility		
7. Bursch Elementary School	6	Field sports, basketball, baseball
8. Central Elementary School	7	Field sports, basketball, baseball
9. De Anza Elementary School	10	Field sports, basketball, baseball
10. Elwin Elementary School	10	Field sports, basketball, baseball
11. Foster Elementary School	8	Field sports, basketball, baseball
12. Geddes Elementary School	11	Field sports, basketball, baseball
13. Heath Elementary School	6	Field sports, basketball, baseball
14. Kenmore Elementary School	6	Field sports, basketball, baseball
15. Pleasant View Elementary School	8	Field sports, basketball, baseball
16. Tracy Elementary School	7	Field sports, basketball, baseball
17. Vineland Elementary School	13	Field sports, basketball, baseball
18. Walnut Elementary School	7	Field sports, basketball, baseball
19. Jones Jr. High School	13	Field sports, basketball, baseball
20. Holland Jr. High School	11	Field sports, basketball, baseball
21. Olive Jr. High School	8	Field sports, basketball, baseball
22. Baldwin Park High School	7	Field sports, court sports, track, pool, open space
23. Sierra Vista High School	34	Field sports, court sports, track, pool, open space, night lighting
Regional Parks		
Whittier Narrows Regional Park	772	Recreation building, lake, hiking, biking, pool, sports courts, field sports, playground, tot lot, night lighting,
Whittier Narrows Nature Center	320	Nature Center, lake, hiking, picnic
Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area	835	Nature Center, playground, lake

Source: 1996 Park Master Plan, City of Baldwin Park



**Figure OSC-1
Parks and Joint Use Playgrounds**

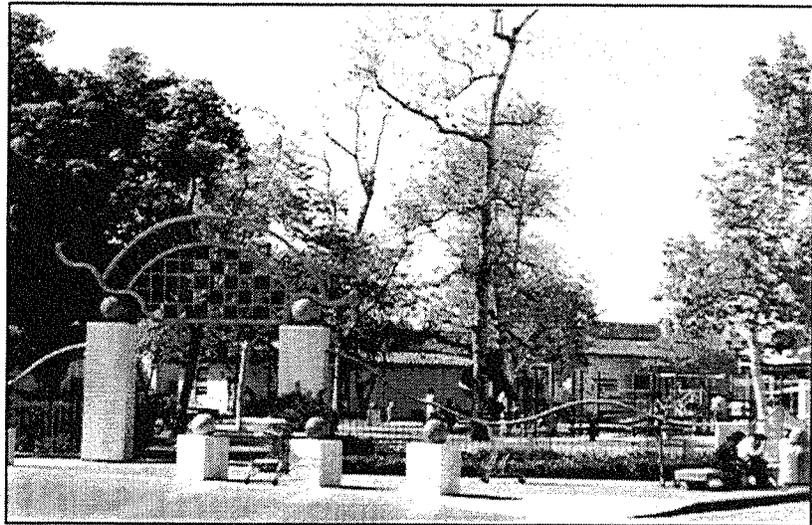
Community Parks

Community parks are intended to have a service radius of approximately two to three miles and offer both active and passive recreational pursuits. Community parks generally encompass a minimum of ten acres, with pedestrian and bicycle paths and natural open space. For maximum public access and use, such parks should be located at or near the intersection of an arterial near the center of their service area.

Community parks contain space for active, recreational facilities such as game fields, game courts, swimming pools, and play areas as well as community centers, on-site parking, restrooms, and picnic areas.

Baldwin Park has one community park. *Morgan Park*, a 12-acre community park, is located in the Central Business District within walking distance of the Civic Center and the public library. Major amenities include a 35,000-square-foot community center, 15,000-square-foot senior center, swimming pool, basketball courts, outdoor playground equipment, and outdoor amphitheater for summer concerts and community celebrations. A free-standing electronic marquis located at the park's Ramona Boulevard entrance publicizes city-wide activities.

The park's community center hosts a wide range of recreational programs and activities. Due to its popularity, the center has become crowded during peak times of use.



