



# CHAPTER 7: PARKS, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES ELEMENT

## A r c a d i a   G e n e r a l   P l a n

### Introduction

The parks, recreation and cultural facilities and programs, school system, and historic buildings and places in Arcadia distinguish the community. Residents often cite these factors among the reasons they moved here. Public open spaces and facilities are where people come together to exercise and enjoy the company of others. They provide forums where Arcadians can enrich their lives through learning and connecting with nature, and where Arcadians can appreciate and celebrate arts and cultural diversity. This element addresses Arcadia's plan for the continual provision and maintenance of the parks, recreation, and community resources that are important to Arcadia's quality of life.

Arcadia has made a strong commitment to providing the highest quality and variety of recreational, cultural, educational, and social service

programs to respond to residents' needs. Given the City's long-standing policy of providing quality community services, this element broadly defines Arcadia's resources to include:

- Parks and Open Space
- Maintaining the Urban Forest
- Recreation and Community Services Facilities and Programs
- Educational Resources
- Cultural Resources and Preservation
- A Plan For a Healthy Community

## Achieving Our Vision

Arcadia's vision is to create a city rich with parks and open spaces, community facilities, and historic and cultural resources that will remain assets for future generations of Arcadians. As part of this vision, the City will seek to create a diverse range of spaces that complement the City's form-spaces that make best use of available land such as mini-parks, community gardens, and quasi-public spaces such as plazas and squares. The City will seek to establish new community and cultural facilities that respond to community needs. Arcadia will work to retain the great open spaces that currently exist, such as Wilderness Park, and ensure that Arcadia will always have enough parks that are accessible to the community. Arcadia will also proactively work to preserve those historic resources that are important to the background of the City, ensuring that valuable sites remain to help tell the local history of Arcadia. The General Plan Guiding Principles direct the City's commitment to providing the resources that make Arcadia special. The Guiding Principles promote:

- **Preservation of Special Assets**  
Arcadia's quality of life is enhanced by special places and features such as Santa Anita Park, the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Gardens and Arcadia Park, a vibrant Downtown, the urban forest, attractive streetscapes, diverse parks, historic buildings and places, and nearby views of the mountains. These assets are preserved and enhanced so they continue to contribute to our City's character.
- **City Services**  
The high quality services the City provides are a source of civic pride and bring us together as a community. We adjust service needs in response to demographic changes, and we take actions to provide funding to support these services.
- **Schools**  
Our schools are a valuable community asset. The quality of the schools draws people to our City. We remain committed to working with the school district to achieve mutually beneficial goals.

- **Cultural Diversity**  
We embrace and celebrate the cultural diversity of Arcadia. Our lives are enriched by the many cultures that contribute their arts, food, values, and customs to our community. We promote activities and programs that strengthen these community bonds.
- **Balanced Growth and Development**  
The General Plan establishes a balance and mix of land uses that promote economic growth and maintain a high quality of life for Arcadia residents. Our development decisions reflect Smart Growth principles and strategies that move us toward enhanced mobility, more efficient use of resources and infrastructure, and healthier lifestyles.

## Scope of this Element

State law requires that the General Plan address open space lands and the functions they serve in a community as:

- Places for active and passive recreation,
- Places where biological resources can be preserved and protected,
- Lands that cannot be developed due to physical conditions, such as earthquake fault zones or severe slopes, and
- Places used for the managed production of natural resources, such as groundwater recharge basins.

In response, communities often prepare elements that focus only on physical open spaces—parks in particular—and natural resource lands. However, open space lands often have associated development that complements the open spaces. This is often the case in urbanized cities like Arcadia, a good example of which is the Civic Center with the adjoining athletic field. Thus, this Parks, Recreation and Community Resources Element addresses not just open spaces but the broad range of community, cultural, and educational resources and services that Arcadia offers.

The City has adopted two key planning documents related to community resources reflected in this element and that, if amended over time, will be consistent with longer-range objectives set forth here.

- **Parks and Recreation Master Plan.** Adopted in 2007, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was the first document to consolidate City goals and strategies regarding park spaces and recreation programs. As part of this comprehensive master planning effort, the City established a standard for parkland provision/acquisition based on population. Standards in the plan are used to maintain park and recreational facilities impact fees commensurate with the cost of developing new facilities.
- **Recreation and Community Services Strategic Plan.** Adopted in 2006, the Recreation and Community Services Strategic Plan was developed to assess the effectiveness of City parks, facilities, and

recreation programs, and to identify priorities for providing new recreational facilities, recreation programs, and services based on changing demographics and community desires.

## Parks and Open Space

Parks promote community health by providing places for outdoor recreation, enjoyment of trees and nature, personal development, and interacting with others. Arcadia is fortunate to have many different types and sizes of parks distributed throughout the community that enhance the beauty and character of Arcadia. They serve as places to gather and engage in active and passive recreation. Research shows that when people have access to parks, they exercise more. Regular physical activity has been shown to increase health and reduce the risk of a wide range of diseases, contributing to a healthier community.<sup>1</sup> The goals, policies, and programs in this element promote many types of parks and open spaces that help make Arcadia a healthy city.

Arcadia has many parks and open spaces to serve the needs of the community, from small parks that provide compact green spaces within a neighborhood, to sports fields that have facilities for activities such as softball, soccer, and tennis. As of 2009, the City had approximately 785 acres of City and County parks and recreational open space within its corporate limits. The County of Los Angeles operates four large recreation facilities within Arcadia. Also, the City has a joint-use agreement with the Arcadia Unified School District to allow residents' use of school facilities such as ball fields and courts.



*Parks can be places for people and pooches.*

## Park Classifications

Parks in Arcadia range in size from the 0.24-acre Tripolis Friendship Park to the 120-acre Wilderness Park. Depending on size, each park offers differing levels of recreation use, from purely passive recreation to heavily programmed use. Parks are classified as follows:

- **Mini-Parks.** Mini-parks, also known as pocket parks, are generally one acre in size or smaller and contain passive facilities such as small landscaped spaces with benches and picnic tables. Mini-parks may provide playground equipment for children. These parks are intended to service the immediate neighborhood within one-half mile of the park.

<sup>1</sup> *Why Americans Need More Parks and Open Space.* The Trust for Public Land. San Francisco, CA 2003.

- **Neighborhood Parks.** Neighborhood parks are typically between two to 10 acres in size. Neighborhood parks can include passive open space, active play areas, and limited practice and play fields. As with mini-parks, neighborhood parks service the immediate neighborhood and have a service area of approximately one-half mile.
- **Community Parks.** Community parks are usually between 11 and 20 acres in size. Community parks serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks, accommodating more formal and highly programmed activities. A community park usually serves several neighborhoods. Wilderness Park is the only City-owned community park in Arcadia, so classified based on its size.
- **Special Use Parks.** Special use parks are parks that have facilities developed for a special purpose. Examples include skate parks, dog parks, and golf courses.
- **Joint-Use Parks and Facilities.** Joint-use parks and facilities are those located on a portion of school-owned land. The Arcadia Unified School District and the City have a joint-use agreement to allow use of recreational facilities on school property.
- **County Operated/Owned Parks and Facilities.** Los Angeles County maintains parks and recreation facilities within Arcadia: Arcadia Park and the Peck Road Water Conservation Park. These parks have significant recreational facilities that provide areas for community events and gatherings and service the larger region. Also in Arcadia are two unique County open space and recreation facilities: the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden and Santa Anita Golf Course. The County charges entrance and usage fee for both facilities.

Table PR-1 lists all local park and open space facilities available to City residents, and Figure PR-1 shows the locations.

## Shared Use of School Facilities

Public school facilities in Arcadia offer additional places where residents can enjoy outdoor recreation. Access is made available via joint-use agreements that allow general public access when school is not in session, or with some type of applied user fee. This arrangement maximizes the usage of publicly funded facilities and provides better service to the community. Because Arcadia is largely built out, creative use of school fields and sports courts has helped expand the City's ability to offer organized sports programs and for private sports groups to remain local. The joint-use agreement between the City and the Arcadia Unified School District allows access to lighted baseball and softball fields, all-weather running tracks, and tennis and basketball courts.

---

*Arcadia High School's turf field provides an all-weather surface for active sports.*





**TABLE PR-1: PARK AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES BY TYPE**

Map Key	Park Facility Name	Size (in Acres)
<b>Mini Parks</b>		
1	Bicentennial Park	.63
2	Fairview Avenue Park	.91
3	Forest Avenue Park	.26
4	Tripolis Friendship Park	.34
<b>Total Mini Park Acres</b>		<b>2.14</b>
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>		
5	Eisenhower Park and Dog Park	5.39
6	Newcastle Park	2.64
7	Orange Grove Park	2.66
8	Tierra Verde Park	1.55
<b>Total Neighborhood Park Acres</b>		<b>12.24</b>
<b>Community Parks</b>		
9	Wilderness Park	120.0 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Total Community Park Acres</b>		<b>120.0</b>
<b>Special Parks:</b>		
10	Arcadia Community Center/Senior Center	4.98
11	Bonita Park and Skate Park	3.38
12	Civic Center Athletic Field	2.24
13	Longden Park	.99
14	Par-3 Golf Course	25.5
<b>Total Special Park Acres</b>		<b>37.09</b>
<b>Joint-Use Parks and Facilities</b>		
15	Arcadia High School	20.47
16, 17	Baldwin Stocker Elementary School and Park	2.88
18, 19	Camino Grove Elementary School and Park	5.89 <sup>2</sup>
20	Dana Middle School	5.46
21	First Avenue Middle School	3.30
22	Foothills Middle School	6.72
23	Highland Oaks Elementary School	3.84
24	Holly Avenue Elementary School	3.98
25, 26	Hugo Reid Elementary School and Park	6.79 <sup>3</sup>
27	Hugo Reid Primary School	.98
28	Longley Way Elementary School	2.56

**TABLE PR-1: PARK AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES BY TYPE**

<b>Map Key</b>	<b>Park Facility Name</b>	<b>Size (in Acres)</b>
<b>Total Joint-Use Park and Facilities Acres</b>		<b>62.87</b>
<b>County Parks and Facilities</b>		
29	Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanical Garden	127
30	Arcadia Community Regional Park	52
31	Peck Road Water Conservation Park	120
32	Santa Anita Golf Course	147
<b>Total County Parks and Facilities</b>		<b>446</b>
<b>GROSS TOTAL PARKS and RECREATIONAL FACILITY ACREAGE</b>		<b>680.34</b>
Parks and Recreational Facilities Deducted <sup>4</sup>		545.21
<b>NET TOTAL PARKS and RECREATIONAL FACILITY ACREAGE</b>		<b>135.13</b>

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> 120 acres represents the gross total of park acreage; only 8.7 acres of parkland is improved, 111.13 acres are unimproved

<sup>2</sup> Per 2007 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 1.8 acres are dedicated to park use and 4.09 acres are of school recreational facilities

