

5.0 MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Mission, Core Values, and Goals guide the overall direction for resource management. In supplementing this overall direction, this section provides goals and objectives that apply to the entire Project Area related to biological and cultural resource management, passive recreation use, education and interpretation, visual resources, fire safety, and facility management. These goals and objectives would implement the Mission, Core Values, and Goals as time and agency resources such as funding and available personnel permit. Priority allocations of available resources will be in alignment with the Mission, Core Values, and Goals Statements of the City. Management of the Project Area will accommodate public use insofar as the primary intent to acquire, restore, and maintain the natural resources is being achieved.

5.1 MISSION, CORE VALUES AND GOALS

On February 17, 2005, the City of Monrovia Community Services Commission approved the Mission, Core Values, and Goals to serve as the guiding principles for a Resource Management Plan for the Project Area. The Mission, Core Values, and Goals are listed below.

5.1.1 Mission

Provide stewardship of the Hillside Wilderness Preserve and Hillside Recreation Area natural resources.

5.1.2 Core Values

- The Hillside Wilderness Preserve and Hillside Recreation Area are a unique historical resource for the Community.
- Hillside Wilderness Preserve and Hillside Recreation Area resources shall be preserved for future generations.
- Support and promote stewardship of the natural resources in the Hillside Wilderness Preserve and Hillside Recreation areas.
- There is a commitment to fiscal responsibility for the operations and protection of the Hillside Wilderness Preserve and Hillside Recreation Area resources.
- There is a commitment to provide opportunities for citizen input in the decision making process.

5.1.3 Goals

Natural Resources - Environmental & Viewshed Preservation

- To maintain and/or restore the ecosystems represented in the Hillside Wilderness Preserve and Hillside Recreation areas.
- To maintain a wilderness environment to promote an appreciation of beauty and solitude.
- To preserve the endangered habitats and species, wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors.

Outdoor and Nature Education

- To provide environmental literature to foster respect, appreciation and protection for the environment.
- To educate the community concerning the importance of conservation and stewardship of natural resources and open space.
- To provide and facilitate environmental interpretation.
- To provide and facilitate environmental studies by local and regional educational institutions.

Fire Safety

- To mitigate fire danger under the authority of the Monrovia Fire Department.
- To maintain emergency fire vehicle access routes.
- To propose, enact and enforce fire safety regulations.

Passive Recreation

- To provide services and access that represent good stewardship of the natural resources.
- To determine appropriate access through environmental studies and public input.
- To provide efficient, effective and environmentally sensitive trail management.
- To develop interpretive and educational signage.

5.2 MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In response to the Mission, Core Values, and Goals and the results of the public opinion survey posted on the City's website in July 2007 (Appendix A), the following goals and objectives outline a management framework designed to protect and restore the Project Area's resources. Goals and objectives are necessary to perpetuate the Project Area's important natural, cultural, scenic, and recreation values and to respond to threats to those values. The management actions that follow in Sections 6.0 through 9.0 are intended to implement these objectives. While the achievement of goals and objectives will be based on the availability of agency resources such as personnel and funding, priority spending of available resources will be in alignment with the Mission, Core Values, and Goals for the Project Area.

5.2.1 Natural Resources

The management guidelines for the natural resources, including biological, cultural and visual resources in the Project Area are based on analysis of existing site-specific survey data and literature; soil, vegetation, and wildlife surveys; information gathered from databases to assist in the discussion of invasive plant species, sensitive species, and habitats; cultural resources assessment; paleontological locality search; and field visits. The major intent of the following goals and objectives is to provide a strategy by which the natural resources of the Project Area can be managed, conserved, and enhanced, while at the same time providing educational and recreational opportunities to the public.

The following management goals and objectives are not mandates and are intended to identify gaps in knowledge and suggest ways to eliminate them, establish sound data management and monitoring techniques, and provide the framework that will assist the City in making informed management decisions.

