



SIERRA MADRE GENERAL PLAN OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION ELEMENT

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INTRODUCTION

Parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities play a vital role in creating a safe, healthy, and sustainable urban environment. In suburban environments such as the City of Sierra Madre, these resources play a role in enhancing the City's aesthetics, health, and quality of life.

Sierra Madre residents enjoy access to approximately 29.9 acres of parkland and 7.5 miles of scenic trails and open green spaces that promote physical activity, mental well-being, and outdoor recreation. The City also operates more than five community facilities, such as community centers, senior centers, and recreational buildings. These facilities provide inclusive and welcoming spaces for learning, social connection, and community engagement.



Sierra Vista Park's Heasley Field

Purpose

The Open Space and Recreation Element (OSR) is a required component of a local government's General Plan pursuant to Section 65302(a) of the California Government Code. Its primary goal is to establish a comprehensive vision and policies for preserving, expanding, and enhancing the City's parks, recreational resources, and community facilities. Broadly defined, open space refers to any land that is not developed with buildings or structures. This includes, but is not limited to, parks, trails, plazas, greenways, and landscaped medians.

The City of Sierra Madre is a built-out, small suburban community nestled in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. While the City is relatively dense, it offers ample access to green space, public greenery, and recreational activities. Its proximity to the mountains provides abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation and scenic beauty, but also poses risks from natural hazards such as wildfires and mudslides. Because the City is landlocked and fully developed, the OSR Element must focus its goals and policies on preserving existing recreational areas and identifying creative strategies to expand green space within the community. Additionally, the Element must address climate resilience and rewilding opportunities while supporting the development of inclusive, well-distributed open spaces and community facilities that foster engagement, health, and well-being.



RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER ELEMENTS

The OSR Element has a strong relationship with the other elements of the General Plan, specifically:

Land Use

The Land Use Element defines how land may be used and developed, while the OSR Element identifies areas that should be converted to, preserved, or managed for purposes such as parks, greenways, and recreation. Together, these elements promote a balance between development and green space by directing growth to appropriate areas and protecting natural resources, recreational opportunities, and overall environmental quality. Coordinating the two elements helps sustain community character and supports long-term, sustainable land use patterns.

Conservation

The Conservation and OSR Elements are interrelated components of the General Plan that guide the protection and management of natural resources and preserved lands. The Conservation Element focuses on the sustainable use of resources such as water, soil, and enhance wildlife connectivity, while the OSR Element designates areas for recreation, habitat, and scenic preservation. Together, they promote balanced development and long-term environmental sustainability.

Environmental Justice

The Environmental Justice and OSR Elements are connected through their shared goal of promoting equitable access to healthy environments. The

Environmental Justice Element ensures all communities benefit from clean, safe spaces, while the OSR Element provides parks and recreation areas that enhance public health and quality of life. Sierra Madre's General Plan does not include an Environmental Justice Element, as there are no identified disadvantaged communities in the City.

Housing

As neighborhoods grow and new housing is built, providing access to parks and community facilities is essential to maintaining quality of life. These spaces support healthy lifestyles, strengthen social connections, and foster a sense of community identity, ensuring that parks are strategically located to serve all residents.





Milton & Harriet Goldberg Recreation Area

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE NETWORK

Open space within Sierra Madre takes many forms. It includes both natural landscapes and recreational areas. These spaces provide residents and visitors with opportunities for passive recreation, such as hiking, nature study, and wildlife observation. They also support active recreation, including sports, playgrounds, and community events. The City's open spaces enhance the scenic and ecological character of the community. They also promote physical activity, social connection, and environmental education. The following sections describe the different types of parks and open spaces found throughout Sierra Madre.

Open Space Classifications

Mini Park

Also known as pocket parks, mini parks are very small public spaces, typically less than one acre in size. These parks are often located on vacant lots or small parcels of land within residential neighborhoods or urban areas. These parks often feature simple amenities such as short walking paths, benches, small gardens, dog parks, and playground areas. Despite their limited size, mini-parks provide valuable access to green space in neighborhoods that lack traditional parks, as well as make use of undeveloped land for public benefit. Examples of mini-parks in Sierra Madre include the Milton & Harriet Goldberg Recreation Area and Kersting Court.



Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood parks are parks situated within residential areas, generally ranging from 1 to 10 acres in size. Designed to serve nearby residents, these parks are typically within a quarter- to half-mile of homes, making them accessible by a short 5 to 10-minute walk. They provide valuable outdoor space for individuals and families, especially those living in multi-family housing or homes with small yards. In addition to offering opportunities for recreation, neighborhood parks act as community hubs, fostering social interaction and neighborhood connections. Common amenities often include playgrounds, small sports courts, picnic areas, benches, and open grassy fields for informal activities. An example of a neighborhood park in Sierra Madre is Memorial Park.



Memorial Park

Community Park

Community parks are expansive public parks, typically ranging from 10 to 20 acres, though some may span 20 to 40 acres. They are often located within neighborhoods or near central gathering points such as schools or recreation centers. Unlike neighborhood parks, community parks are designed to serve a broader population and are usually accessible by bike, car, or public transportation in addition to walking. Their larger size allows for a greater variety of amenities, which can include athletic fields and courts, walking and biking paths, picnic shelters, and, in some cases, community pools or recreation buildings. These parks frequently host organized sports leagues, community events, and other activities that meet diverse recreational needs. In Sierra Madre, Sierra Vista Park serves as an example of a community park.



Sierra Vista Park



Regional Parks

Regional parks are expansive green spaces, typically exceeding 40 acres, intended to serve residents from multiple neighborhoods or cities rather than a single community. In addition to common park features like playgrounds and sports fields, regional parks may include specialized amenities such as lakes, golf courses, nature preserves, or museums. Currently, Sierra Madre does not have any regional parks. The nearest accessible regional park is the Arcadia Regional Community Park, located three miles south of the City.

Natural Open Space

Natural open space is defined as undeveloped land that remains in its natural or near-natural state, where recreation is considered a secondary use. These areas are often managed by government agencies and may have limited or restricted public access to protect environmental resources. Natural open spaces can include steep hillsides, wetlands, wildlife habitats, streams, and areas containing endangered or protected plant species. Much of the northern boundary of Sierra Madre consists of natural open space, which is made up of both City-owned land and the Angeles National Forest.

Cemetery

Cemeteries are often not for public access, nor do they offer traditional recreational opportunities. However, cemeteries are typically located on large plots of land, with trees, grass, and other vegetation covering the grounds. This is a form of passive greenspace, which, to the bare eye, provides aesthetics and a break from developed buildings. Sierra Madre is home to the Pioneer Cemetery.

Trails and Pathways

Trails and pathways provide residents with opportunities for walking, jogging, biking, and connecting with nature. Sierra Madre and its surrounding areas offer extensive access to trails, particularly in the nearby San Gabriel Mountains and Eaton Canyon. These pathways not only support physical activity and outdoor recreation but also enhance community connectivity and provide scenic routes for enjoying the region's natural landscapes. Trail paths that begin in Sierra Madre include Mount Wilson Trail, Bailey Canyon Trail, and trails to Jones Peak and Orchard Camp.

In addition to formal walking trails, Sierra Madre has an ample bike lane network.

Schools

Schoolyards are outdoor spaces associated with educational facilities, typically designed to serve the students of the school but often providing benefits to the surrounding community as well. These areas can include playgrounds, sports fields, open lawns, and landscaped areas that support physical activity, outdoor learning, and recreational opportunities. While primarily intended for school use, well-designed schoolyards can also offer additional green space to a City. Sierra Madre is home to two public schools and six private schools. However, despite the large number of schools in town, access to these schoolyards is often restricted outside of school hours, and the City does not currently have formal agreements with schools that provide the general public with unrestricted access to school facilities or grounds outside of school operating hours. As a result, residents have limited opportunities to enjoy these spaces as nearby neighborhood open areas.



EXISTING PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE

Since its incorporation in 1907, Sierra Madre has developed six public parks, with the most recent park established in 2008. [Table 1](#) and [Figure 1](#) detail the City's existing parks. These parks vary in size, from mini-parks of just 0.2 acres to larger Community parks spanning 12 acres. Standard amenities across the city's parks include playgrounds, picnic tables, sports courts, and athletic fields. Several parks also feature unique facilities such as a pickleball court, an outdoor amphitheater, an outdoor gym, and a public garden, providing a diverse range of recreational opportunities for residents of all ages.

In addition to its public parks, Sierra Madre has preserved a substantial amount of open space, enhancing the City's natural character and recreational opportunities. Acquisition of open space began between 1941 and 1949, when the City purchased parcels from private owners for watershed protection purposes. In 1967, the City acquired approximately 1,100 acres of additional land north of its boundary, known as the Sierra Madre Historical Wilderness Area, becoming the first city in Southern California to own and manage its own wilderness preserve.

During the 1990s, the City further expanded its holdings by purchasing 125 acres in the foothills, preserving sensitive natural areas and scenic vistas. This extensive network of open space supports multiple hiking trails, making Sierra Madre a popular destination for outdoor recreation in Southern California. These preservation efforts reflect the city's long-

standing commitment to balancing development with environmental stewardship, providing residents and visitors alike with access to both active recreational facilities and tranquil natural settings.