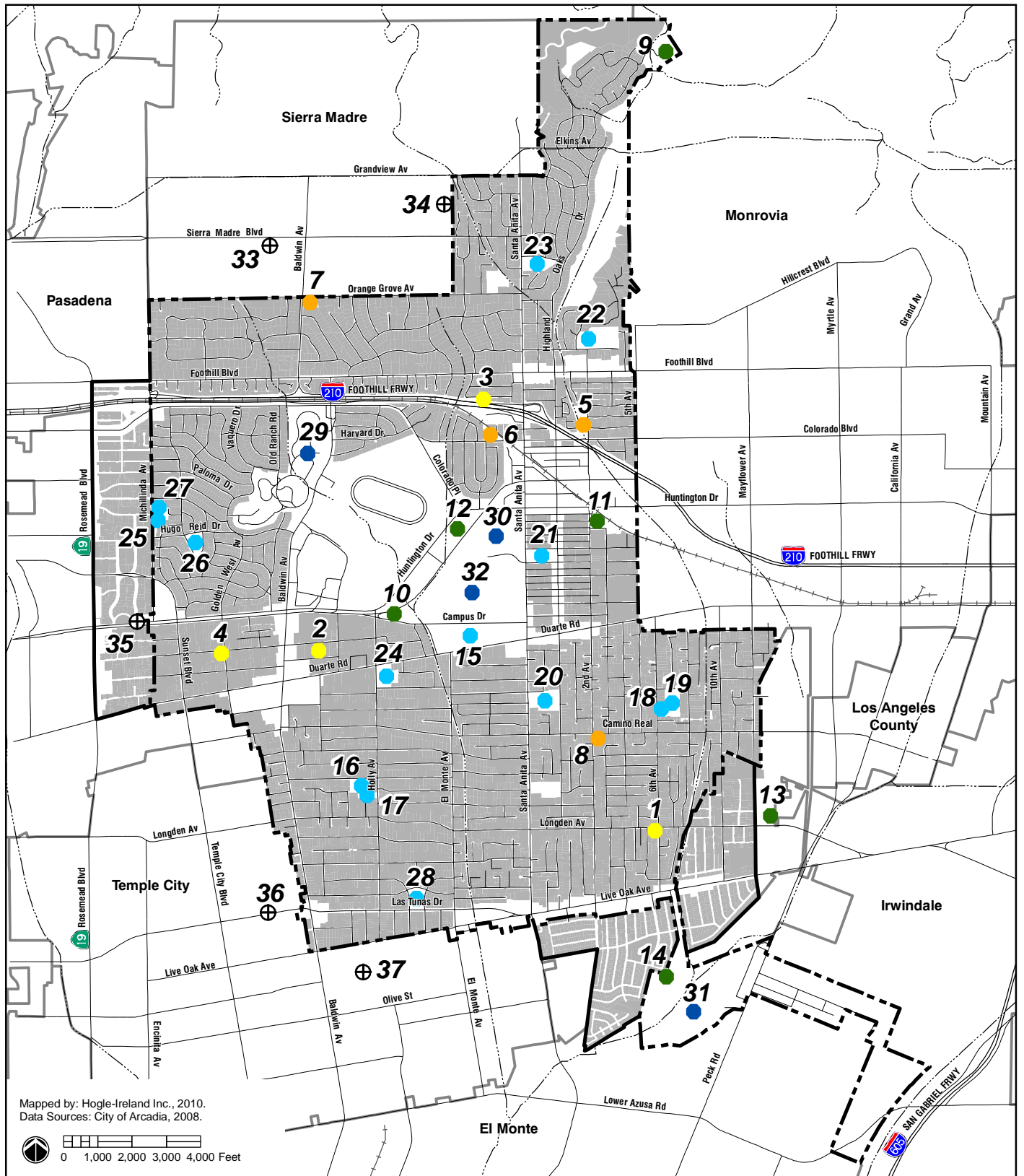
<sup>3</sup> Per 2007 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 4.35 acres are dedicated to park use and 2.42 acres are of school recreational facilities

<sup>4</sup> Per Table PR-2: Area Deducted from Arcadia Parkland Inventory

Source: City of Arcadia Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2007 and Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation.

This page intentionally left blank.





**City Parks**

- Mini Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Joint-Use Parks and Facilities
- County Parks and Facilities

**Parks Outside City**

- ⊕ 33 - Sierra Madre Park
- ⊕ 34 - Sierra Vista Park
- ⊕ 35 - Michillinda Park
- ⊕ 36 - Temple City Park
- ⊕ 37 - Live Oak Park

**Base Map Features**

- City Boundary
- Sphere of Influence
- Freeway
- Railroad
- City Road
- Water Feature

■ General Plan Residential Land Uses

**FIGURE PR-1: PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES LOCATIONS**

This page intentionally left blank.

## Special Use Parks

Special use parks are recreational facilities designed for a unique purpose. Although some special use parks have limited accessibility due to usage or reservation fees, these parks supplement local recreational opportunities by providing specific recreational facilities that meet specialized community needs. Bonita Skate Park has 10,700 square feet of concrete for skateboarders and skaters to practice their skills and take classes. Arcadia's 18-hole par-3 golf course and the Los Angeles County owned and operated Santa Anita golf course are available to anyone paying the greens fees. Both golf courses have banquet halls, snack bars, and golf practice facilities.



The Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanical Garden is a major regional destination in the San Gabriel Valley. The Arboretum, once part of the Lucky Baldwin estate, is a 127-acre botanical garden and historical site that contains a wide array of plants and vegetation and several significant historic structures. The Arboretum hosts numerous special events throughout the year such as outdoor concerts, educational tours, and plant shows. The historic structures are discussed in the Cultural Resources and Preservation section below.

# Park Facility Standards and Service Area

In 2007, the City prepared a Parks and Recreation Master Plan and adopted its first park standards to establish defined objectives for meeting park needs in the future. In the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the City established a citywide goal of providing 2.43 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.<sup>2</sup>

Although all parks and recreation facilities and open spaces are important components to the quality of life of Arcadians, certain recreation areas cannot be counted toward developed parkland because either: 1) they are not developed or maintained by the City of Arcadia, such as County parks located within the City, or 2) they pose access issues to residents such as a usage fee for entering or restrictions on the availability of use, or are open space lands that are unimproved and cannot be utilized. As a result, the park facility standard excludes certain facilities (see Table PR-2). Also, although the City has joint-use agreements with Arcadia Unified School District for the use of its facilities, the facilities are shared by private groups as well, limiting full access. Thus, the inventory of available parks/open space includes a 50 percent reduction of the total joint-use facilities acreage. In the Master Plan, every one acre of unimproved land has been assigned an equivalent of 0.59 acres of improved parkland.

**TABLE PR-2: AREA DEDUCTED FROM ARCADIA PARKLAND INVENTORY**

Facility Name	Deducted Acres
<b>Excluded Inventory</b>	
Joint-Use Facilities	28.35 <sup>1</sup>
Arcadia Wilderness Park	45.4 <sup>2</sup>
Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanical Garden	127
Santa Anita Golf Course	147
Arcadia Community Regional Park	52
Peck Road Water Conservation Park	120
Par-3 Golf Course	25.46
<b>Total Excluded Inventory</b>	<b>545.21</b>

<sup>1</sup> Acreage amount reflects a 50% reduction of total joint-use facilities acres to account for limited availability.

<sup>2</sup> Acreage reflects partial conversion of unimproved acres to improved acreage, as calculated in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2007.

Source: City of Arcadia Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2007 and Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation.

<sup>2</sup> Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Table 3.2: Park Facilities Existing Standard, June 2007.

With the above assumptions, the City has calculated a parkland inventory of 135.13 acres. Based on a 2009 population estimate of 56,547 persons,<sup>3</sup> Arcadia provides 2.38 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, slightly below the goal of 2.43 acres.

To address the deficit and anticipate a modest population increase over time, the City will expand the definition of “park space” to include public plazas and gathering places that will be provided in Downtown. Also, wherever opportunities exist to add acreage to established parks, they will be pursued.

Access to park facilities is also an important measure of quality park service. While recognizing the importance of acreage standards to measure progress toward goals, the City is also focused on locating parks so that all residents have easy access. Service area standards recommended by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) indicate that a park typically should cover a one-quarter to one-half-mile service area radius, depending on the size and function of the park. The NRPA guidelines diagrammed in Figure PR-2 have been applied to City-owned park facilities and joint-use facilities listed in Table PR-1. The same facilities that were excluded from the Park Facility Standard calculation have also been omitted from the analysis of park facility service areas.

Based on this standard, several residential areas in Arcadia can be considered underserved. Notably, residential neighborhoods along the western edge of the City do not have ready access to any City-owned parks. Thus, while Arcadia is close to achieving its goals for providing parkland acreage, that acreage is concentrated in large park and open space areas; parks are not optimally located and distributed. However, several parks and recreation facilities owned and operated by the County or adjacent cities are near City boundaries. The use and enjoyment of these parks are shared by both Arcadians and residents of adjacent communities. Figure PR-1 shows parks and recreation facilities that although are not part of Arcadia’s inventory, nonetheless are used by Arcadia residents.

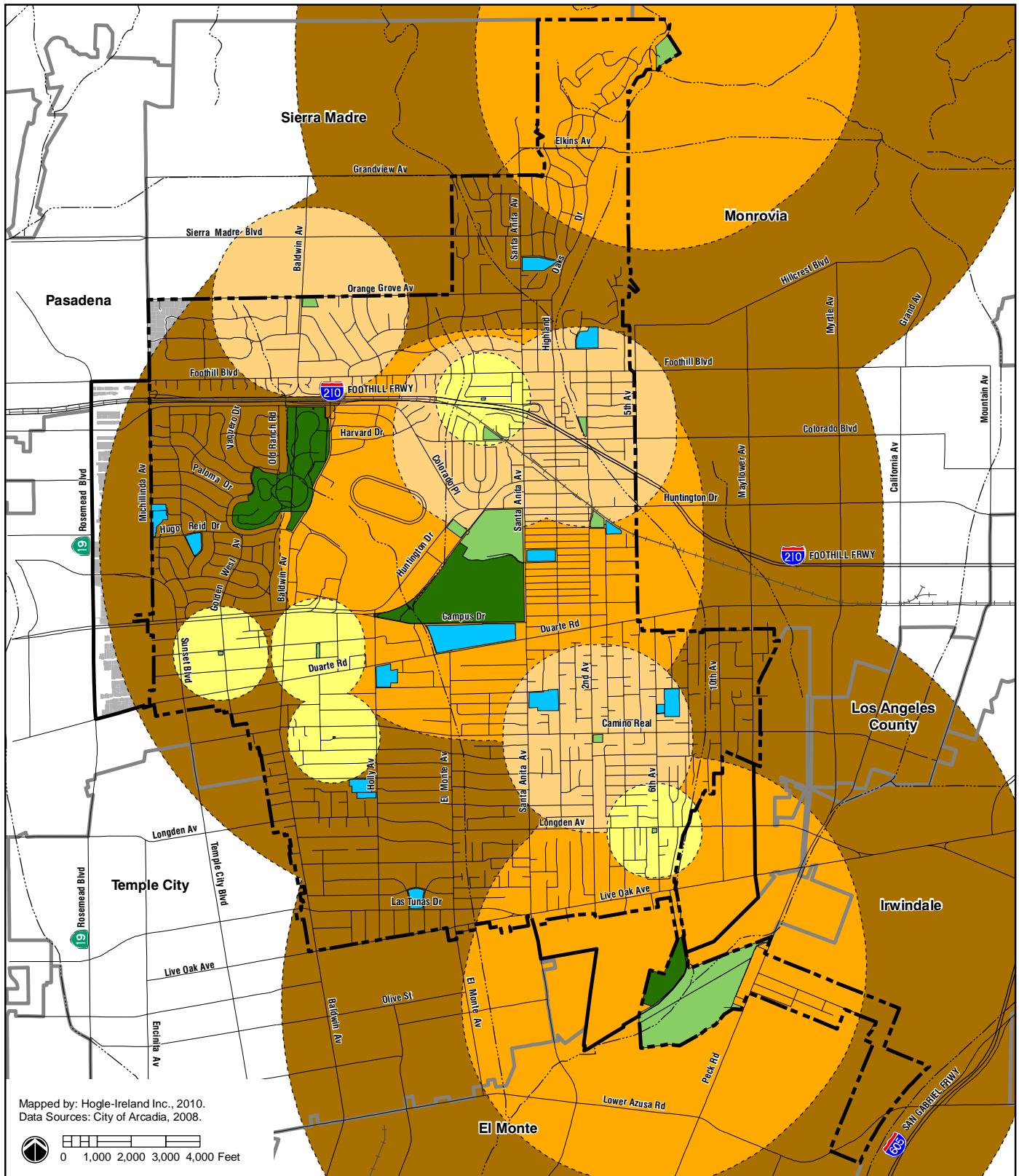
Although private open space and facilities supplement public recreational spaces, these private amenities are not accessible to the general public and thus are not included as local resources.