Morgan Park at Ramona Blvd./Baldwin Park Blvd.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks generally are located near the center of neighborhoods. Many of the facilities located within neighborhood parks are associated with active recreation. Neighborhood parks should contain consolidated parcels with appropriate area devoted to active recreation such as ball fields, recreation centers, multi-purpose fields and open turf, game courts, tot lots, picnic facilities and on-site parking. The standard minimum size for neighborhood parks is three acres.

Although neighborhood parks are designed to attract from a smaller service radius of one-half mile, they are also utilized by residents who may live outside the immediate neighborhood. This may be particularly true in Baldwin Park where there are limited park facilities. The neighborhood parks in Baldwin Park include the following:

Central Park West, encompassing 3.6 acres, is located adjacent the Big Dalton Wash near the City's eastern boundary. The park has in the past been limited to passive recreational use.

The City has undertaken major improvements to the park to provide for more active recreational activities. The improvements included redesigning 2.4 acres in the southern portion of the park with two playgrounds, lighted basketball courts, picnic areas and sand volleyball courts. Improvements being considered for the park include batting cages, a teen center, and a skate park.

Barnes Park has 5.6 acres and is located at the City's western boundary, is adjacent the intersection of the I-10 and I-605 freeways. Access to the park is limited because of its location near the freeways. The City will continue to explore the use of lighting on the athletic field for nighttime use.

Roadside Park, adjacent the I-10 freeway in the southwestern portion of the City. Use of this two-acre park is limited due to its small size.

Walnut Creek Nature Park contains 4.0 acres adjacent the Big Dalton Wash in the southwestern portion of the City. Walnut Creek Park provides a natural setting for a variety of plant life. Park amenities include an exercise course, tot play equipment, campground, kitchen and barbeques.

Sybre Park, is a 1.08-acre site on Vineland Avenue, south of I-10, with a fully improved baseball field and passive open space.

Regional Parks

In addition to the parks described above, the County operates regional parks within and around the City. Residents of Baldwin Park have access to the Santa Fe Dam Regional Park and the Whittier Narrows Regional Park. The Santa Fe Dam Regional Park consists of approximately 835 acres of open space, and the Whittier Narrows Regional Park and Nature Center encompass about 1,092 acres of park space. Both of these parks are located close to Baldwin Park and provide the community with additional opportunities for recreation such as hiking, biking, swimming, baseball, soccer, and picnicking.

Mini-Parks

Mini-parks are small, passive, local parks generally less than one acre in size. Most mini-parks are established in higher density areas as a substitute for backyards. Size and location are usually determined by the availability of vacant land. These parks serve various age groups depending on the characteristics of the neighborhood and typically feature play apparatus, a paved area for wheeled toys, benches, and landscape treatment. Additional facilities sometimes include children's play areas, quiet game areas, and some sports activities such as multi-purpose courts, if space allows. Mini-parks offer recreational opportunities to a limited segment of the community. The maintenance costs of proposed mini-parks requires consideration prior to acceptance of dedication.

Mini-parks have been proposed as a solution to limited park resources in Baldwin Park, using the following as guidelines:

- Mini-parks should be located on street corners, easements, and cul-de-sacs, where possible.
- Mini-parks shall be designed with safety and security measures to prevent impacts on park users and adjacent residents.
- Mini-parks shall be patrolled regularly during evening to prevent criminal activity on adjacent residences.

Land available for mini-parks includes easements and utility rights-of-way, as well as privately owned smaller lots on cul-de-sacs. The City will pursue the acquisition of land for the development of mini-parks through purchase or donation.

School Playgrounds/Joint-Use Agreements

A joint-use agreement with the Baldwin Park Unified School District has allowed the use of playground facilities to supplement the shortage of much-needed recreational space for City residents. When school playgrounds are added to the City's park acreage, the total acreage available for recreation is about 196.

The City plans to continue to make these playground facilities available to the community to reduce the deficit in athletic amenities such as basketball courts, ball fields, and gymnasiums. In addition, the use of almost \$50 million in State funds will continue to support the "After School Learning and Safe Neighborhood Program" provided through this joint-use agreement.

Of the 172 acres of playground space, 3 acres are occupied by portable classrooms for the Baldwin Park Unified School District. The school district has developed a Master Plan for implementation which outlines growth plans for the next 20 years. This plan includes some major changes such as conversion of certain elementary schools to middle school use. The use of portable classrooms is likely to continue. However, there are plans for clustering the portable buildings so that less space is required.