Sierra Vista Park

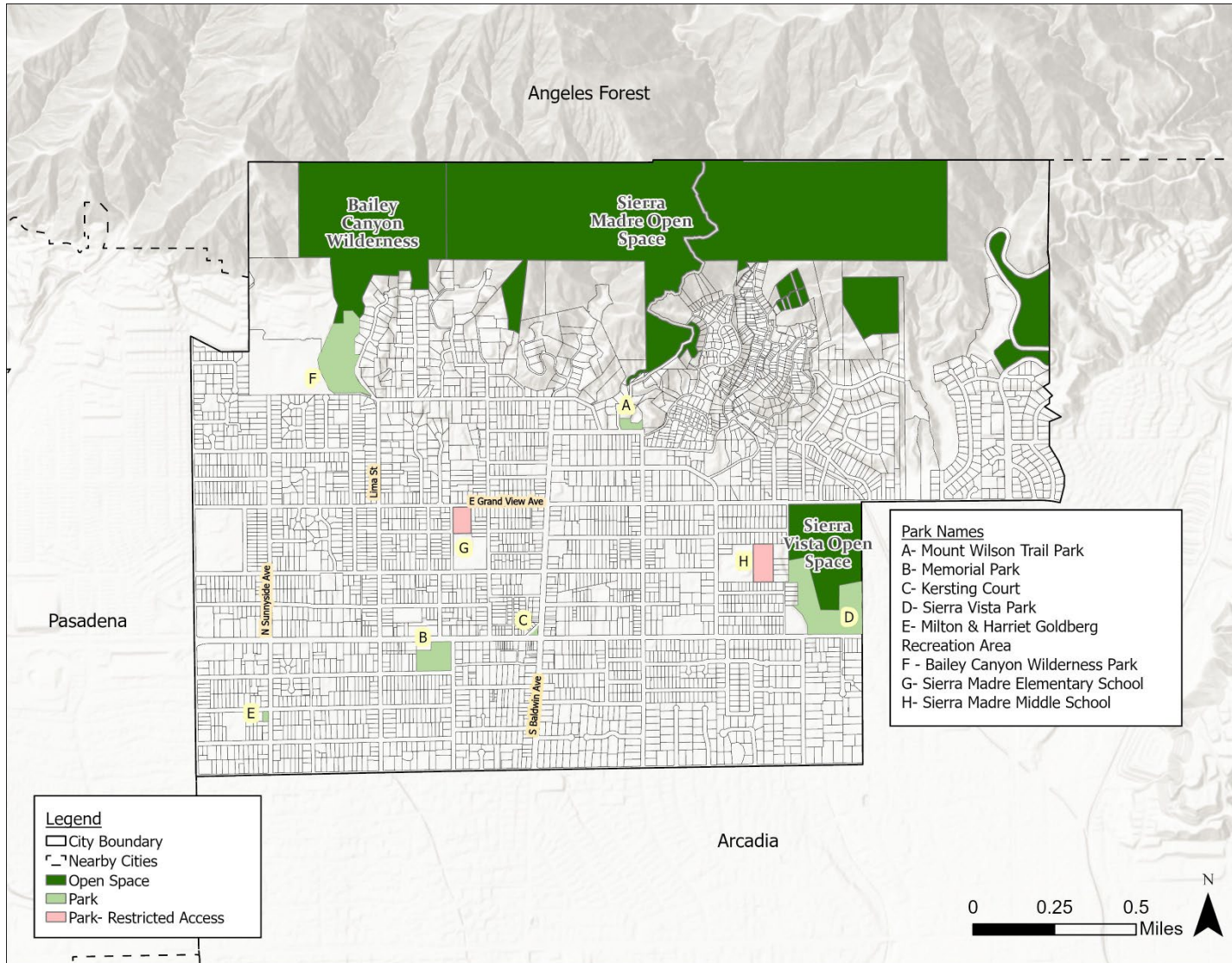


Table 1: Existing Parks

Park	Acres	Park type	Amenities
Sierra Vista Park	12.2	Community Park	Baseball Fields, Playground Equipment, Tot Equipment, Pickleball Courts, Tennis Courts, Basketball Courts, Outdoor Gym, Dog Park, Public Restrooms, Volleyball Court, Picnic Tables
Bailey Canyon Wilderness Park	10.1	Community Park	Parking Lot, Picnic Benches, Park Benches, Outdoor Restroom, Native Botanical Area, Fire Ring, Interpretive Display
Memorial Park	3.5	Neighborhood Park	Tennis Courts, Community Garden, Playground Equipment, Outdoor Stage, Covered Picnic Space, Walking Path, Public Restrooms
Mt. Wilson Trail Park	0.8	Mini Park	Playground Equipment, Picnic Benches, Public Restrooms
Milton & Harriet Goldberg Recreation Area	0.2	Mini Park	Living Replica of a Gabrielino/Tongva Indigenous Hut, Stump and Stone Bench Seating, Play Area, Dry Stream Bed
Kersting Court	0.1	Mini Park	Park Benches, Brick Patio
The Meadows Park*	3.0	Neighborhood Park	Timber Log Scramble, Log Steppers, Timber Log Play, A Timber Play Structure, Park Benches, Bike Racks, Turf Play Area, a Dry Creek Bed, Picnic Tables
TOTAL	29.9		
*At the time of writing, this Park has been approved but not constructed.			



Figure 1: Map of Existing Parks and Open Space





Trail System

In addition to traditional parkland, Sierra Madre's location at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains provides access to an extensive system of scenic trails. These trails are located within the Sierra Madre Historical Wilderness Area, a 1,200-acre natural preserve in the foothills above the City. Established in 1967 and managed by the City of Sierra Madre under a permit from the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, the area includes Bailey Canyon Wilderness Park, the Mount Wilson Trail, and several connecting routes leading into the Angeles National Forest.

These trails reflect the City's historical ties to early settlers and its long-standing commitment to preserving native foothill environments while offering opportunities for hiking, wildlife viewing, and outdoor recreation. The City has approximately 7.5 miles of trails within the City. *Figure 2* depicts the existing trails, which connect to smaller trails within Sierra Madre.

Mt. Wilson

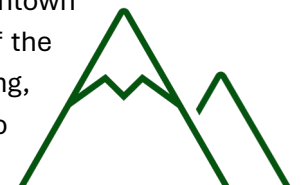
The Mount Wilson Trail is a challenging 14.2-mile round-trip hike that leads to the summit of Mount Wilson, the prominent peak rising above Sierra Madre. The trail begins at Mount Wilson Trail Park, with approximately 1.5 miles, located within the City's boundaries, before ascending the mountainside through areas both inside and outside the City. Along the route, hikers encounter First Water, Decker Springs, Bailey Trail junction, Orchard Camp, a historic rest stop from the early 1900s, and eventually reach the Mount Wilson Observatory, founded in 1904 and still an active center for astronomical research.

In addition to its scenic and historical significance, the Mount Wilson Trail is home to the annual Mount Wilson Trail Race, the second-oldest footrace in California, held each May. Following the Eaton Fire in January 2025, the race was temporarily rerouted. It resumed its traditional course from Kersting Court to Orchard Camp in May 2026 after portions of the trail were fully restored by the Mt. Wilson Trail crew. Work above Orchard Camp toward the summit is ongoing.

The Mt. Wilson Trail restoration volunteers, sponsored by the Fletcher Fund Community Services Foundation, are responsible for this restoration work. Historians at the Lizzy's Trail Inn Museum at the Mt. Wilson trailhead keep the community informed about the trail's history and its current conditions for hikers and museum visitors.

Trail to Jones Peak Via Bailey Canyon Trail:

This trail leads to Jones Peak and extends approximately 1.02 miles within the City boundaries. Beyond the City, the trail continues with milestone markers that highlight elements of Sierra Madre's rich history. At the one-mile point, hikers reach MacCloud Saddle, where evidence of the Sierra Madre Fault can be observed. Continuing to the 2.2-mile mark, visitors encounter old cabin foundations that remain from the area's early settlement period. At the end of the trail, hikers reach Jones Peak, which rises to more than 3,300 feet in elevation and offers expansive views of the San Gabriel Valley, Pasadena, and, on clear days, downtown Los Angeles. Jones Peak lies just within the boundary of the Sierra Madre Historical Wilderness Area. As of this writing, the Bailey Canyon Trail/Jones Peak trail is closed due to the Eaton Fire and subsequent debris flow damage.





Trails Connecting to the Mt. Wilson Trail:

The Mt. Wilson 'Toll Road' trail is approximately 2.7 miles and extends from the Mt. Wilson Toll Road gate (2260 Pine Crest Drive, Altadena) to Henniger Flats. Amenities at Henniger Flats include overnight camping, potable water via faucets, picnic tables, and camp stoves. For more experienced hikers, the toll road continues approximately 6.5 miles from Henniger Flats to the summit of Mt. Wilson.

A portion of the toll road passes through the northwest corner of the Sierra Madre Historical Wilderness area and includes Yale Peak, the highest point within the City's designated open space.

Winter Creek to Big Santa Anita Canyon:

Smaller trails within the trail system include a path from the Mt. Wilson Trail to Hoegees Camp (Camp Ivy). The trail is via a steep firebreak and switchback trail and is approximately 4 miles. From Hoegees Camp, it is just under 3 miles down Winter Creek to Big Santa Anita Canyon and Chantry Flats. An alternate route, the Upper Winter Creek Trail, extends approximately 3.5 miles from Hoegees to Chantry Flats. Both trails from Hoegees Camp are considered relatively easy to traverse. Chantry Flats provides a campground, camp stoves, and potable faucet water.

All trails are subject to seasonal closure during fire season and may also be closed following wildfire events in accordance with U.S. Forest Service Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) protocols. Current information regarding trail conditions and closures may be obtained from the Sierra Madre Police Department or the United States Forest Service Angeles National Forest headquarters.

Live Oak Self-guided Nature Trail

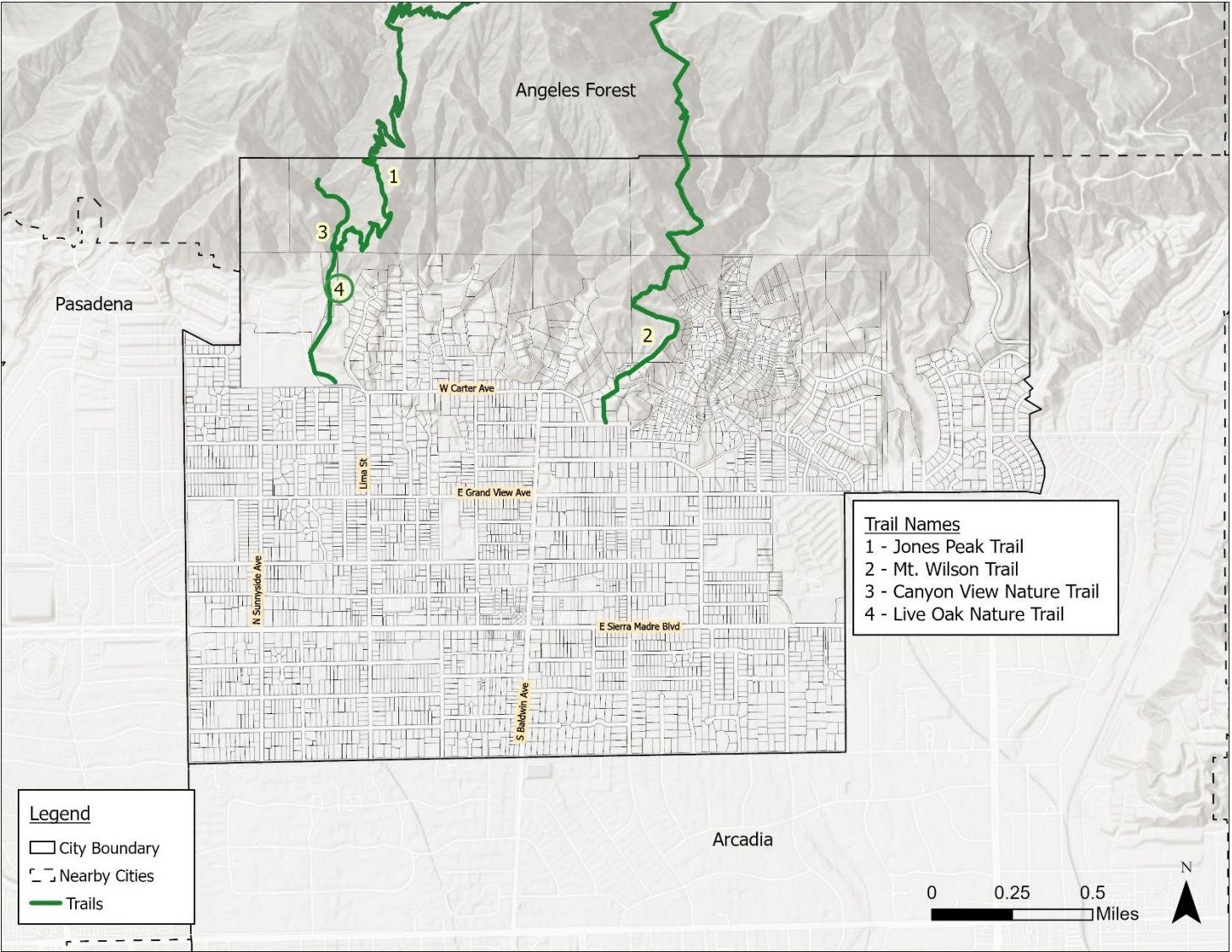
The trail begins just above the debris basin at the canyon's entrance. The trail is an easy loop trail ranging approximately one-eighth of a mile in length, strolling through a peaceful oak woodland area. Access to the trail was damaged by the Eaton fire and subsequent debris flows. The City is actively pursuing funding opportunities to evaluate and implement a "wet crossing" as an alternative access solution to a new bridge.

