

Chapter 4

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

THE CITY OF
BRE A

GENERAL PLAN



Chapter 4

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE • TRAILS • WILDLIFE HABITAT • SCENIC RESOURCES •
WATER CONSERVATION AND QUALITY • AIR QUALITY • HISTORIC
RESOURCES



VISION

Imagine Brea, where resources are valued and preserved for future generations of Breans to experience and enjoy. Where residents prize parks, open spaces, wildlife habitat, recreational trails, water resources, air quality, and the City's historic buildings and monuments for their intrinsic value. Imagine parks, trails, scenic resources, and wildlife habitat areas that provide recreational and ecological benefits, as well as a source of aesthetic pleasure. Imagine water that is ample, clean, and pure, and used efficiently so that demands today do not compromise the needs of tomorrow. Imagine improvements in regional air quality. Imagine a place where distinctive historical qualities and buildings continue to link Brea's past to its future.

Brea will work to preserve and protect existing resources, and to capture new resources as they become available. The City will enhance its recreational facilities and look for ways to expand parks and trails throughout Brea. With assistance from interested organizations, creative solutions will be discovered and implemented to preserve sensitive habitat areas. The hills that establish the dramatic visual backdrop to the City will continue in this context, with significant ridgelines and other formations remaining undeveloped. Natural stream courses and important watershed areas will be protected from erosion and urban pollutants. Owners of historic properties will have incentives to maintain and enhance these properties, and all Breans will

Imagine Brea

recognize the value these historic resources lend to the community.

The goals and policies in this Community Resources Chapter focus on the enhancement of community qualities that distinguish Brea. These resources contribute tremendously to the quality of life in Brea and allow residents to enjoy and experience features not found in many urban environments.

Photo credit: Hills for Everyone 2002



View from Carbon Canyon Road of canyon along northern boundary of Chino Hills State Park.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Parks and open spaces historically have provided passive greenery in urban areas, providing a refuge from the concrete environment with large green lawns, gardens, tall trees, and lakes and ponds. Many parks today, to meet the demands of a changing demographic, now serve as a location for active recreation, with sports and play facilities. As land continues to be developed and paved, and economic resources restricted or diverted, parks and open space have become increasingly difficult to acquire and fund. Nevertheless, parks and open space represent major, important resources in Brea, meeting both active and passive recreation needs and providing a source of aesthetic beauty. Carbon Canyon Regional Park and Chino Hills State Park create extensive stretches of scenic open space, but at the same time offer places where people can picnic, hike, throw a Frisbee, or ride a bike.



*The Plunge at
City Hall Park.*

Context

Parks Brea benefits from an assortment of neighborhood, community, and regional parks distributed throughout the community. Passive open space and park areas account for five percent of the land area within the corporate City limits. Chino Hills State Park alone, a natural wilderness park with hiking, biking, and equestrian trails, encompasses 3,400 acres.

Classification and Standards

The Brea park system consists of public neighborhood parks, community parks, and school grounds with joint-use agreements. Carbon Canyon and Craig regional parks, although located at least partially within Brea, are owned and maintained by Orange County.

Passive/Casual and Active Parks

Passive/casual parks do not include facilities for “active recreation” such as tennis courts, soccer fields, or softball diamonds. They are intended as public green space where city dwellers can escape from the rush of urban life. Passive parks include such amenities as large open green spaces, meadows, wandering pathways, ponds, and gardens.

Active parks, on the other hand, include a variety of facilities for recreation. Baseball and softball diamonds, basketball courts, horse shoe rings, football fields, playground, and swimming pools are examples of facilities often found in active parks.

The current trend cities have followed is providing recreational facilities, but many other cities have recognized the importance of creating passive recreation spaces as well. While passive parks do not contain active recreational facilities, they can also entertain active activities such as kite flying, pick-up football games, Frisbee, and other activities on a non-programmed basis. The task for cities is to provide a balance for both passive and active recreational parks that meet the demands of their residents.

The City owns, operates, and maintains 12 parks primarily designed and used for active recreation. Joint-use agreements with the Brea-Olinda Unified School District for use of school grounds and play areas provide residents with an additional 58.0 acres of park area. Table CR-1 lists all parks within the City limits, including associated facilities. Numbers listed with each park in the table correspond to the locations identified on Figure CR-1.

Pocket Park. A pocket park is small, neighborhood-oriented facility used to address limited or isolated recreational needs. Such parks usually range in size from 2,500 square feet and one acre. Woodcrest Park, located in the northwestern area of Brea, provides a small play area for children. Pocket parks like Woodcrest can be built on small, challenged properties and fill a localized park niche.

Neighborhood Park. Neighborhood and local parks, by definition, are specifically oriented toward residents within a one-half mile radius. These parks can encompass one to ten acres, with some sports fields and facilities usually geared toward the recreation needs of children.

Community Park. Community parks, as traditionally defined, vary from 10 to 60 acres in size and serve residents within a 3-mile radius of their homes. Tri-City is the only community park that serves Brea residents, but is not located in Brea. Located in Placentia less than a quarter mile from the City limits, Tri-City Park is maintained by the cities of Brea, Placentia, and Fullerton.

School Park. School parks, or joint-use parks, combine the resources of a school facility and a park. School parks are unique because they provide recreational needs in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Due to their size, school parks can offer broader amenities than a traditional neighborhood park, often more comparable to a community park, with baseball fields, basketball courts, tennis courts, and playgrounds.

Regional Park. Regional parks meet the recreational needs of a regional population and usually include a wide variety of active and passive recreation improvements. The environment in which the park is located influences the facilities available. Regional parks in urban areas can have a distinctive sports field focus, whereas a park within a natural open space area may offer only hiking or picnicking facilities. Night lighting of activity areas increases the availability and utilization of courts and playing field facilities.

As noted above, the two regional parks in Brea – Carbon Canyon Regional Park and Craig Regional Park – are County parks. Carbon Canyon Regional Park covers 124 acres, with 60 acres designed for recreational uses and the remaining acreage maintained as natural open space, including a grove of Coastal Redwoods. This open space area provides a transition to the adjacent Chino Hills State Park. The park contains hiking and equestrian trails, and offers guided nature walks and fishing.

Craig Regional Park, located between the SR-57 freeway and College State Boulevard, has 129 acres of rolling hills, baseball fields, open space, and a formal rose garden. The park is partially in Brea (14 acres), while the remaining portion of the park lies within the city of Fullerton.

Other Recreation Areas. Chino Hills State Park covers approximately 13,000 acres in Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. The park largely consists of natural open space and thus provides wildlife habitat value as well as open space for people. Over 60 miles of trails allow hikers, equestrians, and bicyclists to enjoy native southern California oak woodlands, grasslands, and riparian areas, as well as views of the surrounding urban areas and mountains.

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

Number	Park Name	Location	Amenities	Acres
City-Owned/Maintained Facilities				
<i>Mini or Pocket Parks</i>				
1	Woodcrest Park	Woodcrest Ave. at Puente St.	Barbeques, Children’s play area, and picnic tables.	0.5
<i>Neighborhood Parks</i>				
2a	Arovista Park	Imperial Hwy at Berry St.	Children’s play area, barbeques, picnic tables, restrooms, ball diamonds, soccer fields, volleyball court, amphitheatre, concession stand, football field, and basketball courts	15.0
2b	Arovista Skate Park (located in Arovista Park)	Imperial Hwy at Berry St.	"Street" and "freestyle" features with a rails, kidney pool, pyramid, table top, blank wall, ¼ pipes, and spectator seating area.	10,000 sq. ft.
3	City Hall Park	401 S. Brea Blvd.	Olympic-size swimming pool (Brea Plunge), restrooms, barbeques, Children’s play area, basketball courts, and gazebo.	4.0
4	Greenbriar Park	Greenbriar Rd. and Associated Rd.	Barbeques, Children’s play area, picnic tables, and restrooms.	3.0
5	Tamarack Park	520 N. Tamarack Ave.	Restrooms, barbecues, Children’s play area, ball diamond, soccer fields, concession stand, football field, and basketball courts.	5.6
6	Brea Golf Course (municipal)	501 West Fir St.	Nine-hole course with driving range.	26.0
7	Tomlinson Park	Berry St./Central Ave.	Children’s play area, picnic tables, and restrooms.	4.1

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

Number	Park Name	Location	Amenities	Acres
School Parks (A,B)				
8	Brea Jr. High School Park	400 N. Brea Blvd.	Children's play area, ball diamonds, soccer fields, volleyball court, tennis courts, concession stand, football field, and basketball courts	13.0
9	Country Hills School/Park	180 N. Associated Rd.	Restrooms, barbeques, Children's play areas, picnic tables, ball diamonds, soccer fields, tennis courts, concession stand, and football field.	6.0
10	Fanning Elementary School			
11	Lagos De Moreno Park/ Laurel Elementary School	200 S. Flower Ave.	Barbeques, Children's play area, and picnic tables.	1.5
Community Parks				
12	Tri-City Park (maintained by the Cities of Brea, Fullerton and Placentia)	Kraemer Blvd. at Golden Ave.	Restrooms, barbeques, Children's play area, picnic tables, bicycle trails, lake, and fishing.	40.0
Non-city Owned/Maintained Regional Parks and Facilities				
Regional Parks (C)				
13	Carbon Canyon Regional Park	Carbon Canyon Rd. (1 mile east of Valencia Blvd.)	Tennis courts, Children's play area, volleyball, ball diamond, multipurpose fields, hiking and biking trails, guided nature tours, picnic tables, and fishing.	124.0
14	Ted Craig Regional Park	3300 State College Blvd. (partially in Brea)	Restrooms, barbecues, Children's play area, picnic tables, ball diamonds, soccer fields, tennis courts, volleyball, racquetball courts, amphitheater, concession stands, bicycle trails, football field, basketball courts, and fishing.	129.0
Other Recreation				
15	Chino Hills State Park	Partially in Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties	Trails for hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians, camping, and 13,000 acres of wilderness.	3,400 (D)
16	Birch Hills Golf Course		18 hole executive golf course.	