---

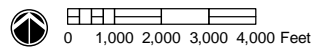
<sup>3</sup> State of California, Department of Finance, E-4 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2001-2009.

This page intentionally left blank.



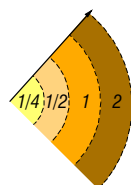


Mapped by: Hogle-Ireland Inc., 2010.  
 Data Sources: City of Arcadia, 2008.



- Joint-Use Facilities
- Public Parks
- Private Parks
- General Plan Residential Land Uses Outside of Park Service Areas

**Park Service Areas**



**Note:**

- Mini Parks (1/4 mile radius)
- Neighborhood Parks (1/2 mile radius)
- Special Parks (1 mile radius)
- County Owned/Operated Park & Facilities (1-2 mile radius)

- City Boundary
- Sphere of Influence
- Freeway
- Railroad
- Major Road
- Water Feature

**FIGURE PR-2: PARK FACILITIES SERVICE AREAS**



This page intentionally left blank.

# Park Facilities Acquisition and Maintenance

## Funding

Consistent funding sources are needed to maintain Arcadia's parks and provide new public open space and recreation areas. The City has established a Parks and Recreation fund and imposes an assessment at the issuance of a building permit for all new residential construction. The funds are used for the acquisition and improvement of public parks and playgrounds.

## Maintenance and Rehabilitation

In 2000, the City conducted a Playground Safety Audit and Parks Infrastructure Analysis. The analysis was used to establish the *Fifteen-Year Parks Rehabilitation Master Plan*, approved in 2001, for renovation of existing park sites and playground equipment. The Master Plan establishes City policy direction to bring the facilities up to the high standards the community expects.

## Innovative Use of Spaces for Parks and Recreation Activities

Undeveloped space for future parks and recreation facilities is virtually unavailable in Arcadia. However, innovative uses and design of projects can help provide supplemental public open spaces and recreational areas. Easements can work as linear parks, where walking, jogging, and bike trails can connect neighborhoods to parks, schools, and shopping areas. Plazas and courtyards in private developments and streetscapes with street furniture and landscape areas can double as passive recreation space in urban areas of Arcadia. These areas can act as informal gathering spots and places that can be programmed for community events, similar to the popular summer concerts that are held on the Civic Center lawn. Arcadia will seek to work with private developers and owners of utility and similar easement to jointly plan, design, and develop active and passive open spaces for community benefit.

---

For additional discussion of the use of utility easements as an option for creating a network of bicycle and pedestrian trails, see the Circulation and Infrastructure Element.

## Open Space Resources

Parks are considered developed open space. However, as noted above, open space also includes places where biological resources can be preserved and protected, and places used for the managed production of natural resources, such as groundwater recharge basins. Undeveloped or protected open spaces give residents access to nature, create boundaries for urban growth, absorb storm water, and can provide opportunities for recreation. Arcadia's location adjacent to the Angeles National Forest and

the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains balance the urban character of the City with a natural environment.

## Arcadia Wilderness Park

Arcadia Wilderness Park is a natural open space park located in the San Gabriel Mountains in north Arcadia. The park's 120 acres offer places for hiking and picnicking. Visitors can experience and learn more about the important ecological functions of this natural space by visiting the nature center and pond. The 2007 Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified the Arcadia Wilderness Park as needing renovations, with many of the facilities in the park outdated and non-compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Master Plan indicates that expansion of the Wilderness Park nature center would accommodate more exhibits and programmable space.



## Peck Road Water Conservation Park

Located at the southeast corner of the City along the Rio Hondo River, Peck Road Water Conservation Park, managed by Los Angeles County, has approximately 120 acres of open space. While the primary park functions are to facilitate groundwater recharge and provide flood control capabilities, Arcadia residents can visit the park for hiking, fishing, and bird watching.

# Goals and Policies

While Arcadia has varied park facilities and other usable open space resources, parks are not well distributed throughout the community; many residential neighborhoods do not have ready access to even small-scale parks. Thus, the planning priority regarding parks is to pursue innovative strategies to create new park, recreation, and public spaces, and to provide better access to existing parks by pedestrian, bicycle, and transit linkages. In more densely developed areas such as Downtown or along Baldwin Avenue, this space may take the form of public plazas or similar areas where residents can gather. Creative design and joint or multiple uses of spaces are examples of methods the City will explore, including joint-use arrangements with private entities, the County, and neighboring jurisdictions.

---

## **GOAL PR-1:**

### **Providing superior parks, public spaces, and recreation facilities to meet the community's evolving needs**

- Policy PR-1.1:** Maintain a system of City parks and recreation facilities that provide a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities throughout the City.
- Policy PR-1.2:** Strive to provide a minimum of 2.43 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.
- Policy PR-1.3:** Provide park and recreation facilities that are appropriate for the individual neighborhoods in which they are located, reflect the needs and interests of the population they serve, and meet the performance standards identified in the General Plan.
- Policy PR-1.4:** Require parkland dedications, provision of on-site usable public space, and/or payment of in-lieu fees for development projects involving new residential construction.
- Policy PR-1.5:** Maximize public space by requiring plazas and similar spaces in private developments that can serve multiple uses, including recreation and public gathering areas.
- Policy PR-1.6:** Prioritize acquisition of land for parks in neighborhoods that are underserved (Figure PR-2).
- Policy PR-1.7:** Locate new community facilities in neighborhoods and centers where they will serve populations of the greatest needs.
- Policy PR-1.8:** Explore opportunities to create joint-use community space at facilities owned by private organizations such as faith-based groups, service clubs, banks, and hospitals.
- Policy PR-1.9:** Continue to coordinate with the Arcadia Unified School District to supplement City park facilities through joint-use agreements.
- Policy PR-1.10:** Explore the conversion of marginal lands, such as street corridors, parkways, and public property between buildings to serve as recreation and green spaces.

- Policy PR-1.11:** Work with neighboring communities and County agencies to establish joint use of park and recreation facilities, and to preserve open space resources, including trails that may lie outside the City’s jurisdiction but which are important to meet the demands of Arcadia residents.
- Policy PR-1.12:** Maintain and enhance pedestrian, bicycle, and transit linkages to provide better access to parks, recreation, and public spaces and meet the needs of Arcadia residents.
- Policy PR-1.13:** Improve existing park and recreation facilities pursuant to the *Fifteen-Year Parks Rehabilitation Master Plan*.
- Policy PR-1.14:** Periodically adjust and update development fee programs to accumulate funds for the acquisition and improvement of parks and recreation facilities commensurate with identified need.
- Policy PR-1.15:** Incorporate flexible design characteristics into the renovation of existing and development of new parks and community facilities.
- Policy PR-1.16:** Perform regular maintenance of facilities to ensure proper working order of all recreation facilities and equipment.
- Policy PR-1.17:** Develop, obtain, and install recommended equipment and facilities as described in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- Policy PR-1.18:** Develop additional indoor facilities for senior citizens, youth, and overall community use.
- Policy PR-1.19:** Retrofit, when feasible, parks and recreation facilities to provide disability access.
- Policy PR-1.20:** Design and re-design parks to reflect the latest recreational features that are responsive to population trends and community needs.

---

**GOAL PR-2:** **Preserving open space resources to meet the City’s recreation and conservation needs**

- Policy PR-2.1:** Coordinate with Los Angeles County to ensure the preservation and maintenance of the Peck Road Water Conservation Park as a multi-use facility, including recreation uses.

- Policy PR-2.2:** Coordinate with Los Angeles County to investigate the long-term possibility of multi-use functions for the Santa Anita sediment basins.
  
- Policy PR-2.3:** Maintain and enhance the trail system in Wilderness Park to provide connections to lands and open space resources in adjacent jurisdictions.
  
- Policy PR-2.4:** Maximize the retention of natural open spaces within any hillside development projects.
  
- Policy PR-2.5:** Maintain open space features that are critical components of the City's flood control system.

# Maintaining the Urban Forest

The trees along Arcadia's boulevards and throughout the residential neighborhoods create an "urban forest" that enhances the aesthetic quality of the City. The trees also provide cooling shade, absorb greenhouse gases and help clean the air, increase property values, and control soil erosion. The urban forest is comprised of street trees, trees on parks and other public lands, and trees on private properties throughout Arcadia. Arcadia has been designated as a "Tree City USA,"<sup>4</sup> meeting these four standards: 1) having a tree department or board, 2) adopting a tree care ordinance, 3) maintaining a community forestry program with a budget of at least \$2 per capita, and 4) having an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.



## Public Trees

Public trees are trees on public property, including those in City parks, within street medians and along parkways, and on other public properties. Public trees add character to the neighborhoods and distinguish Arcadia as a tree city. The City maintains more than 17,000 public trees. The Municipal Code includes an entire chapter devoted to a comprehensive public tree management program, and the City has adopted a street tree master plan that regulates the types of trees planted.

Residents often perceive that parkway trees (those in landscaped areas between a sidewalk and a street, within any landscaped public right-of-way adjacent to a private property, or if no parkway exists, typically the area within 12 feet from the curb or edge of pavement) are private trees, with maintenance the responsibility of the homeowner or business owner. However, Municipal Code provisions clearly spell out City versus property owner responsibilities and City objectives for "conserving and enhancing the distinctive and unique aesthetic character of many areas in the City" through the street tree program.<sup>5</sup>

---

The Community Design section of the Land Use and Community Design Element discusses other public landscaping and beautification efforts of Arcadia.

---

<sup>4</sup> "Tree Cities in California." Arbor Day Foundation. Accessed September 3, 2009. <<http://www.arborday.org/programs/treeCityUSA/treecities.cfm?chosenstate=California>>.

<sup>5</sup> Arcadia Municipal Code, Article IX, Chapter 8 - Comprehensive Tree Management Program.



# Landmark Trees

In 1992 the City Council adopted an ordinance recognizing oak trees as significant aesthetic and ecological resources. The ordinance established criteria for the preservation of oak trees. The regulations (Article IX,



Chapter 7 of the Arcadia Municipal Code) provides that Engelmann Oak, Coast Live Oak, California Live Oak, and any other living oak trees shall not be removed, relocated, damaged, or have their protected zones encroached upon unless an Oak Tree Permit is granted.

## Goals and Policies

With programs firmly in place to preserve Arcadia’s status as a Tree City USA, planning priorities regarding the urban forest focus on maintaining those policies and programs that allow trees to continue to make a significant contribution to the overall community aesthetic.

---

### **GOAL PR-3:** Ensuring that trees and the urban forest make a continuing and significant contribution to community character

**Policy PR-3.1:** Provide consistent funding for the street tree program reflective of the importance of the urban forest to community aesthetics and the environment.

**Policy PR-3.2:** Heighten public awareness regarding the City’s Street Tree Master Plan and comprehensive tree management program.

**Policy PR-3.3:** Strive to be business friendly regarding the planting and maintenance of street trees in business districts without compromising overall City objectives regarding public landscaping and community aesthetics.

**Policy PR-3.4:** Continue to use the Arcadia Tree Commission or any successor advisory group to further City objectives regarding public trees.

**Policy PR-3.5:** Require that new private and public developments incorporate trees in a manner that maximizes the utility of trees for passive cooling, screening, carbon sequestration, erosion and runoff control, and integration of landscape design into the overall design of the development.

**Policy PR-3.6:** Ensure that existing mature trees on private property are considered in the planning and development process and are retained to the greatest extent feasible.

# Recreation and Community Services Facilities and Programs

Recreation and community services facilities and programs contribute substantially to the social, mental, and physical well-being of community members; they also foster an inclusive community by providing places and activities where people of all ages and backgrounds can engage. Arcadia has long history of sponsoring community programs and events that respond to the specific recreation and social service interests and needs of all residents, with programs constantly adjusted to reflect changing demographics. Many activities occur at the community centers and parks, although joint-use agreements have expanded the opportunities to meet community needs. Through the provision of quality community facilities and programs, the City promotes active engagement that improves residents' health, responds to basic human needs, involves people in volunteer work, and brings together people of diverse backgrounds.