Canyon View Self-guided Nature Trail:

Beginning on the west side of Bailey Canyon Wilderness Park, just past the footbridge at the base of the Canyon, this trail extends approximately one-half mile to a small waterfall. As of this writing, the Canyon View Trail is closed due to the Eaton Fire and subsequent debris flows.



Figure 2: Trails Map



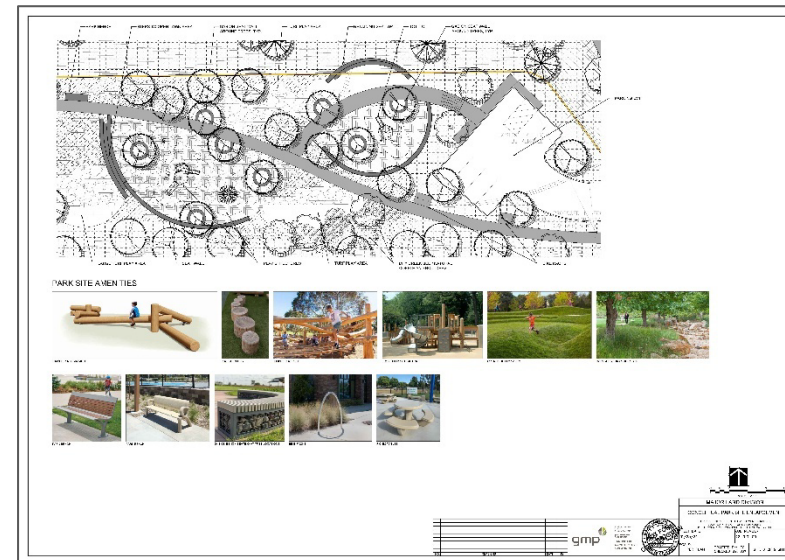
FUTURE PLANNED PARKS

The City of Sierra Madre is likely to see significant change, with new development projects occurring between 2025 and 2027. One of the most notable is the redevelopment of the historic Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center property. The approved project includes 42 new single-family homes and the dedication of a three-acre public park to the City. This new park will expand Sierra Madre's system of public open spaces and provide additional opportunities for recreation and community gathering.

The planned park will feature a mix of natural and recreational elements, including a timber log scramble, log steppers, a timber play area and structure, park benches, bike racks, picnic tables, a turf play area, and a dry creek bed. These amenities are designed to complement the City's natural setting and encourage outdoor activity for residents of all ages.

In addition to the park, the development will make a substantial contribution to the City's tree canopy. While the Mater Dolorosa site currently consists of private open space, the approved plans include extensive landscaping with approximately 43 accent trees, 65 slope trees, 1,237 street trees, and 83 screening trees. This significant planting effort will enhance the neighborhood's green character, improve air quality, and support local biodiversity.

The new park and expanded tree canopy advance several goals of Sierra Madre's Open Space Element by increasing access to recreational areas, promoting environmental sustainability, and preserving the community's natural beauty.





PARK GAP ANALYSIS

Per-capita Park Space Analysis

As shown in *Figure 1* the City's parks are fairly evenly distributed throughout the community. The City of Sierra Madre Municipal Code (Chapter 16.44, Regulations for Dedication of Land for Park and Recreation Land) establishes a standard of 3.0 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, which is comparable to the Los Angeles County average of 3.3 acres per 1,000 residents. By comparison, the 2025 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standard is 10.2 acres per 1,000 residents, meaning each acre of parkland typically serves about 98 people. With a population of 10,770, Sierra Madre currently provides 2.78 acres of parkland for 1,000 residents. Although this ratio is lower than the national standard, the city covers only three square miles, resulting in a population density of about 3,590 residents per square mile. This high density means that parkland naturally serves more people, as many residents live in close proximity to one another.

Access to Parks

Due to the compact size and abundant greenery, most residents of Sierra Madre live close to a park. A common way to evaluate park access is by measuring the percentage of residents living within a quarter- or half-mile of a park or recreational facility. This metric helps identify neighborhoods that are well-served and areas where access to green space may be limited, guiding equitable park planning.

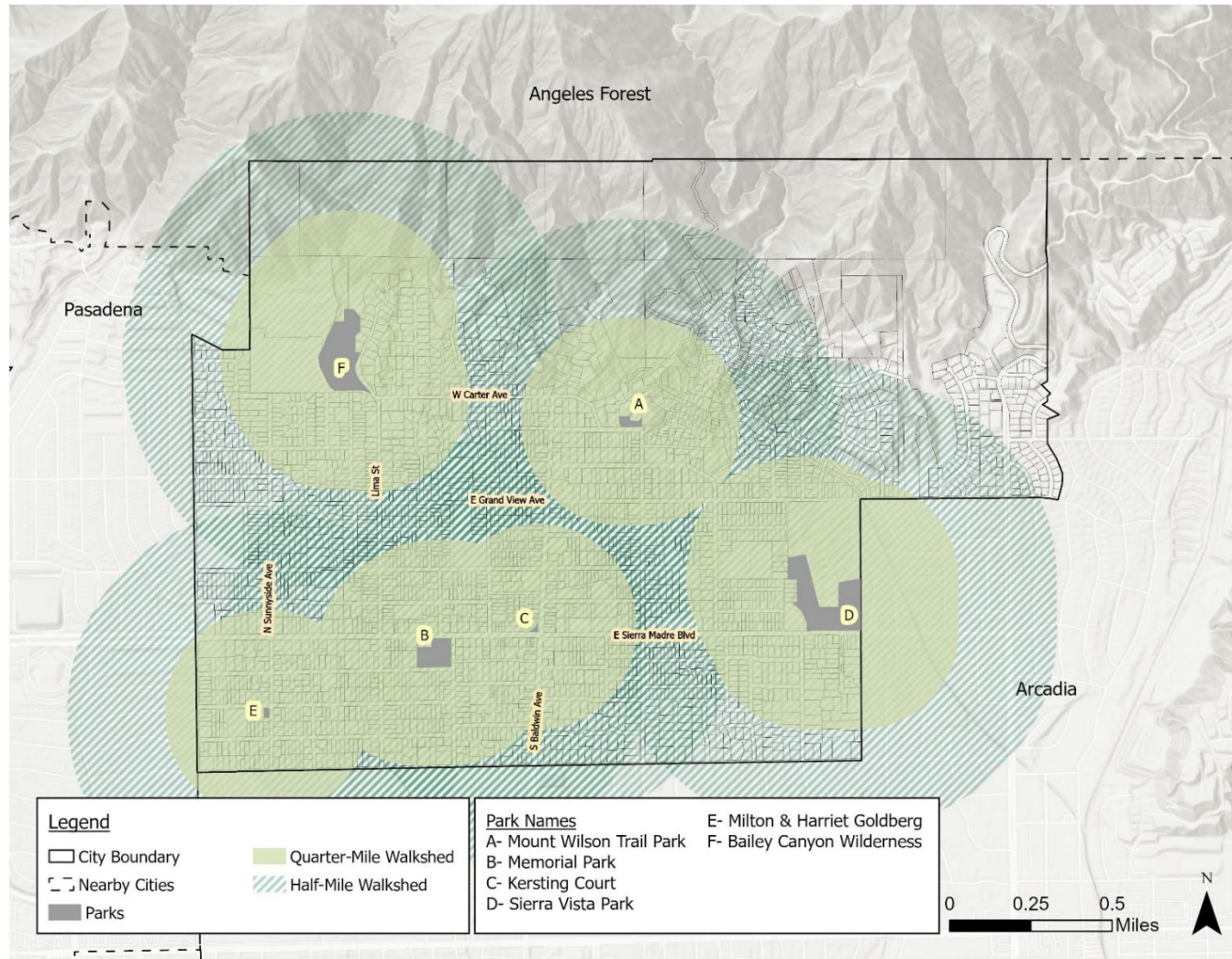
According to ParkServe, a mapping platform run by the Trust for Public Land, approximately 91 percent of residents live within a mile walk of a park, well above the Los Angeles County average of 62 percent.

Figure 3 illustrates park and recreation access in the City using 0.25- and 0.5-mile walksheds. The map shows that the majority of residents are within a half mile of a park. Nevertheless, some areas have more limited access.

It is important to note that the walksheds account only for locations within the City limits. As a result, some residents who appear outside the indicated range may in fact live within half a mile of green space located just beyond the City boundary. Additionally, certain parks, particularly small mini-parks such as Kersting Court, may lack the capacity or amenities to meet all residents' needs, requiring some individuals to travel farther to access suitable park facilities.

Areas with the lowest park access include the northwestern portion of the City (which will soon be served by a new park within the Meadows development), the area near North Hastings Ranch, and several homes surrounding the Auburn Debris Basin at the base of the hillside. All of these areas, however, fall within a one-mile walkshed. These gaps highlight opportunities for potential mini-parks to provide equitable access to green space for all residents.