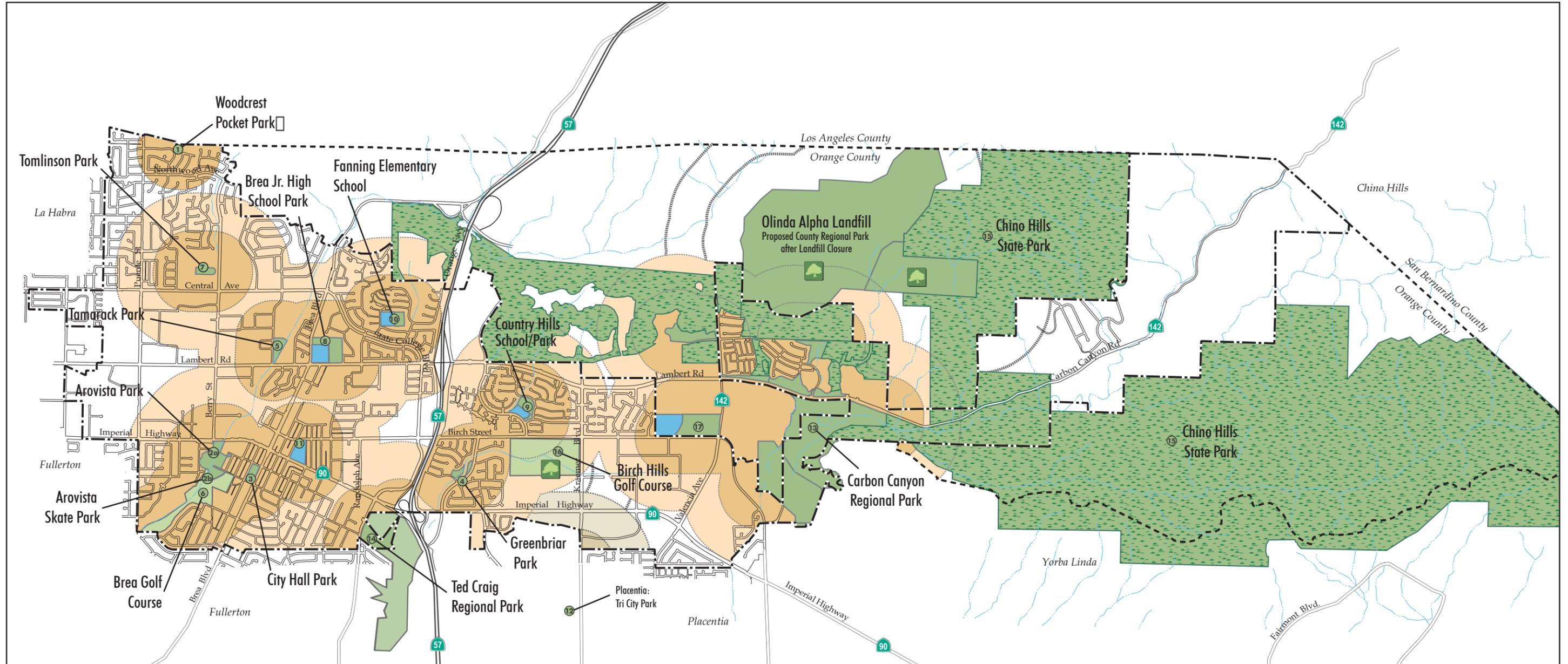
Source: City of Brea and Chino Hills State Park General Plan, February 1999

Note: (A) Joint use agreement with Brea-Olinda Unified School District.

(B) Maintained by the Olinda-Brea Unified School District

(C) Maintained by the County of Orange

(D) 3,400 acres are located in the Brea and Brea's Sphere of Influence, with the remaining acres located in the City of Chino Hills.



Source: City of Brea; Cotton/Bridges/Associates, 2002. □

0 3,000 6,000 9,000 12,000 Feet
0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

<p>Legend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --- City Boundary --- Sphere of Influence --- Creeks, Streams, and Drainage Channels 	<p>Parks and Recreation Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks and Recreation Facilities Open Space Golf Course Public Facilities (Schools) Potential Future Parks 	<p>Park Names</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Woodcrest Park 2a. Arovista Park 2b. Arovista Skatepark 3. City Hall Park 4. Greenbriar Park 5. Tamarack Park 6. Brea Golf Course 7. Tomlinson Park 8. Brea Junior High School Park 9. Country Hills School/Park 10. Fanning Elementary School 11. Lagos De Moreno Park 12. Tri-City Park 13. Carbon Canyon Regional Park 14. Ted Craig Regional Park 15. Chino Hills State Park 16. Birch Hills Golf Course 17. Brea Sports Park 	<p>Parks and Recreation Service Areas*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brea Parks 1/4 and 1/2 mile radii Tri-City Park 1/4 and 1/2 mile radii (Located in the City of Placentia) Potential Future Parks 1/4 and 1/2 mile radii <p><small>* Note: Pocket/mini park radius is 1/4 mile.</small></p>
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BREA
GENERAL PLAN

Figure CR-1
Parks and
Open Space Plan



A children's play structure at Arovista Park.

Recreation Programs

Recreation programs are an integral component of an overall park and recreation system. Programs are addressed in the Community Services Chapter.

Need and Service Areas

Brea has established a service standard of 5.0 acres of park and recreation facilities per 1,000 residents. Based on the January 1, 2002 population of 36,857 residents and park acreage of approximately 331 acres within the planning area, the ratio is 9.0 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents. With the regional parks, Brea currently meets a high service standard. General Plan land use policy set forth in the Community Development Chapter could allow for up to 51,307 residents within the planning area. If the current park acreage remained constant, the ratio would reduce to 6.5 acres per 1,000 people.

While providing park acreage at or above the established community standard is important, the City must also ensure that park improvements and park locations respond to demographic needs. Brea is a young city, with families attracted to the community by the excellent school district. Children play sports, and sports fields occupy significant acreage. For many years, Breans have desired a dedicated sports park to meet increasing demands and to reduce wear on long-used fields. The City has planned for a sports complex aimed at organized recreational youth sports such as Little League Baseball, the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), and similar youth sports organizations. By 2005, such a facility should be in place on Birch Street just west of Valencia Avenue, as the City and Brea-Olinda Unified School District work together to create a joint school-park facility.

As the benefits of recreation activities are recognized to individuals, families, and the community-at-large, the City anticipates that strong demand for parks and recreation will continue. New residential developments will be required to dedicate land and/or pay fees to help the City maintain its parkland standard, both in terms of overall acreage and facilities appropriate to meet the needs of residents.

With regard to park location, service area standards recommended by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) indicate that a park typically should cover a 1/2- to 1/4-mile service area radius, depending on the size of the park. Larger parks, such as Carbon Canyon Regional Park and Chino Hills State Park usually have a much larger service area, meeting park demand beyond the City of Brea.

Based on this standard, there are few areas in Brea that lack park and recreation facilities except within Brea's sphere of influence (Figure CR-1). Park facilities within the Tomlinson Park Specific Plan will relieve recreation demand in the Northwest Neighborhoods not served by Woodcrest Park. The City will carefully examine opportunities for public park space in Brea's sphere of influence whenever new development is proposed for the area. Similarly, any new residential neighborhoods developed east of Valencia Avenue in the City will be required to provide local or community park facilities to meet the demand of new residents and to better serve neighborhoods that do not have ready access to parks.



Skateboarders at Arovista Skate Park enjoying an afternoon perfecting their skating abilities.

In the Orange County General Plan, the Olinda Alpha Landfill is designated as a future County Regional Park. Landfill properties cover about 562 acres. Once the landfill has closed, the County's intent is to provide "urban-natural" and wilderness areas, and to provide active and passive recreational opportunities.

Open Space

The Puente and Chino Hills form a backdrop to Brea that harkens back to its rural beginnings. The hills provide vast areas of open space containing vital biological resources and wildlife habitat areas. Approximately half of the open space areas within Brea's sphere of influence are privately held lands which have been, and to a degree continue to be, exploited for the oil and gas that lie beneath. Other property owners include the State of California (Chino Hills State Park), Orange County (Olinda Alpha Landfill), and the City of Industry.



View of Puente Hills from Brea Boulevard.

The canyons that snake through the hillsides are dotted with oil wells and oil production facilities. Many of these facilities have been in operation for over 100 years, and in some areas, past practices have eroded slopes and degraded natural habitat area. As oil field operations have consolidated, however, nature has displayed its tremendous resiliency by reclaiming stream valleys and grass-covered hills. Wildlife use the hills as habitat and movement corridors. As open space throughout Southern California continues to disappear, Breans increasingly value and enjoy the open space areas that make Brea unique. As a community, Brea has grown progressively more interested in issues surrounding these open spaces.

Open space issues were the focus of seven separate planning efforts between 1986 and 2001. These efforts included the 1986 Open Space Element of the General Plan, the Brea Project, the Sphere of Influence Vision Building workshops, creation of a Hillside Management Ordinance, the Open Space Task Force, and the Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Human Services Master Plan. Through these programs, the community identified the preservation of open space as significant for three key reasons:

- **Environmental Sensitivity:** To preserve and protect resources, habitat, scenic and/or aesthetic areas
- **Enhanced Recreation:** For additional passive and active recreation areas
- **Quality of Life:** To preserve rural characteristics while maintaining or improving traffic, noise, and air quality



Open space in Telegraph Canyon. Protected open spaces are increasingly recognized as vital to improving the quality of life.

Goals and Policies

The City's role in providing parks, recreation, and open space relates directly to community well-being, livability, and quality of life. The City is committed to providing, facilitating, and supporting parks, recreation facilities and programs, and open space of the highest quality and in a cost-effective manner to enhance the living environment for all residents. Further, the City believes that pursuits of the individual must be carefully examined in light of the general public interest, and specifically the conservation of natural resources.

Parks and Recreation

To meet park facility needs of future Breans, new parks and land will need to be acquired incrementally. New park facilities will be designed to allow for changing community needs. Ensuring adaptability in park design in response to demographic shifts allows for greater options and flexibility. Upgrading and maintaining existing parks is vital for their long-term usability. The City is committed to continued investment in its parks as resources are available. The City is also committed to providing new facilities, especially in underserved areas or new types of facilities such as a sports park.

Goal CR-1 Provide a variety of parks and recreation facilities that meet the diverse needs and interests of the community.

Policy CR-1.1 Develop a high-quality network of parks and recreational facilities that meet the needs of families, young adults, seniors, children, and disabled individuals.

Policy CR-1.2 Provide similar or equal levels of parks and recreational facilities to all areas of the community.

Policy CR-1.3 Use the following as standards for park development, recognizing that the function of a particular park also affects classification within the system:

Type of Park	Size and Service Area
Smaller green spaces in urban areas (mini, tot lots, and/or pocket parks)	0.5 to 5 acres, with a ¼ mile service area radius in residential setting
Neighborhood Park	5-10 acres, with a ¼- to ½-mile service area radius
Community or Sports Park	20-50+ acres, with a ½- to three-mile service area radius
Regional Park	50 acres or larger

Policy CR-1.4 Incorporate into large-scale residential developments small neighborhood parks and greens suitable for unstructured play and passive recreation.

Policy CR-1.5 Develop, wherever possible, recreation facilities that have multi-use capabilities and high degree of adaptability to more intensive use or uses as recreation demand changes and/or population density increases.

Policy CR-1.6 Provide similar or equal attention to the development of facilities for individualized activities (casual park use, bicycling, walking, running, skating and riding) as is given to organized recreation and sports.

Policy CR-1.7 Locate and develop a sports park that combines intensive-use lighted sports facilities with shared support facilities such as ample parking, concessions, and restrooms.

Goal CR-2 Protect and preserve existing parks and recreation facilities.

Policy CR-2.1 Protect existing public parks and open space areas from non-recreational uses.

Policy CR-2.2 Ensure that sports facilities for organized sports do not displace existing casual use facilities and parks.

Goal CR-3 Maximize use of open space areas capable of supporting park-type activities.

Policy CR-3.1 Maximize use of available facilities through careful scheduling.

Policy CR-3.2 Continue the school/park joint use concept for increased recreational resources and year-round use of these facilities.

Policy CR-3.3 Use Carbon Canyon Regional Park, Craig Regional Park, and Army Corps of Engineer properties to satisfy some of the City's recreational demands, particularly as they pertain to facilities that require large, relatively level land, such as sports park fields.

Policy CR-3.4 Explore the recreational potential of publicly owned lands and utility rights-of-way.

Policy CR-3.5 Coordinate efforts with other public agencies regarding State and federal programs for existing and potential trail systems, recreational facilities, and recreation programs.