## Community Facilities

The Community Center and other facilities host many social, cultural, and civic activities. These facilities provide venues for annual events such as the Holiday Festival at the Community Center and the Summer Concert Series on the City Hall Lawn, as well as small community programs such as computer training and exercise classes. These events support culture and entertainment in the City and build community bonds.

Arcadia has a single community center/senior center that provides multi-purpose space for recreation, enrichment, and educational classes and activities. The center is available to local civic and non-profit organizations for activities and programs that contribute to the social, cultural, human service, recreational, and civic needs and interests of Arcadia residents. Demands on this single facility are significant; thus, the City Library, facilities at Arcadia Park, and local school campuses are used to expand program capacity. As described in the 2007 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the City will continue to pursue creative ways of supplementing community center spaces and alleviate demand by retrofitting facilities to serve multiple functions, developing new facilities when feasible, and exploring the use of underutilized commercial spaces for community use.

Arcadia's population, like much of the rest of the country, is expected to age. This factor, combined with increasing adult interest in sports and enrichment programs the City offers, will put increased demand on limited community facilities, particularly those that serve senior residents. Many local non-profit and faith-based organizations provide activities and services in their own facilities, and these facilities represent a possible

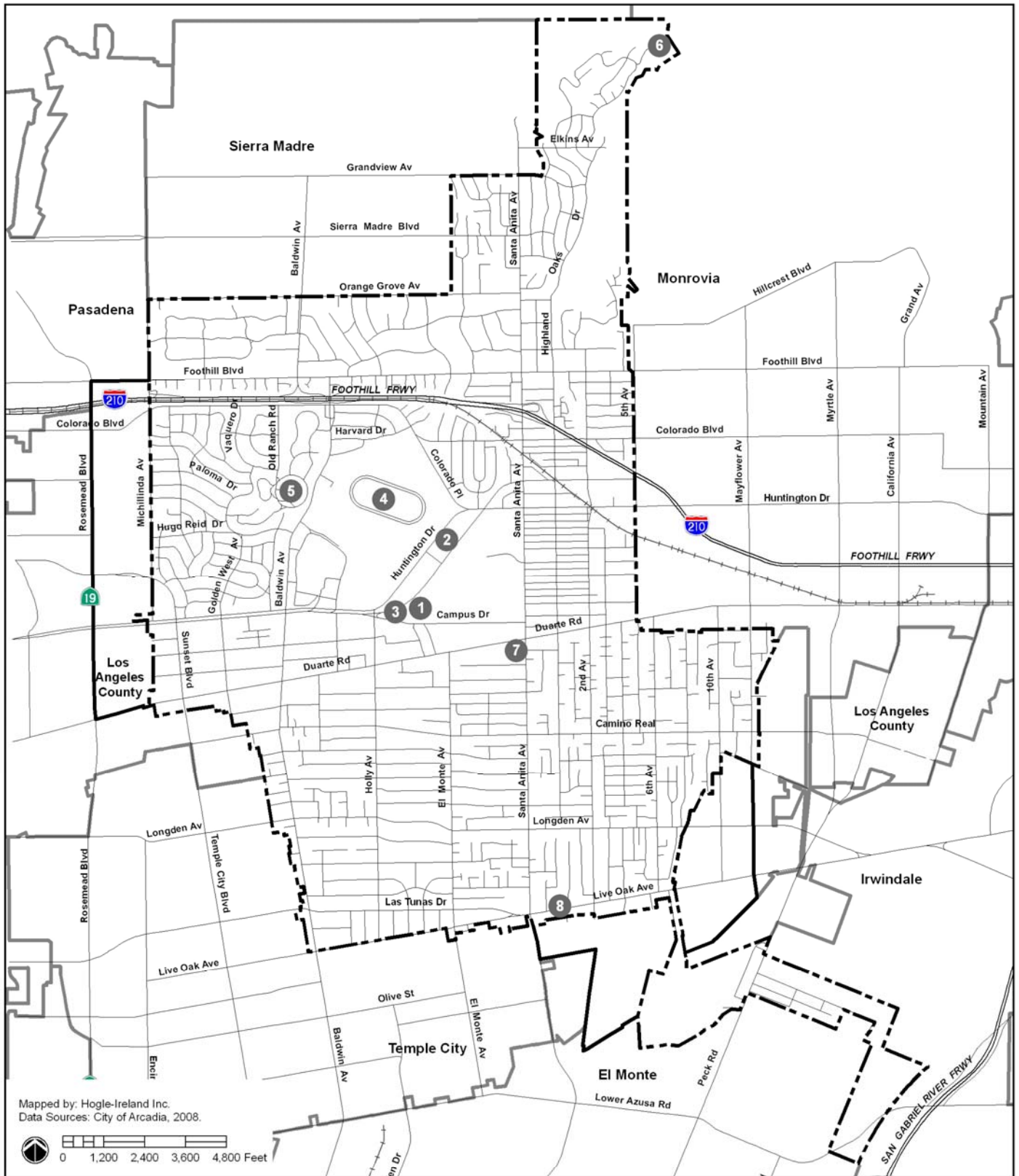
resource for joint use. Other potential locations that can be explored for shared use include Santa Anita Park, including any subsequent private development on race track properties, and the regional mall. At many indoor malls throughout the country, groups of walkers have organized activities, and theaters are available for classroom space.

The Recreation and Community Services Department’s 2006 Strategic Plan complements the Parks and Recreation Master Plan by identifying priorities for the development of facilities. Facilities cited as a need include a performance arts theater, a community gymnasium, and a youth center. In 2008, the City Council and the Arcadia Unified School District Board agreed to a joint project to construct a joint-use gymnasium at Dana Middle School. Priorities within the Strategic Plan will continually be evaluated as opportunities arise.

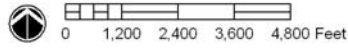
**TABLE PR-3: COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL FACILITIES**

Facility Name	Location
<b>Community Centers</b>	
Community Center/Senior Center	365 Campus Drive
Civic Center	240 W. Huntington Drive
<b>Cultural Facilities</b>	
Ruth and Charles Gilb Arcadia Historical Museum	380 W. Huntington Drive
Santa Anita Park	285 W. Huntington Drive
Los Angeles County Arboretum	301 N. Baldwin Avenue
Arcadia Wilderness Park Nature Center	2240 Highland Oaks Drive
<b>Libraries</b>	
City of Arcadia Public Library	20 W. Duarte Road
Los Angeles County Library - Live Oak Branch	4153 E. Live Oak Avenue

Table PR-3: Community and Cultural Facilities lists all the facilities available to residents within Arcadia. Specific discussion of cultural facilities is located in the Cultural Resources and Preservation section which follows.



Mapped by: Hogle-Ireland Inc.  
 Data Sources: City of Arcadia, 2008.



- |   |  |                       |
|---|--|-----------------------|
| 1 Community Center                                | 5 Los Angeles County Arboretum                 | --- City Boundary     |
| 2 Civic Center                                    | 6 Arcadia Wilderness Park Nature Center        | — Sphere of Influence |
| 3 Ruth and Charles Gilb Arcadia Historical Museum | 7 City of Arcadia Public Library               | — Freeway             |
| 4 Santa Anita Park                                | 8 Los Angeles County Library - Live Oak Branch | — Railroad            |
|   |  | — City Road           |
|   |  | — Water Feature       |

**FIGURE PR-3: COMMUNITY/CULTURAL FACILITIES IN ARCADIA**

# Recreation and Community Services

The Recreation and Community Services Department has the chief responsibility of developing and running recreation and related programs, with advisory support from two City commissions: the Recreation and Parks Commission and the Senior Citizens' Commission. Together with these volunteer commissions, the Department manages programs and activities that meet the needs of the community.

Popular activities include active sports; drop-in programs for youth, teens, and seniors; and special family events. Most classes are fee-based programs, although some programs are free. The Youth Opportunity Grant Program, funded by the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, provides resources for low-income residents to participate in Recreation and Community Services activities, classes, and excursions that they may not otherwise afford. In addition to the collaboration with the Arcadia Unified School



District, the Department works with the Arcadia Library and Museum Services Department for joint programs, class space, and shared resources.

The key concern of the Department is ensuring that programs respond to changing community desires and needs. As noted above, an aging population and increased adult interest in Arcadia's programs will require the City to continually assess and adjust programs, and to make sure that appropriate facilities are available to support those programs. Also, in times of financial challenge, the City may find it necessary to reduce spending on non-essential community programs and services or to adjust user fees.

## Meeting the Needs of Senior Residents

The Senior Citizen Services Division of the Recreation and Community Services Department organizes recreation programs directed at Arcadia's senior residents (50 years and older). For residents 65 years of age and older, more extensive programs are offered to foster social interaction, stimulate minds, and keep seniors in good physical health. Programs include lectures, workshops, dances, fitness activities, dinners, travel and social clubs, classes, games, and special events. Seniors also can receive health screenings, and counseling is available to promote seniors' independence by providing access to information, assistance, and



knowledge of resources that can help them live at home. The Arcadia Community Center is the hub of activity for senior programs.

## Arcadia's Youth

The Youth Master Plan, which the City updates as needed, assesses the recreation needs of Arcadia's youth and identifies what types of programs, facilities, and funding are needed to accommodate those needs. Typical programs include:

- **Tots Classes:** The variety of classes range from pee wee sports to dance classes and tumbling classes geared towards teaching children basic physical skills.
- **Youth-Oriented Programs:** Youth programs respond to the needs of youth to stay engaged during non-school hours in productive activities, and accommodate and encourage their diverse interests. The City offers such activities as martial arts classes, dance classes, instructional sports classes, organized intramural sports leagues, and day camps.
- **After-School Programs:** The Arcadia Recreation and Community Services Department offers after-school programs at the elementary, middle, and high school levels that offer recreational activities for participants. All elementary schools offer a free drop-in program for children in grades 1 through 5 that include organized recreation.
- **Drop-In Zone:** The Arcadia Recreation and Community Services Department has a free drop-in program at the City's Public Library for youth in grades 6 through 8. The program offers indoor and outdoor programs, including sports, crafts, table games, and video games.
- **Apache Pit:** Students in high school can participate in the Apache Pit, a free after school drop-in program courtesy of the Arcadia Recreation and Community Services Department.
- **Private Organizations:** In addition to programs and recreational resources devoted to the City's youth, numerous private organizations provide programs for youth. Examples include, Little League and Pony Baseball, Arcadia Youth Basketball, Junior All American Football, AYSO (soccer), and Arcadia Indian Cheerleading, programs offered by the Boy and Girl Scouts, and Youth Ministry, among others.



# Goals and Policies

The City recognizes that public/public and public/private partnerships will continue to be the best means of providing places and programs for the community to engage. With the senior population projected to grow, longer-term needs will likely include expanded facilities and programs geared toward this population. Other priority needs have been identified in the Department of Recreation and Community Services 2006 Strategic Plan, including more after-school activities for youth (given parents' work demands), recreation programs for adults, and development of new facilities such as multi-purpose community facility, a community gymnasium, and a performing arts center. In conjunction with meeting long-term facility needs, the City recognizes the need to continually maintain existing community events, activities, and programs, and to develop and promote new ones to meet the changing needs and demands of Arcadians.

---

## **GOAL PR-4:** A network of City, school, and private community facilities that provides spaces for recreation, education, enrichment, and social service programs

**Policy PR-4.1:** Maintain the Arcadia Community Center in superior condition so that it can meet diverse community needs.