Figure 3: Quarter and Half Mile Walksheds



**Note: The analysis is based on geo-referencing and does not take into account physical or geographical barriers that may limit park access points.*



Equity and Barriers to Park Access

The 2026 state legislation, Senate Bill 1425, requires cities to address equitable access to parks, open space, and recreational facilities as part of General Plan updates. In response, the City of Sierra Madre is committed to ensuring that all residents, regardless of socioeconomic background, age, or demographics, have fair and equitable access to parks and recreational opportunities.

Although the CalEnviroScreen tool does not identify any disadvantaged communities within Sierra Madre, the City recognizes that equity extends beyond economic and environmental indicators. True equitable access requires the fair distribution of parks and recreational opportunities across all neighborhoods and for residents of all ages and abilities. Ensuring that children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities can safely reach and enjoy high-quality parks is a key component of this approach.

Walkability is central to achieving equitable park access. With an average Walk Score of 88, most residents can reach parks and local amenities on foot. However, topography and street layout create challenges in some neighborhoods, particularly in hillside and canyon areas where sidewalks are limited or absent. Expanding pedestrian infrastructure with continuous sidewalks, improved crosswalks, ADA-compliant curb ramps, and traffic-calming measures will help guide all residents, including those with mobility limitations, safely to local parks.

Sierra Madre's hilly landscape can also limit bicycle accessibility in certain areas. With a Bike Score of 49, the City reflects moderate bikeability. Expanding the network of bike lanes along major corridors that connect residential neighborhoods to parks can improve both safety and mobility. Installing bike racks and designated routes near parks and schools will encourage active transportation and reduce reliance on vehicles. In canyon areas where space or slope constraints exist, shared roadways, improved signage, and reduced speed limits can create safer conditions for cyclists and pedestrians.

Additionally, Sierra Madre has a significant population over 60 years of age, which presents unique considerations for equitable park access. Older adults may face mobility limitations, sensory impairments, or chronic health conditions that make reaching and using parks more challenging. To address these needs, the City should continue to prioritize ADA-compliant infrastructure, including smooth and level pathways, accessible restrooms, benches and seating areas, and shaded spaces for rest and social interaction. Additionally, recreational programming should continue to be offered to older adults, including low-impact exercise options, social activities, and intergenerational opportunities that encourage active participation in community life.

Through these combined efforts, including compliance with Senate Bill 1425, an effort to enhance pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, Sierra Madre can continue to work towards providing equitable access to open spaces and recreational facilities for all residents.



NATURAL DISASTERS

Sierra Madre offers a well-maintained and diverse system of parks and open spaces that provide residents with opportunities for recreation, relaxation, and connection with nature. While these resources are widely valued, access to parks is not uniform across the community. Various factors, including natural disasters, neighborhood topography, and infrastructure limitations, can create barriers that prevent some residents from fully enjoying the city's recreational amenities. The following discussion examines these challenges in three interconnected areas, highlighting how they influence access to Sierra Madre's parks and open spaces.

Sierra Madre's park system is well-maintained, but natural disasters can significantly restrict public access. The city's dense tree coverage and foothill location make it especially vulnerable to wildfire and mudslide hazards, emphasizing the need for strong forest management alongside urban heat-island mitigation efforts. Since 2000, three major fires, the Santa Anita Fire in 2008, the Bobcat Fire in 2020, and the Eaton Fire in 2025, have directly affected the community. In the seasons following these events, the risk of mudslides increases substantially, threatening the safety and accessibility of trails, park structures, and other recreational facilities. As of this writing, Bailey Canyon and its associated trails, as well as areas of Mount Wilson, remain closed indefinitely. These closures limit public access to some of Sierra Madre's most valued natural spaces and recreational opportunities.

Residents in the Little Santa Anita Canyon area face unique challenges in accessing parks. Steep hills, winding roads, and the neighborhood's distinctive architecture restrict opportunities for recreational facilities. The nearest park, Mount Wilson Trail Park, is small and offers only basic amenities, such as a playground and picnic tables. As a result, residents in this area have fewer local options for recreation compared to other parts of the city.

Infrastructure limitations further restrict park access for some residents. Many streets, particularly in Little Santa Anita Canyon, lack sidewalks, forcing pedestrians to walk along roads or drive to reach parks. While traffic is generally low in Sierra Madre, certain arterial and narrow residential streets can pose hazards. Existing sidewalks are often inadequate for children, seniors, or residents with mobility challenges. Together, these factors create significant barriers to safe and equitable access to the city's parks and open spaces.

Moving forward, improving access will require not only better pedestrian infrastructure but also strategic vegetation management. Planting fire-resistant tree species consistent with the City's approved tree list, replacing hazardous or overgrown vegetation, and coordinating closely with the Natural Resources Commission can reduce wildfire risk while creating safer, more shaded, and more navigable routes to parks. Integrating resilient tree planning with infrastructure upgrades will help ensure that Sierra Madre's parks and open spaces remain accessible, safe, and sustainable for all residents.



HEAT ISLAND IMPACT AND URBAN TREE CANOPY

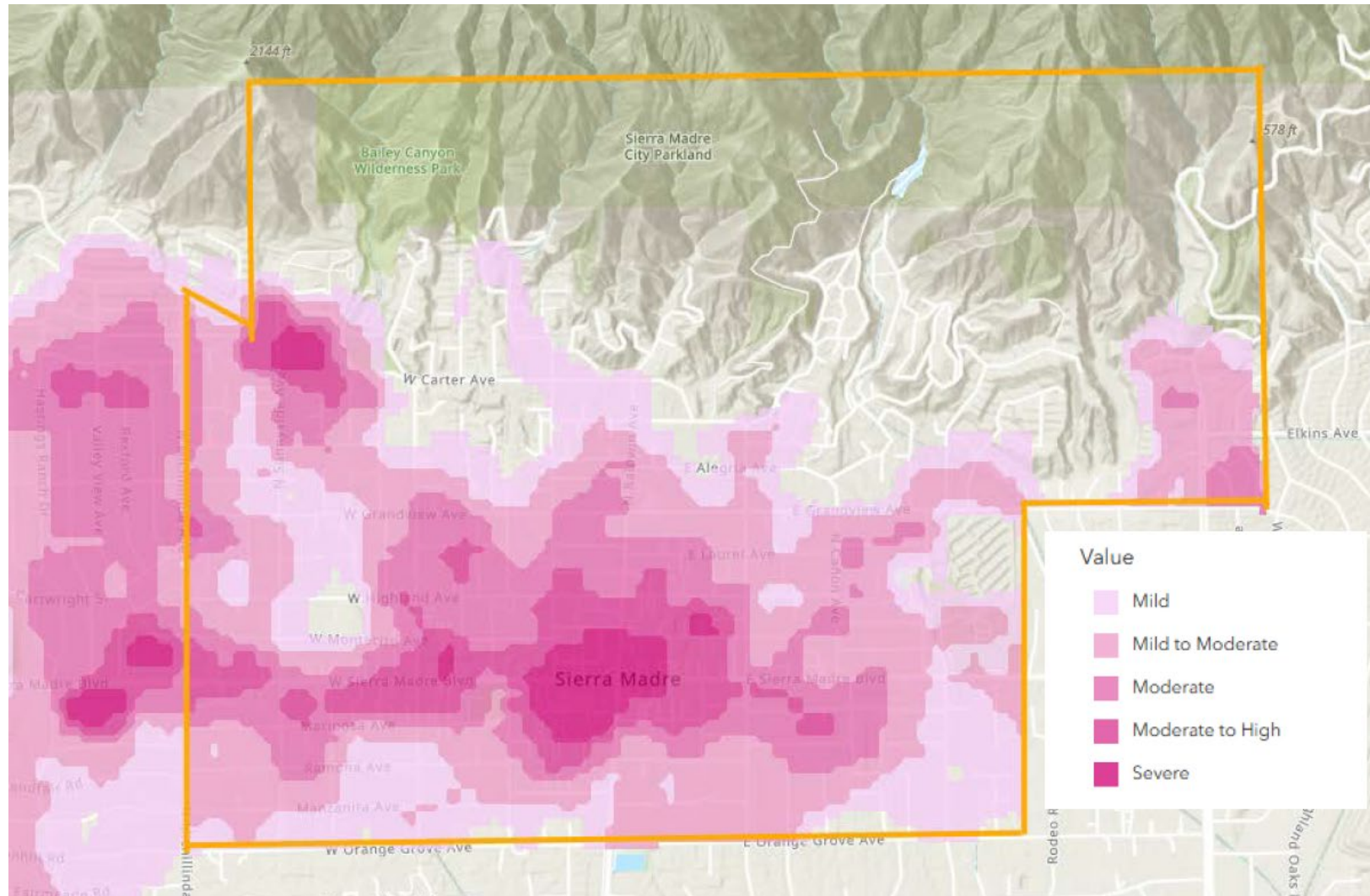
The materials used in landscaping and streetscapes can significantly influence local temperatures, contributing to the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect. UHI occurs when urban areas become noticeably warmer than surrounding rural or less-developed regions. This temperature disparity results not only from limited vegetation but also from the types of ground cover used. Dark, impervious surfaces such as asphalt and concrete absorb and retain large amounts of solar radiation, raising both surface and air temperatures. In contrast, vegetated areas, including grass, shrubs, and trees, reflect sunlight, provide shade, and cool the air through evapotranspiration. Bare soil and lighter-colored surfaces have intermediate effects depending on moisture content and color. Consequently, the selection of ground cover can either worsen urban heat or contribute to natural cooling.

In Sierra Madre, UHI impacts vary across the city. As shown in [Figure 4](#) the business district and West Sierra Madre Boulevard experience severe urban heat, while neighborhoods along the city's outer edges experience mild to moderate effects. These patterns correspond to areas dominated by asphalt and concrete with limited cooling landscaping. One of the most effective ways to mitigate UHI is through expanding and maintaining tree cover throughout the city.

Trees play a key role in UHI mitigation. Urban Tree Canopy (UTC), or the collective layer of leaves, branches, and stems on a tree, acts as a natural shield, reducing solar radiation reaching the ground and moderating surface temperatures in urban environments. Limited canopy coverage can have serious consequences for public health, as elevated urban temperatures during extreme heat events increase the risk of dehydration, heat fatigue, and even mortality.