The geographic distribution of parks results in several neighborhoods being particularly poorly served by available park space. For those neighborhoods in the northern portion of the City who are not within a one-half mile radius of a park, the playgrounds of six schools can help fill recreational needs. This is also the case for the neighborhoods in the central portion of the city between Merced Avenue and Francisquito Avenue.

Funding For Acquisition of Open Space

The City continuously reviews various funding mechanisms that can be utilized to acquire additional open space or to refurbish or maintain existing park facilities. These mechanisms include Los Angeles County Proposition A grants, CDBG funds, monies provided through the Quimby Act, the adoption of a park impact fee on new development, and grants from California State programs funded by bonds. The City in the past has received \$900,000 in Proposition A funds for park improvements. The Quimby Act has limited application for Baldwin Park because park development does not involve subdivision of land. The City will pursue State funding support through matching grants as a result of new legislation related to community services and parks/open space.

Existing and Future Park Needs

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has established guidelines for public park service and facilities. These guidelines suggest that a city have a minimum of 2.5 acres of park space per 1,000 residents. Based on the 27 acres of public park land and using the 1997 Department of Finance Population Estimates for Baldwin Park of 74,400, this equals about 0.4 acres of park space per 1,000 residents, which is significantly less than NRPA recommendations.

As illustrated in Table OSC-2, based on these recommendations there is a shortage of park space and a surplus of playground space in Baldwin Park. Although additional open space is provided through the use of school playgrounds, these do not offer the full range of activities that a public park provides. Nonetheless, the amount of recreational space available from playgrounds is 86 percent of the total park and playground acreage. Therefore, it is critical that the City continue to use this resource.

**Table OSC-2
Existing and Future Park Acreage Needs**

	Acreage Required			Available Acreage from Existing and Proposed Parkland		Surplus/ (Shortfall) of Acreage	
	Popula- tion ³	Parks ¹ 2.5 acres/ 1,000 persons	School Play- grounds 1.5 acres/ 1,000 persons	Parks	School ² Playgrounds	Parks	School Playgrounds
Existing City	74,400	186	112	27	169	(159)	57
General Plan Buildout	86,992	217	130	27	169	(190)	39

Source: Population Data: Cotton/Beland/Associates

- 1 This standard is satisfied by neighborhood and community parks.
- 2 3 acres of the total 172 playground area are used for portable classrooms and County facilities.
- 3 Projected population for purposes of establishing parkland acreage needs. Department of Finance, 1997.

Recreational Programs and Services

The Department of Recreation and Community Services provides a comprehensive range of recreation programs and services for the residents of Baldwin Park. These programs are designed for all ages and are offered at the Community Center in Morgan Park. The Baldwin Park Unified School District also offers recreational opportunities for older adults at the Community Center. The Park Master Plan serves as a guide to the development and improvement of programs offered by the Department of Recreation and Community Services.

Esther Snyder Community Center

Located in Morgan Park, the Esther Snyder Community Center offers a variety of recreational programs and services at no charge or low cost. In 1995, Morgan Park underwent a major expansion and renovation, and now functions as a focal point for activity in the community. The 35,000-square-foot Community Center is central to the Land Use and Urban Design plan which focuses on attracting people to the downtown area for shopping, entertainment, and recreation.

Programs offered through the Community Center include youth and adult sports, a childcare program, children's summer lunch program, and specialty classes. The sports programs offer a wide range of activities designed for all ages and include an amateur boxing/weight training program, providing an opportunity to compete in local, regional and national competitions. Tournaments and contests in teen and youth air hockey, a city-wide table tennis tournament, and basketball skills contest are also offered. The Community Center also conducts special events throughout the year, such as holiday celebrations like Cinco de Mayo. The Cesar E. Chavez Amphitheater is a major amenity for the center, providing a venue for outdoor summer concerts.