**Policy PR-4.2:** Look for opportunities to provide additional City-owned community facilities, such as performance space, a gymnasium, or multi-purpose building, which can provide additional space for emerging and evolving community needs. Examine how such facilities might be incorporated onto the grounds surrounding City Hall and the Police Station.

**Policy PR-4.3:** Strengthen joint-use agreements with the Arcadia Unified School District and Los Angeles County to expand the types of local facilities that can be available to the community.

**Policy PR-4.4:** Partner with non-profit and faith-based organizations for the use of their facilities and their use of City buildings.

**Policy PR-4.5:** Investigate opportunities for partnering with commercial entities for the development and use of private spaces for City-sponsored activities and events.

**Policy PR-4.6:** Provide greater access for community and cultural organizations to community centers and cultural facilities.

**Policy PR-4.7:** Prioritize the development of needed facilities, such as a multi-purpose facility, as described in Arcadia’s Department of Recreation and Community Services 2006 Strategic Plan.

---

**GOAL PR-5:** **Recreation, education, enrichment, and social service programs that respond to a broad range of community interests, promote healthy lifestyles, and meet the needs, desires, and interests of the Arcadia community**

**Policy PR-5.1:** Continue funding City-sponsored programs that are produced and operated by the Recreation and Community Services Department.

**Policy PR-5.2:** Monitor community interests and desires for programs on a consistent basis, and craft programs to respond to identified needs. Engage the community in assessments of needed programs.

**Policy PR-5.3:** Expand community programming activities and services.

**Policy PR-5.4:** Encourage community involvement in programs and activities that create a shared identity and attract a diverse audience.

**Policy PR-5.5:** Provide quality service to the community through City departments’ management philosophy, structure, and employees.

**Policy PR-5.6:** Continue to support senior residents’ needs through recreational, educational, and supportive programs.

**Policy PR-5.7:** Support the needs of Arcadia’s youth to engage in recreation and education, and expand opportunities for youth to be involved as volunteers in a multitude of programs.

**Policy PR-5.8:** Incorporate these core values into the planning framework for the future:

- Inclusivity
- Accessibility
- Diversity of experience

- Spirituality
- Lifelong Learning
- Service to community
- Environmental stewardship
- Personal development
- Healthy lifestyles
- Professional growth
- Fun and celebration

**Policy PR-5.9:**

Work with community sports leagues and organizations to support offering diverse recreation programs that supplement those of the City.

# Educational Resources

Education occurs throughout our lives. Even after we have completed high school or college or training in a technical trade to prepare us for careers, we continue to learn as adults for personal enrichment and professional growth. As older or retired residents, we find continued learning important for adapting to changed life circumstances or connecting with younger generations. A community that values and promotes education and learning benefits its residents and businesses. An educated community contributes to economic success, and keeps youth and adults engaged in productive activities. High-quality schools and libraries provide a positive learning environment, and a high-quality educational system positively influences the future of Arcadia's children and the City itself. Arcadians value education, as seen in the investment in the Arcadia Unified School District and local private schools and residents' participation in educational programs sponsored by the City.



## School Facilities

The Arcadia Unified School District (AUSD) provides academic services to most City residents, with portions of neighborhoods along the east and south City boundaries lying within the Pasadena Unified, Temple City Unified, El Monte City, El Monte High School, and Monrovia Unified school districts. AUSD receives consistent recognition for high academic achievement, and AUSD schools have the reputation of providing quality, academically challenging educational programs that result in high student achievement. On standardized tests, Arcadia students consistently score well above State and national averages. Many people cite AUSD schools as a key reason for moving to Arcadia.

In addition to its core mission to educate Arcadia's youth, AUSD and the City have partnered to make available school recreation and enrichment programs and facilities to supplement those of the City. Success in all local districts has been facilitated by considerable community involvement of parent groups such as Parent Teacher Associations, booster clubs, the Intercultural Committee within the AUSD, and music clubs.

AUSD serves a student population (grades kindergarten through 12) of approximately 10,000 youth, and has six elementary schools, three middle schools, and one high school (see Figure PR-4). Table PR-4 lists the AUSD schools that serve Arcadia. Students from neighboring cities can also attend AUSD schools on a space-available basis through interdistrict transfers. In addition to AUSD, five neighboring school districts also serve students in Arcadia (see Figure PR-5). Schools within districts other than

AUSD that have enrollment areas within Arcadia or the sphere of influence are Rio Hondo School and Clemison Elementary (El Monte School District); Arroyo High (El Monte High School District); Plymouth Elementary, Santa Fe Middle, and Monrovia High (Monrovia Unified School District); Field Elementary, Willard Elementary, Wilson Middle, Pasadena High, and Blair High (Pasadena Unified School District); and Longden Elementary, Emperor Elementary, Temple City High, and Oak Avenue Intermediate (Temple City Unified School District).

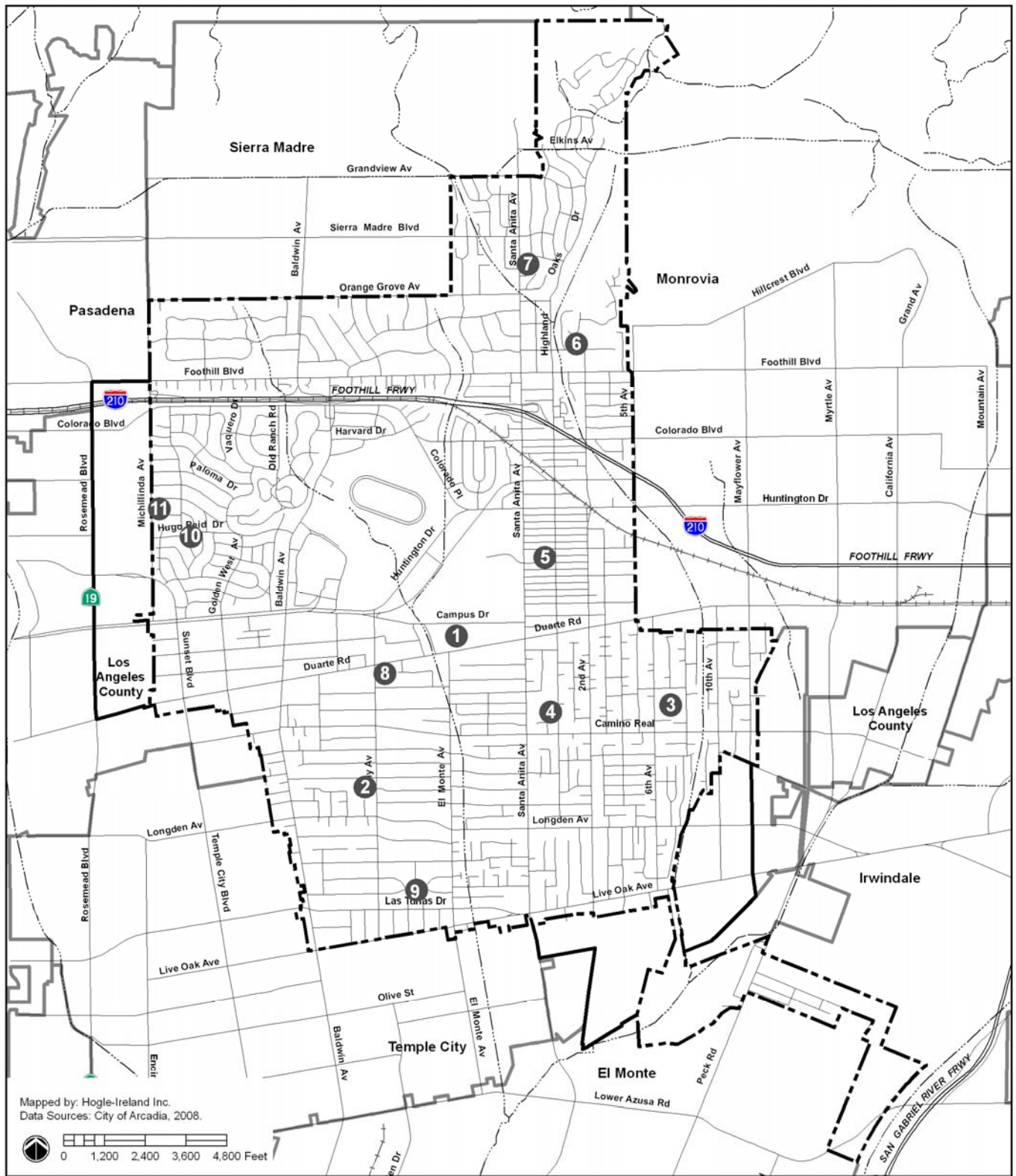
School overcrowding and strains on classrooms have been concerns in many districts, particularly following class size reductions in the K-3 grades to 20 students (which allows students in these critical primary years to receive more focused attention). AUSD has not experienced critical overcrowding conditions and has capacity to accommodate growth that may result from long-term implementation of General Plan land use policy.

In addition to public schools, Arcadia is home to many private schools, including Arcadia Christian School (K-8), Barnhart School (K-8), Holy Angels Elementary (K-8), and Rio Hondo Preparatory (6-12).

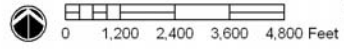
## Adult Education

Adult education programs achieve many purposes: providing education opportunities for people who did not have access earlier in life, creating paths to supplement job skills, allowing adults to make a career transition, or for personal development/betterment. The City supports such programs for its mature residents in recognition that well-rounded and well-educated adults can attain better job satisfaction, economic security, and personal fulfillment.

The Recreation and Community Services Department offers classes for adults that change frequently, ranging from art and music to basic life skills. AUSD sponsors the Community-Based English Tutoring program, a program that provides free or subsidized classes to adults wishing to learn the English language. Arcadia Public Library offers the Learning Lab, a program supported by the Arcadia Public Library Foundation, which allows residents to improve their computer and online skills. In addition, the Library co-sponsors a weekly English conversation class for people looking to improve their communication skills.



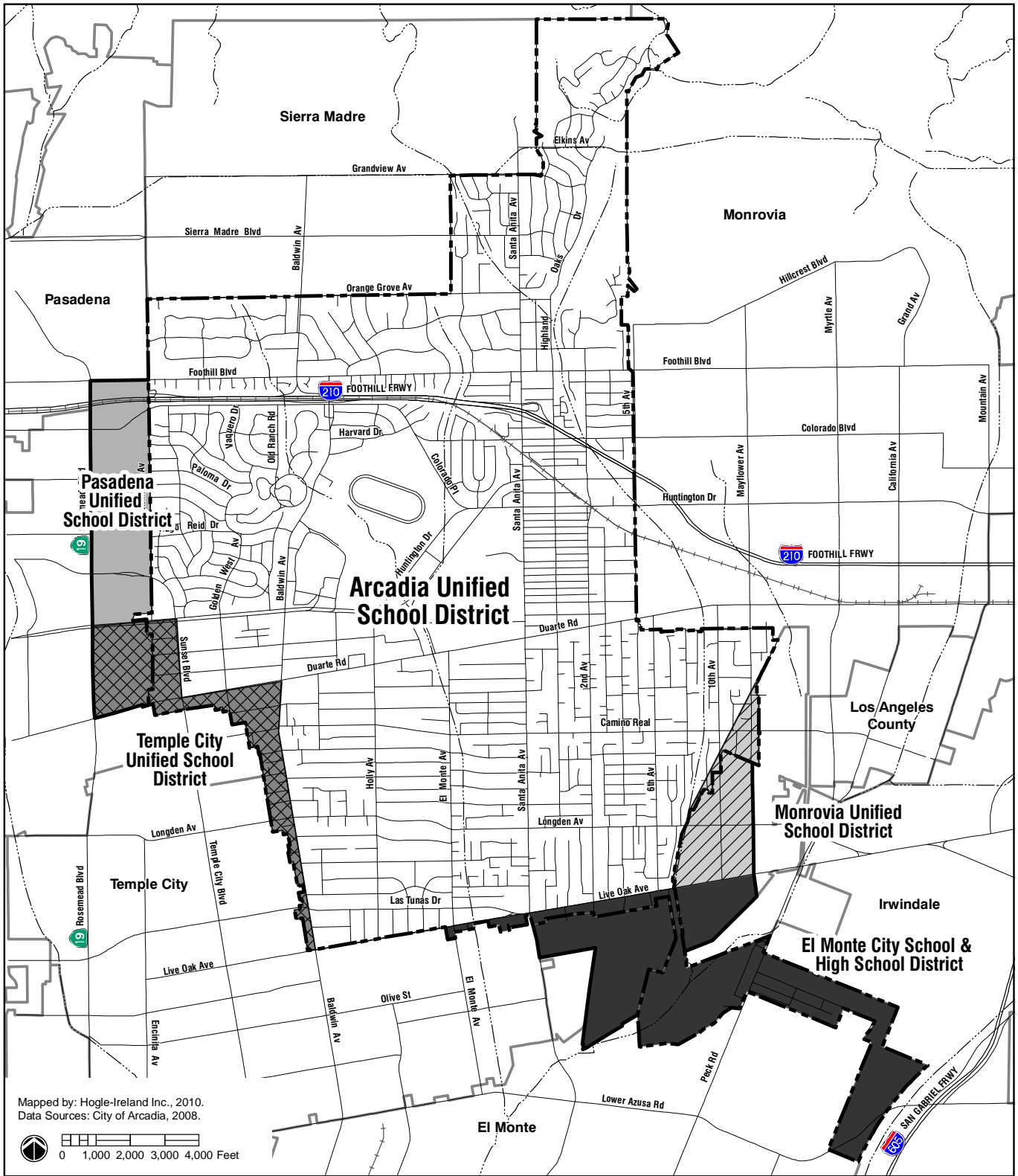
Mapped by: Hogle-Ireland Inc.  
 Data Sources: City of Arcadia, 2008.