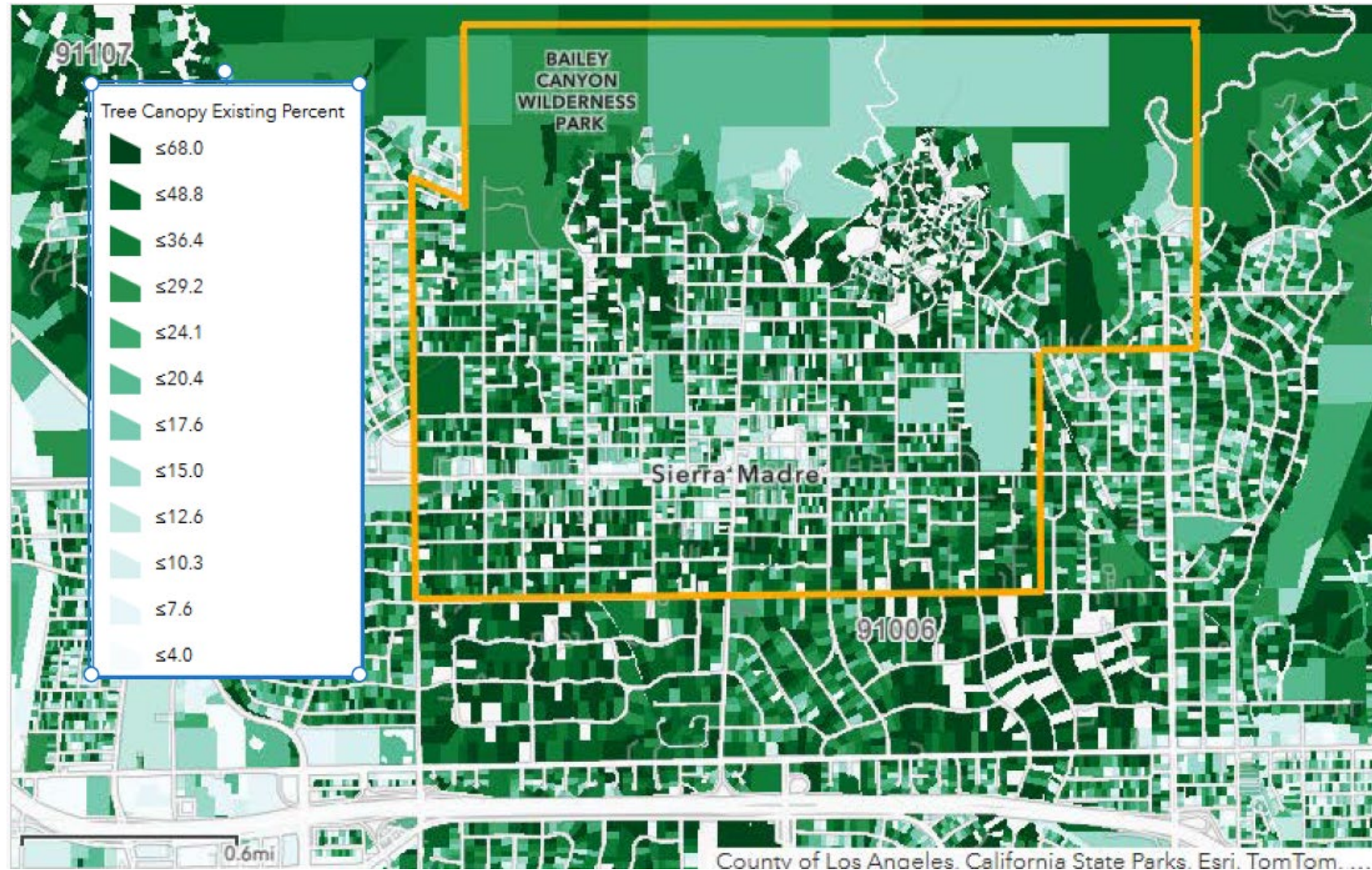
Several factors influence UTC potential, including development density, land use, and regional climate. Less developed areas can often achieve higher canopy coverage, ranging from 40 percent to 60 percent. For more urbanized, dry-climate communities like Sierra Madre, American Forests, a leading national conservation organization, recommends a realistic canopy target of approximately 20 percent to 25 percent. As illustrated in [Figure 5](#) the majority of Sierra Madre achieves 24 percent or higher tree coverage, while areas with lower canopy coverage correspond to regions experiencing moderate-high to severe UHI effects. Sierra Madre's tree coverage exceeds the 18 percent average in Los Angeles County and is comparable to the 25 percent coverage in the City of Los Angeles, reflecting a strong commitment to urban forestry.

Figure 4: Urban Heat Impacts in Sierra Madre



Source: ParkServ, Accessed October 28, 2025

Figure 5: Urban Tree Canopy



Source: Los Angeles County Tree Canopy Map Viewer, Tree People.



PARKS ADMINISTRATION AND MAINTENANCE

Parks within the City are maintained through a structured maintenance system designed to ensure consistent and reliable upkeep. Primary landscape maintenance at the City's parks is provided under a formal agreement with a contracted landscape service provider, whose responsibilities include routine groundskeeping, vegetation management, irrigation oversight, and general landscape preservation. Their work is supplemented by the City's Public Works crews, who provide additional support during periods of heightened need, such as after storms, during peak seasonal growth, or when specialized tasks fall outside the contractor's scope of services.

Recreational facilities are maintained under a separate Facilities Maintenance contract, which oversees the upkeep of playgrounds, restrooms, sports courts, and other built amenities. Public Works staff also assist with these facilities, particularly when maintenance demands exceed routine contractual responsibilities or when immediate response is necessary to ensure public safety and uninterrupted use. The Sierra Madre Community Recreation and Youth Activity Center performs its own maintenance activities under the terms of any building's leases, thereby reducing the City's direct maintenance obligations for that particular facility.

Maintenance funding is supported by multiple revenue sources, with primary contributions derived from the Downtown Assessment District, which finances the upkeep of parks and public spaces within its boundaries, and from the City's internal service funds, which provide essential financial support for equipment, staffing, and ongoing operational needs. While this funding structure allows for stable day-to-day maintenance, large-scale maintenance and major upgrades remain among the City's most significant challenges. When substantial maintenance needs arise, securing additional unbudgeted funding can be difficult, often resulting in delays or the need to reprioritize existing resources. To address these challenges, the City is actively pursuing external funding opportunities, including grants, aided by the recent addition of an outside grant consultant.

Based on current conditions and available resources, the overall quality of the City's parks can be rated fairly high. This assessment reflects well-maintained landscapes, functional recreational amenities, and consistent contractor and staff performance. The primary exception is Bailey Canyon Wilderness Park, which continues to recover from the impacts of the Eaton Fire and therefore remains below typical condition levels while restoration and natural regeneration progress. Although the overall standard of maintenance is generally adequate, opportunities for improvement remain, particularly in the areas of long-term asset preservation, proactive facility repairs, and more frequent landscape interventions.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The City of Sierra Madre offers a variety of community facilities that are operated and supported by numerous local organizations and partners. These facilities provide a wide range of indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities for residents of all ages. As shown in **Figure 6** community facilities within Sierra Madre are strategically distributed throughout the City to ensure convenient access for all neighborhoods. Serving as vital centers for social connection, physical activity, and community engagement, these facilities play an essential role in enhancing the quality of life for Sierra Madre residents. **Table 2** provides a detailed overview of the existing community facilities and their respective amenities.



Memorial Park Amphitheater



Sierra Madre Library

Source: Friends of the Sierra Madre Library



Lizzie's Inn

Figure 6: Existing Recreational Facilities

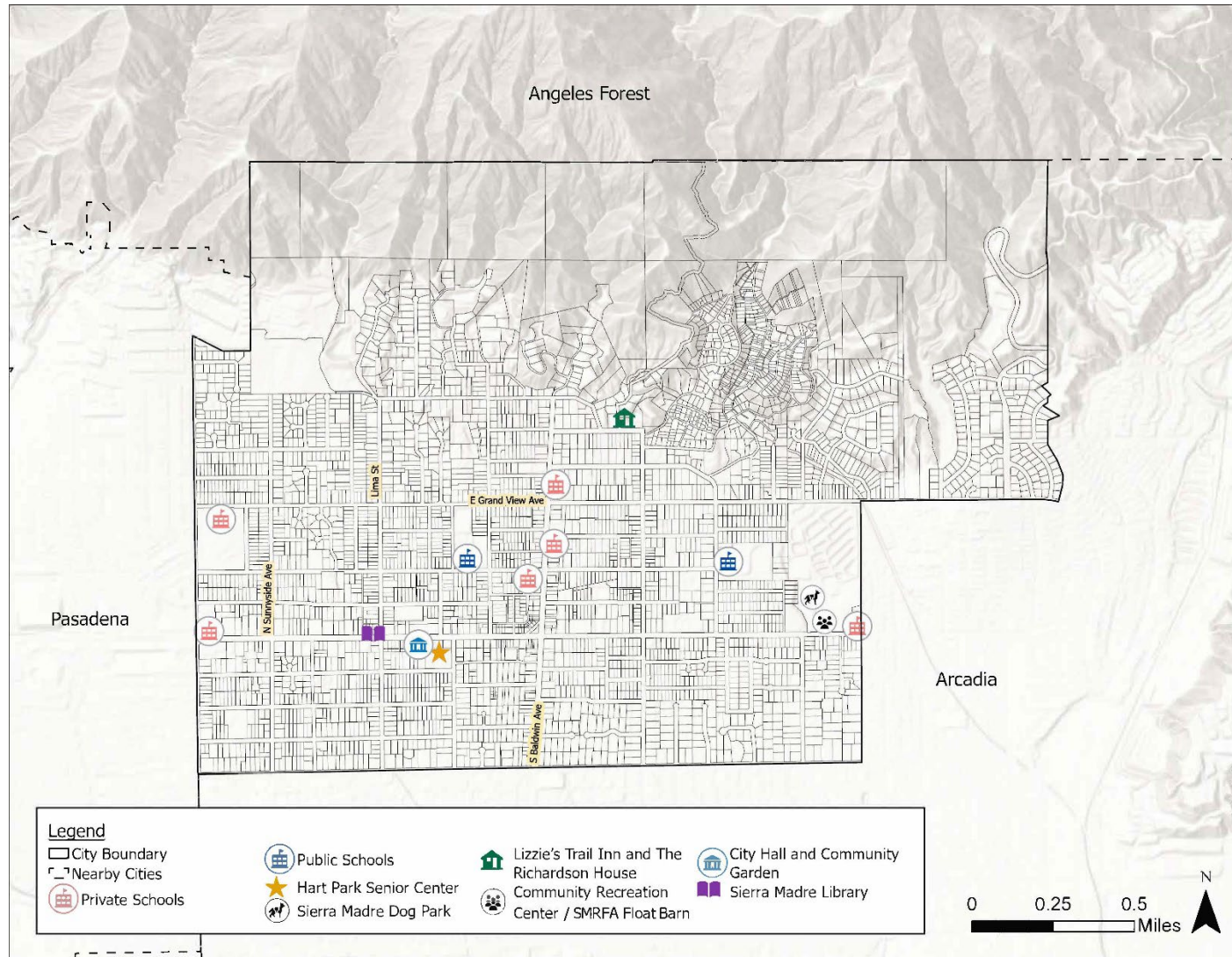




Table 2: Existing Community Facilities

Facility	Address	Parking Lot	Amenities
Community Recreation Center	611 E Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, CA	Yes	Gym Space, Exercise Studios, Youth and Teen Programs
Sierra Madre Aquatic Center	611 E Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, CA	Yes	Lap Pool, Children's Pool, Children's Interactive Play Structure, Locker Rooms. Swim Lessons, Water Aerobics, and Seasonal Programs
Sierra Madre Dog Park	611 E Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, CA	Yes	Large And Small Dog Play Area, Benches, Shaded Infrastructure
Sierra Madre Rose Float Association Float Barn	587 E Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, CA	Yes	Shaded Infrastructure
Hart Park Senior Center	222 W Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, CA	Yes	Meal Program, Bingo, Special Events, Afternoon Movies, and Yoga
Sierra Madre Library	440 W Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, CA	Yes	Meeting And Virtual Conference Room, Reading Room, Office Space, Teen Room, Children's Room, Reading Balcony, and a Public Event Meeting Room
Lizzie's Trail Inn and The Richardson House	167 E Mira Monte Ave. Sierra Madre, CA	No	City Museum Space
City Hall and Community Garden	232 W Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, CA	Yes	Room For Art Gallery, and Public Garden Plots