Policy CR-3.6 Encourage the development of recreational facilities by the private sector, including small parks and large-scale facilities requiring a high level of supporting services, supplies, and maintenance. Recreational facilities should be available to all members of the public.

Policy CR-3.7 Develop parks and recreation facilities in a manner that ensures that a minimum of damage to the environment occurs, while still providing a high quality recreation experience.

**Implementation
Guide** 

See Section VI in the Implementation Guide.

Open Space

“Open space is a defining characteristic of Brea. The prominent ridgelines and hillsides to the north of Brea form a dramatic backdrop to the entire community. Moreover, many of these ridgelines and hillsides are connected by expansive open spaces. Although not all pristine, these open spaces are valued by Breans and yet these lands are owned by others. Many believe that open space is one reason why Brea remains so special.”

– Final Report of the Open Space Task Force, June 1994

Goal CR-4 Preserve open space aggressively for diverse purposes – as a visual and scenic resource, for habitat conservation, to protect watersheds, and for recreation.

Policy CR-4.1 Protect and preserve open space wherever possible.

Policy CR-4.2 Select areas for open space preservation using an evaluation system that incorporates the following selection criteria: connectivity, access/recreations, sensitive areas, natural features, subdivision pattern, and buffer zones.

Policy CR-4.3 Work aggressively with the Orange County, Los Angeles County, State, and other appropriate public agencies, private entities, and landowners to conserve, protect, and enhance open spaces and natural resources, particularly within the sphere of influence.

Goal CR-5 Provide a flexible and balanced open space and conservation plan.

Policy CR-5.1 Create an open space network that is part of both the natural and urban fabric of Brea and connects to the regional open space system.

Policy CR-5.2 Encourage compatible uses and activities near open space areas such as schools, parks, residential, and agricultural uses.

Policy CR-5.3 Develop and maintain strong relationships with local and regional environmental and conservation organizations.

**Implementation
Guide**



See Section VI in the Implementation Guide.

TRAILS

Accessibility between neighborhoods, employment centers, civic and cultural areas, wilderness areas, schools, and other social and natural places unifies the community. Pedestrian trails and bikeways enhance community mobility and provide opportunities for recreation and exercise. A well-defined, interconnected trail system also reduces dependence on the automobile. The key is designing a system comfortable, suitable, and safe for those who wish to use it.

Trails in hillside areas allow access into open space and parkland areas and provide recreational activities for the avid hiker, mountain biker, naturalist, and equestrian. Urban trails increase the connectivity within the urban fabric of a city. Cities and urban centers are stronger and livelier when access is easily accomplished by good public transportation, bicycling, or on foot. Brea can enjoy both wilderness and urban trails through a trail system designed to increase connectivity.



Equestrian and pedestrian trail along Valencia Avenue will expand Brea's existing trail network and allow connection points into Carbon Canyon Regional Park and Chino Hills State Park.

Context

The hillsides surrounding the City and within Chino Hills State Park contain a network of both informal and improved trails. Few similar pedestrian ways have been established within the urban area, other than sidewalks and a few improved multi-use trails, but tremendous opportunities present themselves for linking dynamic activity centers citywide and making it possible to get anywhere in Brea and into natural open space areas without a car. The partially abandoned railroad right-of-way corridor that runs through the City represents just one potential.

Natural and Wilderness Trails

Natural and wilderness trails are multi-use trails for walking, hiking, biking, and horseback riding. In Chino Hills State Park, trails include fire access roads and dirt trails. Similar trails traverse private properties throughout the hills, which people use though access may be restricted. These trails allow passage into wooded and open space areas, excellent for the enjoyment of natural surroundings.



Nature trail located in Carbon Canyon Regional Park leads hikers to a 10-acre Redwood grove adjacent to Carbon Canyon Dam.

Classification

Trails are identified in three general classification categories:

- *Regional Trails:* Serve as service trails which are included in the Orange County Master Plan of Hiking and Riding Trails. Regional Trails double as major links in Brea's trail system. These are all multi-use trails suitable for hiking, mountain biking, and horse riding.

- *Community Trails:* These are multi-use trails which are either a service road, a rail right-of-way, a flood control channel right-of-way, or adjacent to a street right-of-way. They can also be used by equestrians or hikers. Some of these trails are in an urban setting, while others are in open space areas.
- *Local Trails:* These are public trails that serve a local purpose. The trails are usually short and may connect to the major and regional trails. The trails could be dedicated to a single use such as hiking or riding.



Mountain biker riding down Telegraph Canyon Trail in Chino Hills State Park, a Regional Trail.

Staging Areas

Staging areas connect the urban and natural areas. They link an existing public facility or street right-of-way to important parkland or open space such as Chino Hills Park. A linkage normally consists of two components: (1) a staging area where people can gather and park and (2) the trail head. Additional staging areas are needed at various points along Brea's trail system to enhance accessibility. Nine such staging areas have been identified in the Trails Master Plan. These should be built out in conjunction with related trail segments. Trail heads that include amenities for hikers, bicyclists and equestrians to prepare for, start, and return from hikes should be located strategically throughout the City of

Brea's trail system. Staging areas and trail heads should include, as applicable:

- Identification signs, directions signs, and maps
- Marked parking stalls to accommodate horse trailers
- Water for horses
- Water for hikers and riders
- Hitching posts
- Picnic tables
- Shade trees
- Restrooms

Chino Hills State Park

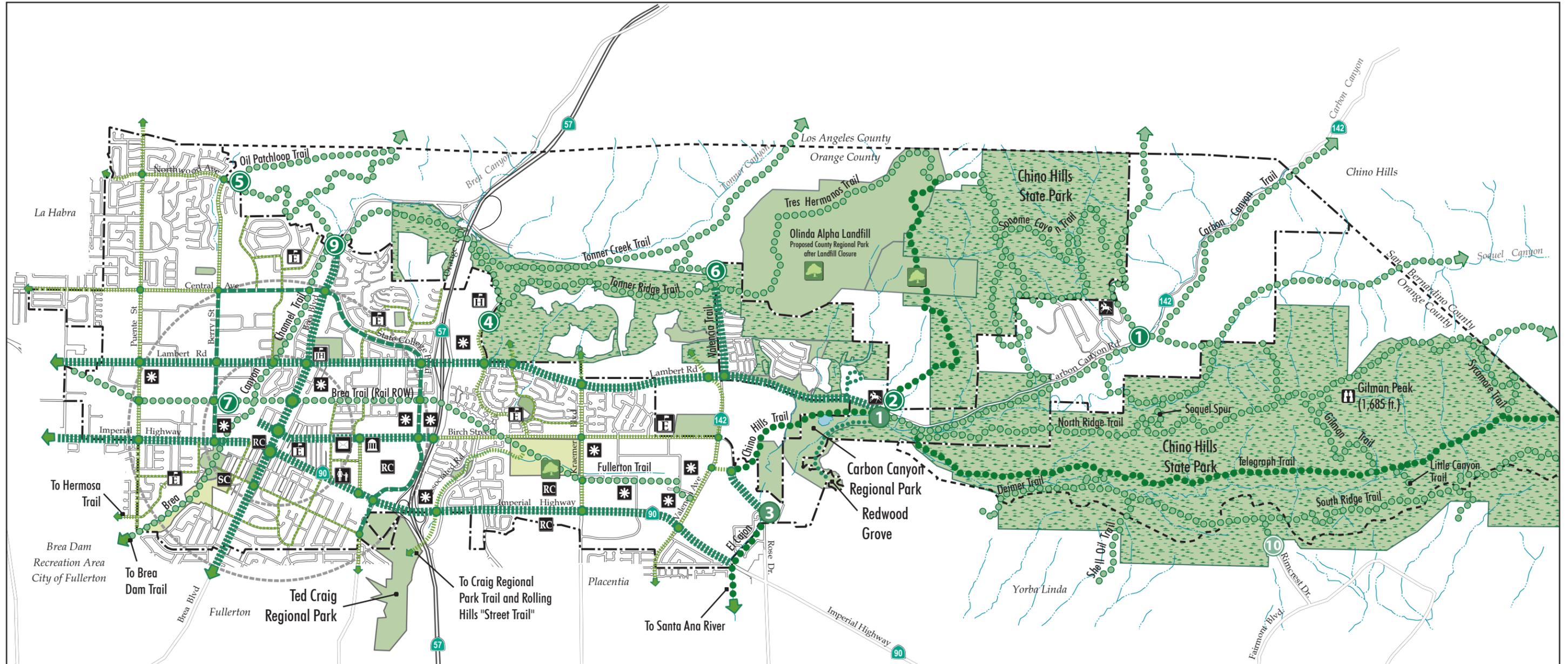
Chino Hills State Park offers 13,000 acres of wilderness area and over 65 miles of hiking, mountain bike riding, and horseback riding trails. The trails allow for passive activities such as bird watching, photography, and nature study, and access many of the park's secluded areas, including riparian areas, open grasslands, and scenic view points. This system of trails should be integrated to Brea's proposed trail system to create a seamless network connecting urban and wilderness areas.

A one-mile-long nature trail in Carbon Canyon Regional Park provides access for hikers, bird watchers, and other amateur naturalists to the park's beautiful Redwood Grove. The park also contains an equestrian trail.

The opportunity to create trails in Carbon and Tonner Canyons and across other hillside properties not within Chino Hills State Park will exist as the properties become publicly owned or are acquired by private conservation organizations interested in opening properties to public access. Additionally, any development proposal can be conditioned to provide public trails consistent with the City's Trails Master Plan.

Urban Trails and Sidewalks

Walking is a common leisure and recreational activity, as well as a means to get around town; the urban environment should be amendable to those who like to walk and particularly to school children. Sidewalks should be continuous and part of a system that provides access to goods, services, schools, and homes. Creating an extended network of sidewalks that are comfortable and safe for pedestrians increases accessibility and creates "eyes on the street" in residential neighborhoods. Figure CR-2 illustrates the network of urban and walkway trails that will link all parts of Brea.



Source: City of Brea, Cotton/Bridges/Associates, RTKL, and Brea Chamber of Commerce; 2002.



Figure CR-2
Trails Plan

In a built-out urban environment like Brea, creating pedestrian/bike ways separated from the street is difficult. However, the rail right-of-way that extends more than four miles from Valencia Avenue west to the western City accesses several activity centers (Figure CR-2). Throughout California and the nation, communities have acquired such rights-of-way to create multi-purpose trails, and Brea aims to accomplish the same. Issues that will need particular consideration in establishing the trail include user safety, interface with adjacent residential neighborhoods, easy and safe access, maintenance, and connectivity to other trails and walkways.



Trail opportunities await along the rail right-of-way.

On the street system, Brea will provide improvements to encourage walking and biking, particularly between residential neighborhoods and schools and parks, as well as to commercial centers. Improvements will take the form of landscaped buffers between the road and sidewalk, and/or dedicated trails where adequate right-of-way exists. Sidewalks should be wide and spacious, with decorative accent paving materials located at major intersections and pedestrian crosswalks along the route. Intersections will be designed to allow easy crossings and to alert motorists to pedestrians. Key roadways to receive such treatment include:

- Lambert Road
- Brea Boulevard south of Lambert Road
- Birch Street east and west of SR-57
- Valencia Avenue
- Elm Street between Arovista Park and Craig Regional Park
- Kraemer Boulevard
- Berry Street
- Puente Street

Special design studies of Birch Street will be conducted to determine an appropriate mixed-use path that links Downtown to the Civic and Cultural Center and Brea Mall, and neighborhoods east of SR-57 to the new sports park and middle school.