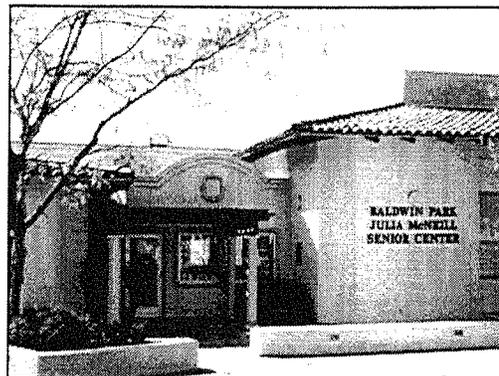
The Family Service Center

The Family Service Center is a 4,000-square-foot centralized facility at the Esther Snyder Community Center. As a City facility, it provides office space to social service providers who disseminate information on free or low cost health and social services. The purpose of this Center is the coordination of social services to avoid a duplication of effort and services.

The tenants include Kaiser Healthcare, Fair Housing Bureau, and a Food Bank. The services offered include referrals to homeless shelters, food banks, legal aid, counseling services, medical care, and agencies that offer utility and transportation vouchers. In addition, the Center offers self-help classes and programs which include after school assistance, counseling, health education and screenings, and ESL/Parenting classes.

Julia McNeill Senior Center

A wide range of activities are provided for Baldwin Park senior citizens at a 15,000-square-foot facility located at the Community Center. The Julia McNeill Senior Center offers a variety of social, health and recreational programs for senior citizens. These include social programs, bingo, physical fitness classes, a nutrition program which includes daily meals, health screenings, case management and legal aid services. A shuttle is available from the Telacu Housing facilities where many seniors live. This facility serves as the center for meetings of the Baldwin Park Senior Citizen Club.



Julia McNeill Senior Center

Baldwin Park Teen Center The City is also actively pursuing development of a Teen Center, possibly near Baldwin Park High School, which would serve to better geographically disperse activities for youth in the community. A teen interest survey conducted in 1997 indicated that a range of social service programs, life skills, educational and recreational programs are desired by Baldwin Park teens.

Parks and Facility Development The City will focus on maintaining existing parks and recreational facilities to maximize use and community benefit. The Esther Snyder Community Center will be used to create a positive environment in Baldwin Park to reduce incidences of anti-social behavior.

Water Resources Both local and regional water sources are important to the City. Three general planning issues are associated with water resources for Baldwin Park: water quality, water conservation, and flooding. The City's water quality and conservation plans are identified below, while flood prevention is addressed in the Public Safety Element.

Water Supply Baldwin Park is served by three water companies: Valley County Water District, San Gabriel Valley Water Company, and Valley View Mutual Water Company. Each of these suppliers has been operating in the Baldwin Park area for many years before the City incorporated. These suppliers meet State and Federal standards for water quality and supply all of their water from groundwater wells.

Water Quality: Pollution Control in Runoff Surface streams in urban areas are subject to pollutants and sediment carried in runoff. The pollutants in urban runoff include landscape pesticides and fertilizers, automobile products, and degreasers. Urban pollutants degrade water quality and impact wildlife and plants dependent on aquatic habitat. The City is a co-permittee with the County of Los Angeles in the National Pollutant System Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program, which is designed to reduce pollutants in runoff.

According to the NPDES permit, all new development projects and substantial rehabilitation projects will be required to incorporate Best Management Practices (BMPs). Proposed development projects (public and private) within Baldwin Park must incorporate BMPs to preclude significant water quality impacts from non-point source pollutants. Model programs have been developed by Los Angeles County in consultation with cities in the County. These model programs provide guidelines to achieve pollutant reduction through the implementation of BMPs in the areas of: 1) Illicit Discharges and Illegal Connections; 2) Planning; 3) Construction; (4) Public Agency Activities; and 5) Public Outreach.

Water Quality: Superfund Cleanup

Baldwin Park is located in one of four San Gabriel Valley Superfund sites with areas of soil and groundwater contamination underlying a portion of its city. Wells in Baldwin Park have been found to contain high concentrations of trichloroethane (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE). TCE and PCE have been used since the 1940s as cleaning solvents, especially at machine shops and dry cleaners. Water utilities have been able to continue to provide their customers with clean water by shutting down wells in contaminated areas, installing “wellhead” treatment systems, blending contaminated water with clean water to meet drinking water standards, and by obtaining water from neighboring utilities. Wells are shut down permanently if treatment cannot clean the water.