Goal

BIO-1: Acquire remaining open space that strengthens the ecological functioning of the Project Area as funding permits

Objectives

- BIO-1.1 Identify the remaining private and public open space properties within and surrounding the Project Area. Prioritize the parcels based on the quality of the biological resources and functions they support. Periodically update the information as necessary.
- BIO-1.2 Evaluate offsite areas not owned by the City as wildlife corridors or connection routes to the lands owned or managed by the City to minimize constraints to large mammal movement within the Project Area. The lands owned or managed by the City are bordered by residential development to the south, with a few private in-holdings remaining within the Project Area. To maintain the integrity of the wildlife movement corridor, it is critical that it is connected to other habitat areas to the east and that adjacent or new development does not impede wildlife movement within the Project Area.
- BIO-1.3 Acquire properties that complement the preservation goals of the Project Area. Potential properties for acquisition may support preservation of cultural or visual resources, may contain access opportunities that complement the purpose of the Project Area, or may contain especially valuable habitat or restoration opportunities.
- BIO-1.4 Collaborate with other regional conservation groups on available land acquisition.

Goal

BIO-2: Maintain all populations of native plants and wildlife with special emphasis on management of locally uncommon, sensitive, State- or federally- listed threatened or endangered species and other sensitive resources.

Objectives

- BIO-2.1 Protect and maintain populations of sensitive, threatened, or endangered plant species, including the federally listed as Endangered Branton's milk-vetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*).
- BIO-2.2 Protect and maintain nesting and foraging habitat for sensitive, threatened, or endangered raptor species.
- BIO-2.3 Protect and maintain all native vegetation communities paying special attention to sensitive vegetation types such as southern coast live oak woodland, southern sycamore/alder riparian woodland, Riversidian alluvial fan scrub, southern California arroyo chub/Santa Ana sucker stream, open Engelmann oak woodland, and canyon live oak ravine forest.
- BIO-2.4 Promote methods to minimize potential edge effects with new and existing urbanization.
- BIO-2.5 Educate and inform local residents and passive recreational users of ways that they can minimize their individual impacts to local plant and animal species (e.g., avoid planting invasive plant species, controlling domestic pets within yards, sensitivity regarding clearing of sensitive habitats for fuel modification, staying on authorized travelways).
- BIO-2.6 Removal of exotic animal species from riparian areas such as fish and amphibians.

Goal

BIO-3: Enhance and restore degraded habitats in the Project Area.

Objectives

- BIO-3.1: Implement a habitat restoration plan. Determine restoration priorities based on weed and soil associations, percent slope, size of weed infestation, proximity to roads and trails, proximity to existing restoration, wildlife connectivity, or other criteria consistent with the Mission, Core Values, and Goals.
- BIO-3.2 Abandon and revegetate any unauthorized trails and roads within the Project Area to improve the quality of habitat for wildlife.
- BIO-3.3 Explore the use of selective fuel reduction to increase retention of native vegetation, maintain a diverse age structure, and restore biotic and abiotic processes to the vegetation community.

BIO-3.4 Monitor the spread or invasion of exotic species in the Project Area and develop appropriate management responses.

BIO-3.5 Develop a long-term invasive exotic plant management plan.

Goal

BIO-4: Implement monitoring programs designed to identify ecosystem threats and guide adaptive management of the Project Area by tracking the health, function, and integrity of habitats and ecological processes.

Objectives

BIO-4.1 Monitor all native habitat types within the Project Area to assess their condition and to document any changes that are a result of specific management recommendations.

BIO-4.2 Monitor key ecological processes to interpret biological changes and responses to management measures.

BIO-4.3 Document the status of locally uncommon, sensitive, threatened or endangered species and other sensitive or special status resources within the Project Area in order to prioritize management actions and to assess the effectiveness of management actions.

Goal

BIO-5: Encourage university-level research to address unanswered fundamental biological questions.

Objectives

BIO-5.1 Facilitate focused research projects.

Goal

BIO-6: Develop an in-house data storage and analysis system.

Objectives

BIO-6.1 Develop a centralized data management system that interfaces with regional and statewide biological database systems.

Goal

BIO-7: Develop a protocol for handling wildlife interactions.

Objectives

BIO-7.1 Refer to the Police Departments Wildlife Response Policy when dealing with bears.

BIO-7.2 Issue tickets/citations for feeding of wild animals.

BIO-7.3 Provide bear-proof trash receptacles for use by visitors.

BIO-7.4 Issue tickets/citations for off trail use, smoking, off leash domestic pets.