Flood control rights-of-way represent additional areas where trails can be established, where it is safe to do so. The Trails Master Plan (Figure CR-2) incorporates channels.



Trees and other landscaping provide a pleasant atmosphere for the pedestrian.

Bikeways

Bikeways form an important component of Brea’s recreation and circulation system. The Circulation section of the Community Development Chapter addresses bicycle paths.

Goals and Policies

All types of trails will work together to allow easy transition from urban trails to wilderness trails and back again. New developments will require incorporation into the trail system and removal of potential barriers to the trail network.

Goal CR-6	Provide an extensive trail system that links all areas of Brea.
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Policy CR-6.1 Create linkages to trails within Carbon Canyon and Chino Hills State Park existing and proposed trail system.

Policy CR-6.2 Coordinate trails placement with landowners and conservation biologists knowledgeable of the area.

Policy CR-6.3 Provide a useful, enjoyable, safe, and efficient trail system for equestrians and hikers, with the following objectives and standards:

- Provide multi-purpose trails, where possible, to serve hikers, bicyclers, and horseback riders
- Link trails with adjacent City, County, and State trail systems
- Maintain trail areas in good condition, and free of litter and debris
- Design trails to be flexible and site-specific to minimize the impact on adjacent property and fragile habitats
- Provide a trail system with both short and long hikes/rides and serve the needs of both beginning and advanced hikers/riders
- Utilize citizen volunteers to assist in the development, maintenance and operation of trails and facilities
- Keep citizens aware of the trail system through publication of a trails map which also notes safety and courtesy tips
- Separate trails from automobile traffic when possible in order to provide safe conditions for riders and walkers
- Provide appropriate signs to mark all trails
- Design trails entrances to prevent unwanted trail usage by motorized vehicles
- Locate trails to provide linkages between open space and the City greenway system

Policy CR-6.4 Work to incorporate recreational amenities such as trail systems, bike paths, and jogging paths with existing drainage ways, open-space corridors, and utility rights-of-way so that natural resources are retained as assets in the community's recreational system and natural environment.

Policy CR-6.5 Coordinate efforts with other public agencies regarding State and federal programs for existing and potential trail systems, recreational facilities, and recreation programs.

Policy CR-6.6 Develop the trail system illustrated in Figure CR-2.

Policy CR-6.7 Require new developments to provide access and linkage to the citywide trail system.

Goal CR-7 Encourage an urban and walkway trail system within the urban areas of the City.

Policy CR-7.1 Encourage the development of landscaping, walkways, and bike trails that provide direct pedestrian access between work places and residential neighborhoods.

Policy CR-7.2 Provide shielded safety lighting along trails and other public and private walkways separated from a street.

Policy CR-7.3 Acquire abandoned rail rights-of-way to create a continuous multi-purpose trail through Brea. Encourage the creation of small parks, rest rooms, and recreational facilities such as picnic tables and basketball courts along the trail system.

**Implementation
Guide**



See Section VII in the Implementation Guide.

WILDLIFE HABITAT

Preserving and protecting wildlife habitat equates to the preservation and protection of wildlife species. The great diversity of vegetation types and habitat located in the hillsides of Brea support a wide variety of animal populations. Natural habitat such as riparian areas provides food, cover, and shelter for birds, mammals, reptiles and insects. Wildlife corridors provide areas of undisturbed open space that allow regional wildlife migration between natural habitats, promoting proliferation of indigenous species.

Why is it important to preserve wildlife and promote biodiversity? Biological systems have interrelated dependencies, and they require options and opportunities to survive. If we protect habitat, we increase the probability that important and critical species will survive and flourish. Wildlife and the habitat they live in enhance our own life experiences. Creating the balance between habitat preservation and meeting people's needs for housing, jobs, and resources represents a key planning challenge.

Context

The Puente and Chino Hills above Brea are just part of a much larger natural area that extends to the Santa Ana Mountains and Cleveland National Forest to the west. The Cleveland National Forest contains an enormous amount of natural open space and habitat for animals, stretching from San Bernardino County to San Diego County. Incremental transformation of wilderness to urban uses, including areas of Brea, has significantly reduced and will continue to reduce habitat for wildlife species and sever connections to larger habitat resources.

Wildlife Species

Among the diverse wildlife species within the Brea planning area are sensitive species, some of which have protected status under the federal Endangered Species Act and various California statutes. "Sensitive" means any wildlife species native to California that is vulnerable or declining and is likely to become endangered or threatened in a significant portion of its range within the State without cooperative management or removal of threats.

Some of the larger mammals known to inhabit the hills, and sometimes visit urban areas on the hillside fringes, include mountain lions, deer, and coyotes. Large birds and raptors such as hawks, owls, falcons, eagles, and vultures have been observed

Imagine Brea

foraging and nesting. Smaller birds sighted include wrens, gnatcatchers, quails, babblers, starlings, crows, ravens, woodpeckers, flycatchers, and hummingbirds. Sensitive species confirmed include mountain lions, Cooper's hawk, golden eagle, coastal cactus wren, California gnatcatcher, least Bell's vireo, coastal western whiptail lizard, northern red diamond rattlesnake, black-bellied salamander, Monterey salamander, and the southwestern pond turtle.¹



Coyotes can be found wandering Brea hills, especially along the canyons in Chino Hills State Park.

More than 200 species of birds and mammals, numerous reptiles and amphibians, and thousands of types of insects and other invertebrates live within Chino Hills State Park. Because of its great variety of habitats and microclimates, the park is an ideal location for observing many wildlife species native to Southern California. Coyotes, deer, bobcats and other mammals are often seen in the woodlands, scrub, and grasslands. The local diversity of native plants and animals found here in the Southern California basin is greater than in any other area of comparable size in the United States.

¹ California State Parks. *Chino Hills State Park General Plan*. February 1999; Brea Highlands Specific Plan EIR. City of Brea. November 2000.

Wildlife Corridors

Wildlife corridors are links connecting large patches of habitat that have become separated by the process of urbanization or otherwise made unavailable for use by native wildlife. They allow for the free movement of wildlife between disjunct habitats and thereby provide access to mates, food, and water; diminish competition for resources by facilitating the dispersal of dense populations; and serve as escape routes from fire, predators, humans, and urbanization.

Wildlife corridors are considered an important declining resource in California because ongoing urbanization has separated remaining natural open space, interrupting wildlife movement and isolating populations. The primary threats to wildlife connectivity in the Southern California region include urbanization, roads, invasive species, and agriculture.² Scientific studies have shown that the isolation of habitat can lead to ecosystem collapse. Small, isolated areas of habitat simply cannot support as many species in a larger area.

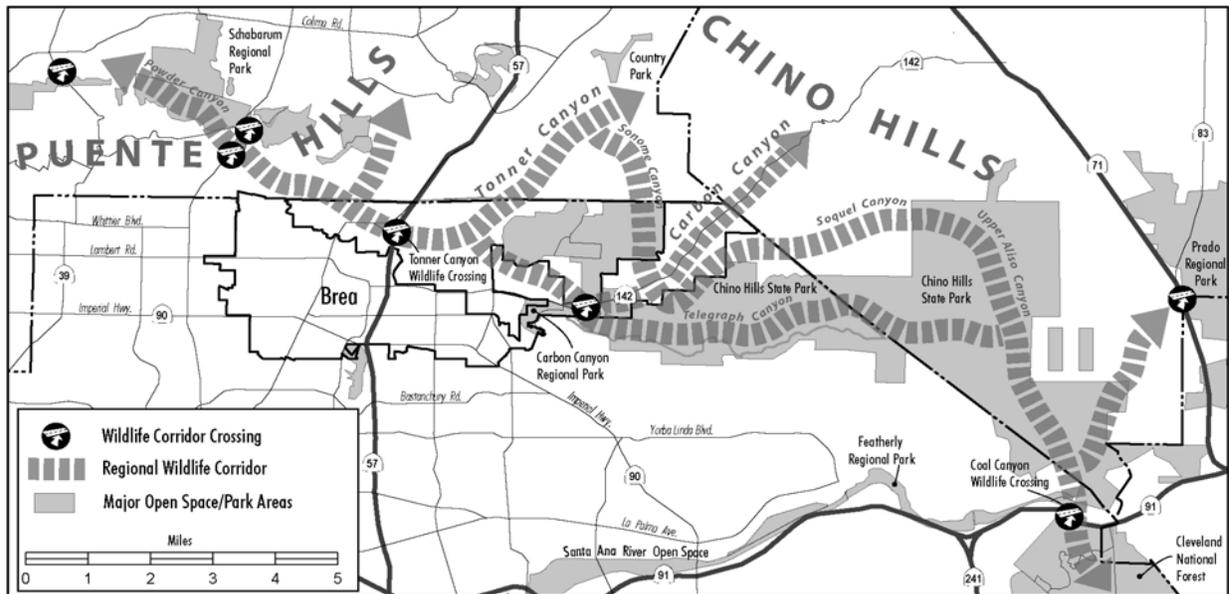
The Puente and Chino Hills have become increasingly isolated by the conversion of the surrounding natural landscape to urban uses. The Puente and Chino Hills and Santa Ana Mountains together encompass about 511,000 acres of wildlands. This area supports important biological resources, including several rare and endemic communities. Large blocks of habitat ridgelines along the Puente and Chino Hills allow wildlife to move throughout the hills and into the large open spaces of Chino Hills State Park and the Cleveland National Forest.

Chino Hills State Park and the Puente and Whittier Hills are linked via the Tonner Canyon and Sonome Canyon wildlife corridors, as illustrated in Figure CR-3. Tonner Canyon is considered a major wildlife movement corridor, providing year-round water and shelter for small and large mammals. The Tonner Canyon wildlife crossing at the intersection of SR-57 and Tonner Canyon Road provides wildlife access beneath the freeway. However, the Sonome Canyon wildlife corridor is bisected by Carbon Canyon Road, where several culverts pass under the road. These culverts are considered inadequate for larger mammals such as deer and mountain lions because of their size. Animals must cross Carbon Canyon Road at grade and avoid automobiles in order to leave Chino Hills State Park through the corridor.³

² California Wilderness Coalition. *Missing Linkages: Restoring Connectivity to the California Landscape*. November 2000.

³ California State Parks. *Chino Hills State Park General Plan*. February 1999.

Figure CR-3 Regional Wildlife Corridors



Source: *Parklands and Wildlife Corridors Map* - Santa Monica Conservancy, Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority, Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority, and Dreamline Cartography; March 1999.

Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority (WCCA)

The Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority (WCCA) is a local joint powers authority represented by city and State agencies. The mission of WCCA is to provide for the proper planning, conservation, environmental protection, and maintenance of the habitat and wildlife corridor between the Puente Hills in the west and the Chino Hills in the east, which connects to the Cleveland National Forest, and the east-west connections between Chino Hills State Park and the Prado Basin.

Plant Communities and Habitat

The following paragraphs describe major plant communities within the planning area. Each plant community contains unique features and supports a variety of wildlife species.

Chaparral Habitat

Chaparral consists of evergreen, medium-height to tall shrubs which commonly cover hills and slopes of Southern California. This community is highly adapted to drought and fire conditions. Shrub canopy cover is generally continuous. California sagebrush and California buckwheat occur within the understory of larger shrubs. The chaparral community is ecologically fitted to a cycle of fire destruction. Periodic fires help preserve the mixes of plant species and reduce the danger of a more catastrophic fire.