- |                                     |   |                         |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| ① Arcadia High School               | ⑦ Highland Oaks Elementary School                 | --- City Boundary       |
| ② Baldwin Stocker Elementary School | ⑧ Holly Avenue Elementary School                  | --- Sphere of Influence |
| ③ Camino Grove Elementary School    | ⑨ Longley Way Elementary School                   | --- Freeway             |
| ④ Dana Middle School                | ⑩ Hugo Reid Elementary School - Primary Campus    | --- Railroad            |
| ⑤ First Avenue Middle School        | ⑪ Hugo Reid Elementary School - Elementary Campus | --- City Road           |
| ⑥ Foothills Middle School           |   | --- Water Feature       |

**FIGURE PR-4: AUSD SCHOOL LOCATIONS**





**School Districts in Arcadia**

- Arcadia Unified School District
- Pasadena Unified School District
- El Monte City School and High School District
- Monrovia Unified School District
- Temple City Unified School District

**Base Map Features**

- City Boundary
- Sphere of Influence
- Freeway
- Railroad
- City Road
- Water Feature

**FIGURE PR-5: SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN ARCADIA**



**TABLE PR-4: SCHOOL FACILITIES**

Facility Name	Enrollment (2008)	Joint-Use Amenities
<b>AUSD - High School (Grades 9-12):</b>		
Arcadia High School	3,628 Students	Provides athletic facilities, with amenities including a lighted baseball and softball field, multipurpose fields, tennis courts, swimming pools, all weather track, basketball courts, and football field.
<b>AUSD - Middle Schools (Grades 6-8):</b>		
Dana Middle School	835 Students	Lighted multi-purpose field, basketball courts
First Avenue Middle School	810 Students	Semi-lighted multi-purpose field, basketball courts
Foothills Middle School	860 Students	Football and multipurpose field, track, baseball field, and basketball courts
<b>AUSD - Elementary Schools (Grades K-5):</b>		
Baldwin Stocker Elementary School	609 Students	Picnic table, baseball diamond, basketball courts, multi-purpose athletic field
Camino Grove Elementary School and Park	660 Students	Tennis courts with lighting, play area, picnic shelter, picnic tables, benches, walkway, baseball diamond, concession and storage buildings, and basketball courts
Highland Oaks Elementary	662 Students	Picnic table, barbeque, multi-purpose athletic field, basketball courts
Holly Avenue Elementary School	689 Students	Tennis courts with lighting, multipurpose athletic field, basketball courts, benches
Hugo Reid Elementary School and Park	595 Students	Tennis courts, multipurpose field, baseball diamond with bleachers, concession, play area, and batting cage
Longley Way Elementary School	488 Students	Baseball diamond, multipurpose athletic field, basketball courts

Source: Arcadia Unified School District

## Public Libraries

Libraries are repositories of knowledge and community and cultural assets. People have access to countless volumes—either in traditional book or journal form or via the internet—that provide knowledge on any possible topic a person may wish to learn. Libraries often are also the venue for cultural programs and provide community space for civic engagement.

## City of Arcadia Library

Arcadia has had its own library since 1920, when the former Los Angeles County Library branch in the City became one of Arcadia's great civic resources. The Arcadia Public Library building now on West Duarte Road was built in 1961 and modernized in 1996 to accommodate expanded community needs. This 48,000-square-foot facility contains over 190,000 items, from books, magazines, and periodicals to compact discs, digital video discs, video and audio cassettes, and other electronic resources available on the Library's website. Visitors may use computers and other media in the Tech Center to access the internet, research, and share information. During the school year, local school children are frequent after-school visitors, and during the summer, they come to participate in summer reading programs. The Library offers many programs and activities that cater to children, youth, and adults.

Included in the building is a much-used auditorium with a seating capacity of 200 persons. The auditorium is regularly used for Library and other City department programs, and is also available to community groups.



The Arcadia Library and Museum Services Department works with the Recreation and Community Services Department on joint programs, class space, and shared resources. The Library's history collection is discussed in the Cultural Resources and Preservation section that follows.

According to the California State Library's 2009 Library Statistics, the statewide mean of providing print materials (books, documents, and serial volumes) is approximately two print materials per capita. The Arcadia Public Library exceeds the statewide average, providing 3.51 printed materials per capita.

## Los Angeles County Library - Live Oak Branch

The 2,890-square-foot Live Oak branch of the Los Angeles County Library system has a collection that is primarily a popular reading collection, with a significant collection of children's books and viewing and listening

materials. The library's collection consists of approximately 55,500 items that include books, paperbacks, magazine, and newspaper titles. The library has 16 shelves dedicated to Spanish-language material and 35 shelves of materials in Chinese.

## Goals and Policies

Promoting quality educational facilities and programs is a priority for the City, as they reflect the value the community places on education. The City will encourage and foster increased coordination and communication with the AUSD and other school districts serving local residents to enhance and maintain a high quality of educational resources for residents, and to provide cooperative programs that reach residents of all ages. Arcadia will continue to require new development to provide appropriate mitigation for impacts on school and library services.

---

### **GOAL PR-6:** Continued superior educational facilities and resources for residents of all ages and backgrounds

- Policy PR-6.1:** Maintain effective lines of communication with the Arcadia Unified School District and other districts serving Arcadia residents to address school planning and financing issues.
- Policy PR-6.2:** Require that new development provide adequate mitigation for impacts on area schools as provided in State law.
- Policy PR-6.3:** Coordinate closely with the Arcadia Unified School District on an ongoing basis to resolve issues such as expanding the joint use of facilities and the use of vacant or underutilized school sites.
- Policy PR-6.4:** Support the development of educational curriculum designed to enhance student awareness of their community.
- Policy PR-6.5:** Support life-long learning for adults through computer training, programs, and library collections.
- Policy PR-6.6:** Use development impact fees to fund City Library facilities, equipment, and programs that are needed as a result of new development projects.

---

## **GOAL PR-7:**

**A library system that continues to provide a superior level of educational, informational, and cultural services for the Arcadia community**

- Policy PR-7.1:** Provide access to materials and services that meet the educational, informational, historical, and language- and cultural-specific interests of the community.
- Policy PR-7.2:** Maintain, enhance, and promote the Arcadia Library as an important central resource for informational materials, life-long learning, and personal development.
- Policy PR-7.3:** Provide up-to-date library and data technology and information systems to assist with the use and delivery of materials, services, collections, programs, and exhibits.
- Policy PR-7.4:** Provide adequate library and museum facilities for collections, exhibitions, programs, and services.
- Policy PR-7.5:** Facilitate public access via the library to public information at all levels of government.

# Cultural Resources and Preservation

The appreciation of and exposure to the arts and history help people celebrate their shared and unique heritage and culture, and promote a greater understanding of the rich diversity of the community. Arcadia maintains arts and culture venues that celebrate the City's rich heritage and that provide a place where residents can share their appreciation for visual and performing arts. The support of these resources has been achieved through a combination of City programs, societies, volunteers, and both private and public sector support.

## Cultural/Historic Organizations and Facilities

Multiple cultural and historic venues celebrate the City's traditions and heritage. These places are a source for community enrichment and add to the special quality that distinguishes Arcadia. Also, many local organizations have established missions focused on increasing public awareness and interest in Arcadia history and culture.

### Arcadia's History

Vestiges of Arcadia's colorful history can be seen throughout the City. The Santa Anita Depot, one of the original train stations that brought visitors to Santa Anita Ranch in the 1900s, has been relocated to the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Gardens. Arcadia Grammar School, which was established to serve the first generations of Arcadians in 1907, has slowly transformed over the years and is still educating Arcadians today as First Avenue Middle School. Knowledge and awareness of the people, places, and events that have helped shape Arcadia are important to preservation efforts. Understanding our history and knowing the contributions those places and people have made to our community help us easily identify places to preserve for future Arcadians.

#### **Pre- and Early-European History**

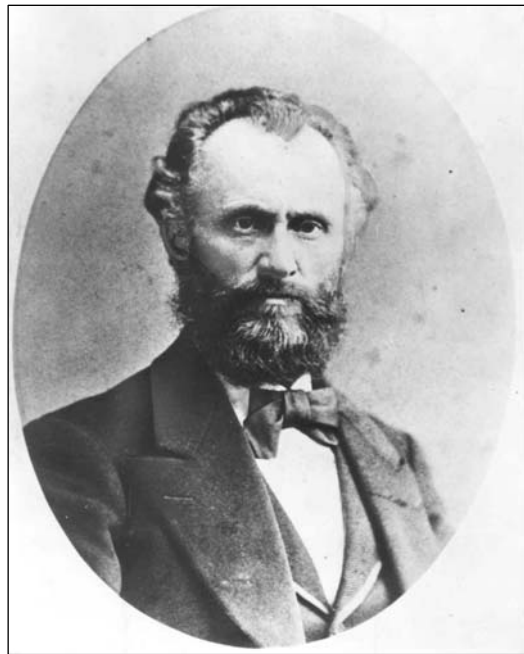
The earliest inhabitants of the region were the Tongva Indians. Meaning "people of the earth" in the Tongva language, the Tongvans settled areas of the Los Angeles basin because of its water sources and terrain conducive to hunting and gathering. The Tongvans fell into rapid decline with the arrival of the Spanish and the establishment of the San Gabriel Mission in 1771. It was during the Mission Period that the Tongvan name was changed by the Spanish and referred to as Gabrielinos. By the time Spanish rule gave way to the independent Republic of Mexico in 1821, the Tongva population that remained was minute and left to work low-level jobs on Mexican land grants.

## **Santa Anita Rancho**

The land that now forms Arcadia was once a part of the San Gabriel Mission's land holdings. However, as power transitioned from the Spanish to Mexico, the Mission's land holdings became public land. In 1831, Scotsman turned Mexican citizen Hugo Reid petitioned the local council to acquire the Rancho Santa Anita tract that would eventually encompass Arcadia, Sierra Madre, and Monrovia. He successfully acquired the full title to 13,319 acres of land in 1845, and as required by the Mexican government, Reid cultivated the land, raised cattle on the ranch, and it is believed, built the first permanent structure in Rancho Santa Anita, a three-room adobe house. The Hugo Reid Adobe house was reconstructed on the grounds of the Los Angeles County Arboretum. After a series of bad business decisions, Hugo Reid was forced to sell off Santa Anita Rancho.