Existing Facilities

Hart Park House Senior Center

The Hart Park House is a single room public facility home to Sierra Madre's Senior Center. The Hart Park House offers a variety of services and programs to senior residents. Resources for older adults include a variety of senior activities and programs designed to meet their interests and needs. No senior membership fees are required, although some activities, programs, and special events may have associated fees.

Sierra Madre Public Museums (Lizzie's Trail Inn & The Richardson House)

Located adjacent to Mt. Wilson Trail Park, the Sierra Madre Public Museums showcases the city's history and historical artifacts. Run by the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society, the historic Lizzie's Trail Inn, established in 1926, and the Richardson House, have been transformed into welcoming places that bring history alive. They are open to the public most Saturdays from 10:00 AM to noon. The Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society also hosts public outreach events, including a community chicken and ravioli dinner, as well as other community activities at the museums and throughout the City.

The Sierra Madre Community Recreation and Youth Activity Center

The Sierra Madre Community Recreation and Youth Activity Center serves as a hub for health, wellness, and community activities. The Center offers a fully equipped gym, multiple exercise studios, flexible spaces for group fitness classes, and teen and youth programs.

The Sierra Madre Aquatic Center

The Aquatic Center offers a variety of water-based amenities for all ages. Facilities include a lap pool for fitness and swim training, a children's pool with an interactive play structure, and fully equipped locker rooms for convenience. The center also hosts swimming lessons, water aerobics, and seasonal programs, providing a safe and enjoyable environment for both recreation and skill development.



Sierra Madre Community Recreation and Youth Activity Center

Sierra Madre Library

The Sierra Madre Public Library, which underwent a major renovation in 2025, offers a wide range of amenities, resources, and programs for residents. The updated facility includes two small meeting and virtual conference rooms, a reading room, office space, a teen room, a children's room, a reading balcony, and a public event meeting room. The groundbreaking for the library renovations was on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 and the Grand Reopening was on Saturday, June 6, 2026! These new and improved offerings make it a versatile hub for learning and community activities.

Community Garden

The Community Services Department offers garden plots for rent at Memorial Park, providing residents with space to cultivate their own gardens. Renters are responsible for maintaining their plots, which can include a variety of vegetables, flowers, and other plants, fostering community engagement and personal gardening opportunities.

Sierra Madre Dog Park

Located at Sierra Vista Park, the Sierra Madre Dog Park offers a fenced space for dogs to run, play, and interact with other dogs in a safe, clean, and enclosed area. The park includes separate areas for larger and smaller dogs, ensuring the safety of dogs and owners. The dog park is fairly shaded and offers ample benches for seating.



Sierra Madre Library

Source: Friends of the Sierra Madre Library



Community Organizations and Agencies

In addition to its parks and community facilities, Sierra Madre is home to numerous community-run organizations and agencies that help create the city's unique character, foster civic engagement, and enhance recreational, cultural, and educational opportunities. These organizations serve a wide range of purposes, from arts and history to youth programs, environmental stewardship, public safety, and emergency preparedness.

For example, the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association (SMRFA), an all-volunteer organization, designs and builds the City's float at the SMRFA Float Barn for entry in the annual Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade. The Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society preserves local history, while the Creative Arts Group offers art classes for adults and children in a variety of media. The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library support lifelong learning, and clubs such as the Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, and Sierra Madre Women's Club promote civic engagement, volunteerism, and charitable causes. Youth development is supported by programs like the Sierra Madre Little League and Girls Softball, which emphasize teamwork, citizenship, and personal growth.

Environmental and horticultural interests are represented by numerous Sierra Madre organizations. The Sierra Madre Mountain Conservancy is a leading community organization advancing Open Space conservation. Established in 1989, the Conservancy promotes the preservation of Open Space and wildlife corridors and engaged the community in supporting the 1994 proposition that secured \$3.1

million to expand the City's open space. The Conservancy also helped obtain funding to permanently conserve foothill lands for watershed, viewshed, and habitat protection, and the City has granted conservation easements over parcels acquired for watershed protection.

Additional organizations include the Sierra Madre Environmental Action Council and the Sierra Madre Garden Club, which advocate sustainability and encourage a love of nature among residents.

To ensure safety and smooth operations during events like the Mt. Wilson Trail Race, 4th of July Parade, Wistaria Festival, and Halloween Happenings, the Sierra Madre Emergency Communications Team provides vital communication services.

The Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council, first established in 2005 and reorganized in 2025, is at the forefront of advancing community awareness and preparedness for wildfire hazards. Similarly, the Sierra Madre Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team prepare volunteers for disaster management and wilderness rescues, ensuring public safety and community readiness.

Collectively, these organizations help maintain Sierra Madre's small-town charm, foster social connections, and provide residents with diverse opportunities to engage in community life, recreation, and lifelong learning.



Recreation Programs

Run by many of the organizations and agencies mentioned above, the City of Sierra Madre provides a wide range of recreational facilities and programs for residents throughout the year. These programs include aquatics, arts, biking, classes, community gardening, excursions, hiking, museums, parks, senior services, skateboarding and scootering, special events, transportation, volunteering, and youth and teen services. Programs are designed to serve residents of all ages, and more information about specific programs can be found by clicking on the links provided.

Youth, and teens in Sierra Madre can participate in sports leagues offering a variety of options, including baseball, softball, soccer, and basketball. These programs promote physical activity, teamwork, and personal growth. In addition, the Public Library and the Youth Activity Center, offer programs that foster socialization, creativity, and life skill development. Activities include crafts, athletics, and homework assistance.

For seniors, many recreation programs are offered at the Hart Park Senior Center. Activities include chair yoga, dance classes, blood pressure screenings, movie features, tea and book clubs, monthly craft sessions, and Bingo. Every fourth Tuesday of the month, the center hosts a birthday celebration with cake and ice cream, and a monthly newsletter keeps seniors informed about upcoming events and activities. Activities and events are typically under \$10, making it accessible to individuals of all income types. Overall, Sierra Madre's

community programs and facilities provide opportunities for residents of all ages to stay active, engaged, and connected throughout the year.

CITY OF SIERRA MADRE
COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

AUGUST 2025

SENIOR MOMENTS

TEA & TALK BOOK CLUB

Tea and Talk meets twice a month to discuss exciting new chapters that are filled with adventure, love, suspense and drama. Book of the month is "A Map to Paradise" By Susan Meissner

TEA & TALK BOOK CLUB
WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 13TH AND 27TH
9:00 am - 9:45 am In the Hart Park House
Tea and Talk meets twice a month to discuss the exciting new chapters that are filled with adventure, love, suspense and drama.

HULA AND POLYNESIAN DANCE

Join the fun with our FREE Hula and Polynesian dance classes.
Beginner classes are held on Thursday's at 10AM
Intermediate classes are held on Friday's at 10AM

Hula and Polynesian Dance
Show off your best Hula and Polynesian outfit and your desire to dance!
Join in on the fun at Memorial Park Pavilion on Thursdays for beginner classes and Fridays for intermediate classes

Class Type	Day	Time
Beginner	Every Thursday	10:00 am - 11:00 am
Intermediate	Every Friday	10:00 am - 11:00 am

For more information please call the Community Services Office at 626-355-5278
Classes are FREE to all

Source: Hart Park Senior Center August 2025 Newsletter

RECOMMENDATIONS

To strengthen the City's parks, open space systems, and recreational opportunities, several key recommendations should guide policy and future investment:

Park Maintenance, Management, and Funding

The City should update the 2012 Comprehensive Parks Maintenance and Asset Management Plan to address long-term capital and life-cycle needs, ensuring that maintenance practices remain effective and sustainable. To support both daily operations and larger-scale improvements, it is essential to diversify funding sources, including pursuing federal, state, and regional grants, establishing assessment districts, collecting developer impact fees, or implementing voter-approved measures. Partnerships with nonprofits, community organizations, and conservancies can further enhance resources by providing financial support and volunteer assistance.

Natural Resource Protection and Preservation

Protecting and restoring the City's natural landscapes is essential for ecological health, community enjoyment, and long-term resilience. Strategies should include habitat restoration, erosion control, and vegetation management, particularly in fire-impacted areas. Wildfire-risk reduction measures, such as targeted fuel management and coordinated land stewardship, will help safeguard open space.



Memorial Park Amphitheater

Recreation Facilities and Programs

The City should ensure that recreational facilities and programming remain inclusive, accessible, and responsive to evolving community needs. Opportunities include upgrading existing amenities, developing new recreational features, and expanding programming for youth and seniors. Improvements in ADA accessibility and the incorporation of universal design principles will help ensure that parks accommodate all residents and visitors. At the same time, recreational opportunities should be expanded by upgrading facilities, broadening inclusive programming, and improving accessibility for all users.



Milton & Harriet Goldberg Recreation Area

Parkland Expansion and Acquisition

The City should continue to expand parkland and recreational opportunities to meet the evolving needs of residents. Although Sierra Madre is landlocked and fully developed, it can explore partnerships with surrounding municipalities and local schools to jointly acquire land or share recreational spaces. For example, a collaboration with the City of Arcadia could allow Sierra Madre residents to utilize facilities at Orange Grove Park at the southeast corner of North Baldwin Avenue and Orange Grove Avenue, while additional joint-use agreements with neighboring cities could expand access to sports facilities.