- BIO-7.5 Post educational signage at trail access points.
- BIO-7.6 Educate the public on the Monrovia Police Department's Wildlife Resource Policy as outlined in Section 6.2.4.

Goal

CULT-1: Protect and preserve important cultural resources.

Objectives

- CULT-1.1 For internal use, maintain maps of all cultural and paleontological sites. Monitor these sites to ensure that they are not harmed. Protect these sites using generally accepted methods of preservation (see Section 6.3).
- CULT-1.2 Perform cultural resources surveys in sensitive areas that are currently obscured by vegetation if there is a fire or other activity where the ground visibility becomes clear.
- CULT-1.3 Consider the potential effects on cultural resources by development such as construction of trails and interpretive signs within the Hillside Wilderness Preserve, and interpretive facilities within the Hillside Recreation Area.
- CULT-1.4 Develop cultural resource monitoring protocol for maintenance activities that involve ground disturbance (e.g., restoration activities, weed removal, trail construction, etc.) to minimize potential effects on undefined cultural resources.

Goal

CULT-2: Preserve and interpret the Rankins' Grave Site as a significant historic site for the education and enjoyment of visitors.

Objectives

- CULT-2.1 Allow the definitive elements of the Rankins' Grave Site to remain in place and be passively managed.

Goal

CULT-3: Follow established protocol if human remains are encountered during ground-disturbing activities in the Project Area.

Objectives

- CULT-3.1 Comply with State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 which states that no further disturbance should occur at a site until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98.

Goal

CULT-4: Record, identify and preserve paleontological resources if found on the Project Area.

Objectives

- CULT-4.1 A paleontologist who is on the County of Los Angeles list of qualified paleontologists should be retained and remain on site during all rough grading and other significant ground-disturbing activities in paleontologically sensitive sediments, which include the Quaternary sediments exposed in canyon bottoms. A paleontologist will not be required on site for excavation in Mesozoic granitic rocks and Precambrian metamorphic rocks unless it is determined that these sediments do in fact contain paleontological resources. A paleontologist will not be required on site if excavation is only occurring in artificial fill.

Goal

VISUAL-1: Protect and enhance views and distinctive landscape features that contribute to the setting, character and visitor experience of the Project Area.

Objectives

- VISUAL-1.1 Expand interpretive opportunities associated with the visual and scenic resources of the Project Area.
- VISUAL-1.2 Protect views from within the Project Area to outlying properties. Evaluate proposed projects surrounding the Project Area with a priority to retain the visual quality of the Project Area's undeveloped landscape.
- VISUAL-1.3 Create scenic vista points for visitors to the Project Area.

5.2.2 Outdoor and Natural Education Element

A variety of interpretive tools such as signs, printed material, and public programs, can be used to educate the public on the importance of preserving the surrounding habitat not only for the wildlife, but for future generations to explore and enjoy. The City will focus on creating interpretive programs that educate both individuals and communities on the importance of preserving, understanding, and coexisting with the natural resources.

Goal

INTERP-1: Enhance public stewardship, appreciation of the value of the Project Area, and conservation issues in general consistent with the biological objectives of the Project Area.

Objectives

- INTERP-1.1 Provide high-quality educational and outdoor-learning opportunities in the Hillside Wilderness Preserve and Hillside Recreation Areas of the Project Area.
- INTERP-1.2 Provide opportunities for community involvement and stewardship.
- INTERP-1.3 Develop a public outreach and education program addressing conservation issues.

- INTERP-1.4 Develop a community outreach program to increase community awareness of fire hazards and safety needs within the Project Area.
- INTERP-1.5 Establish new and continue existing partnerships with other environmental and educational organizations for public outreach and education.

Goal

INTERP-2: Provide a trail system that promotes and enhances public enjoyment and appreciation of the natural, cultural and scenic resources.

Objectives

- INTERP-2.1 Use signs, education and barriers to keep users on the trails.
- INTERP-2.2 When feasible, produce an accurate and informative trail map for the public, with trail safety guidelines, that is accessible from the City's website.
- INTERP-2.3 Provide trail users with accurate information on trail locations.
- INTERP-2.4 Provide information to trail users that facilitates orientation, natural and cultural resource interpretation, code compliance, and appropriate trail etiquette.
- INTERP-2.5 Educate trail users on the potential impacts that trail uses have on wildlife, cultural resources, and the environment.
- INTERP-2.6 Promote expanded or increased volunteer participation in trail stewardship.