In March 1994, EPA selected a cleanup plan for the Baldwin Park area. The selected remedy calls for large groundwater pump and treat systems capable of extracting 27 million gallons per day of contaminated groundwater. EPA is working with the local agencies to reach agreements to implement a joint clean up/water supply project that would satisfy EPA cleanup goals, and help meet regional water supply goals by transporting treated groundwater to those in Southern California dependent on imported surface water.

Water Conservation

Urban activity in Baldwin Park affects regional water sources as well as local sources. Conservation efforts are needed to ensure adequate emergency storage and future supply. Water conservation will be encouraged throughout the Planning Area in the following ways:

- Encourage the local water companies serving Baldwin Park to expand the production of reclaimed water and work with the companies to develop new uses for reclaimed water.
- Require the use of drought resistant plant species in landscaping for private and public areas, including parks. The City’s Landscape Design Manual includes guidelines for water conservation in landscaping and irrigation design. In addition, the Community Design Element includes guidelines which promote drought-tolerant landscaping to enhance design features.
- Coordinate with the water companies and major users to establish water conservation education programs.

Mineral Resources

State guidelines require that Baldwin Park and other cities establish policies within the General Plan to manage identified mineral resource areas of statewide or regional significance. The location and level of importance of these mineral resource areas is determined by the State Division of Mines and Geology.

Since 1982, all of Baldwin Park has been designated by the State Geologist as a Mineral Resource Zone 2 (MRZ-2), where “adequate information indicates that significant mineral deposits are present or where it is judged that a high likelihood for their presence exists.” This designation also applies to substantial acreage throughout the adjacent cities of Industry, Irwindale, and Azusa, where active surface mining operations occur. These areas contain aggregate resources, commonly known as gravel, which is an important construction material. Since the City is almost entirely built out, the areas containing significant resources are largely developed.

Given the MRZ-2 designation and the active extraction activities in surrounding areas, the potential for mineral resources to exist in Baldwin Park is real. However, established urban uses are incompatible with mineral extraction and/or surface mining activities. Mining use is not required by any applicable state law or local ordinance, and in a regional context, potential resources in Baldwin Park are limited in extent and largely inaccessible due to urbanization. Thus, General Plan policy does not provide for mining activity to occur.

Energy Conservation

Conservation of energy resources and waste reduction and recycling can benefit the entire region. Efforts to conserve non-renewable energy resources are important for providing and maintaining a healthy, viable community. Baldwin Park should continue to cooperate with State and regional agencies to conserve energy and improve the environment. Energy conservation programs are important, especially in older, energy inefficient homes. New programs and incentives will help improve energy efficiency in older residential structures.

Integrated Waste Management

AB 939 recognizes that an integrated approach to waste management is required to prolong the life of existing landfills and to prevent the need to devote additional valuable land resources to trash disposal. Baldwin Park is required to comply with Act provisions and any related legislation that may be enacted. The City participates in a variety of efforts to meet the AB939 source reduction, recycling, and composting requirements. Integrated Waste Management services for Baldwin Park are provided through the City’s Public Works Department. Integrated waste is divided into household hazardous waste and source reduction and recycling programs.

Source Reduction and Recycling

In 1991, the City adopted two waste management plans which were subsequently approved by the State: (1) the *Household Hazardous Waste Element*; and (2) the *Source Reduction and Recycling Element*. These plans, respectively, outline methods for safe disposal of hazardous wastes generated by households and formalize the City's integrated waste management procedures. Together these plans identify how the City will realize the AB939 requirements through the year 2005.

The Household Hazardous Waste Element contains information and programs about safe disposal of oil and other hazardous waste. The Source Reduction and Recycling Element contains a plan for the City to reduce solid waste in accordance with AB939 requirements.

The City participates in a used oil recycling program funded by the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

Historic Resources

The Historic Resources Code serves to protect and encourage the preservation of the City's heritage. The Planning Commission acts as the Historic Resource Advisory Committee to review alterations to buildings and other activities regarding historic resources.

The Baldwin Park Historical Society maintains an extensive collection of research documents and information regarding historical resources in the City. The Historical Society works to encourage preservation of historically significant structures throughout the community and provides public awareness about historically significant structures and events in Baldwin Park.