Chaparral provides food and cover for reptiles, birds, rodents, coyote, and deer.

Grassland Habitat

Grasslands consist of low herbaceous vegetation dominated by grasses. They thrive in deep, well developed soils on gentle slopes and flats, mostly at low elevations. Three types of grassland are found in the area: native grasslands, non-native annual grasslands, and ruderal grasslands. The grasslands are green during the rainy season and spring, but with the advent of summer dry into a golden mantle. The grasslands must be managed to prevent fire hazards and the intrusion of weed species, chaparral, and invasive plants such as star thistle. Grasslands provide forage for cattle and other grazing animals, and habitat for small reptile, rodents, deer, coyote, songbirds, and birds of prey.

Riparian Habitat

A riparian community is a combination of plant species that thrive along intermittent and perennial waterways. These waterways can be found at the bottom of the many canyons found in the hillsides, including Brea, Carbon, Tonner, Sonome, Soquel, and Telegraph Canyons. Creeks and streams and the associated riparian vegetation provide wildlife habitat, stormwater drainage, visual backdrops, and recreation corridors. Riparian habitats are considered among the most valuable habitats for wildlife because of the presence of water, lush vegetation, and high insect populations. Riparian habitat provides cover and food for numerous animals and nesting birds. Many nesting birds are migratory species that come to the streamside habitats from Central and South America each spring to raise their young.

Sage Scrub Habitat

Sage scrub can be defined as low-drought-deciduous and evergreen shrubs that occur on steep to moderate slopes mostly below 3,000 feet in elevation. It is considered a sensitive habitat due to its potential to support threatened and endangered species. Common animal species include deer, rabbit, bobcat, and coyote, as they utilize the scrub habitat as part of a larger home range.



California Sage brush (Artemisia californica), is a low ashy-gray shrub found throughout Brea's planning area.

Woodland Habitat

Woodland is a plant community with a diverse mix of tree species forming a dense overstory of vegetation. Woodlands in Brea are primarily located on the north and east facing slopes of the canyons. Common trees in the woodland community include coastal and interior live oaks, balk oak, valley oak, California bay laurel, buck eye, and madrone. Insect- or seed-eating birds and mammals are common in the woodlands and are preyed upon by raptors and owls that also inhabit these areas. The larger mammals utilize these areas as well, including deer, coyote, and foxes.

Diversity is perhaps the most important feature of the vegetation found within Chino Hills State Park and surrounding hillsides. Within creek and riparian areas, cattail stands provide habitat for a variety of wildlife. Along seasonal and year-round creeks, the willow and sycamore woodlands have understories of wild rose, stinging nettle, and mule fat. Southern California black walnut trees, sycamores, and coast live oaks form woodlands above the creeks, often on north facing slopes. These walnut woodlands are another important and rare plant community preserved in Chino Hills State Park and undisturbed hillside areas. Only a few thousand acres of this California habitat still exist, with about one thousand acres in preserves. Several hundred acres are protected at Chino Hills State Park.



Mugwort (Artemisia) can be found on hillside along Carbon Canyon Regional Park.

The Tecate cypress is another special type of plant community found only in a few places in the United States. Several different scrub and chaparral communities along the hills and slopes above the canyon floors include coastal sage scrub, California sagebrush, California buckwheat, and purple sage, as well as a mixed chaparral community dominated by laurel sumac and toyon. Many California wildlife species depend on these scrub and chaparral communities for survival. Because these communities are disappearing as urban development continues, they form an increasingly important part of the biological resources protected in the park.

Most of the grassland in the park is non-native annual European grasses that were introduced here during the early ranching years. However, grassland species native to California, such as purple needle grass and giant rye can be found among the annuals. An active grassland restoration program in the park is restoring native grassland to its more natural and dominant state.

Goals and Policies

Brea has resolved to protect wildlife habitat by preserving wildlife corridors and the vegetation communities that make up the habitat areas. While many thousand acres receive protection due to their location within Chino Hills State Park, the difficulty lies in maintaining linkages to valuable habitat on private

property. Without financial resources to purchase the properties worthy of permanent open space status, the City must look to creative approaches. Land use policy set forth in the Community Development Chapter provides incentives to land owners to avoid sensitive areas whenever development is proposed. The City fully supports efforts of conservation agencies and organizations to purchase properties for preservation.

Wildlife Corridors

Preserving wildlife corridors allow animals to move freely between large open space areas from protection of predators, urbanization, and wildland fires, and to further promote their individual species. When future improvements to roads are undertaken, including capacity increases planned for the regional transportation system, the construction or enhancement of suitable wildlife crossings, such as bridges or culverts, will be required to maintain corridor function and biological viability.

Goal CR-8	Preserve and maintain wildlife and animal movement corridors
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Policy CR-8.1 Preserve key wildlife migration corridors and habitat areas.

Policy CR-8.2 Provide adequate wildlife crossings where roadways have severed habitat areas.

Policy CR-8.3 Cooperate with regional agencies and authorities with similar goals in protecting and enhancing wildlife and animal movement corridors.

Policy CR-8.4 Regular monitoring of medium and large mammals is necessary to gauge the effectiveness of wildlife corridors and to identify or increases in wildlife populations.

Goal CR-9	Preserve and maintain open space, natural habitat, and vegetation communities that support wildlife species and animals.
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Policy CR-9.1 Support regional and sub-regional efforts to acquire, develop, operate, and maintain an open space system extending from the Puente Hills to the Chino Hills.

Policy CR-9.2 Preserve the integrity of blue line streams and riparian habitat areas.

Policy CR-9.3 Preserve and restore the habitat value of creek corridors through the preservation of native plants and the replacement of invasive, non-native plants with native plants.

Policy CR-9.4 Protect sensitive plant species resources from the impacts of development

Policy CR-9.5 Manage areas of diverse wildlife habitat as a natural resource and prevent major destruction or disruption.

Policy CR-9.6 Use specific management programs using sound ecological principles and professionally accepted methods are necessary to protect and restore sensitive animal populations and their habitats.

**Implementation
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See Section VIII in the Implementation Guide.

SCENIC RESOURCES

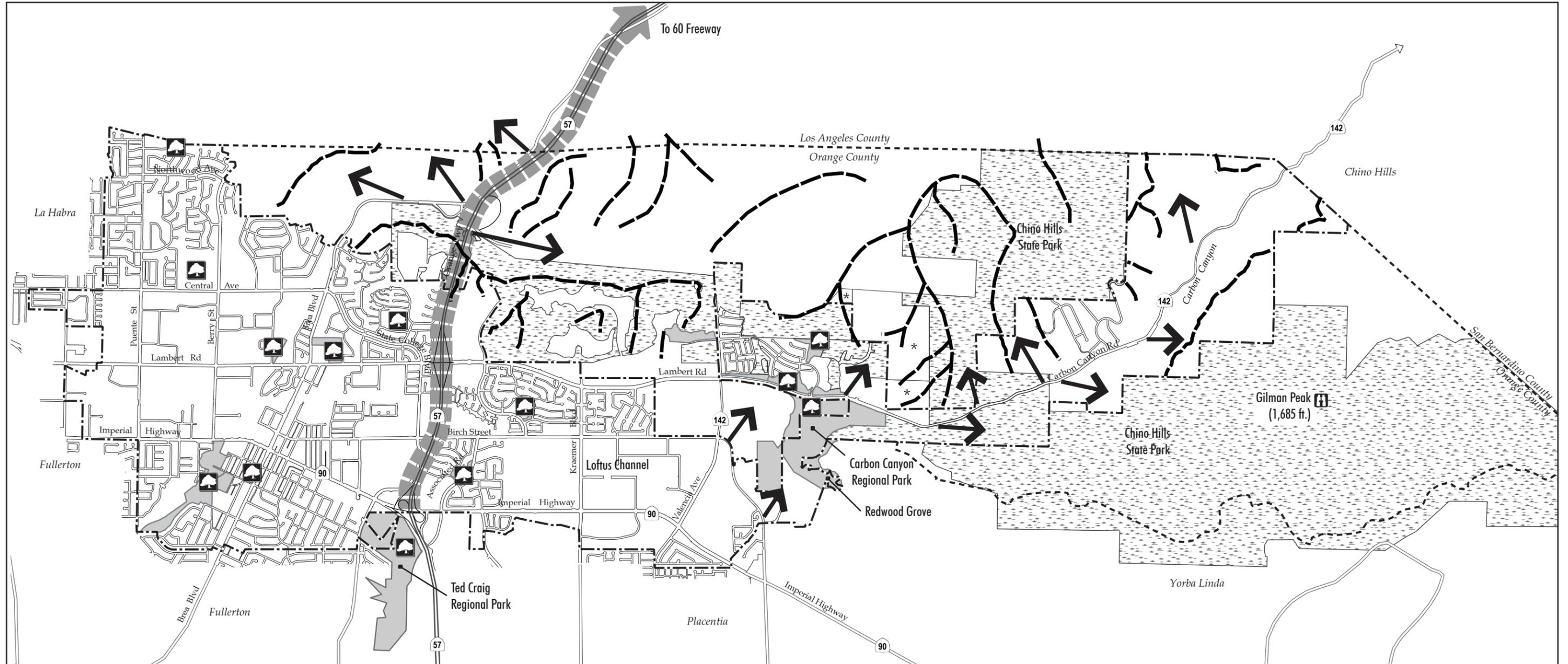
Scenic resources enhance the visual character of the community and provide distinguishing characteristics, an invaluable asset that benefits a community. The scenic qualities of the Puente and Chino Hills include prominent ridgelines, scenic corridors and canyons, view corridors and vista points, roadways through undisturbed habitat, highways, and natural landscaping (Figure CR-4). The drive through Brea Canyon reminds a motorist of the region's ranching and oil producing heritage and provides an easy transition into the urban environment.

Context

Hillsides and Ridgelines

The hillsides above Brea offer several scenic benefits to the community. They are used as landmarks and offer a sense of direction or orientation to people moving about. Hillsides create edges that may define an area or watershed. They beckon people to a sanctuary from the urban environment.

Brea's future that preserves the hillsides to the maximum extent possible. As discussed above, this means balancing the desire with recognition of private property rights. A key concept of this General Plan is to define permitted land use intensities within remaining open hillside areas in a manner consistent with the vision. Land use development intensities and corresponding performance standards in the Community Development Chapter, implemented largely through the Hillside Management Ordinance, aim at maximizing the amount of hillside area left in its natural state. Strategies include limiting densities and grading, prohibiting development on identified significant ridgelines, and encouraging clustered development on flatter portions of development sites.



Source: City of Brea; Cotton/Bridges/Associates, 2002. □

Legend

- City Boundary
- - - Sphere of Influence

Scenic Resources

- Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Dedicated Open Space
- Prominent Ridgelines
- View Corridors
- Scenic Viewpoint



SR-57 Freeway: Between Imperial Highway and SR-60 freeway, eligible for California State Scenic Highway status

Note:

* Parcels identified with an asterisk have the potential to become mitigation bank properties. This does not preclude any other parcel within the planning area from being designated for or used as mitigation bank properties.