5.2.3 Fire Safety Element

Fire safety in the City is concentrated on suppression, prevention, and emergency care. Fire prevention is addressed primarily through enforcement of the Uniform Fire and Building Codes and State and City ordinances. Existing fuel modification areas and firebreaks are located on some of the edges of the Project Area adjacent to houses or other structures. Fuel modification areas are also located along a few of the paved roads that bisect the Project Area. Goals and objectives related to fire safety focus primarily on identify and assessing wildfire risk, implementing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan and managing vegetation to minimize wildfire risk at the urban wildland interface.

Goal

FIRE-1: Address risk of wildfires along the wildland urban interface.

Objectives

- FIRE-1.1 Implement a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Collaborate with City and County fire jurisdictions to prepare a wildfire management plan that is compatible with biological goals and the safety and well-

being of the surrounding residential communities. The plan should identify access controls and evacuation procedures during high fire hazard periods.

- FIRE-1.2 Maintain emergency fire vehicle access routes.
- FIRE-1.3 Integrate fire safety and vegetation management. Collaborate with the local fire jurisdictions on different strategies that are available to maintain diverse plant composition such as thinning certain vegetation or other measures.
- FIRE-1.4 Maintain existing fire prevention management strategies along the Wildland Urban Interface and adopt and enforce ordinances promoting fire prevention.
- FIRE-1.5 Establish fire prevention programs to educate citizens.
- FIRE-1.6 As funds allow, maintain a Wilderness Fire Station at the Cloverleaf entrance area and provide adequate staging for the station.
- FIRE-1.7 The Fire Chief or designee will close trails for high fire hazard.

5.2.4 Passive Recreation Element

Existing public access is concentrated in Canyon Park (Hillside Recreation Area) where visitors have opportunities to participate in a number of recreation activities including hiking, biking, and picnicking. Since the mission is to provide stewardship of the Hillside Wilderness Preserve and Hillside Recreation Area natural resources, the City will be evaluating and maintaining the network of roads and trails and looking for opportunities to implement management actions to minimize impacts on soils, water quality, native habitat, and wildlife. Also, consistent with its goal to provide passive recreation opportunities, the City will focus on improving the current network of roads and trails and will set up a process for evaluating new trails and connector trails.

Goal

USE-1: Provide a trail system that protects natural resources of the Project Area.

Objectives

- USE-1.1 Use existing utility access roads for trails whenever possible to minimize environmental impacts. Assess potential impacts of future trails and connector trails on native habitat or other resources.
- USE-1.2 Locate future trails away from sensitive habitat areas.
- USE-1.3 Minimize riparian crossings to decrease disturbance of sensitive natural areas.
- USE-1.4 Make decisions to reconstruct or reroute existing trails and emphasize minimizing ground disturbance.

- USE-1.5 Provide diverse and interesting trail experiences to minimize unauthorized trails.
- USE-1.6 Use best management practices in the design, construction, and maintenance of trails, including temporarily closing trails when needed.
- USE-1.7 Implement trails in partnership with other public agencies, nongovernmental organizations and private landowners when feasible.
- USE-1.8 Implement a trail system that considers adjacent landowner interests and is consistent with protecting natural, visual, and cultural resources.
- USE-1.9 Seek methods to establish partnerships among trail interest groups to improve cooperation on trail use, volunteer maintenance opportunities, and preservation of habitat.
- USE-1.10 Maintain trails in an environmentally sustainable manner by:
- Using natural materials
 - Restoring damaged areas
 - Reducing or avoiding the use of chemicals
 - Minimizing disturbance of habitat
 - Limiting runoff and grading

Goal

USE-2: Enforce protection of the varied resources and promote an enjoyable and safe environment for visitors.

Objectives

- USE-2.1 Encourage uses that acknowledge the natural and scenic beauty of the Project Area and facilitate enjoyment of the outdoor experience, as well as those that promote the safety of visitors. Establish and enforce appropriate uses and restrictions on the use of the Hillside Wilderness Preserve and Hillside Recreation areas via signage, interpretive displays and, online brochures. Incorporate identity signage and access controls.