Similar partnerships with schools could open outdoor spaces for public use after school hours and on weekends. At the same time, the City should enhance walking, biking, and trail-based recreation by expanding and improving its system of trails and green corridors. Strengthening connections between neighborhoods, parks, schools, and commercial areas, supported by improved wayfinding and coordinated regional trail planning, will increase mobility, broaden recreational access, and reinforce Sierra Madre's ties to adjacent communities and regional open-space networks.



GOALS, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS

Goal OS-1: Protect, maintain, and expand Sierra Madre's parks and open space system to support recreation, environmental education, and long-term community well-being.

Policy OS-1.1: The City shall actively reinvest in and improve existing constructed open spaces through maintenance, physical upgrades, and targeted enhancements to support safe, accessible, and high-quality recreational environments.

Action OS-1.1.1: Plan, install, maintain, and periodically upgrade recreational amenities such as ball fields, fire rings, bridges, nature trails, picnic tables, and other equipment in existing constructed open space based on safety standards, lifecycle needs, and community use patterns and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles such as lighting, visibility, and clear sightlines.

Action OS-1.1.2: Integrate environmental education into constructed open spaces through interpretive signage, self-guided learning features, partnerships with schools and community organizations,

and City-supported programs that highlight local ecology, water conservation, native landscaping, and wildfire awareness.

Action OS-1.1.3: Prioritize enhancements to constructed open spaces that improve comfort and usability, including shade, seating, lighting, drinking water access, and heat-mitigation features, particularly in high-use or high-temperature areas.

Action OS-1.1.4: Prioritize operational and safety needs at high-use parks, including Memorial Park and Sierra Vista Park, through maintenance, lighting, programming, and stewardship initiatives.

Action OS-1.1.5: Replace deteriorated landscaping in City parks with native and drought and fire-resistant plant species and upgrade irrigation systems to high-efficiency or smart irrigation technologies to reduce water use, improve habitat value, and increase long-term maintenance efficiency.

Action OS-1.1.6: Continue to require that tree removal or replacement decisions in public spaces be guided by defensible space standards, with replacement planting using appropriate fire-resistant native species where feasible.

Action OS-1.1.7: Continue to conduct a defensible space inspection upon transfer of residential property.

Action OS-1.1.8: Install and maintain clear, consistent signage at all recreational sites identifying park names, facilities, rules, and wayfinding information to improve access and user experience.



Action OS-1.1.9: Maintain and improve Hal Dapper Field and Heasley Field (Main Field and T-ball) through regular inspections, safety upgrades, and surface improvements to support continued recreational use.

Policy OS-1.2: The City shall expand parkland and recreational opportunities through a combination of strategic acquisition, redevelopment, shared use, and funding mechanisms that respond to community needs within a built-out environment.

Action OS-1.2.1: Prepare, maintain, and periodically update a Parks and Facilities Master Plan that inventories existing parks, trails, open space, facilities, programs, and services; evaluates park access through walk-shed and equity analysis; and guides future acquisition, redevelopment, and facility improvements.

Action OS-1.2.2: Plan and pursue new recreational facilities and activity centers through redevelopment, partnerships, or reconfiguration of existing sites.

Action OS-1.2.3: Evaluate and retrofit existing parks and recreational facilities to support multi-sport and flexible use, such as re-stripping fields for multiple sports, installing movable goals or nets, converting single-use courts to shared court configurations, upgrading turf or court surfaces to accommodate higher and more diverse use, and adjusting layouts or scheduling to safely serve different sports and age groups.

Action OS-1.2.4: Adapt recreation facilities to support flexible, multi-use programming and shared scheduling where feasible.

Action OS-1.2.5: Identify and map priority opportunity sites for future park acquisition or land banking when properties become available, particularly in areas with limited park access.

Action OS-1.2.6: Prepare a Quimby Act (Government Code §66477) nexus study to establish parkland dedication and in-lieu fee requirements for new commercial and residential development, consistent with proportionality and nexus requirements.

Action OS-1.2.7: Expand and diversify funding sources for park acquisition and facility development, including Quimby Act funds, State and Federal grants, bicycle and active transportation funds, fundraising, business contributions, and other available public or private funding sources.

Action OS-1.2.8: Evaluate additional methods for acquiring land or securing long-term access for park and recreation purposes, including purchase, lease, easements, land swaps, and dedication through redevelopment projects.

Action OS-1.2.9: Identify and evaluate opportunities for new mini-parks, pocket parks, passive open space, or plazas on underutilized parcels, remnant lots, excess or leftover public right-of-way, and other publicly owned land including sites such as the property adjacent to the Post Office property, the proposed Meadows Park, and similar vacant or redevelopment parcels, particularly in areas with limited park access.



Action OS-1.2.10: Seek opportunities to improve existing dog parks within the City, including adding areas with controlled access, turf or decomposed granite surfacing, shade, and waste management infrastructure.

Action OS-1.2.11: Expand parkland through linear parks, trail corridors, greenways, and enhanced pedestrian connections that link neighborhoods to existing parks and regional open space.

Policy OS-1.3: The City shall manage, restore, and enhance Sierra Madre's trail system to provide safe, resilient, and environmentally responsible access to open space.

Action OS-1.3.1: Prioritize phased reopening and ecological restoration of fire- and storm-impacted trails, including Bailey Canyon Wilderness Park and Mt. Wilson Trail, within City jurisdiction, based on safety assessments, erosion stabilization needs, and habitat recovery considerations.

Action OS-1.3.2: Continue to support the volunteer-based trail maintenance program that includes routine inspections and repairs of trails.

Action OS-1.3.3: The City shall implement a program to remove invasive species, especially Castor Bean and Spanish Broom from all areas on public and private property. The program shall include educating the public and actively removing the plants. (Note: such plants, especially Castor Bean, have taken over large swaths of land

in Monrovia's parks and currently are moving up the hill behind homes in the upper canyon, especially Skyland Drive).

Action OS-1.3.4: Incorporate safety measures into trail design and rehabilitation, including signage, wayfinding, hazard notifications, emergency access planning, and visibility improvements where appropriate.

Action OS-1.3.5: Integrate trail planning into future Parks and Facilities Master Plan updates by evaluating opportunities to improve connectivity between neighborhoods, parks, schools, and regional trail systems, and identifying feasible new access points that enhance neighborhood-level access while protecting environmental resources.

Action OS-1.3.6: Coordinate trail management and expansion efforts with adjacent jurisdictions, regional agencies, fire authorities, environmental specialists, and landowners to support shared stewardship and system continuity.

Action OS-1.3.7: Improve trailhead amenities where feasible, including shade, seating, bike racks, informational kiosks, wildlife-resistant waste receptacles, and environmental education features to enhance user experience and reduce resource impacts.

Action OS-1.3.8: Make printed and digital copies of the trail map available at City Hall, the Library, trailheads, community facilities, and on the City website, and update materials as trail conditions change.

Action OS-1.3.9: Continue to utilize County-administered restoration grants and explore other partnership funding sources to support trail



restoration, infrastructure repair, and expansion efforts, and provide regular public updates on trail conditions, recovery progress, and safety considerations.

Policy OS-1.4: The City shall coordinate with public and private partners to expand recreational access, support special events, and maximize the use of existing facilities through shared-use agreements and partnerships.

Action OS-1.4.1: Coordinate with Pasadena Unified School District, private and parochial schools, religious institutions, and other community-serving organizations to evaluate and pursue shared-use of properties for recreational programs, sports, and special events during nonoperational hours.

Action OS-1.4.2: Maintain and strengthen public-private partnerships to support the operation, maintenance, and long-term viability of municipal pool facilities and other shared recreational assets.

Action OS-1.4.3: Pursue joint-use agreements and memoranda of understanding school district and other organizations that address scheduling, liability, maintenance responsibilities, security, and cost-sharing to support reliable shared access to facilities.

Action OS-1.4.4: Coordinate with neighboring cities and regional partners to explore reciprocal access to recreational facilities, sports fields, and programs where local capacity is limited.

Policy OS-1.5: The City shall coordinate maintenance and management of parks, open space, and recreational facilities to support safe, functional, and well-maintained public spaces.

Action OS-1.5.1: Integrate long-term maintenance planning for existing, new, and future park facilities, trails, and open space into Parks and Facilities Master Plan

Action OS-1.5.2: Plan and implement comprehensive parks, recreational spaces, and trails maintenance on an annual basis through condition assessments, asset inventories, usage data, and community feedback to identify maintenance needs, preventive measures, visual quality, ecological function, safety and accessibility upgrades. Use these findings to inform annual work programs and budget planning in City's Capital Improvement Program, for existing parks and new facilities including the approved Meadows project park, as they are integrated into the City's park system.

Action OS-1.5.3: Identify and integrate long-term maintenance needs into Parks and Facilities Master Plan to inform project sequencing, budgeting, and funding decisions.

Action OS-1.5.4: Evaluate opportunities to improve the efficiency, functionality, and programming of existing City open space to maximize recreational benefit within a built-out community.



Action OS-1.5.5: Establish performance standards for restroom cleanliness, shade provision, drinking water access, and seating availability at high-use parks.

Action OS-1.5.6: Track the park and facility usage, condition, and program demand to inform operational adjustments, capital investments, and future facility planning.

Action OS-1.5.7: Coordinate parks and recreation planning with Public Works, Community Development, Finance, and Emergency Services to align routine maintenance, accessibility upgrades, capital improvements, and long-term resilience priorities.

Action OS-1.5.8: Coordinate Park maintenance, rehabilitation, and capital improvements with emergency recovery and hazard mitigation planning, including wildfire, storms, erosion, and post-disaster access restoration, to support safe reopening and long-term resilience of parks and trails.

Action OS-1.5.9: Periodically review and adjust parks and recreation management practices to respond to changing community needs, facility conditions, and environmental risks.

Goal OS-2: Improve equitable, safe, and accessible mobility to parks and recreation areas for residents of all ages, abilities, and interests.

Policy OS-2.1: The City shall improve equitable access to parks, open space, and recreational facilities by addressing physical, mobility, and infrastructure barriers that limit safe and convenient access for residents of all ages and abilities.

Action OS-2.1.1: Retrofit existing parks and recreational facilities to meet or exceed Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements by improving accessible paths, restrooms, seating, parking, and play and fitness amenities, and pursue external funding to support these upgrades.

Action OS-2.1.2: Provide and adapt recreational programs to accommodate individuals with physical, sensory, and cognitive disabilities, including low-impact activities, adaptive equipment, and inclusive program design.



Policy OS-2.2: The City shall improve pedestrian, bicycle, and mobility access to parks and recreational facilities by creating safe, continuous, and accessible routes that connect neighborhoods to parks and open spaces.