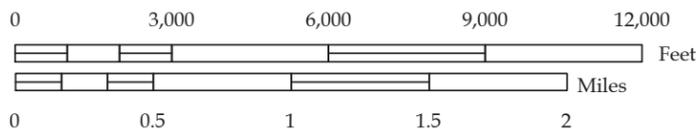
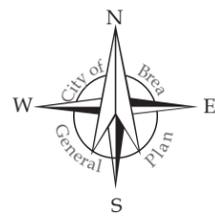


Figure CR-4
Scenic Resources



Hillsides in Chino Hills State Park provides breathtaking views of Orange County and surrounding hillsides.

Vistas Vista points can be found throughout Brea both from urban areas toward the hills and from wilderness areas looking back onto Brea. The landscape in Chino Hills State Park has been relatively unaltered by the works of man, especially compared to the surrounding environment. Long distance views of natural terrain and vegetation can be found throughout the park. The Chino Hills State Park Master Plan emphasizes acquiring ridgelines and ridgetops to protect viewsheds within the park.⁴ Pristine views of the hills from Telegraph Canyon and from selected panoramic points have been mostly protected from urban encroachments. A viewpoint of particular interest is Gilman Peak (1,685-foot elevation) located in the park. Main trails take hikers and cyclists to points with breathtaking views of Orange County and the surrounding hills.

The ridgelines from Sonome Canyon, Soquel Canyon, and Lions Canyon provide scenic view points of natural rolling hills with southern California black walnut and coast live oak trees found on the north-facing slopes. Seasonal color transformations of vegetation throughout the year change from green during spring to golden brown during the summer.

⁴Chino Hills State Park General Plan, State Park Recreation Commission, 1999,

Imagine Brea

Scenic Highways

Both Brea Canyon Road and Carbon Canyon Road traverse through windy canyons and into areas with little or no development. These roads offer views of the natural landscape. Carbon Canyon Road is a two-lane State highway that is not eligible for designation as a State Scenic Highway. Nonetheless, the highway provides motorists with spectacular views of natural landscapes with vegetated valleys, riparian corridors, and steep topographical features.



Oak trees along Carbon Canyon Road.

Photo credit: Hills for Everyone 2002

Brea Canyon Road leads the motorist on an historic drive into the City of Brea. This road follows the contours of Brea Canyon, giving drivers glimpses of natural features and abandoned and active oil wells. Large oil production and drilling towers point into the sky, creating a rustic image of oil industry that was the cornerstone of the community's founding. On the side of the roadway stands a marker identifying the historic expedition and campsite by Captain Gaspar de Portolá with 64 other men during their exploring trek from San Diego to Monterey in 1769⁵.

⁵ Gary S. Breschini, Ph.D., *The Portolá Expedition of 1769*. Monterey County Historical Society

The SR-57 freeway between SR-60 and Imperial Highway is eligible as a California State Scenic Highway. Properties flanking the freeway lie within unincorporated Los Angeles and Orange counties. Designating the freeway as an Official Scenic Highway will require a cooperative effort among many agencies to maintain the scenic qualities by minimizing or avoiding hillside development, and working through the California Department of Transportation to assign the designation.

Urban Forest

While trees add considerably to the aesthetics of Brea, “urban forests” also promote a good community environment and biological benefits. They contribute to clean air, provide cooling shade, support wildlife, and provide protection from high winds. The urban forest is comprised of the street tree system, trees on park and other public lands, and trees on private properties and in yards through out the City. The urban forest is distinct within the established areas of the City where trees have fully matured. The City is committed to preserving its existing trees, replacing trees that are damaged or dying, and expanding urban forests in newer areas of Brea.



London Plane (Platanus x acerifolia) trees planted along the meandering sidewalk on Lambert Road provide relief from the sun on afternoon walks.

Goals and Policies

Protecting Brea’s scenic resources will be carried out through the following goals and policies. Once a scenic resource, such as an oak tree grove, stream course, or a ridgeline is torn down and developed, it is lost forever. It is important to pursue options to protect and preserve scenic resources.

Goal CR-10	Pursue aggressively the preservation and protection of scenic resources.
Policy CR-10.1	Create and enforce special standards for development occurring within potential scenic highway corridors.
Policy CR-10.2	Identify streets with unique man-made or natural characteristics for special consideration as scenic routes.
Policy CR-10.3	Manage stands of mature trees, particularly native species, as unique and visual resources.
Policy CR-10.4	Preserve major rock outcroppings as unique landmarks and visual resources to the maximum extent possible.
Policy CR-10.5	Preserve stream courses in their natural state, as they represent a recreation resource, provide community identity, and serve as unifying corridors in the planning area.
Policy CR-10.6	Work aggressively with Orange County, Los Angeles County, State, and other appropriate public agencies, private entities and landowners to conserve, protect and enhance natural resources, particularly within the sphere of influence.

**Implementation
Guide** 

See Section IX in the Implementation Guide.

WATER CONSERVATION AND QUALITY

Water resources sustain life in both the urban and natural environments. In the communities where we live, an adequate water supply and good water quality are taken for granted. In the natural environment, water resources promote healthy ecosystems, recharge groundwater basins, and create scenic corridors. Water conservation policies and programs ensure that a healthful, reliable supply of water remains available for future residents and prevents deterioration of natural areas.

Context

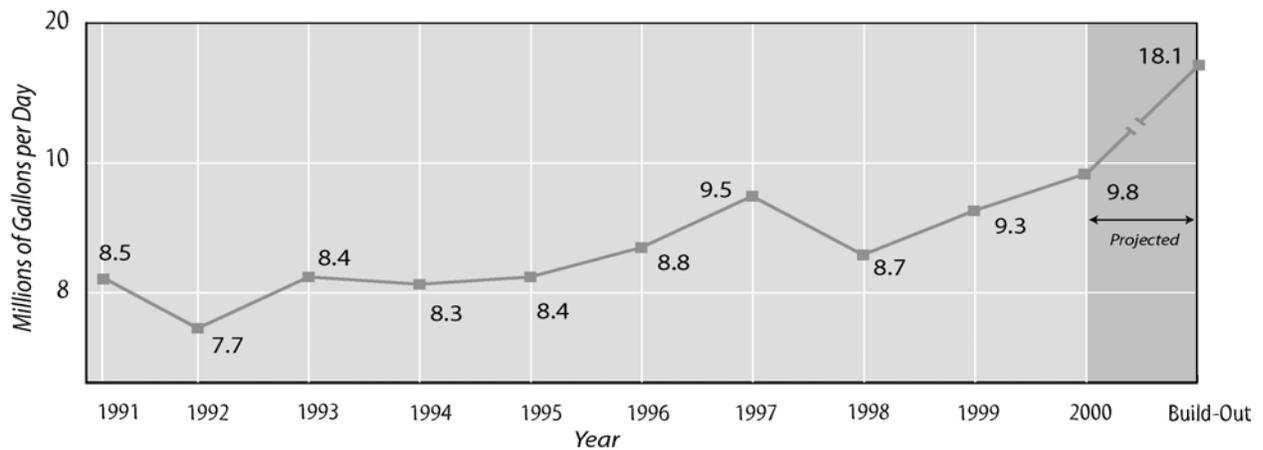
In Brea, two water agencies supply the majority of drinking water: the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and the California Domestic Water Company (CDWC) in Whittier. MWD supplies derive from surface water in the Colorado River and the California Water Project, which draws water from the San Francisco-San Joaquin Bay Delta. CDWC pumps water from wells in the San Gabriel Valley. These two water sources are blended to provide the water directly to households and businesses. Brea purchases an average of 11,000 acre-feet per year, with approximately 66 percent of the supply coming from MWD and 34 percent from CDWC.

The La Habra Groundwater Basin, located directly beneath the City, has poor water quality that would require extensive treatment and blending with higher quality water to meet the State's public health standards.

An abundance of perennial and intermittent streams course through the canyons in the hillsides and Chino Hills State Park. Carbon, Tonner, and Brea Canyons contain three primary trunk streams that drain the Puente Hills and eventually flow into the San Gabriel and Santa Ana Rivers. Carbon and Telegraph Canyon Creeks are the headwaters above Carbon Canyon Dam. Brea Canyon and Tonner Creeks drain into the Brea Dam reservoir located in Fullerton. Three watersheds lie within the planning area: Lower Santa Ana River, Carbon Creek, and San Gabriel River/Coyote Creek.

Conservation Water should be regarded as a limited natural resource, and water conservation represents the most cost-effective and environmentally sound way to reduce current and future demand for this resource. Economic and financial incentives can be used to encourage conservation and prudent use of water, although sometimes legislative mandates are required. In response to State law aimed at reducing water use for landscaping, in 1993 the Brea City Council adopted Ordinance No. 932. Simple procedures such as checking for leaks, changing to water-saving appliances, using recycled wastewater, and other measures can encourage efficient use and lead successfully to water conservation. Past water use and projected water demand for Brea is presented in Figure CR-5.

Figure CR-5. Water Consumption and Projected Demand in Brea



Source: City of Brea Water Master Plan Update (Draft), July 2002

Water Quality and Pollutants

The City vigilantly safeguards its water supply, and the water delivered to residents and commercial users meets the standards required by the State and federal regulatory agencies. In fact, in many instances, the City goes beyond what is required to monitor for additional contaminants that have known health risks.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Department of Health Services (DHS) are the agencies responsible for establishing drinking water quality standards. To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and DHS prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

For many pollutants, the primary contributor to water pollution is urban runoff. Runoff from streets, parking lots, commercial businesses, and private yards may contain oil, grease, pesticides and herbicides, heavy metals, paints and household chemicals, construction materials, sediment, and eroded soil. Ultimately,

these materials end up in creeks and storm drains that lead directly into the ocean, where they have caused substantial water quality degradation over the past century.

Urban pollutants degrade water quality and impact wildlife and plants dependent on aquatic habitat. The City is a co-permittee with the County of Orange in the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program, which is designed to reduce pollutants in runoff. According to the NPDES permit, all new development projects and substantial rehabilitation projects will be required to incorporate Best Management Practices (BMPs) as identified in the County Drainage Area Master Plan (DAMP).

The Infrastructure Section of the Community Development Chapter discusses in detail storm drain capacity and urban runoff.

Goals and Policies

As Brea grows, demand for water will increase. The following goals and policies focus on maximizing water conservation, and on promoting high water quality both in domestic supplies and surface waters that flow into the regional facilities. The City supports safe and practical applications of reclaimed water for landscaping to reduce the demand on water supplies.

Goal CR-11	Conserve and protect water resources through water conservation standards, sustainable development practices, and water quality standards.
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Policy CR-11.1 Develop water conservation plans, standards, and/or guidelines for all new construction projects to address such issues as water-conserving plumbing fixtures, on-site storm water retention, drought-tolerant landscaping, and gray water use.

Policy CR-11.2 Establish standards for the use of reclaimed water for landscaping.

Policy CR-11.3 Base water use fees and charges on a system that rewards conservation and discourages consumption beyond standard levels.

Policy CR-11.4 Promote techniques and methods for water conservation throughout the community.

Policy CR-11.5 Utilize design techniques that conserve natural resources and preserve natural terrain, drainage, and vegetation.

Policy CR-11.6 Cooperate with regional agencies, such as the Regional Water Quality Control Board, in their efforts to improve surface and groundwater water quality for all Southern Californians.

Goal CR-12 Protect the beneficial uses of ground and surface waters.

Policy CR-12.1 To the maximum extent practicable, adopt and enforce regulations and engage in educational efforts to eliminate pollution from urban runoff.