Goal

USE-3: Create a trail system that provides a broad public benefit by accommodating diverse uses and user abilities, consistent with the Mission, Core Values, and Goals.

Objectives

- USE-3.1 Consistent with the Mission, Core Values, and Goals, provide reasonable public access to the Hillside Wilderness Preserve area and

connections between the Hillside Wilderness Preserve and Hillside Recreation planning areas.

- USE-3.2 Prioritize trails as follows:
- Recommended trails under this management plan and Mitigated Negative Declaration
 - Assess feasibility of future trails and connectors with appropriate CEQA review
- USE-3.3 Create an entitlement process for future trails and connector trails. The Community Services Commission will hold public meetings on future trails and make recommendations regarding new trails. The City Council will consider new trail permits along with related CEQA review.
- USE-3.4 Discourage the use of trails that are not part of the system of maintained trails.
- USE-3.5 Prohibit the use of motorized vehicles in Hillside Wilderness Preserve area, with authorized exceptions (e.g., private in-holding, safety, maintenance, and park personnel vehicles).
- USE-3.6 Where reasonably feasible, provide access for people with disabilities within the context of the mission, policies, and legal requirements.
- USE-3.7 Connect trails to regional trails where appropriate.

Goal

USE-4: Accommodate parking, access points, and trail amenities that maintain the natural character of the land, enhance resource protection and contribute to the enjoyment of open space.

Objectives

- USE-4.1 Monitor and assess the need for additional visitor parking and impacts on the neighboring residential community.
- USE-4.2 Consider the use of an entry pass into the Hillside Wilderness Preserve.
- USE-4.3 Allow trail amenities such as, but not limited to:
- Informational displays and signs;
 - Trash cans; and
 - Facilities to encourage the pickup and disposal of pet waste.
 - Implement safety features on curves for mountain bikers.

Goal

USE-5: Accommodate public access that is sensitive to adjacent residential land uses.

Objectives

- USE-5.1 Primary access to private residences located within the Hillside Wilderness Preserve is provided by Cloverleaf Drive. Secondary emergency egress is available from Ridgeside Drive. Maintain primary and secondary access to private in-holdings within the Hillside Wilderness Preserve.
- USE-5.2 Provide monitoring of parking at access points by the Traffic Safety Committee. The Traffic Safety Committee is composed of the Public Works Director, Community Development Director, City Engineer, Police Chief and Traffic Engineer and meets the third Thursday of every month. This Committee is designed to hear issues and evaluate potential solutions to issues brought before them. The Traffic Safety Committee is staffed by the Public Works Department and the consulting Traffic Engineer and handles issues ranging from implementing speeding solutions and parking permits to solving larger neighborhood concerns such as dealing with regional through traffic.
- USE-5.3 Develop strategies to manage potential conflicts between private motorized users and recreational users on Lower Clamshell Motorway.
- USE-5.4 Limit public access to the Hillside Wilderness Preserve to the hours between dawn and dusk.
- USE-5.5 Provide for public involvement in the planning and development of public access and services.
- USE-5.6 Consider permit parking on one or more streets up to and including Cloverleaf Drive, Hidden Valley, Alta Vista, Lotone and/or Heather Heights.

Goal

MAINT-1: Maintain facilities in the Project Area to ensure that biological resource values are maintained and that management activities are supported.

Objectives

- MAINT-1.1 Maintain public facilities and infrastructure, such as signs, gates, fences, and roads. Prohibit fencing with spikes, barbed wire, or other dangerous materials or construction unless at a height that is determined to be inaccessible by animals.
- MAINT-1.2 Maintain trailhead facilities and other structures that contribute to the integrity and value of the Project Area.

- MAINT-1.3 Maintain trails by clearing brush and performing other maintenance.
- MAINT-1.4 Maintain unimpeded utility access for maintenance and operations of utility infrastructure.

Goal

MAINT-2: Remove litter, trash and debris that may attract nonnative wildlife and reduce the aesthetic values of the Project Area.

Objectives

- MAINT-2.1 Establish responsibilities for removing trash and for regular collection at specific locations.
- MAINT-2.2 Enlist the help of volunteers for clean-up events at the Project Area.
- MAINT-2.3 Use animal proof trash containers.