Action OS-2.2.1: Identify and prioritize pedestrian improvements on routes leading to parks, schools, and community facilities including sidewalks, crossings, curb ramps, lighting, and traffic calming, where right-of-way width, grades, and drainage conditions allow, focusing on high-use corridors and areas serving seniors and children, with priority routes serving Memorial Park, Sierra Vista Park, Hart Park House, the Library, Aquatic Center, Recreation Center, schools, and other high-use community facilities.

Action OS-2.2.2: Plan and implement a connected network of bicycle facilities that improve access to parks and recreational destinations in coordination with the Circulation Element, including bike lanes, shared roadways, signage, and bicycle parking, where feasible.

Action OS-2.2.3: Use walkshed, bike-shed, and accessibility analysis to identify neighborhoods with limited access to parks and prioritize improvements that support equitable access for older adults, children, and individuals with mobility limitations, such as level pathways, frequent seating, shade, clear wayfinding, and proximity to transit or drop-off areas.

Action OS-2.2.4: Implement alternative pedestrian safety measures in areas where sidewalks are not feasible due to right-of-way, topography, or environmental constraints. These may include:

- Traffic calming measures
- Shared streets or low-speed neighborhood streets
- Enhanced crossings and pedestrian refuge areas
- Improved lighting and signage
- Painted edge lines or shoulder treatments

Action OS-2.2.5: Coordinate pedestrian access improvements with street resurfacing, drainage, utility, and capital improvement projects to incrementally improve walkability and reduce construction costs.

Action OS-2.2.6: Engage residents in neighborhoods without sidewalks to evaluate preferred pedestrian treatments and phase improvements over time based on safety need, cost, and community support.



Goal OS-3: Provide high-quality recreation, and leisure opportunities that serve residents of all ages, abilities, and interests.

Policy OS-3.1: The City shall provide balanced, high-quality recreation and leisure programs that respond to community needs, available facilities, and fiscal constraints.

Action OS-3.1.1: Provide a range of recreation and leisure programs for youth, adults, and seniors that respond to community needs, facility capacity, and available funding.

Action OS-3.1.2: Evaluate and offer expanded program schedules, including evenings and weekends, where demand, staffing, and facility availability allow.

Action OS-3.1.3: Monitor and evaluate recreation programs and facility usage through participation data, surveys, and community feedback to inform program adjustments and resource allocation.

Action OS-3.1.4: Provide clear, consistent, and accessible communication about recreation programs, special events, and facilities through seasonal guides, the City website, social media, and community partners.

Action OS-3.1.5: Partner with local organizations, nonprofits, and businesses to expand programming, reduce costs, and leverage community expertise.

Action OS-3.1.6: Support special events and programs that promote active lifestyles, including walking, running, bicycling, and outdoor recreation activities.

Policy OS-3.2: The City shall support the health, independence, and social well-being of older adults through targeted programs, facilities, and partnerships.

Action OS-3.2.1: Update the Senior Master Plan to align senior services, facilities, and programming with current demographic trends, community needs, and aging-in-place priorities.

Action OS-3.2.2: Continue to provide senior nutrition services through both congregate meal programs and home-delivered meals for homebound seniors, in coordination with partner agencies such as YWCA San Gabriel Valley, to support health, social connection, and aging in place.

Action OS-3.2.3: Continue to offer and expand options for educational programs for the community, especially senior citizens including but not limited to health care, retirement planning, health screening, public and personnel safety, tax assistance, and mature driver courses.



Action OS-3.2.4: Maintain and improve the Hart Park House Senior Center to provide additional senior activities and community meeting space.

Action OS-3.2.5: Maintain a senior volunteer core to assist in accomplishing goals.

Action OS-3.2.6: Continue to work in conjunction with the Senior Community Commission to provide programming such as excursions, special events and educational programs.

Policy OS-3.3: The City shall support the physical, social, and developmental needs of children and youth through accessible, age-appropriate recreation and enrichment programs delivered in partnership with schools and community organizations.

Action OS-3.3.1: Provide youth programs during after-school hours, weekends, and school breaks that support physical activity, enrichment, and social connection, where staffing and facilities allow.

Action OS-3.3.2: Offer age-appropriate programs for teens and adolescents, including drop-in activities, sports, leadership opportunities, and special events.

Action OS-3.3.3: Coordinate with schools, youth-serving nonprofits, and recreation leagues to expand youth programming, share facilities, and reduce duplication of services.

Action OS-3.3.4: Consider sliding-scale fees, scholarships, or sponsored programs to reduce cost barriers for youth participation.

Action OS-3.3.5: Continue to support existing youth recreation and enrichment programs provided by schools, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and community partners by coordinating schedules, facilitating access to City facilities where appropriate, sharing information with families, and addressing identified gaps to improve access during after-school hours, weekends, and school breaks.

Goal OS-4: Maintain and enhance community facilities as essential spaces for learning, connection, and public life.

Policy OS-4.1: The City shall support the Sierra Madre Public Library as a modern, inclusive community hub that provides access to information, technology, learning opportunities, and shared civic space.

Action OS-4.1.1: Continue to maintain and upgrade library technology infrastructure to support public access, digital literacy, remote services, and evolving information delivery needs.



Action OS-4.1.2: Continue to provide public support for digital literacy and technology use, including assistance with devices, online services, and information access.

Action OS-4.1.3: Continue partnerships with schools and community organizations to support educational, cultural, and lifelong learning programs.

Action OS-4.1.4: Continue outreach and services to under-represented populations, including youth, seniors, families, and individuals with disabilities.

Action OS-4.1.5: Continue to provide accessible library services, including homebound delivery and inclusive programming.

Action OS-4.1.6: Promote the Library as a community gathering space and learning resources through Citywide outreach and events.

Action OS-4.1.7: Plan for long-term library facility improvements or expansion, as needed, to support programming, technology access, community meetings, and local history resources.

Action OS-4.1.8: Continue to implement and periodically update the Library Strategic Plan to guide services, facilities, and investment priorities.

Policy OS-4.2: The City shall support the library's role in preserving, interpreting, and sharing Sierra Madre's history and cultural heritage.

Action OS-4.2.1: Continue to collect, preserve, and provide public access to materials documenting the history of Sierra Madre.

Action OS-4.2.2: Coordinate with the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society and Library Board of Trustees to support preservation, exhibition, and public interpretation of historical materials.

Action OS-4.2.3: Support ongoing oral history and digital storytelling efforts that document community history.

Policy OS-4.3: The City shall provide support services for special events.

Action OS-4.3.1: Continue to support community and City-sponsored special events through coordinated City services, including public safety, facility access, and logistical assistance, to promote safe and successful events.

Action OS-4.3.2: Continue to provide access to City facilities and meeting spaces for community groups and event organizers, consistent with adopted policies and availability.

Action OS-4.3.3: Continue to streamline permitting processes, fee structures, and facility-use policies to make it easier and more cost-effective for community organizations to host events and activities.



Policy OS-4.4: The City shall maintain, modernize, and adapt community facilities to support civic services, public meetings, cultural activities, community programs, and emergency readiness.

Action OS-4.4.1: Continue to maintain and reinvest in City-owned community facilities, including civic buildings and community-serving spaces, to address safety, accessibility, building systems, and long-term usability.

Action OS-4.4.2: Evaluate opportunities to adapt and recognize existing community facilities to support flexible, multi-use functions such as meetings, classes, events, and community services.

Action OS-4.4.3: Prioritize accessibility upgrades to community facilities, including entrances, restrooms, signage, and internal circulation, to support use by people of all ages and abilities.

Action OS-4.4.4: Continue to evaluate City-owned community facilities, including civic and administrative buildings, to support evolving service delivery needs such as public meetings, hybrid participation, interdepartmental coordination, and community access.

Action OS-4.4.5: Coordinate planning and upgrades for community facilities to support emergency functions and continuity of public services, including public information, shelter coordination, and post-disaster service delivery, where appropriate.

Action OS-4.4.6: Incorporate resilience considerations such as backup power, seismic safety, fire resistance, and emergency access into community facility maintenance and capital improvement planning.

Action OS-4.4.7: Coordinate the adoption of emerging technologies across community facilities through City policies and standards that address data privacy, transparency, accessibility, and responsible use.

Action OS-4.4.8: Continue to strengthen cybersecurity and data protection practices across community facilities and digital services to safeguard public information, maintain continuity of operations, and preserve community trust as technology use expands.



Goal OS-5: Support arts, culture, media, volunteerism, and partnerships that strengthen community identity, civic participation, and access to information.

Policy OS-5.1: City shall cultivate and support volunteerism as a core component of civic participation, service delivery, and community stewardship.

Action OS-5.1.1: Continue to support and promote the fundraising and volunteer activities of community-based organizations that contribute to public services and programs.

Action OS-5.1.2: Expand and support volunteer opportunities for teens and adults under City supervision, including service roles in parks, cultural programs, special events, and community facilities.

Action OS-5.1.3: Develop and maintain a coordinated volunteer management approach that includes recruitment, training, recognition, and retention strategies to strengthen long-term civic engagement.

Action OS-5.1.4: Continue to involve community youth in park stewardship and maintenance efforts as part of civic engagement and environmental education initiatives.

Action OS-5.1.5: Continue to implement and expand the Student Commissioner Program to provide youth with opportunities to participate in municipal governance, develop leadership skills, and engage in civic service through hands-on involvement with City commissions and boards.

Policy OS-5.2: The City shall strengthen partnerships and pursue diversified funding sources to support arts, culture, volunteer programs, and community services.

Action OS-5.2.1: Continue to pursue grant funding, philanthropic contributions, and Federal, State, and regional funding opportunities to support community programs and facilities.

Action OS-5.2.2: Continue to collaborate with the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library, Sierra Madre Community Foundation, Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society, and other philanthropic partners to support long-term program and facility funding.

Policy OS-5.3: The City shall promote arts, culture, and creative expression as essential elements of community identity and civic life.

Action OS-5.3.1: Continue to support and collaborate with local cultural and artistic organizations, including performing arts groups, galleries, and literary societies.



Action OS-5.3.2: Continue to facilitate live performances, public screenings, exhibitions, and cultural programming in public and community spaces while expanding partnerships and venues to broaden community access to arts and cultural experiences.

Action OS-5.3.3: Develop and support arts programming in collaboration with organizations such as Creative Arts Group and Sierra Madre Playhouse, including artist talks, exhibitions, performances, workshops, and educational events offered through the City's recreational programming especially for, but not limited to, youth and seniors.

Action OS-5.3.4: Continue to provide accessible information to residents about cultural organizations and events through City communication channels, including the City website, digital newsletters, social media platforms, community bulletin boards, and coordination with local partners.

Action OS-5.3.5: Continue to support the Community Services Commission in advising the City on advancing performing and fine arts, cultural programming, and arts-related initiatives within the community.