## **Elias "Lucky" Baldwin**

After several changes in ownership, the Rancho was purchased by Elias "Lucky" Baldwin for \$200,000 in 1875. Baldwin cultivated the land for farming and orchards and established a working ranch that, at the time, was known throughout the region for high-quality livestock and thoroughbred horses. Later, due to financial necessity, Baldwin began to subdivide his ranch and sold portions of Santa Anita Rancho to Nathaniel Carter and William Monroe (who developed Sierra Madre and Monrovia, respectively). In 1887, Baldwin executed a contract with the Los Angeles & San Gabriel Valley Railroad that exchanged cash and railroad right-of-way through Baldwin's tract for the rail access and construction of two rail depots on Baldwin's property. However, the rail line failed to bring in investors into Baldwin's Rancho due to its



proximity to the more attractive city of Monrovia. Undeterred, Baldwin pursued the Santa Fe Railroad line through Santa Anita Rancho, a rail service that would connect Los Angeles to the Rancho in about half the time it took the Los Angeles & San Gabriel line, providing a second, and much faster, direct train connection to the Santa Anita Rancho for visitors from Los Angeles and Pasadena. Baldwin convinced the Santa Fe Railroad to build through his tract by offering cheap land and improving his Rancho by commencing the construction of the Town of Arcadia. The growth of a town occurred under the careful watch of Baldwin, who built the town's first hotel—the Oakwood Hotel—and helped finance the construction of the Santa Anita Depot across from the Oakwood Hotel on the corner of First Avenue and Santa Clara Street.

## **Beginnings of a City**

In 1903, the City incorporated, with Elias Baldwin as the first mayor of Arcadia and government operations occurring out of the Oakwood Hotel. The City of Arcadia's beginnings were based on an economy of tourism and



entertainment. What resulted was a landscape of saloons, gambling halls, entertainment venues, and horse and dog-racing tracks. The first incarnation of the Santa Anita Park racetrack opened in 1907 on the land that is now Arcadia Community Regional Park and Santa Anita Golf Course. In 1909, California made horseracing illegal, prompting the closure of the racetrack. A subsequent fire destroyed the grandstand in 1912, and the land remained unused.

Only after Elias Baldwin's death in 1909 did Arcadia begin to fully change and function as a complete city. Local citizens sought to change Arcadia's image and in 1912, voted to ban the sale of alcoholic beverages to eliminate Arcadia's reputation as a pleasure park. In the 1910s, critical infrastructure and services were established. Streets were paved; water, gas, and electric systems were developed; and a school, church, and community organizations were established. City services that were once operating out of offices of Elias Baldwin's Oakwood Hotel finally found a home in 1918 in the first City Hall at the corner of Huntington Drive and First Avenue.

### **Anita Baldwin and Anoakia**

In 1913, an inheritance was bequeathed upon Anita Baldwin, one of Elias Baldwin's children, which she used to convert a portion of the Santa Anita Ranch land into the Anoakia Stock and Breeding Farm, on which she also built her extraordinary home, Anoakia. Although the lavish estate has since been demolished, remnants of its walls can still be seen today along Baldwin Avenue. An important figure to Arcadia's growth, Anita Baldwin was a great benefactor to many of Arcadia's community organizations and a supporter of America's war efforts, and was largely responsible for selling the acreage that made up the original Santa Anita Ranch back to the public. As noted above, she sold



part of her estate for public use. Sold to Los Angeles County, the old field of the racetrack was in turn deeded to the U.S. War Department. During World War I, the field was christened Ross Field and used for military reconnaissance training and a ballooning school. Ross Field has been turned into the modern day site of Arcadia Community Regional Park.

### **Community of Homes and Post World War II**

Dividing up large tracts of land into smaller residential subdivisions during the 1930s led to Arcadia's identity as a "Community of Homes." Arcadia's population more than quadrupled following World War II. During the post-war boom, the City and Southern California in general experienced tremendous growth in population and housing. The last remaining fields dedicated to orchards and poultry farms were sold and developed into large tracts of single-family homes. Between 1940 and 1960, over 10,000 homes were constructed in Arcadia. In addition to residential development, the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Gardens opened in 1955, Arcadia Methodist Hospital was completed in 1957, the Foothill Freeway



was built through the City during the 1960s, and the Santa Anita Fashion Park (the regional mall) opened in 1975.

Many of the homes and buildings constructed in Arcadia after World War II have already, or will, reach the age of 50 years old during the time frame of this General Plan. Fifty years is the common threshold for a property qualifying as historic in California. Identifying and preserving these “recently” built structures, as well as districts such as Santa Anita Oaks and The Highlands, will pose new challenges; more analysis will be necessary to determine which important characteristics and design features of post-World War II structures are important to preserve in the community.

## Recognized and Potential Historic Places and Features

### Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden

Owned and operated by the County of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden is located in Arcadia on Baldwin Avenue. The Arboretum houses plant collections from around the world, including many rare and endangered plant species. Throughout the Arboretum are outdoor historical landmarks that represent major phases of California’s history. These resources include:

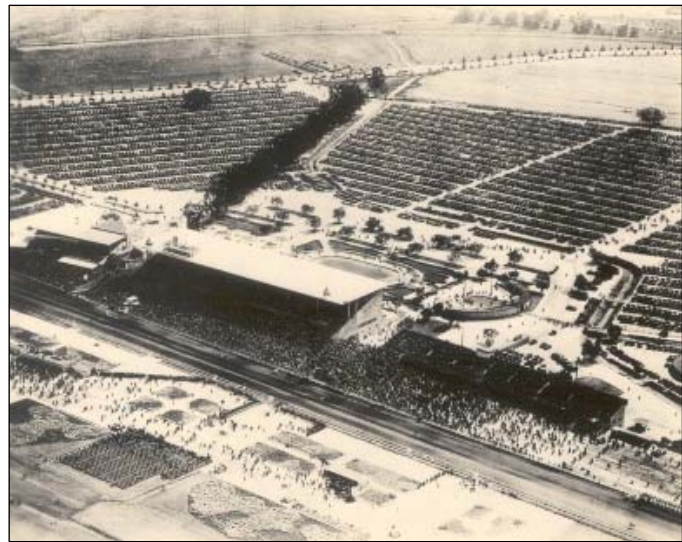
- The Queen Anne Cottage and Coach Barn: A cottage built by Lucky Baldwin in 1881. The architect who designed the cottage was also responsible for the designing the California Capitol Building dome and the Governor’s mansion in Sacramento (National Register of Historic Places and California Historic Landmark).
- The Hugo Reid Adobe: It is believed to be the first permanent structure to be built on Rancho Santa Anita, ca. 1840 (California Historic Landmark).
- Santa Anita Depot: Constructed in 1890, the two-story Santa Anita Depot was the train station for Santa Anita Rancho along the Santa Fe Railroad. The building was moved to the Arboretum in 1967 (California Point of Historical Interest).

### Santa Anita Park

Built in 1934, Santa Anita Park is the oldest racetrack in Southern California. It was designed in the Art Deco style by architect Gordon B. Kaufman. Major racing events such as the Santa Anita Derby and the occasional hosting of the Breeders’ Cup draw national and international visitors and participants. Although races are held seasonally, Santa Anita Park operates programs that provide activity all year long.

The grandstand, paddock, circular receiving barn, clubhouse, saddling stalls, and stables are eligible for listing on the California and National Registers of Historic Places. The Santa Anita Assembly Center (California Historic Landmark) within the park commemorates the use of the site as a

temporary relocation camp for Japanese Americans during World War II. The rich history of the racetrack, its close identification with Arcadia through the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, the distinctive architecture of the grandstand's southerly façade, and the high visibility of the grandstand structure combine to make the racetrack a significant cultural and historical landmark.



The City of Arcadia is committed to supporting the continuation of thoroughbred horse racing at Santa Anita Park. With the decline in attendance at the racetrack and closures of other tracks in California, the City acknowledges that the long-term viability of Santa Anita Park as a horse racing venue may be in question. This General Plan recognizes the iconic grandstand and other structures, as well as the racetrack itself, as important features within the City worthy of preservation. Land use considerations involving Santa Anita Park are discussed in the Land Use and Community Design Element.

### **Potential Historic Places**

The City has not established a formal listing of local historic places or landmarks. However, inventories of potentially historical resources have been compiled to identify sites for future consideration. The inventory process involved dividing the City into eight segments, with each segment evaluated for potentially significant buildings or “cultural landscapes.” The criteria used to identify potential resources included searching for unaltered buildings over 50 years of age, and identifying buildings that appeared architecturally significant but were less than 50 years old. “Cultural landscapes” were defined as places that exhibited the work of an important landscape architect or designer, or the site of an important event or activity. Using the criteria cited, at the time of the survey, 289 buildings and one cultural landscape were identified to be potentially significant. The majority of the resources identified were residences but also included churches, schools, and commercial and industrial buildings.

Absent any City ordinance or other program aimed at identifying or protecting such historic places, property owners can use and modify the properties consistent with standard zoning ordinance regulations. As of 2010, the City had no requirement for documenting conditions or preserving any defining aspects of potentially historic properties or features such as landmark landscaping. Any and all preservation efforts are privately initiated.

## Ruth and Charles Gilb Arcadia Historical Museum



The Ruth and Charles Gilb Arcadia Historical Museum opened in 2001 as a collaborative effort of the City of Arcadia and the Arcadia Historical Society. Named after its lead donors, the museum is maintained and operated by the City of Arcadia and houses artifacts and artwork representative of local Arcadia history, the majority of which was collected and is owned by the Arcadia Historical Society.

The museum rotates collections in and out of the exhibit spaces. Among the displays are artifacts related to Elias “Lucky” Baldwin, the Santa Anita racetrack, and the World War I Balloon School. The museum also provides extensive historical education programs for both children and adults. The museum’s Adult Learning Series are monthly lectures that invite the community to come and attend lectures from guest speakers who discuss Arcadia’s history. The museum also coordinates with teachers and schools to organize guided tours and customized programs to help children learn about history through a hands-on approach.

The Arcadia Veteran’s Local History Room within the Arcadia Historical Museum is a permanent exhibit space dedicated to war veterans in Arcadia. The exhibit honors all veterans of all ages in all services. The exhibit changes every three months and each time presents the personal story of one Arcadian’s experience as a veteran.

## Arcadia Public Library History Collection

The Arcadia Public Library has special a collection that features the history of Arcadia. The Arcadia history collection serves the Library’s mission to collect and preserve materials that relate to the cultural and intellectual heritage of Arcadia. Prominent pieces in the collection include Tournament of Roses photographs, artwork by past local artists, and photographs of the

Santa Anita Assembly Center for the Japanese. Indexes to some of the Library's historical collection are searchable from the Library's website.

## Local Cultural Organizations

### **Arcadia Chinese Association**

Since 1982, the nonprofit, nonpolitical, and nonreligious Arcadia Chinese Association has been active in dedicating its services and support to different programs, departments, and organizations within Arcadia. The Arcadia Chinese Association's mission is to help the community with better understanding of cultural diversity. The association has been instrumental in involving the non-Chinese community within Arcadia in Chinese cultural events, with the goal of establishing a better understanding of Chinese culture and tradition. Other goals of the association have been to assist Chinese immigrants with assimilation into the American culture, promote volunteerism in the community, engage in community fundraising, and support education through involvement with honors and scholarships.

### **Arcadia Historical Society**

Established in 1952, the Arcadia Historical Society is a group whose mission is the preservation of Arcadia's history. With a membership of over 270 people, the society creates and participates in programs that involve, for example, placing historic site markers, conducting history lectures, and holding vintage fashion shows.