Policy CR-12.2 Evaluate development projects for compliance with NPDES requirements, aiming toward reducing pollutant loads in stormwater runoff, minimizing impervious surface areas, and minimizing peak flows.

**Implementation
Guide** 

See Section X in the Implementation Guide.

AIR QUALITY

Every day, each of us breathes about 3,400 gallons of air. Yet our air is contaminated on a daily basis by our activities: driving cars, burning fossil fuels, and manufacturing chemicals. Although air quality has improved since the 1960s despite substantial economic expansion and population growth, further improvements are needed. Air quality is a regional issue that does not respect jurisdictional boundaries. Every city throughout the region must accept a portion of the responsibility for addressing air quality problems.



*Clear skies
over Brea.*

Context

Brea lies within the South Coast Air Basin, a geographic area that extends from the Pacific Ocean north to the San Gabriel Mountains and east to the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains. The Basin is a non-attainment area for federal and State air quality standards for ozone and State standards for particulate matter less than ten microns in diameter (PM₁₀). The South Coast Air Quality Management District regulates air quality improvement programs within the Basin and works to improve regional air quality to achieve federal and State standards.

Motor vehicles represent the major source of regional emissions throughout the Basin and within Brea. Land use patterns which poorly disperse housing densities, employment centers, and mass transit facilities lead to excessive automobile usage. Most pollution control strategies have aimed at reducing vehicle usage and using cleaner-burning fuels. Other sources of air pollution include auto repair businesses, dry cleaners, and businesses that regularly use chemicals solvents. Common sources of PM₁₀ include road dust, construction activity, grading, and wood-burning stoves and fireplaces. Brea has continued to work with the South Coast Air Quality Management District and in accordance with the Air Quality Management Plan to improve the regional transportation system and regional air quality.

Energy conservation is strategy for improving air quality. Air pollutants are generated by the combustion of fossil fuels to produce electricity, and by the combustion of natural gas. Reducing energy usage decreases the amount of pollutants generated. Energy requirement can be diminished through innovative architectural design, building construction, structural orientation, and landscaping.

Goals and Policies

Cooperation among all agencies in the Basin is necessary to achieve desired improvements to air quality. Brea can participate and contribute its share to those efforts by proper planning and participation in regional air quality management programs.

Goal CR-13	Improve air quality.
Policy CR-13.1	Implement City-wide traffic flow improvements.
Policy CR-13.2	Promote energy conservation and recycling by public and private sectors.
Policy CR-13.3	Integrate air quality planning with land use, economic development, and transportation planning.
Policy CR-13.4	Encourage the expansion and retention of local-serving retail businesses (e.g., restaurants, family medical offices, drug stores) to reduce the number and length of automobile trips to comparable services located in other jurisdictions.

- Policy CR-13.5 Encourage alternative modes of transportation, such as walking, biking, and public transportation to reduce emissions associated with automobile use.
- Policy CR-13.6 Cooperate with the South Coast Air Quality Management District and Southern California Association of Governments in their efforts to implement the regional Air Quality Management Plan.
- Policy CR-13.7 Work with other responsible federal, State, and County agencies to decrease air pollution emissions occurring within the air basin.
- Policy CR-13.8 Cooperate and participate in regional air quality management planning, programs, and enforcement measures.
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**Implementation
Guide**



See Section XI in the Implementation Guide.

HISTORIC RESOURCES

Identifying, recognizing, preserving, rehabilitating, maintaining, and treasuring the City's historic resources creates an awareness and appreciation for Brea's heritage. Our past tells us who we are, and buildings, structures, and places of the past reinforce for each new generation of Breans the importance of studying and valuing the community's cultural and physical foundations.

Context

Brea contains a rich history, celebrated through events that took place at original sites and structures that exist today. Brea's history includes a time period when sheep ranching, oil extraction, and citrus production each represented the economic underpinning of the Southern California region. The remaining homes, commercial buildings, parks, and oil production facilities are just some of the historic resources that help define and enhance the community's character. Public awareness of these historic resources has led to the development of programs to aid in their preservation and restoration. To protect Brea's heritage, the community will continue to identify and safeguard resources worthy of such treatment, and ensure that new development enhances rather than alters reminders of early Brea.

Early Brea History

The properties comprising Brea were once part of the large land holdings of the San Gabriel Mission that was established in 1771 by the Franciscan Padres. The mission land stretched along the coastal areas of California from San Diego to Monterey. Vast herds of Mexican cattle pastured on all the land in and surrounding Brea during the Mission and Rancho periods. In 1863, thousands of acres of Rancho lands, including Brea, were acquired by Abel Stearns, a Los Angeles businessman who later leased much of his land to sheep ranchers.

Beneath the hills in Brea lie what was once one of the world's richest deposits of oil. The Puente Hills and Brea Canyon supported substantial petroleum production during the late 1800s. By 1895, the Puente Hills Oil Company, started by William Lacy and W.R. Roland, had approximately 30 oil wells in the Puente Hills producing 700 barrels of oil a day. Union Oil Company was also lured by the riches of Brea and began purchasing land for oil production and leasing it out to other oil companies. The hillsides were covered with wooden oil derricks and oil production machinery.

The first real village in Brea was called Olinda, originally sited where Carbon Canyon Regional Park lies. Olinda, literally surrounded by hundreds of oil wells, was the workplace for many of the oil field workers. The village contained a church, barbershop, livery stable, boarding house, dance hall, pump house, Santa Fe Freight Depot, a school, and an oil storage tank.

In July 4, 1910, the Pacific Electric Railway connected Brea to La Habra, Whittier, and other Los Angeles communities. The official founding date for the town of Brea is January 19, 1911, with incorporation in 1917 with a population of 732. Many of the buildings of the original town were situated on Pomona Avenue (current day Brea Boulevard). As a booming oil town, the City's population began to grow rapidly. Development of new housing, businesses, and civic buildings began to shape current day Brea.



The Craig building, completed in 1921, housed many important functions upstairs on the second floor. Brea's post office and drugstore occupied the first floor. The building was located on the east side of Pomona Avenue (Brea Boulevard) just north of Birch Street.

Following the big oil boom, land in and around the City began transforming from sheep ranches to orange groves. The Bastanchury Ranch Company in La Habra, Fullerton, and Brea was said to have the largest citrus groves in the world, which included over 5,350 acres of orange groves during the 1920s. Union Oil Company also realized the potential of turning over underutilized properties to citrus production.

Post-World War II saw an increase in development. Many citrus groves were plowed under and the land subdivided for greater profits. Brea also saw major development in the manufacturing

and industrial businesses. With Union Oil Company still a major employer in the City, many oil-related companies moved to Brea. In 1972, the SR-57 freeway made agricultural lands and oil lands surrounding Brea accessible to even more growth. Five years later, the Brea Mall opened, providing economic growth for the City while supplying retail opportunities for Breans and the region.

Preservation Efforts

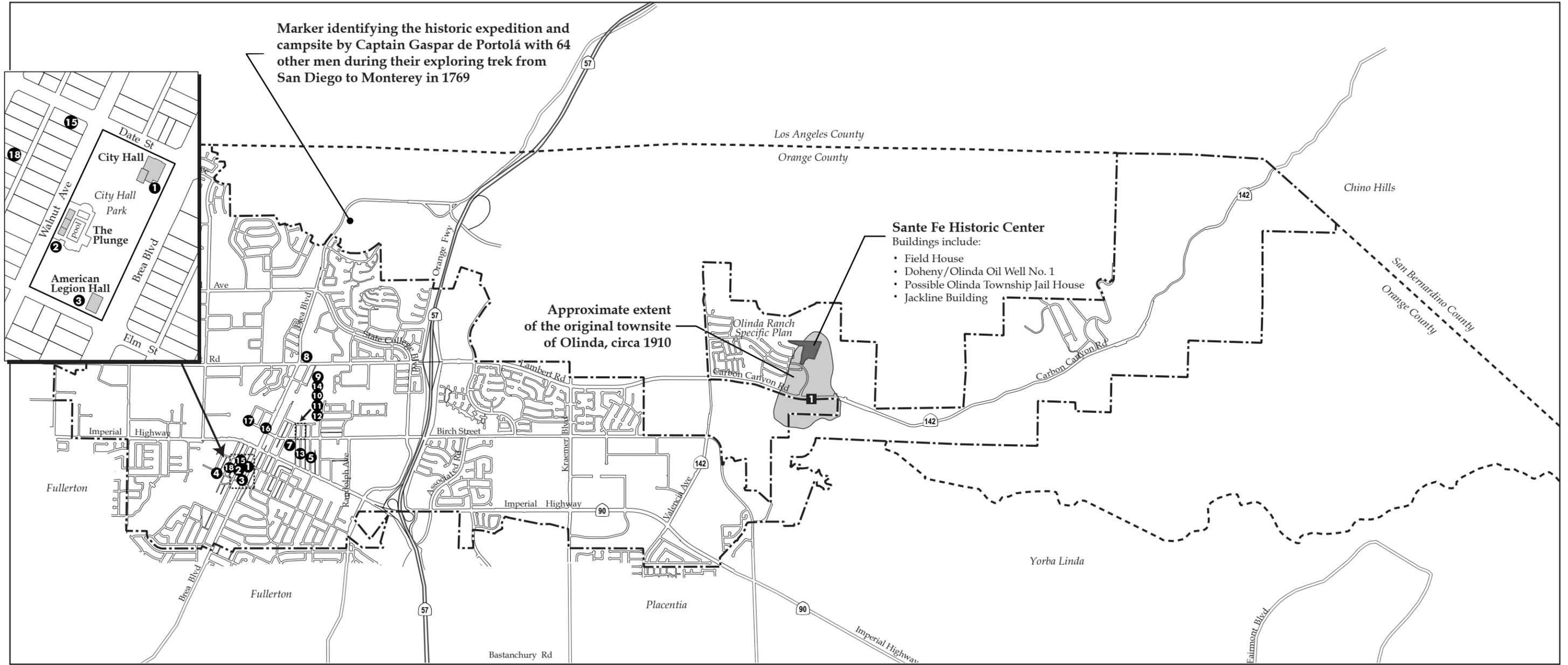
In 1989, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 89-125 establishing the Historical Committee. The Committee was subsequently eliminated in 1995 as it was only established as a temporary committee. The purpose of the Committee was to increase a level of awareness of Brea's historical resources by establishing goals and policies to guide preservation. A key tool adopted toward this end was the 1994 Historic Preservation Ordinance, designed to promote the historic, cultural, educational, economic, and general welfare through a number of specified objectives.

The Historic Preservation Ordinance establishes the Historic Resources Register and describes the procedures for designation and/or removal of individual historic resources. Identifying sites and structures with historical significance protects these resources from potential destruction and creates added awareness of historic resources that residents may not know exist. The Planning Commission is responsible for establishing and maintaining the Register, with input from the Historical Society. Structures and/or sites listed in the Register are eligible for a variety of preservation incentives provided by the City and various other State and local agencies. Figure CR-6 identifies key historic resources, and Table CR-2 identifies location, construction date, and a brief description for each.

Many homes within Brea's southwest residential neighborhoods date to the early twentieth century and display unique architectural qualities. A historic district represents one possible approach to preserving the integrity not just of individual structures but of blocks and neighborhoods.

Brea Historical Society

Founded in 1971, the Brea Historical Society collects and preserves the City's historical materials and resources. This organization meets regularly and provides ongoing display, including historic oil equipment outside of the old City Hall. The collections include a large inventory of historic black-and-white photographs of Brea and residents.