## Resources Available for Preservation Initiatives

Preservation is the act of deciding what is important, determining how to protect it, and ensuring that whatever is protected is enjoyed by future generations. Given the relatively limited number of monuments and buildings from Arcadia's history remaining, focused community effort on preservation is increasingly important.

### **National and State Efforts**

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), which established the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) in 1966, allows federal agencies to act as responsible stewards of our nation's resources when their actions affect historic properties. The ACHP is the only entity with the legal responsibility to encourage federal agencies to factor historic preservation into federal project requirements. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to take into consideration the potential effects of proposed federal undertakings on culture resources listed on or determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The Queen Anne Cottage and Coach Barn located within the Arboretum are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Cooperation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) is one effort Arcadia undertakes to help preserve historic resources in the City. The mission of OHP is to partner with local governmental agencies to preserve and enhance California's irreplaceable historic heritage in the interest of the public. Overall, OHP serves to protect historical resources which demonstrate a cultural, educational, recreational, aesthetic, economic, social, or environmental legacy for future generations. OHP can designate qualifying resources as the following:

**California Landmarks** are buildings, sites, features, or events that are of statewide significance and have anthropological, cultural, military, political, architectural, economic, scientific or technical, religious, experimental, or other historical value.

**California Points of Historical Interest** are buildings, sites, features, or events that are of local (city or county) significance and have anthropological, cultural, military, political, architectural, economic, scientific or technical, religious, experimental, or other historical value.

**California Register of Historical Resources** includes buildings, sites, structures, objects and districts significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California.

Once designated, the resource is protected from any detrimental changes. Any alterations, repairs, and additions must be approved under rigorous the State Historic Building Code to ensure that the quality of the resource remains intact. As described above, three structures within Arcadia, all located on Los Angeles County Arboretum grounds, are under the protection of the OHP.

In 1972, the California legislature adopted a bill known as the Mills Act. The Mills Act grants property tax relief to owners of qualified historic properties. The Mills Act is a preservation tool created by the California legislature to encourage the preservation and restoration of historic properties. The act enables cities to enter into historical property agreements with owners of qualifying properties. Under these agreements, owners must rehabilitate and maintain their properties to designated standards in exchange for reductions to the owner's property taxes. The agreements provide a benefit to cities in that they ensure preservation and guarantee authentic rehabilitations and a high level of maintenance of historical resources important to communities.

### **Local Efforts**

The City has initiated preservation efforts by taking steps toward identifying potentially significant local historic structures. In February of 2000, the City Council approved setting aside \$40,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds for a historic resources survey program which surveyed approximately 16,000 parcels within the City.

The nonprofit Arcadia Historical Society's Historical Marker Committee began a program of placing a series of sizable markers around City with the intent to inform the community of significant historical resources. The markers, themed as "History Lives Here," provide text and photos that showcase long-demolished buildings such as the original City Hall that once stood on the corner of First Avenue and Huntington Drive. The marker program also calls attention to historical buildings still standing, such as the 100-year-old First Avenue Middle School. The markers provide a history of organizations that were housed in the buildings, such as the Woman's Club. Another effort of the Arcadia Historical Society is to create a printed brochure intended to encourage a walking tour of the "History Lives Here" markers.

While the effort of the Arcadia Historical Society carries no legal weight or authority for preservation, the purpose of their programs is to bring to the community greater awareness of and appreciation for Arcadia's historic buildings and properties in the hope that valuable historic resources are preserved.

## Cultural Programs

The City hosts events and programs that enrich the lives of Arcadians. A popular summertime series is Concerts in the Park. During the course of the summer, musicians give free performances on the City Hall lawn. Other popular music events are the concert sessions held in the Arcadia Public Library auditorium. The Arcadia Chinese Association holds cultural events throughout the year such as Spring Festival, Chinese New Year celebrations, and other holiday celebrations such as Mother's Day. Cultural programs are and will continue to be important parts in our diverse city. Cross-cultural programs and activities are integral to fostering community pride and creating connections among Arcadia's residents.

## Goals and Policies

Recognizing the importance of the historical resources identified, the City considers community initiatives to preserve significant sites, buildings, and/or landscapes. New development within and adjacent to privately owned historical sites (as defined by the criteria set forth in the California Register of Historic Places) will be examined for appropriate context with the building's or site's significance.

The remaining physical examples of the City's history and cultural heritage, other than those identified above, are located on individual parcels throughout the City. Any preservation efforts or programs will require both City and individual property owner support. The City will consider all available avenues for preserving resources significant to Arcadia's history and culture. If a formal program is established, potential historical and cultural sites which show merit for preservation will be judged using the following and other appropriate criteria.



A resource will be considered to be of significant cultural value if it possesses one or more of the following characteristics:

- It exemplifies or reflects the broad cultural, political, economic or social history of the U.S., California, or City of Arcadia.
- It has yielded or has the potential to yield information in history or prehistory.
- It is representative of one of the diverse styles and variations of residential and commercial architecture found in Arcadia, whether vernacular or a work of identifiable artisans, master craftsmen, builder, or architects important locally or with wider significance.
- It is an object of significance because of its design or pleasing appearance in a setting.
- It is a site or structure that is important to the prehistory or history of the community.
- It is a surviving site, route, or structure important to the early settlement, economic origins, or technological development of the locale.
- It is a grouping or set of structures, historic sites or features, design components, natural features and landscape architecture, or other interesting details which together create exceptionally rich history or cultural ambiance.
- It is a hillside, geologic formations, body of water, arroyo, remaining natural vegetation, or other striking or familiar physical characteristic that is important to the special character, historic identity, or aesthetic setting of the community.

---

**GOAL PR-8:** Continued recognition and support of the diverse historical and cultural organizations that celebrate and enrich the community

**Policy PR-8.1:** Support programs that promote a full range of cultural activities and their appreciation among all age groups, all levels of education, and all cultural backgrounds.

**Policy PR-8.2:** Nurture and support local arts organizations, and promote the appreciation of and involvement in the creative and performing arts.

**Policy PR-8.3:** Build community identity through educational, informational, and cultural art events that focus on local art, food, music, ethnic diversity, and other topics.



---

**GOAL PR-9:**      **Retention and proper stewardship of historical and cultural resources**

- Policy PR-9.1:**      Encourage the maintenance and preservation of historically, culturally, and or/ architecturally significant structures and sites in the community.
  
- Policy PR-9.2:**      Explore partnerships with local community organizations, such as the Arcadia Historical Society, to continue the preservation of historic and cultural resources.
  
- Policy PR-9.3:**      Collect, preserve, and celebrate Arcadia’s heritage with quality exhibits and programs.
  
- Policy PR-9.4:**      Preserve Santa Anita Park’s use as a live horse racing venue while economically feasible, and preserve and maintain iconic structures at the racetrack such as the grandstand.
  
- Policy PR-9.5:**      Identify historic sites, structures, neighborhoods, and other resources through a Historic Resource Inventory.
  
- Policy PR-9.6:**      Explore the establishment of a Cultural Heritage Ordinance.
  
- Policy PR-9.7:**      Develop incentives that promote preservation and rehabilitation of historic structures, sites, and other resources.

# A Plan for a Healthy Community

The health of the public has become a major national concern. National trends have shown increases in health problems like obesity, diabetes, and heart disease affecting both children and adults. Studies show that these health problems are partly the result of factors such as physical inactivity. Having a healthy community is important to Arcadia. Arcadia's plan for a healthy community consists of facilitating access to health care facilities and services; developing and providing community programs that encourages healthy living; and creating a physical environment that stimulates physical activity and social interaction.

## Medical Resources and Facilities

Although most healthcare is privatized, having healthcare facilities in the City provides residents with access to medical services that can keep the community healthy. Arcadia is home to the Methodist Hospital, a 460-bed not-for-profit facility that sits on 22 acres of land. Hospital services include comprehensive acute care such as medical, surgical, pediatrics, oncology, neonatal intensive care, adult intensive care, and complete cardiovascular services. Many small and private medical facilities also in the City provide a wide selection of healthcare services to Arcadia residents. Financial access to these facilities may be an issue for some residents. Fortunately, Arcadia's medical resources and facilities are supplemented by those of Los Angeles County. Although there are no Los Angeles County medical facilities or health clinics located within the borders of the City, three major Los Angeles County hospitals and numerous public health centers in the region provide free health care, immunizations, and various testing and treatments to all County residents.

The Land Use and Community Design Element establishes land use policies that accommodate the growth of healthcare facilities within the Santa Anita Avenue and Colorado Place corridors, in proximity to Methodist Hospital. In addition to creating new places for medical service providers to locate, these policies can help encourage jobs growth in well-paying industries.

## Community Health

Arcadia has been proactive in stimulating positive community health. The City has long offered diverse recreation and enrichment classes through the City's Recreation and Community Services Department that promote active lifestyles, encourage exercise and physical activity, and provide organized athletics for Arcadians of all ages. These programs help influence lifestyle changes, teaching people to incorporate healthy activities into their daily lives.

The City recognizes that there are other opportunities to help promote community health. Through re-evaluating transportation from a health perspective, the City understands that creating a transportation network that balances multiple modes of transportation will encourage fundamentally healthy habits such as biking and walking to work or for errands. As discussed in the Circulation and Infrastructure Element, the Bicycle Plan will create a network of paths and trails that connect major amenities throughout the City.

Efforts to revitalize Downtown with mixed-use development areas surrounding the Metro Gold Line station will create walkable neighborhoods. Walkable neighborhoods are neighborhoods where Arcadians can conveniently walk from their homes to work or other destinations or even hop on public transit to travel regionally, all without a car.

Arcadia's vision of healthier land use and transportation options can have significant positive health effects. Residents will have the option of leaving their cars at home and choosing healthier transportation alternatives such as biking or walking to move about in the City. If Arcadians take full advantage of biking and pedestrian opportunities, they will simultaneously help reduce traffic and air pollution from automobiles while getting some exercise.

The City supports public education efforts focused on informing Arcadians of City-sponsored activities and possibly creating health-centric educational programs such as nutrition and dieting classes. Vigorous outreach can stimulate higher participation, and understanding the impacts of food choices and the benefits of proper nutrition can help people choose the healthy alternative.



## Goals and Policies

Arcadia recognizes the positive impacts that an individual's health can have on quality of life, and that community-wide efforts to increase health and well-being can multiply those impacts in terms of increased productivity, reduced healthcare costs, and enhanced community interaction and engagement. The most effective means of creating a healthy community in Arcadia is to establish a "healthy" physical infrastructure through the implementation of mixed-use and multi-modal transportation networks. As evidenced in both the Land Use and Community Design Element and the Circulation and Infrastructure Element, the City's priority is to re-establish walkable neighborhoods such as Downtown, implement a bicycle plan, and maximize the effectiveness of the Metro Gold Line. Additionally, the City will continue programs and

---

Read more about Arcadia's Downtown revitalization efforts and other mixed-use sites in the Land Use Focus Areas section of the Land Use and Community Design Element.

services that promote exercise, sports, and recreational activities. The City will also explore other means of promoting healthy lifestyles through education and outreach.

---

## **GOAL PR-10: A healthy Arcadia**

- Policy PR-10.1:** Encourage physical activity in residents of all ages and income levels through various efforts such as developing and providing health-oriented classes; encouraging walking to school; maintaining programs that stress physical activity; continually supporting City-sponsored and private sports and recreation leagues; and providing convenient access to parks and other outdoor spaces.
- Policy PR-10.2:** Assist in the reduction of childhood obesity by increasing opportunities for outdoor recreation and promoting physical activity within and outside of school and child care settings.
- Policy PR-10.3:** Support the managed growth of complementary medical facilities at and surrounding the Methodist Hospital.
- Policy PR-10.4:** Support Los Angeles County in its efforts to offer a broad array of healthcare services in the County.
- Policy PR-10.5:** Provide public education regarding practices that promote good health.