Source: Brea Historic Resources Register, 1994; National Register of Historic Places, 2001; and State of California Register of Historic Resources, 2001; Olinda Heights Specific Plan, 2000. □

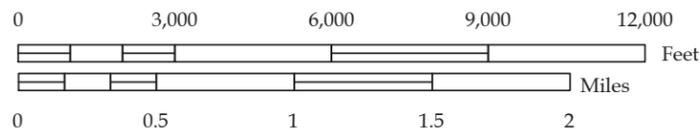
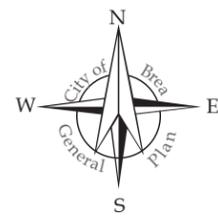


Figure CR-6
Historic Resources

**Table CR-2
City of Brea Historic Resources Register**

Historic Resource	Current Address	Construction Date	Description
1. Old City Hall	401 S. Brea Blvd.	1928	The structure was the location of Brea's first publicly owned municipal government facility for over 50 years.
2. Brea Plunge	440 S. Walnut Ave.	1929	Brea Plunge has undergone extensive renovation and remains in use today as the oldest continuously operating civic-owned freshwater swimming pool in Orange County.
3. Old American Legion Hall	495 S. Brea Blvd.	1930	During the Great Depression, the Legion could not make their mortgage payments, and the property was then taken over by the City. It became the Brea Police Station and Jail in the early 1970s. Brea Methodist Church started here, and it was used for an emergency ambulance service in the 1990s.
4. Pioneer Hall	330 W. Elm St.	1923	Pioneer Hall started as a Boy Scout clubhouse and later became a meeting hall for the Woman's Club, Junior Women's Club, and the Lion's Club. It still serves the community today as the site of many community activities.
5. Practice House	259 S. Laurel Ave.	1926	This building is unique in that it was possibly the only self-contained home economics lab in Orange County for the old Brea High School.
6. 1923 Seagrave Fire Truck	400 N. Kraemer Blvd. (Temporary)	1923	Today, the fire truck is believed to be one of the oldest fire trucks remaining in Orange County.
7. Laurel Elementary School	200 S. Flower Ave.	1922	Laurel School has been the focus of elementary education in Brea for over half a century and for many decades served as one of the community's first public schools.
8. Brea Junior High School	400 N. Brea Blvd.	1916	Brea Junior High School is a notable example of public architecture with its simplified Spanish Revival style.
9. Dr. Walter W. Davis House	101 S. Redwood ¹	1920	Dr. Davis constructed this structure as his home and office. He served the needs of the Brea community beginning sometime prior to 1914 and continuing into the late 1920s.
10. Edgar Jamison House	107 S. Redwood ¹	1911	The Craftsman construction symbolizes distinctive characteristics of this architectural style and homes of this period in history.
11. Roy H. Mitchell House	114 S. Redwood ¹	1914	The Craftsman construction symbolizes distinctive characteristics of this architectural style and homes of this period in history.
12. William Casner House	121 S. Redwood Blvd.	1915	The house was constructed for the Casner family circa 1915. William Casner was one of the early settlers who came to Brea in 1910. He was responsible for drilling the first oil well on the Amalgamaed Lease. As a member of the Brea Investment Company, he participated in the construction of many City's commercial structures.
13. Charles C. Kinsler House	258 South Redwood Ave.	1912	The original inhabitants of the house were Charles C. and Rena Kinsler when the house was first built in 1912. The house is a small one-story rectangular plan Craftsman Bungalow with a front-facing gable.

**Table CR-2
City of Brea Historic Resources Register**

Historic Resource	Current Address	Construction Date	Description
14. Howard Waggener House	126 South Redwood Ave.	1929	The house is a Provincial Revival residence and is identified with an early time period associated with Brea's local history.
15. Frank Woodard House	401 S. Walnut Ave.	1920	The home is identified as being a part of the Union Oil Company subdivision, which was created to provide housing from company employees. The house is a California Bungalow displaying architectural elements that are not present on other similar homes in the surrounding neighborhood.
16. The "Brea Welcomes You Sign"	101 W. Birch St. ¹	1935	The sign was originally hung over Brea Blvd during a dedication ceremony in 1934. Hanging the sign during the Depression was very symbolic because it showed to everyone in the town and to visitors that despite problems, Brea was doing okay.
17. Good Old Brea Clock	Madrona Ave. and Birch St. ¹	1920	The clock was placed on Brea Blvd in 1975 to advertise a clock shop in the old Brea Hotel building. It supposedly was acquired from an old train station in the Inland Empire, but its origins are uncertain. For years it was known as "Charlie's Clock" because Charlie owned the clock shop. When the clock shop closed, the City purchased the clock since it had become a city landmark.
18. Luther Cox House	258 S. Redwood Ave. ¹	1922	The original inhabitants of the house were Charles C. and Rena Kinsler when the house was first built in 1912. The house is a small one-story rectangular plan Craftsman Bungalow with a front-facing gable.

Source: City of Brea Historic Resources Register

Notes: 1. Structure is not located at the original site where it was constructed.

The Brea Historical Society and City Council recognize residents for renovating and restoring historic structures to reflect their time period with the Brea Historic Preservation Award. This award distinguishes residents' hard work and pride of ownership, which allows for greater historic preservation awareness and acknowledgment.

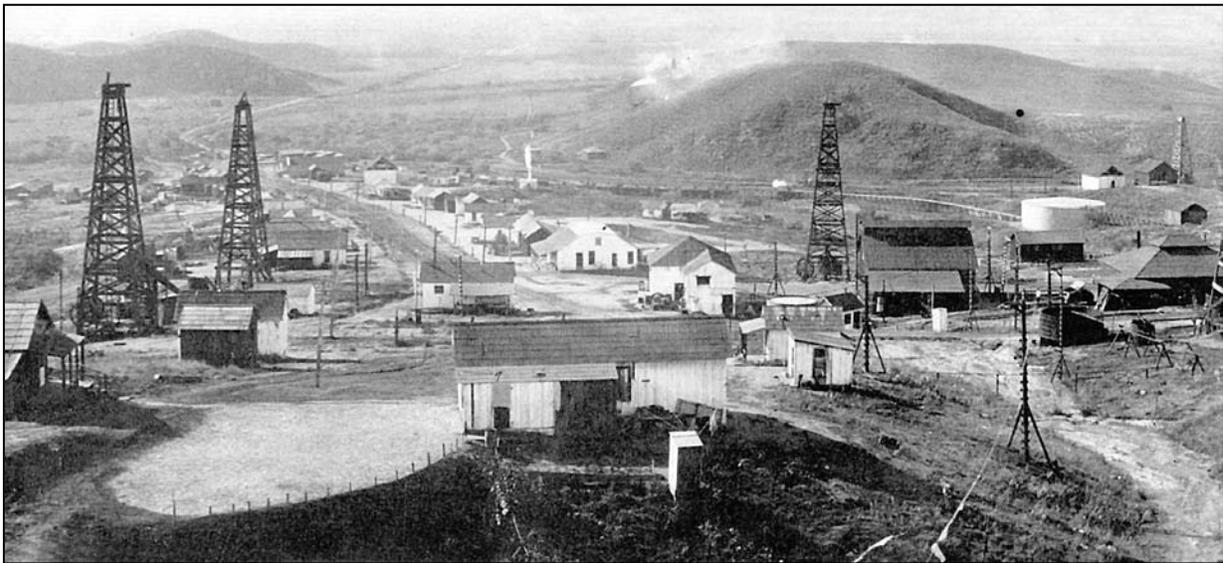
National and State Historic Programs

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 is a federal law that establishes the legal and administrative context to encourage preservation of historic resources. In California, the NHPA is administered by the State Historic Preservation office (SHPO). The NHPA establishes criteria for inclusion into the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The NRHP is an inventory of the United States' historic resources maintained by the National Park Service. The inventory includes buildings, structures, objects, sites, districts, and archeological resources. The listed properties are not necessarily significant nationally, rather most are significant primarily at the State or local level.

Brea City Hall Park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The park, City Hall, Plunge, and American Legion Building were grouped together under one identification number by the NRHP when it was listed on May 5, 1984.

Properties of historical importance in California are designated as significant resources in three State registration programs: State Historical Landmarks, Points of Historical Interest, and the California Register of Historical Resources. State Historical Landmarks are sites, buildings, features, or events that are of statewide significance and have anthropological, cultural, military, political, architectural, economic, scientific or technical, religious, experimental, or other value.

The original town site of Olinda (Figure CR-6) is listed as number 918 on the State Historical Landmarks, as well as the California Register of Historical Resources. Although many of the original buildings located in Olinda were removed because of flooding from Carbon Canyon headwaters, several existing structures are still present today. They are the Doheny/Olinda Oil Well No. 1, the Jackline Building, an oil production field office, and what could have been the Olinda Township Jail House. These structures were all saved from the original oil operations on the site in the 1890s.



The original town site of Olinda, circa 1910, was made up of small homes and businesses on various oil company properties. Olinda Road (Carbon Canyon Road) can be seen winding east (center) into Carbon Canyon. Today's Carbon Canyon Regional Park takes up most of the flat land on the right side of the picture.

Goals and Policies

Brea's historic resources have value worthy of protection and special treatment and focus. The following goals and policies aim to keep Brea's past alive.

Goal CR-14	Preserve historically significant landmarks and/or sites, individual structures, objects, and neighborhoods, and encourage appropriate rehabilitation.
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Policy CR-14.1 Ensure design compatibility of new development within close proximity to designated historic structures and neighborhoods.

Policy CR-14.2 Create historic districts for areas with a concentration of historically and architecturally significant structures.

Policy CR-14.3 Review all development and rehabilitation proposals affecting historic structures, landmarks, and objects in terms of site design and building design.

Policy CR-14.4 Explore funding resources/alternatives for rehabilitation and restoration of historic structures.

Policy CR-14.5 Encourage the recycling and re-use of existing historic structures through incentive programs.

Policy CR-14.6 Discourage the demolition of structures eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or the State Historic Landmarks, the County, and/or the local historic register.

Policy CR-14.7 Preserve and enhance the City's history and tradition through inclusion of historic sites and other resources in the City's park lands.

Policy CR-14.8 Accommodate heritage elements in recreation programs and events.

Policy CR-14.9 Create park themes based on local history and culture similar to the historic park at Olinda Ranch.

**Implementation
Guide** 

See Section XII in the Implementation Guide.

Goal CR-15	Make all Breans aware of the importance of historic preservation.
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Policy CR-15.1 Encourage resident participation in the maintenance of the quality of historic neighborhoods.

Policy CR-15.2 Promote Brea’s cultural and historic resources.

Policy CR-15.3 Encourage public and private participation in the preservation of Brea’s history.

Policy CR-15.4 Incorporate information on Brea’s history as part of the school curriculum to promote pride and appreciation of the City’s heritage.

Policy CR-15.5 Incorporate historic themes and architecture into development and public improvements along South Brea Boulevard to blend with Old City Hall, link Downtown Brea, and add interest and pedestrian orientation to the streetscape.

Policy CR-15.6 Promote Brea’s heritage through artwork, signs, preservation, and historical structures.

Policy CR-15.7 Promote community awareness and understanding of Brea’s history through the Brea Museum and Heritage Center.

**Implementation
Guide** 

See Section XII in the Implementation Guide.

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